



Discovering the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures

Summer 2013, Lecture 4

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Three Histories

- Deuteronomistic
- The Chronicler
- The Archaeological Record



The Deuteronomistic History

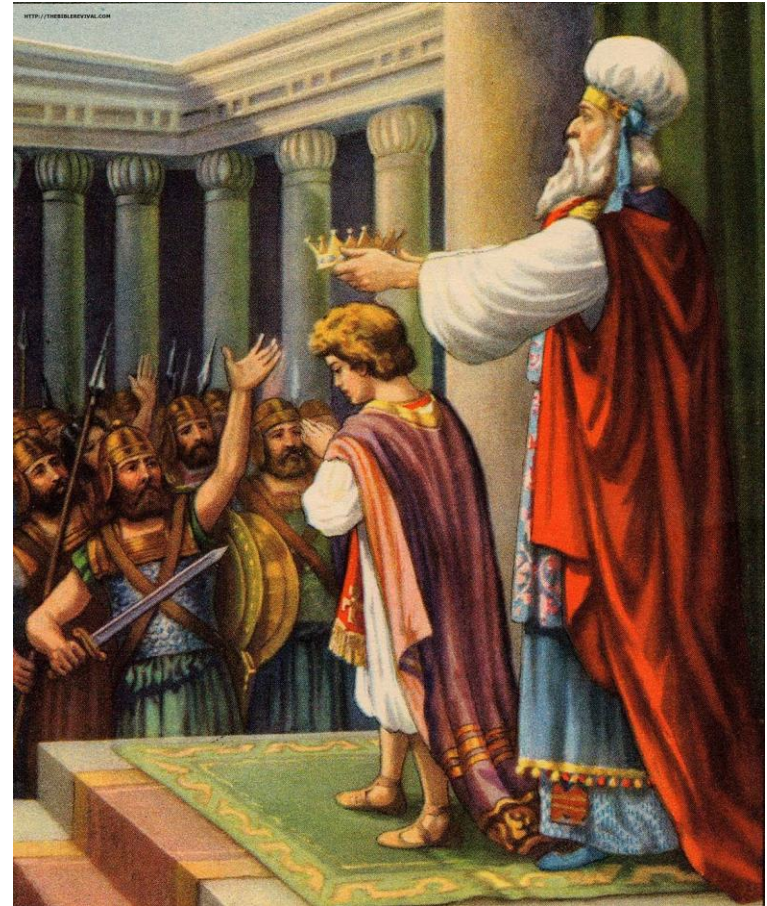
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- 1,2 Samuel
- 1,2 Kings
- Parts of Jeremiah



DH forms a complete, self-contained work

Background of DH

- Murder of King Amon and ascent of Josiah (640 BCE)
- Judah a vassal of a declining Assyria
- Babylon replaces Assyria (end of 7th Century BCE)
- Decline and fall of Babylon to Persia (539 BCE)



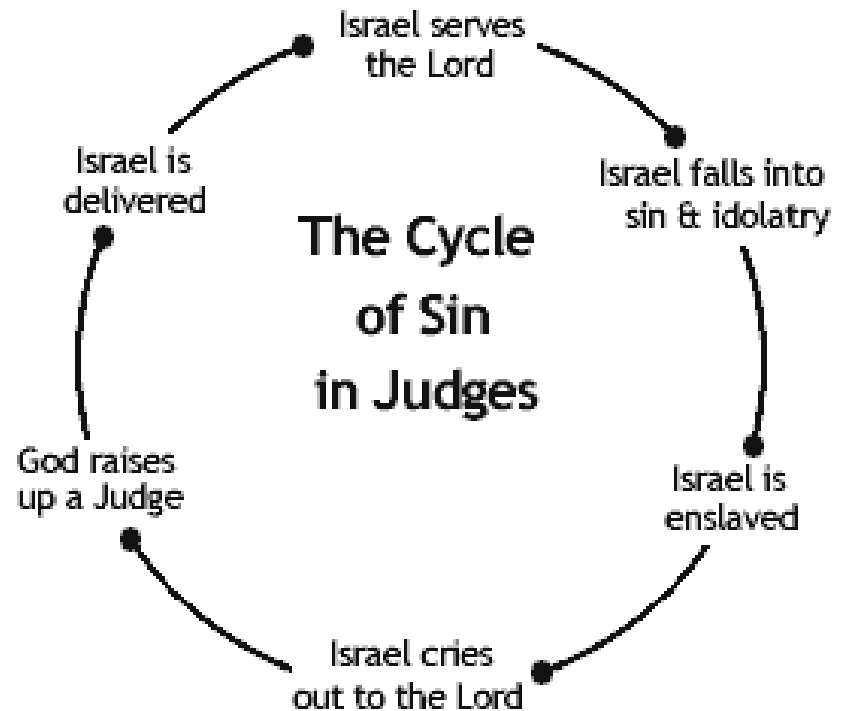
Five Thematic Stages of DH

1. Conquest under Joshua
2. Judges; troubled times, generally weak leadership
3. Rise of monarchy; God's blessings are at their apex with David
4. Slow decline from Solomon to the loss of Jerusalem
5. The Exile



The Narrative Pattern of Judges

- The people did evil in the sight of Yahweh
- God in his anger delivered them to an oppressor
- The people cried out to Yahweh
- Yahweh sent a judge/hero
- Judge/hero delivers Israel
- The land had peace all the days of the judge's life



Example: Othniel (Judges 3:7-11)

- [1] The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, forgetting the Lord their God, and worshipping the Baals and the Asherahs.
- [2] Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram-naharaim; and the Israelites served Cushan-rishathaim for eight years.
- [3] But when the Israelites cried out to the Lord,

Othniel, continued...

- [4] the Lord raised up a deliverer for the Israelites, who delivered them, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. The spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel;
- [5] he went out to war, and the Lord gave King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.
- [6] So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel son of Kenaz died.

Deuteronomy 18: Prophets to Come

15 The LORD your God will **raise up for you a prophet like me** from among your own people; **you shall heed such a prophet.** 16

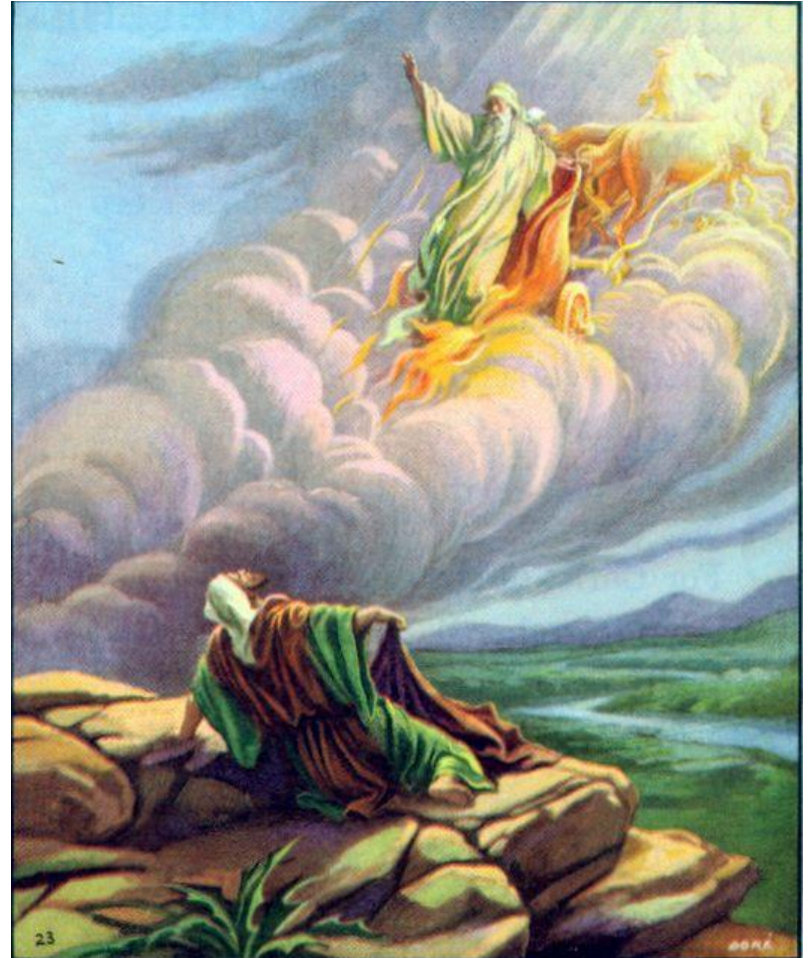
This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.'

Deuteronomy 18, continued...

17 Then the LORD replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; **I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.**

Elijah aka “Moses 2.0”

- Communes with God on Mt. Sinai
- Parts the Jordan River as Moses did the Red Sea
- Calls down fire from heaven on his opponents
- Provides food for the starving widow
- Turns water to blood
- Goes mysteriously up to heaven



Deuteronomy's Structure

- Sections linked by long speeches by Moses
- Refers to future events as if they had already happened
- Reflects a more urban, less rural society
- Worship centralized in Jerusalem



Deuteronomy's Theology

- The Law is supreme over all other sources of authority
- Prophecy constitutes instruction in the Law
- The Law is sufficient; no additional revelation is needed
- Israel is under a conditional covenant



Themes in Deuteronomistic History

- Obedience to the covenant brings prosperity, while disobedience brings disaster.
- Special concern for the poor and vulnerable
- While the DH mentions the deeds of kings and other notables, they were more concerned about the faithfulness of those rulers, particularly when faced by disaster or personal weakness.

Deuteronomy 30 Lays it Out:

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, **walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous,** and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

Deuteronomy 30, continued...

¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

Treaty/Covenant in Deuteronomy

Preamble in which the king is named	1:1
The historical prologue: a list of the king's kindnesses to the small state	1:2-4:40
The list of stipulations to be obeyed	4:44-26:19
Witnesses of the Gods	None
Curses on those who disobey, blessings on those who keep the stipulations	27-28

Solomon: pro and con

- Constructed the Temple
- Economic success, expanded trade
- Impressive public works projects
- Highly successful foreign policy
- Wise, pious, obedient to God
- Heavy taxation
- Bloated bureaucracy
- Forced labor gangs
- Allowed foreign cults and cult centers
- Multiple wives
- Concubines
- More concubines

Josiah

- Restored Covenant
- Eliminated foreign cults
- Restored the worship of Yahweh
- Restored Passover
- Untimely death in 609 BCE followed by period of political instability



Chronicler

- 1, 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah

Post-exilic,
reconstruction of
the Temple



Themes of the Chronicler

- More favorable accounts of Israel's kings
- Study of the Law is central to religious life
- Emphasis on worship, cult, sacrifice
- Very concerned with the restoration of the Temple
- Creating a new "nation" that did not depend on kings to survive



A stone with Hebrew inscription "To the Trumpeting Place" found at the southern foot of the Temple Mount, believed to be a part of the Second Temple.

Chronicler: Failure of Israel

- According to the Chronicler, the reason Israel was sent into exile was because of their failure to use proper forms of worship



Judah and the Persian Period

Persian Emperors

Cyrus the Great	556-530
Cambyses	530-522
Darius I	522-486
Xerxes	486-464
Artaxerxes	464-423
Darius II	423-404
Artaxerxes II	404-360
Artaxerxes III	360-338
Arses	338-335
Darius III	335-332
Alexander the Great	332-321

Persons and Events in Judah

Cyrus allows return	538
Temple rebuilt (Battle of Marathon)	515 490
Ezra and Nehemiah	458, 445
Fall of the Persian Empire Hellenizing of Near East	332

Reconstruction of the Temple

- First Exiles return in 538 BCE
- Friction with Samaritans
- Politics with local Persian Governor
- Haggai and Zephaniah re-start the Temple effort
- Darius confirms Cyrus' original authorization



Cyrus Cylinder

Ezra Builds a Nation

- Combined DH with older legal books to form the Torah
- Unified Judah under this law
- Outlawed intermarriage
- Emphasizes a theocratic government



Post-Exilic Prophecy

- No longer a monarchy to push back against
- Greater stress on personal responsibility and good behavior
- Growing emphasis on monotheism, God as the god of all nations
- More emphasis on the “law of Moses” or “book of the law” as a guide to life
- Hope of a “new covenant” in which God gives His people the power to keep His law

What Archaeology Can and Cannot Do

- Can provide a glimpse of daily life
- Can reveal details of surrounding cultures
- Pinpoint cataclysmic events
- Cannot “prove” or “disprove” the Bible
- No, this →
is *not* good archaeology.

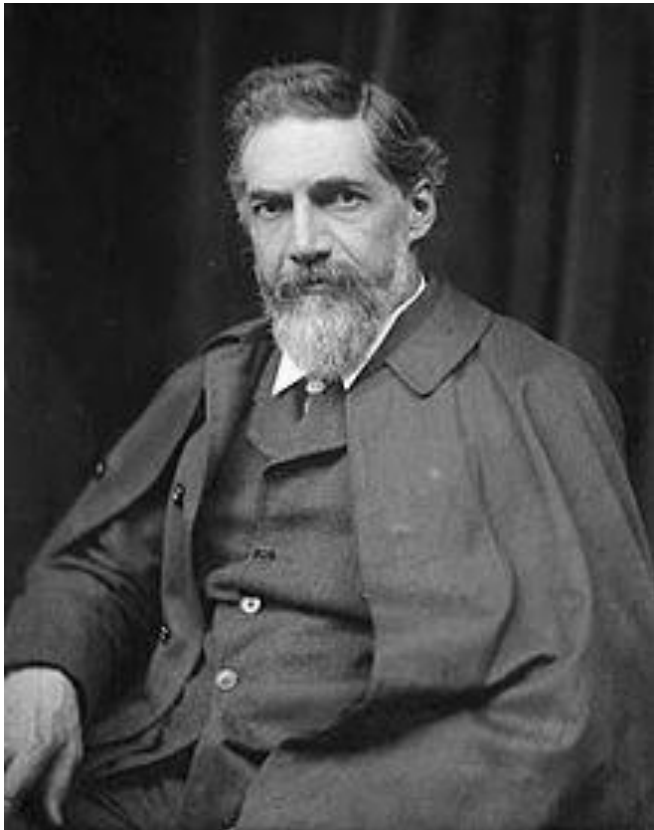


Basic Tools of Archeology



- Stratigraphy and seriation
- Pottery typology
- Dating methods
- Archaeology has become a very multi-disciplinary field

Sir W. M. Flinders Petrie, FRS (1853 –1942)



- Egyptologist, held the first Chair of Egyptologist in the UK
- Noted for exploring techniques for preserving artifacts
- Developed first pottery dating typology
- Discovered the Merneptah Stele

Pottery Typology (Canaanite 9th Century)



What you usually work with...



William Foxwell Albright (1891-1971)



- Acknowledged founder of modern Biblical Archaeology
- Authenticated the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948
- Developed the science of archaeology
- While not a literalist, he did seek to “prove” the Bible.

What is a “Tell”?



Tell Qarqur in northwest Syria was occupied for nearly 10,000 years.

Conducting an Excavation

- Begins with a surface survey
- Surface debris fixes last period of occupation
- Site divided into grid squares for recording artifacts
- Archaeology “destroys its own evidence.”

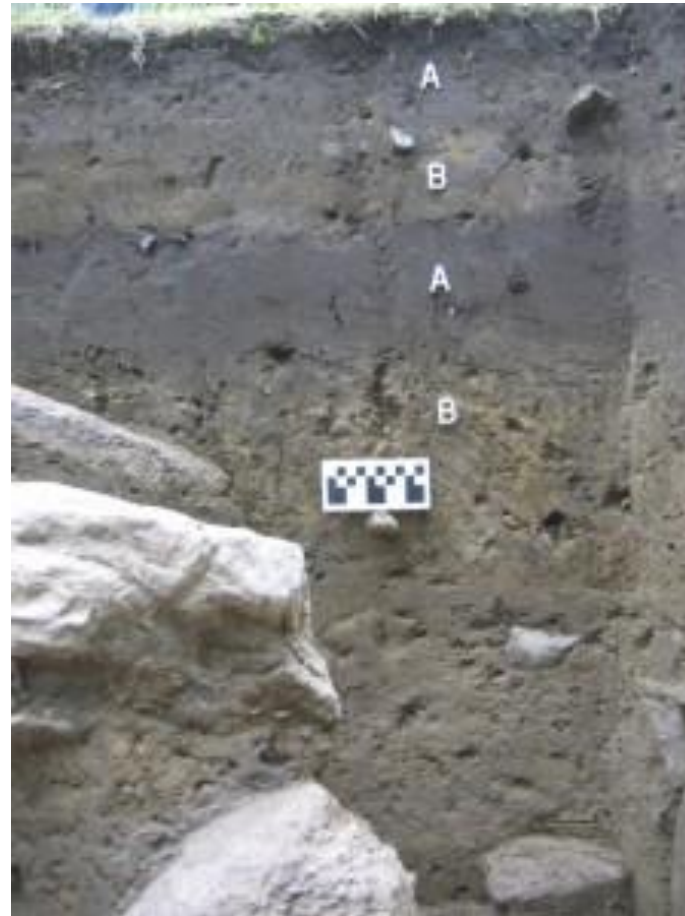


Allied Disciplines of Archaeology

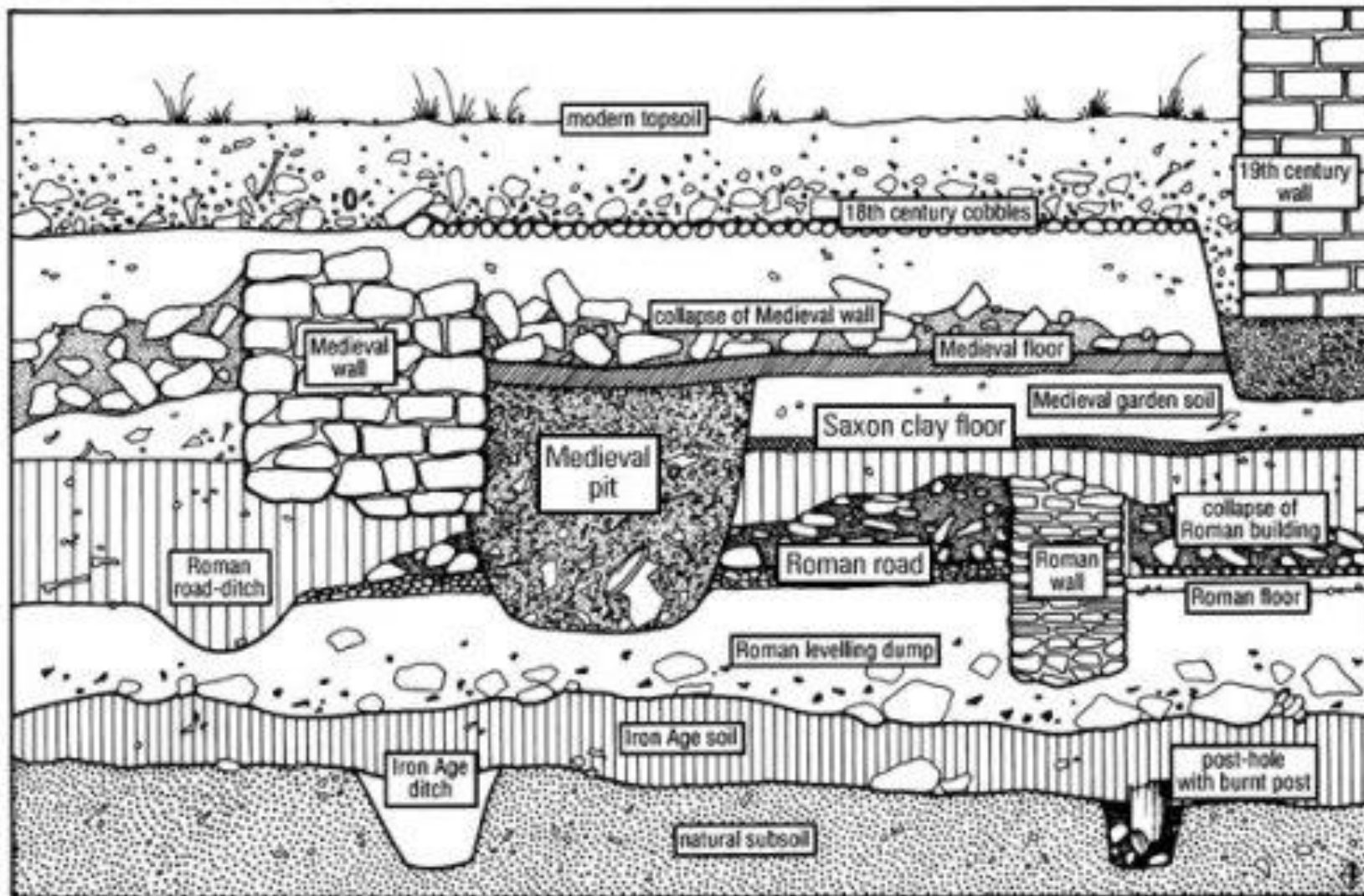
- Paleobotanists
- Zooarchaeologists
- Geologists
- Ecologists
- Physical and cultural anthropologists
- Analytical chemists
- Dentists and physicians

Layer Upon Layer...

- Tells accumulate as a result of human occupation
- Discarded items, deteriorating mud brick build up the tell
- Archaeologist use vertical shafts to determine stratigraphy

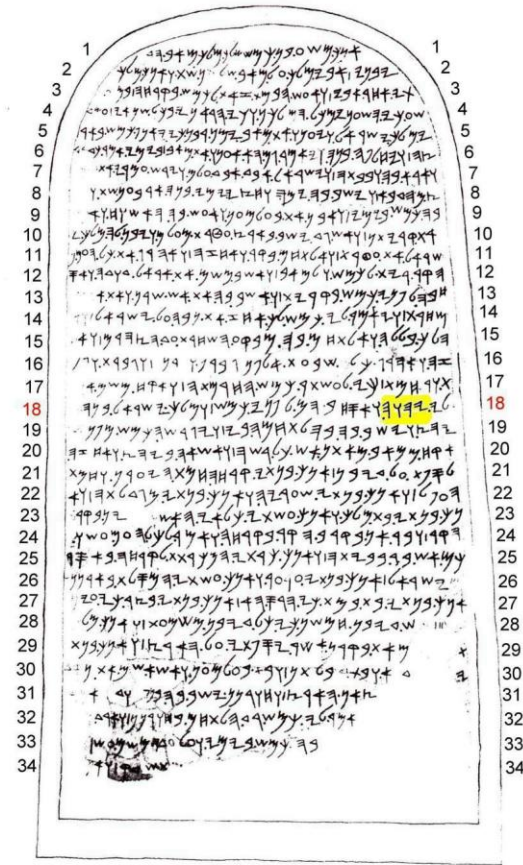


Stratigraphy: Deeper = Older (mostly)



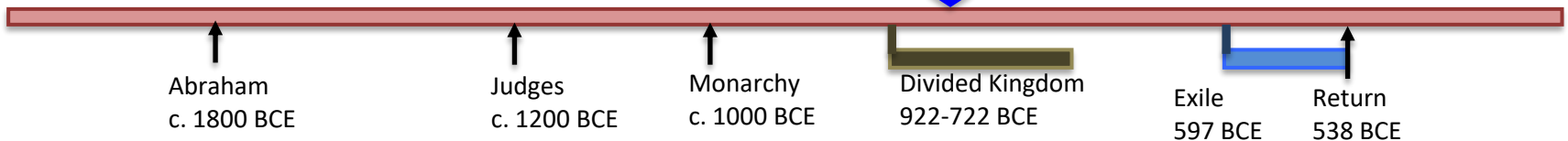
Inscription of King Mesha

- Moabite victory stele
- Early extra-biblical reference to YHWH
- Probable mention of “House of David” Omri, Israel, and Bezer
- Corresponds to events of 2 Kings 3.



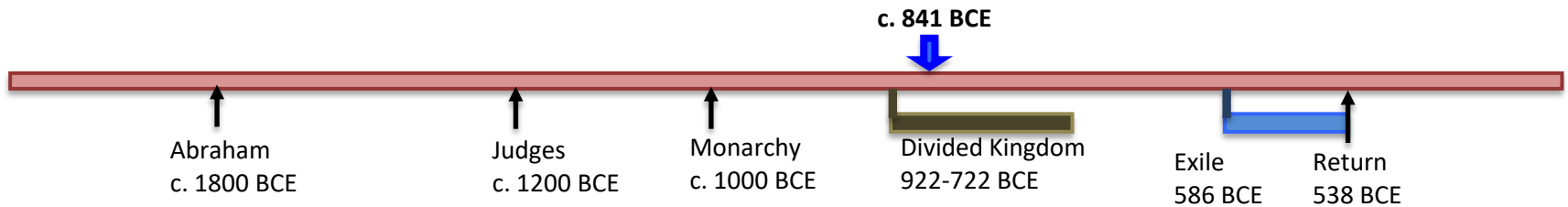
GN

c. 850 BCE



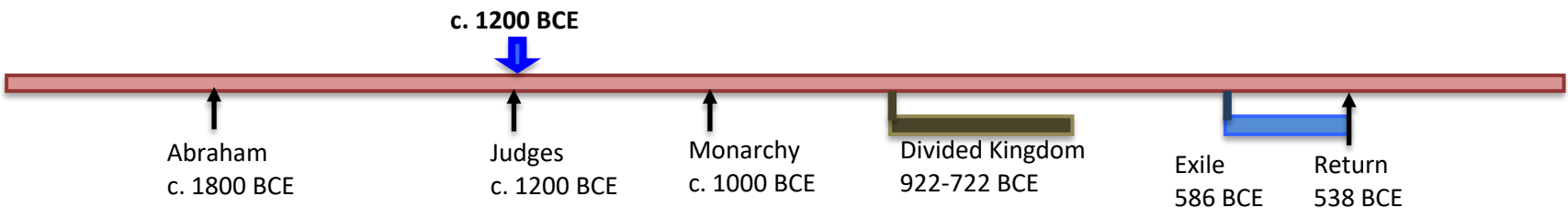
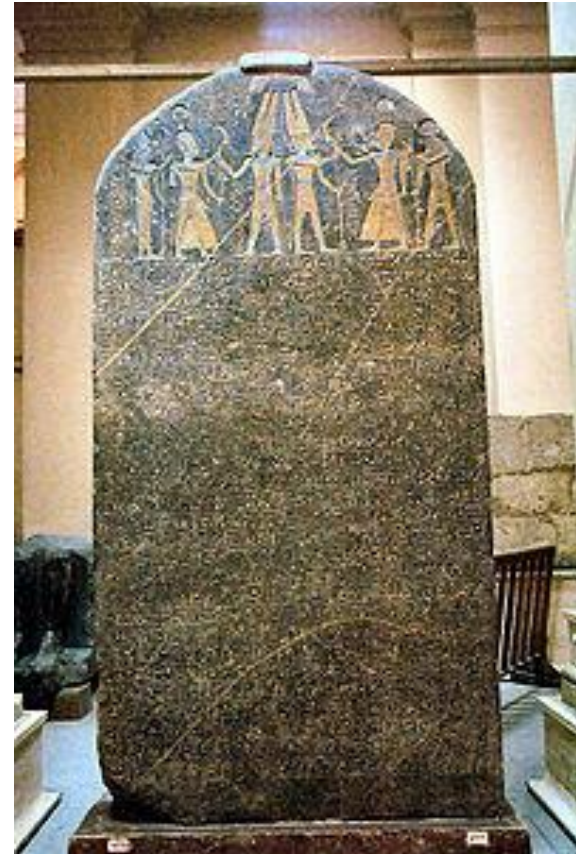
Black Obelisk

- Depicts either the Israelite king Jehu or his ambassador paying homage to his Assyrian overlord.



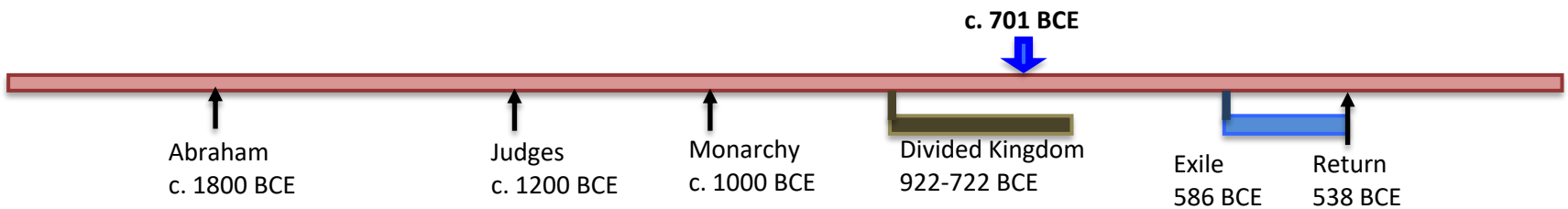
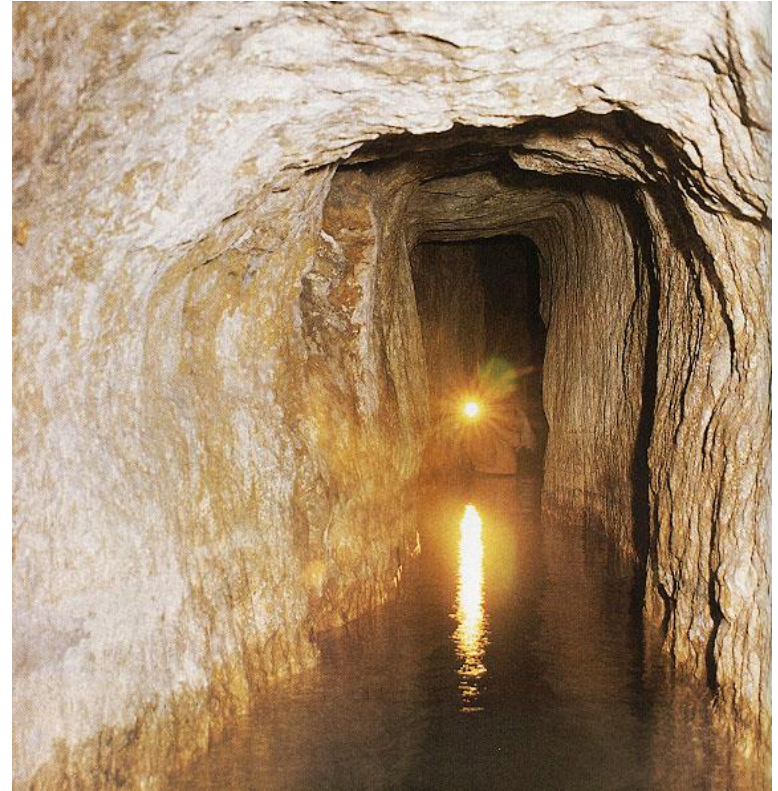
Merneptah Stele

The princes are prostrate, saying,
"Peace!"
Not one is raising his head among the
Nine Bows.
Now that Tehenu (Libya) has come to
ruin,
Hatti is pacified;
The Canaan has been plundered into
every sort of woe:
Ashkelon has been overcome;
Gezer has been captured;
Yano'am is made non-existent.
Israel is laid waste and his seed is not;
Hurru is become a widow because of
Egypt.



Hezekiah's Tunnel

- Built to bring water from outside Jerusalem to a pool within the walls
- Part of preparations for anticipated Assyrian siege.

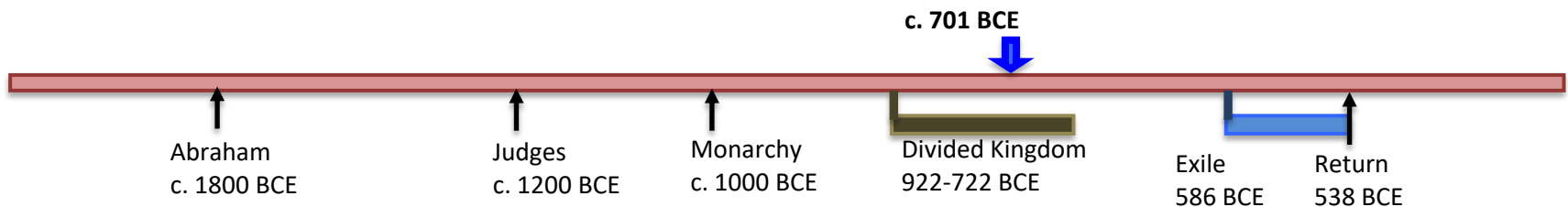


Siloam Inscription

- Records the completion of Hezekiah's Tunnel.
- Discovered in 1838

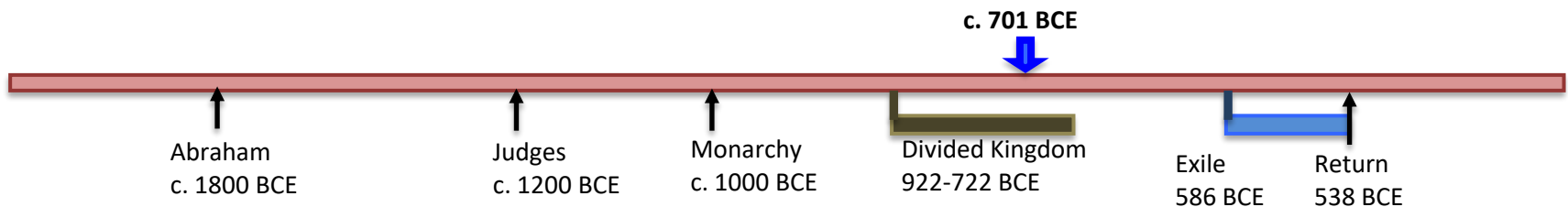
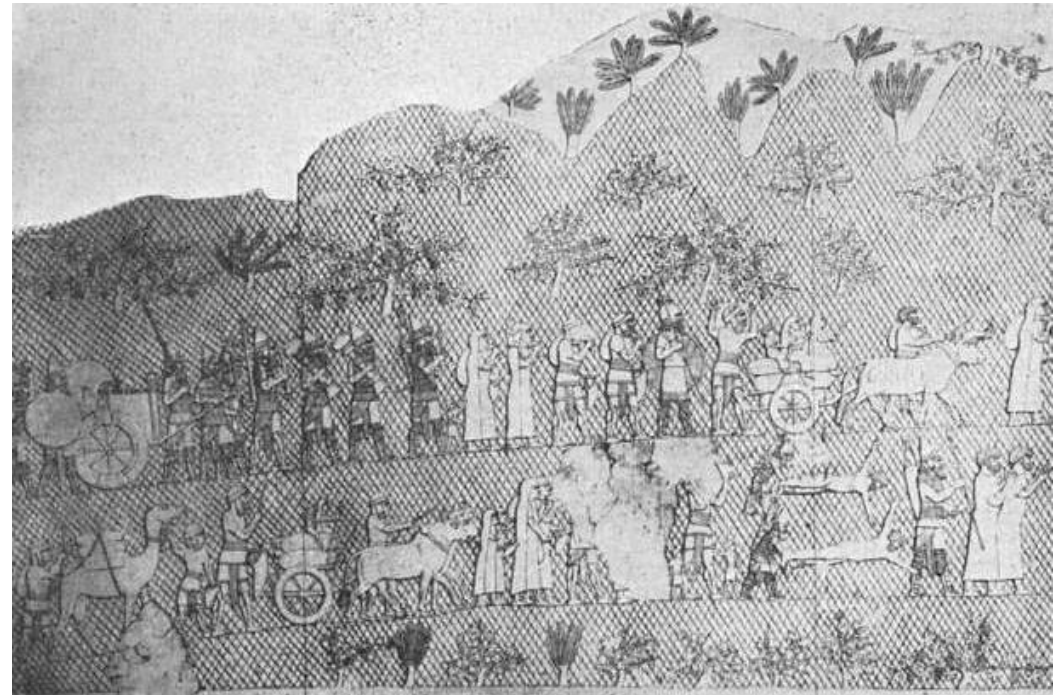


[. . .] the tunneling; and this was how the tunneling was completed: As [the laborers employed] 2 their picks, each crew toward the other, and while there were still three cubits remaining, the voices of the men calling out 3 to each other [could be heard], since it got louder on the right [and left]. The day the 4 opening was made, the stonecutters hacked toward each other, pick against pick. 5 And the water flowed from the source to the pool [twel]ve hundred cubits, 6 (despite the fact that) the height of the rock above the stonecutters' heads was one hundred cubits.



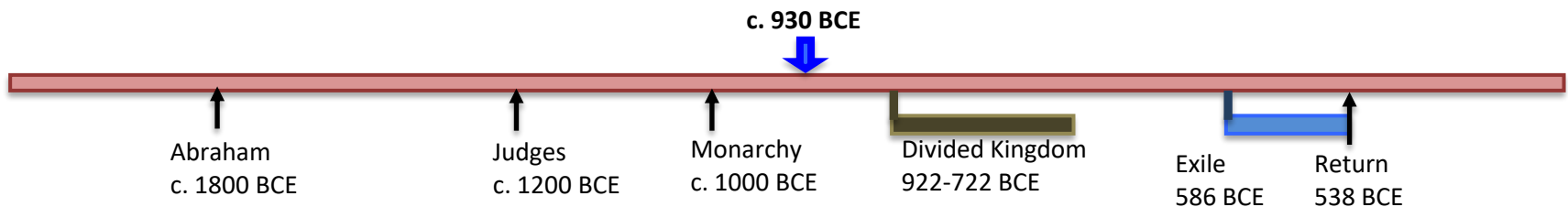
Lachish Relief

- Shows Israelite PoWs taken at the siege of Lachish in 701 BCE
- Part of several reliefs of this siege from the throne room of Sennacherib.



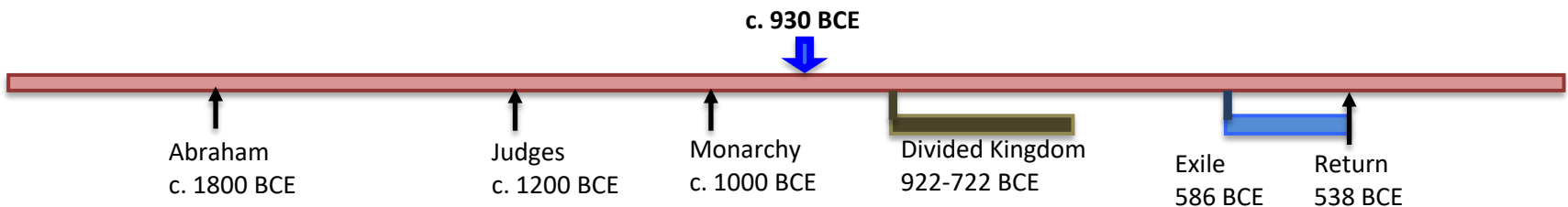
Bubastis Portal

- Contains reliefs and inscriptions of the campaigns of Sheshonq I (“Shishaq”) in Palestine.
- Invaded Judah during the fifth year of the reign of king Rehoboam, taking with him most of the treasures of the temple.



Shishaq Relief

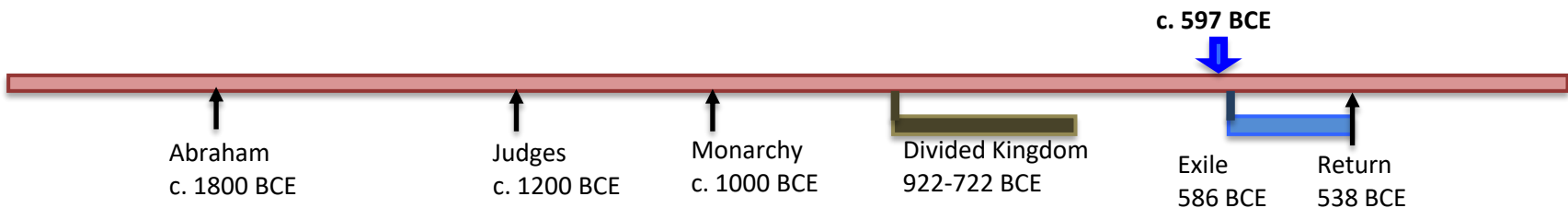
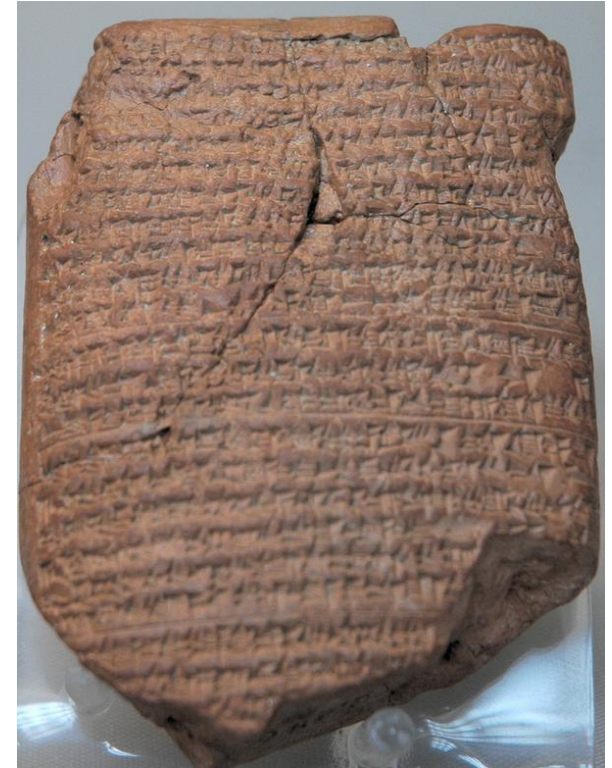
- Gives a list of cities he sacked in Palestine, including Jerusalem.
- Erected a victory stele at Megiddo
- Some of Shishaq's loot was discovered dedicated to Amun at Thebes.



Babylonian Chronicle

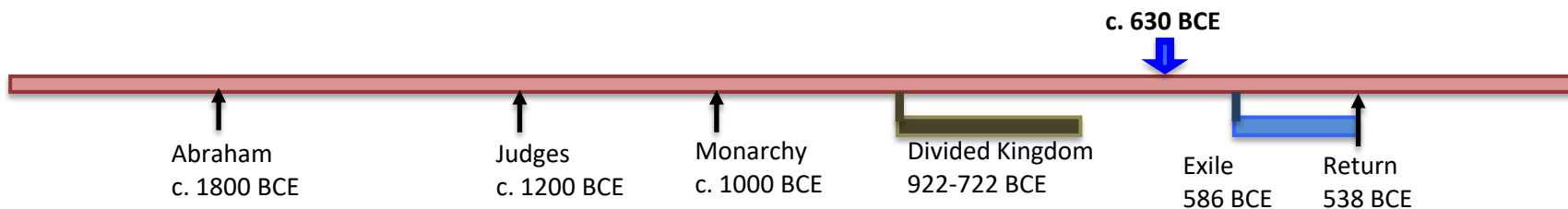
A Babylonian account of the fall of Jerusalem in 597 BCE.

11. In the seventh year, the month of Kislîmu, the king of Akkad mustered his troops, marched to the Hatti-land,
12. and besieged the city of Judah and on the second day of the month of Addaru he seized the city and captured the king Jehoiachin.
13. He appointed there a king of his own choice [Zedekiah], received its heavy tribute and sent to Babylon.



Mesad Hashavyahu Ostrakon

- Discovered near Ashdod, dated to the rule of King Josiah
- Earliest extra-biblical reference to the Sabbath holiday
- Refers to confiscation of a man's cloak, cf. Exo. 22:26-27.

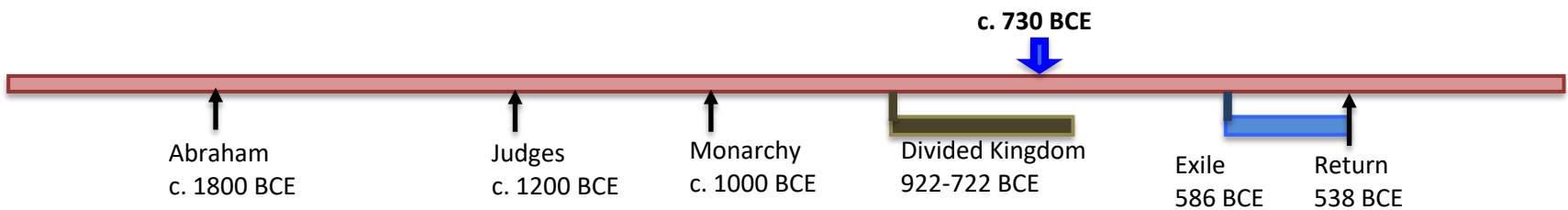


King Ahaz Seal

- Confirms the existence of King Ahaz



“Belonging to Ahaz (son of) Jehotam, King of Judah.”



Jeroboam Seal

- Confirms the existence of King Jeroboam.



“Belonging to Shema
servant of Jeroboam”

