

Character Studies in the Old Testament

The Focus of the Studies:

- What do we learn of God as He handles this character?
- What do we learn of Christ either in comparison or in contrast to this character?
- What do we learn about this character from a practical Christian living perspective?

Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Books

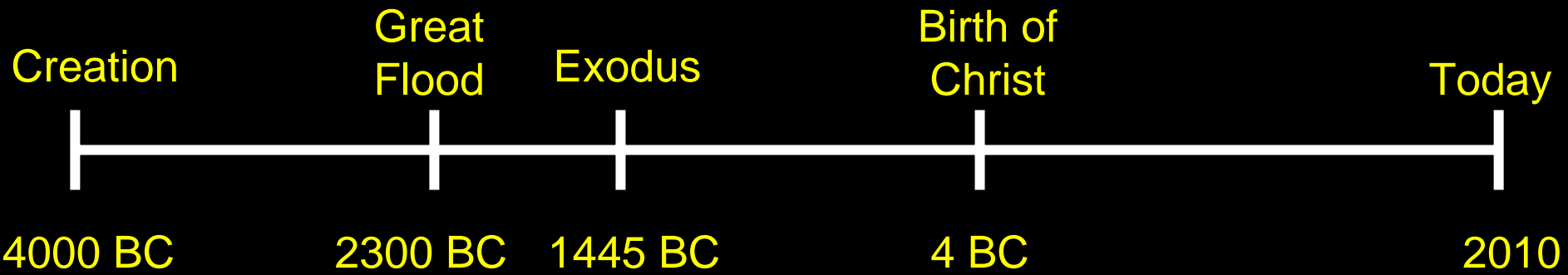
Joshua,
Judges, Ruth,
1st&2nd Samuel,
1st&2nd Kings,
1st&2nd
Chronicles,
Ezra,
Nehemiah,
Esther

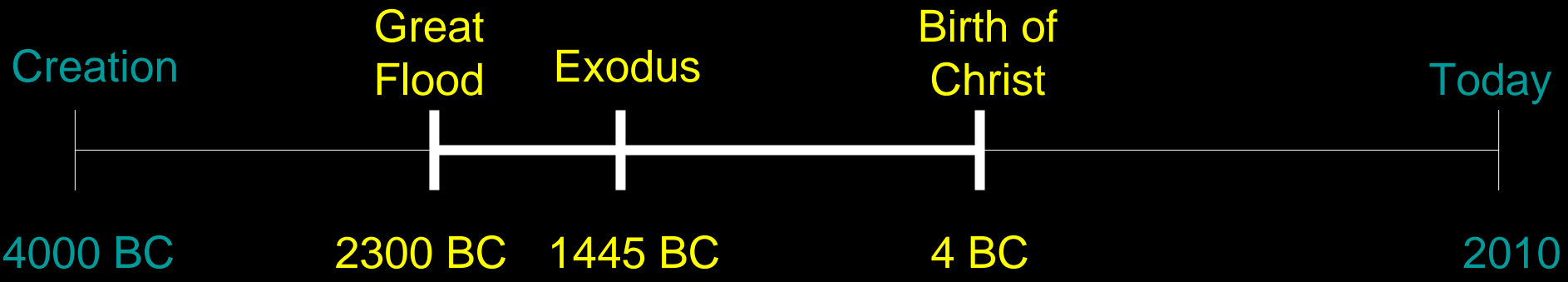
Poetic Books

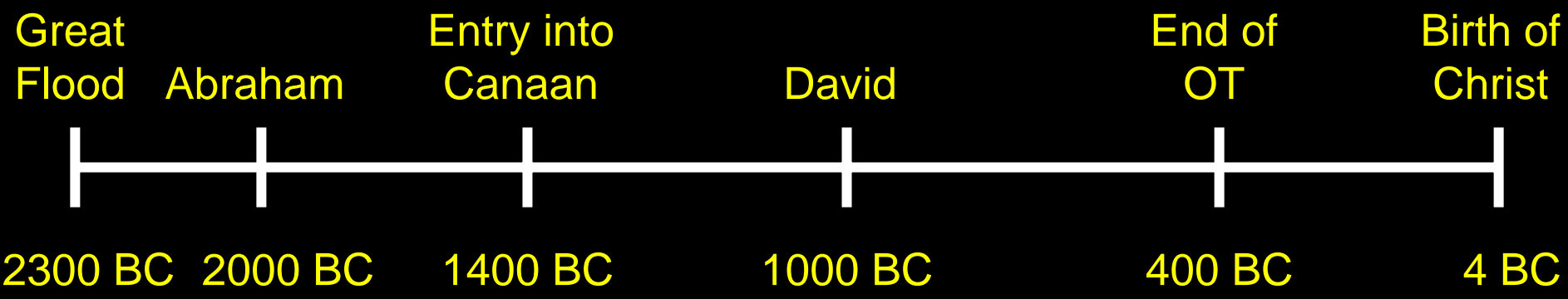
Job,
Psalms,
Proverbs,
Eccles.,
Song of
Solomon

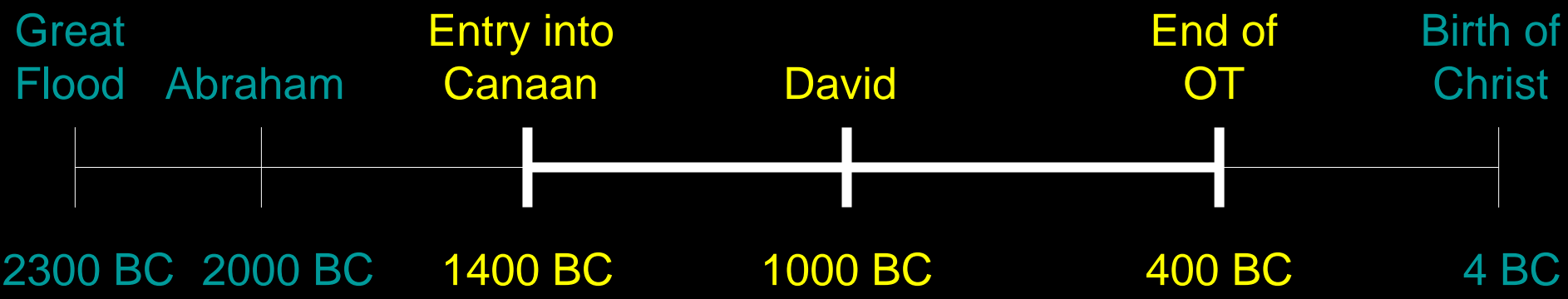
Prophetic Books

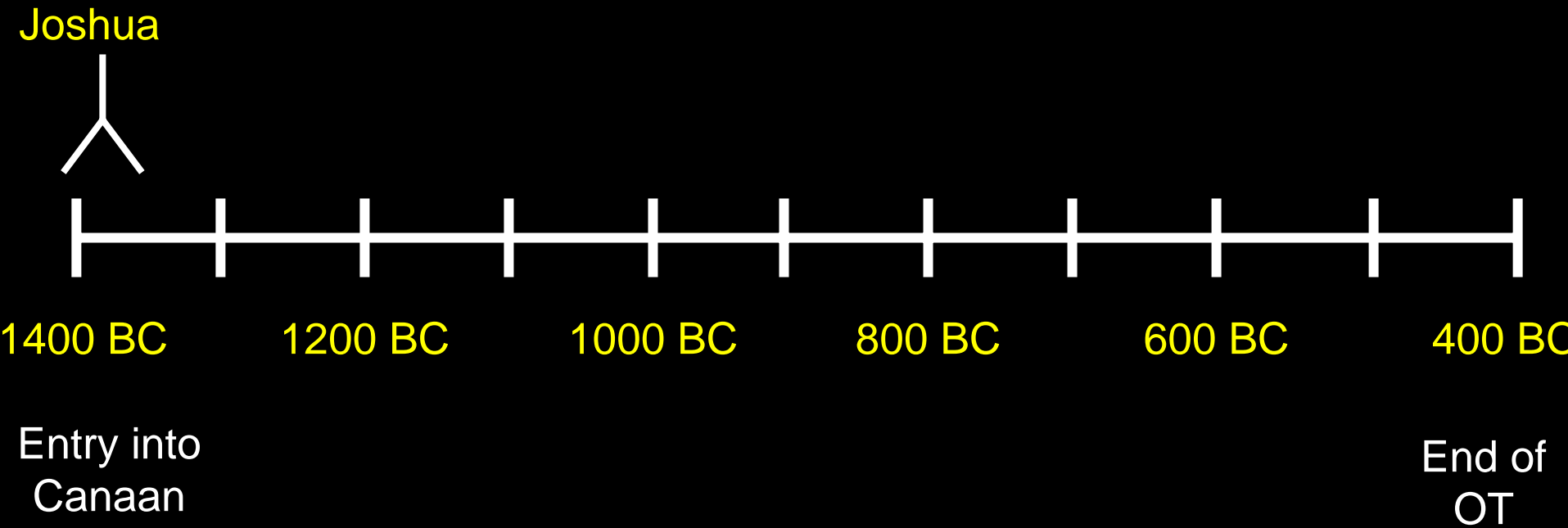
Isaiah,
Jeremiah,
Lamentations,
Ezekiel,
Daniel, Minor
Prophets











Survey of Joshua

- ❖ Preparing to take the Promised Land (1-5)
- ❖ Conquering the land (6-12)
- ❖ Dividing the land (13-22)
- ❖ Passing the torch (23-24)

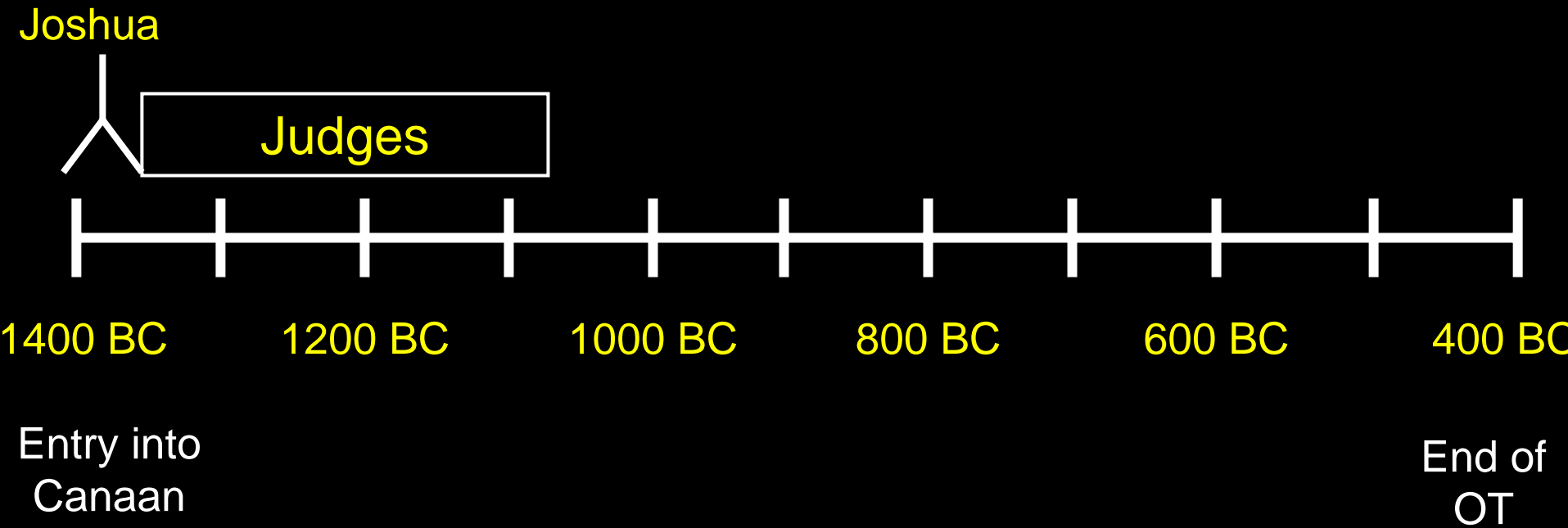
Main Characters in Joshua

Joshua - One of the twelve spies, led Israel into the Canaan and in battles against the inhabitants

Caleb - One of the twelve spies, fought in the conquest of Canaan

Rahab - Hid Hebrew spies in Jericho, listed in the genealogy of Christ

Achen - Stole and hid spoil from conquest of Jericho



Survey of Judges

- ❖ Deterioration (1:1 - 3:4)
- ❖ Deliverances (3:5 – 16:31)
- ❖ Depravity (17:1 – 21:25)

Deliverance

“The Lord raised up a deliverer.”

Sin

“The Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord.”



The Sin Cycle

Repentance

“And when the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord...”

Judgement

“The Lord sold them into the hands of their enemies”

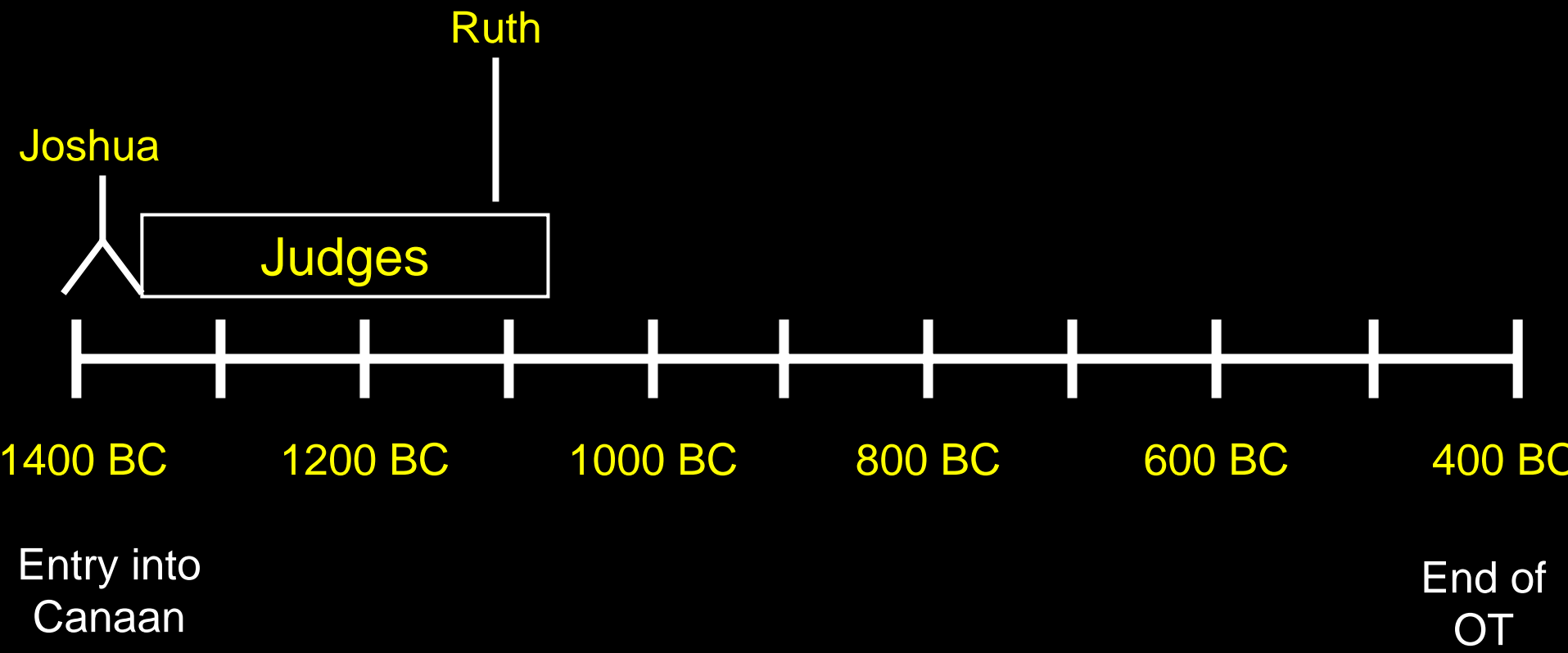
Judges of Israel

- 1423 B.C. Othniel 40 years
- 1365 B.C. Ehud 80 years
- 1285 B.C. Shamgar 10 years
- 1265 B.C. Deborah/Barak 40 years
- 1218 B.C. Gideon 40 years
- 1178 B.C. Tola 23 years
- 1155 B.C. Jair 22 years
- 1151 B.C. Jephthah 6 years
- 1145 B.C. Ibzan 7 years
- 1138 B.C. Elon 10 years
- 1128 B.C. Abdon 8 years
- 1120 B.C. Samson 20 years

The Outcome of the Book of Judges

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 21:25



Survey of Ruth

- ❖ Ruth's decision to follow Naomi and her confession of faith (1:1-18)
- ❖ Ruth's devotion to care for Naomi (1:19-2:23)
- ❖ Ruth's request for redemption by Boaz (3:1-18)
- ❖ Ruth's reward of redemption by Boaz (4:1-22)

Main Characters in Ruth

Naomi - means “pleasant”

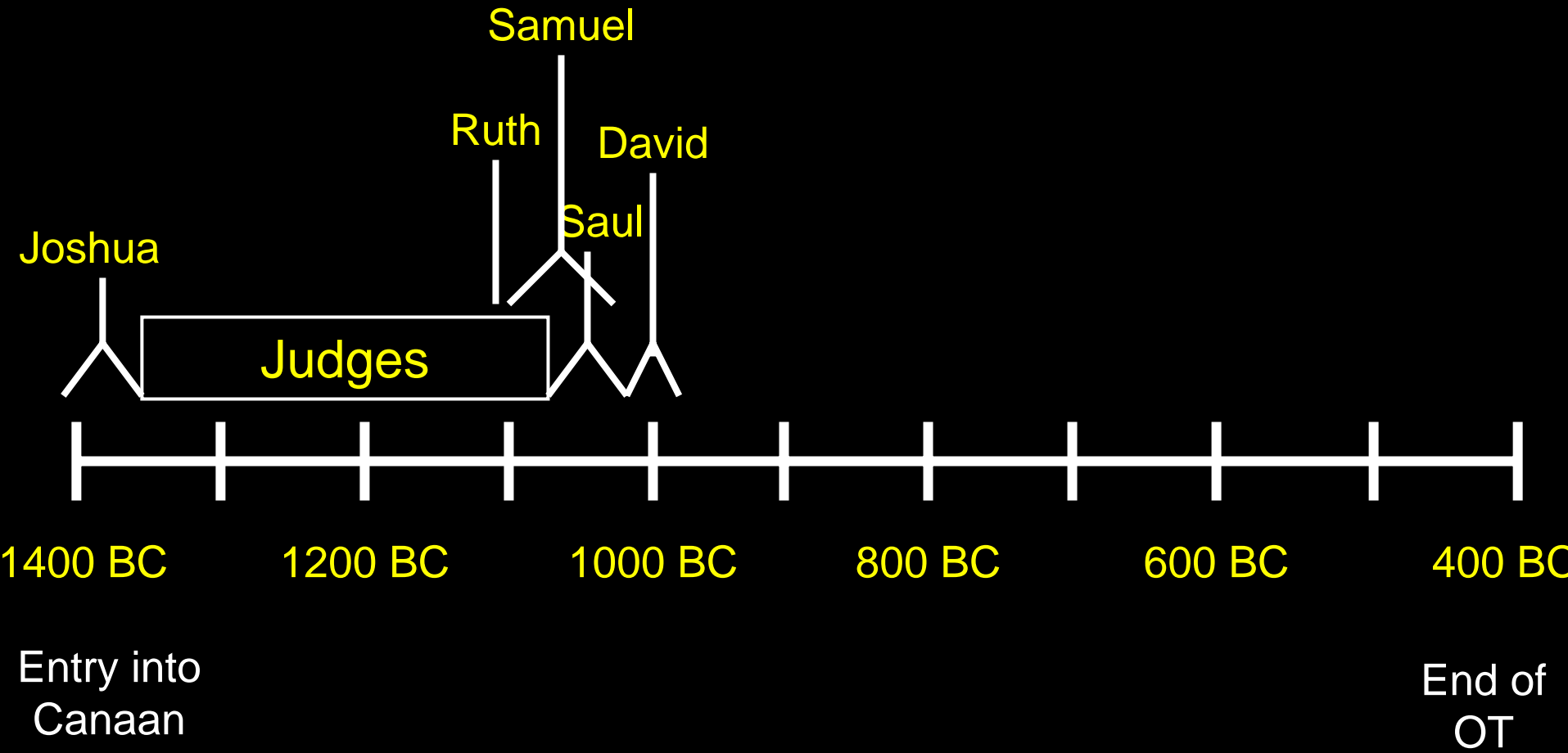
- Changed her name to Mara, which means “bitter”

Ruth - suggests “friendship”

- By faith, leaves her people and gods to follow Naomi and her God.
- Listed in the genealogy of Christ

Boaz - probably means “in Him is strength”

- Pictures Christ as our Redeemer



Survey of First Samuel

The Book is built around three Key Men:

- ❖ Samuel (Chapters 1 to 7)
- ❖ Saul (Chapters 8 to 15)
- ❖ Saul And David (Chapters 16 to 31)

Survey of First Samuel

- ❖ **Decline of Judges** (chapters 1 – 7)
 - Eli (1:1 – 3:21)
 - Samuel (4:1 – 7:17)
- ❖ **Rise of Kings** (chapters 8–31)
 - Saul (8:1 – 15:9)
 - David (15:10 – 31:13)

Main Characters in First Samuel

- ❖ **Hannah** - Mother of Samuel, wife of Elkanah
- ❖ **Eli** - High priest, custodian of Samuel
- ❖ **Samuel** - Last judge of Israel. Anointed Saul and David
- ❖ **Saul** - First king of Israel, disobedient to God
- ❖ **David** - King of Israel and Judah; “author” of Psalms
- ❖ **Jonathan** - Eldest son of King Saul; friend of David
- ❖ **Michal** - Younger daughter of Saul; David’s wife
- ❖ **Abigail** – Second wife of David; Nadab’s widow
- ❖ **Abner** - Saul’s army commander; Saul’s uncle; joined David

Survey of Second Samuel

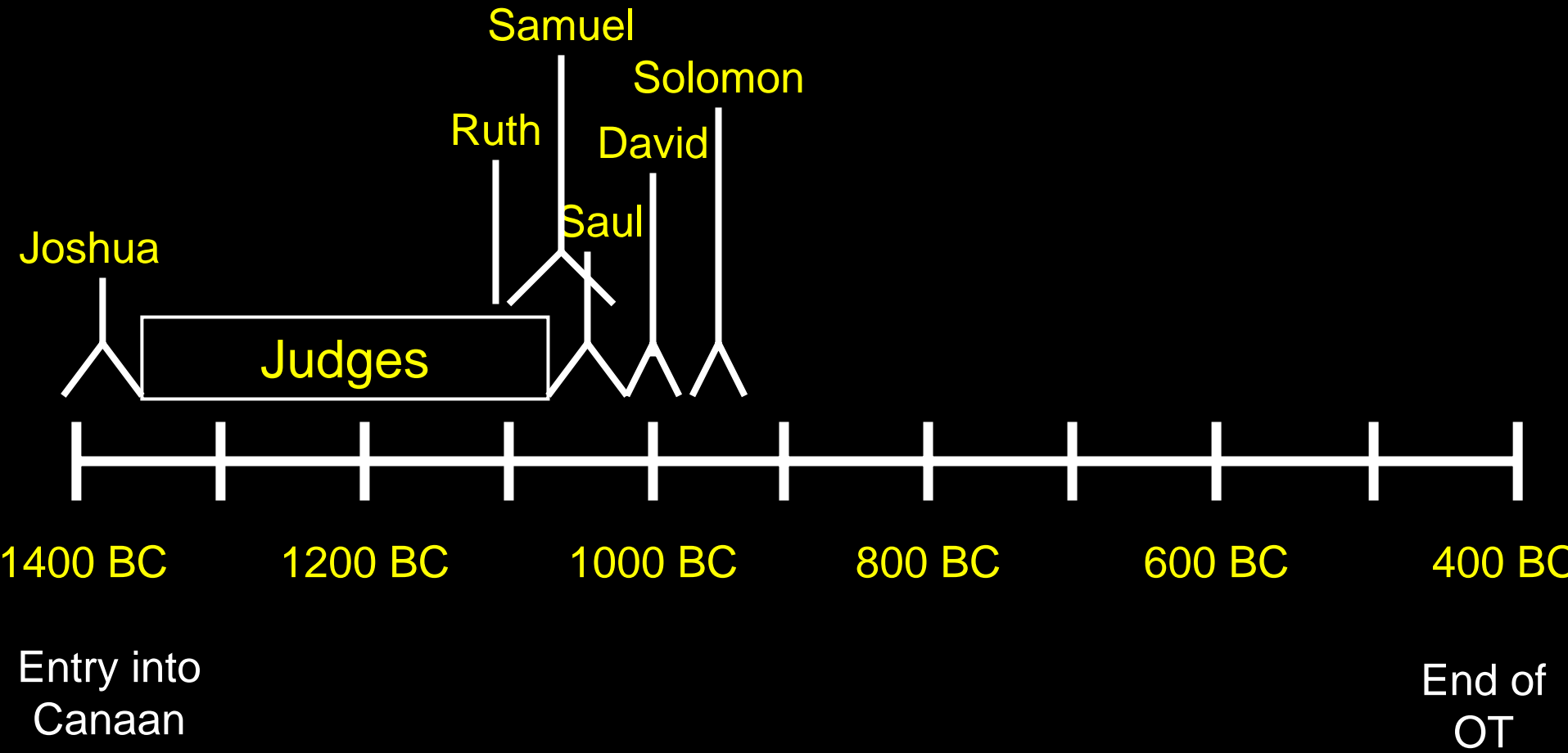
- ❖ David's Success (Chapters 1–10).
- ❖ David's Sin (Chapters 11).
- ❖ David's Struggles (Chapter 12 to 24).

Main Characters in Second Samuel

- ❖ **Ishbosheth** – son of Saul, murdered
- ❖ **Mephibosheth** – Jonathan's crippled son
- ❖ **Bathsheba** – Committed sin with David
- ❖ **Nathan** – prophet, confronted David with his sin
- ❖ **Solomon** – David's son, later anointed as king
- ❖ **Absalom** – David's son, led revolt against David
- ❖ **Amnon** – David's firstborn, killed by Absalom

Survey of First Kings

- ❖ CHAPTERS 1 TO 11 - Solomon and a United Kingdom (40 Years)
- ❖ CHAPTERS 12 TO 22 – The Kings and a Divided Kingdom (90 Years)

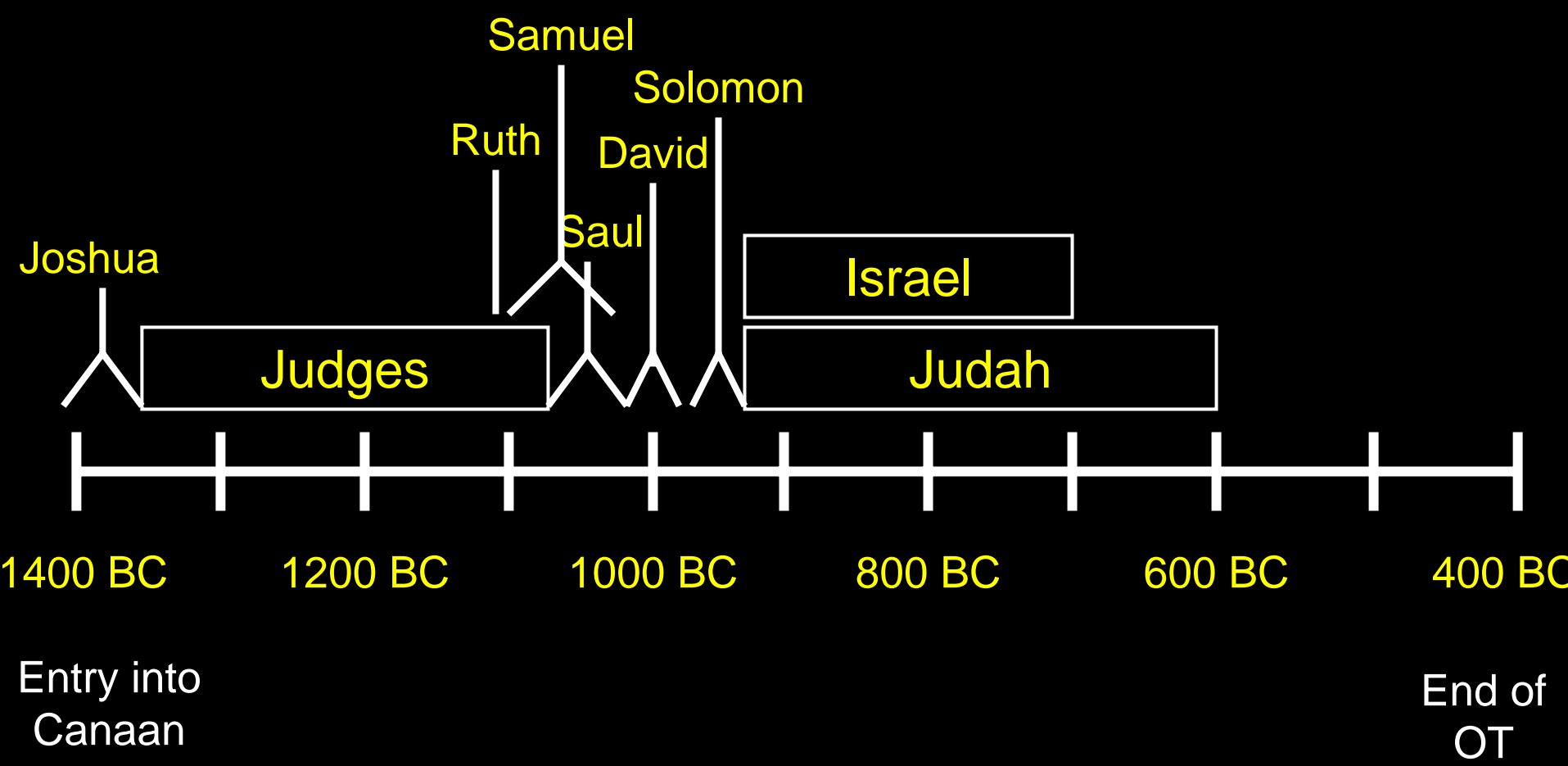


Survey of First Kings

- ❖ CHAPTERS 1 TO 11 - Solomon and a United Kingdom (40 Years)
- ❖ CHAPTERS 12 TO 22 – The Kings and a Divided Kingdom (90 Years)

Survey of Second Kings

- ❖ Chapters 1 -17 The Divided Kingdom (853 – 722 BC). Israel and Judah
722 BC Israel Departed to Assyria
- ❖ Chapters 18 – 25 The Surviving Kingdom (715 B.C. – 560 B.C.) Judah
Judah Deported to Babylon



1st Samuel	2nd Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings
Samuel & Saul	David as King	Solomon & Divided Kingdom	Fall of the Divided Kingdoms

1 Kings 1-11	1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17	2 Kings 18-25
United Kingdom under Solomon	Northern Kingdom	
	Southern Kingdom of Judah	

Survey of First Chronicles

- ❖ Chapters 1 to 9 - Royal Line of David
(Covers Thousands of Years).
Genealogies covers Adam – David.
- ❖ Chapters 10 to 29 – Reign of David
(Covers 33 Years).
David's rule over the United Kingdom.

Survey of Second Chronicles

- ❖ Chapter 1 – 9 Solomon's Glory.
- ❖ Chapters 10 – 36 Judah's Decline and Exile.

Kings

Chronicles

Prophetic
Perspective:
Judgments

Priestly
Perspective: Hope

Wars Prominent

Temple Prominent

History of thrones

History of Davidic
line

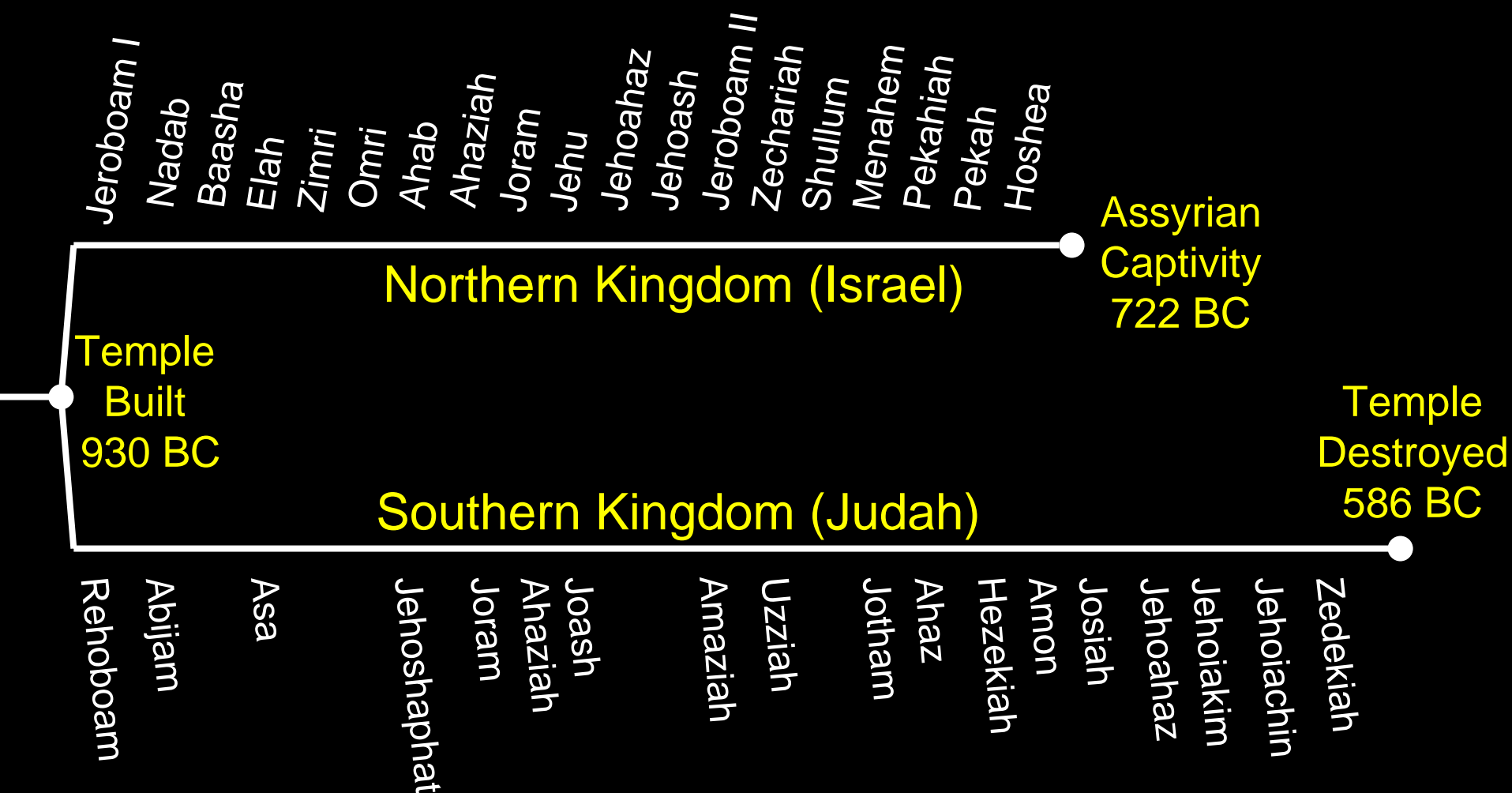
Israel & Judah

Mostly Judah

Morality

Redemption

Southern Kingdom of Judah		Northern Kingdom of Israel
19 Kings, 1 Queen	Kings	19 Kings
Jerusalem	Capital	Shechem/Samaria
Judah & Benjamin	Tribes	Ten Northern Tribes
Most were unstable; some were good, some were bad	Legacy of Kings	All were bad; Ahab and Ahaziah were idol worshipers
Conquered by Babylon in 586 B.C.	Fall	Conquered by Assyria in 721 B.C.
Returned to the land	Return	No Return



Jeroboam I
Nadab
Baasha
Elah
Zimri
Omri
Ahab
Ahaziah
Joram
Jehu
Jehoahaz
Jehoash
Jeroboam II
Zechariah
Shullum
Menahem
Pekahiah
Pekah
Hoshea

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Assyrian
Captivity
722 BC

Temple
Built
930 BC

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Temple
Destroyed
586 BC

Rehoboam
Abijam
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Joram
Joash
Ahaziah
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Amon
Josiah
Jehoiakim
Jehoahaz
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

Jeroboam I
Nadab
Baasha
Elah
Zimri
Omri
Ahab
Ahaziah
Joram
Jehu
Jehoahaz
Jehoash
Jeroboam II
Zechariah
Shullum
Menahem
Pekahiah
Pekah
Hoshea

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Assyrian
Captivity
722 BC

Temple
Built
930 BC

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Temple
Destroyed
586 BC

Rehoboam
Abijam
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Joram
Ahaziah
Joash
Ahaz
Jotham
Amaziah
Uzziah
Hezekiah
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

Jeroboam I
Nadab
Baasha
Elah
Zimri
Omri
Ahab
Ahaziah
Joram
Jehu
Jehoahaz
Jehoash
Jeroboam II
Zechariah
Shullum
Menahem
Pekahiah
Pekah
Hoshea

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

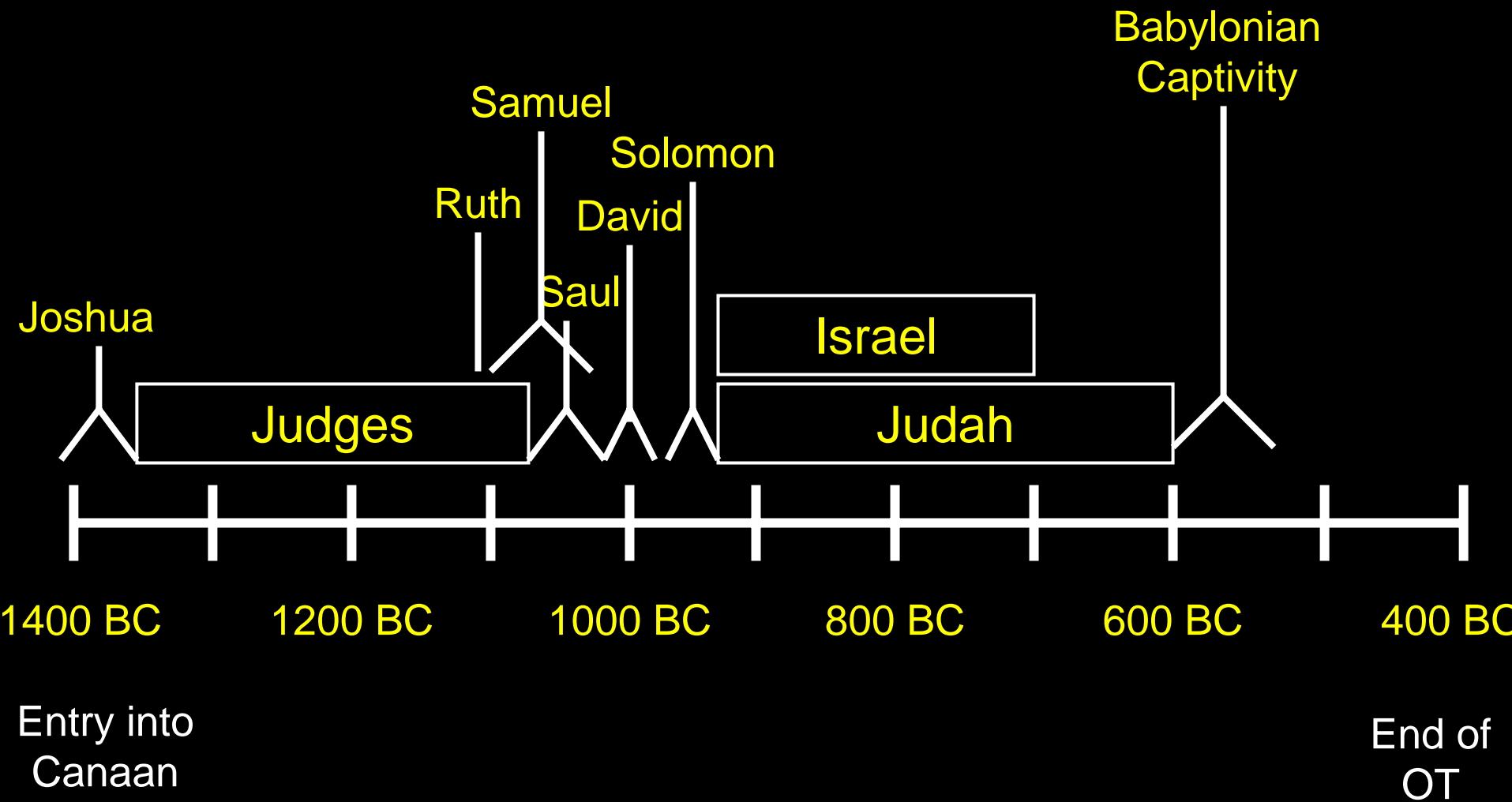
Assyrian
Captivity
722 BC

Temple
Built
930 BC

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Temple
Destroyed
586 BC

Rehoboam
Abijam
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Joram
Joash
Ahaziah
Amaziah
Uzziah
Ahaz
Jotham
Hezekiah
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah



605 B.C.

Hostages taken from among the nobility including Daniel and his three friends

597 B.C.

A total of 10,000 of the craftsmen are taken along with Ezekiel

586 B.C.

The temple is destroyed and all of the inhabitants of Jerusalem are taken into captivity

610 600 590 580 570 560 550 540 530

Kings of Judah

**Babylonian
Captivity**

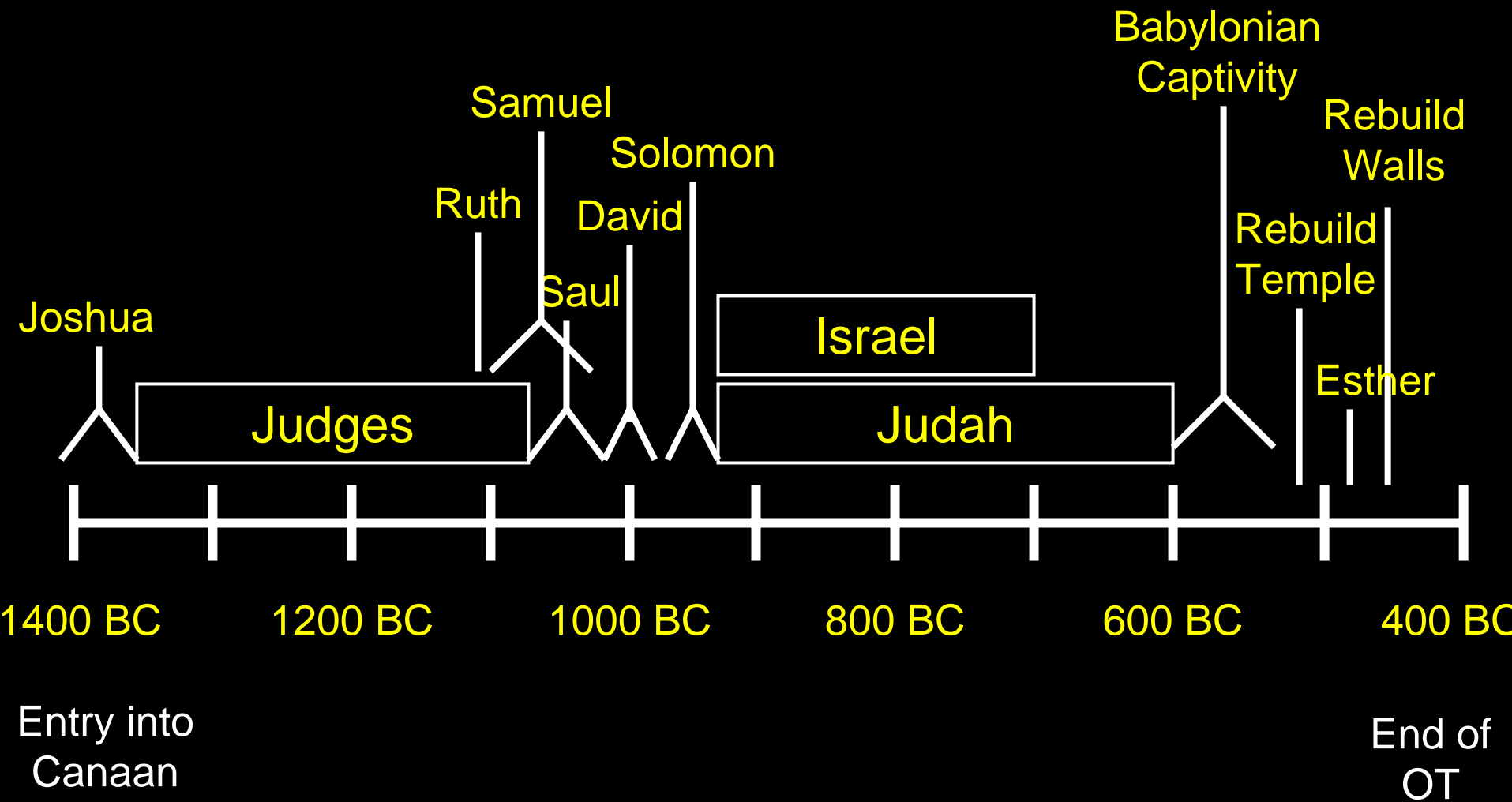
**Return
from
Exile**

**Jerusalem
& Temple
Destroyed**

Daniel

Main Characters in Daniel

- ❖ **Daniel** – Interpreted visions of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue and tree, Belshazzar’s handwriting on the wall, protected in lion’s den, prophesied of end times
- ❖ **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego** – Refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar statue, protected by God in fiery furnace
- ❖ **Nebuchadnezzar** – King of Babylon, humbled by God, became worshiper of God



1st Return under Zerubbabel & Rebuilding Temple	Ezra 1-6	538-516 B.C.
Events of Book of Esther	Book of Esther	473 B.C.
2nd Return under Ezra	Ezra 7-10	458-457 B.C.
3rd Return Under Nehemiah & Rebuilding Walls	Book of Nehemiah	445-444 B.C.

Survey of Ezra

- ❖ Chapters 1- 6 - The Restoration of the Temple
- ❖ Chapters 7 – 10 - The Reformation of the People

Survey of Nehemiah

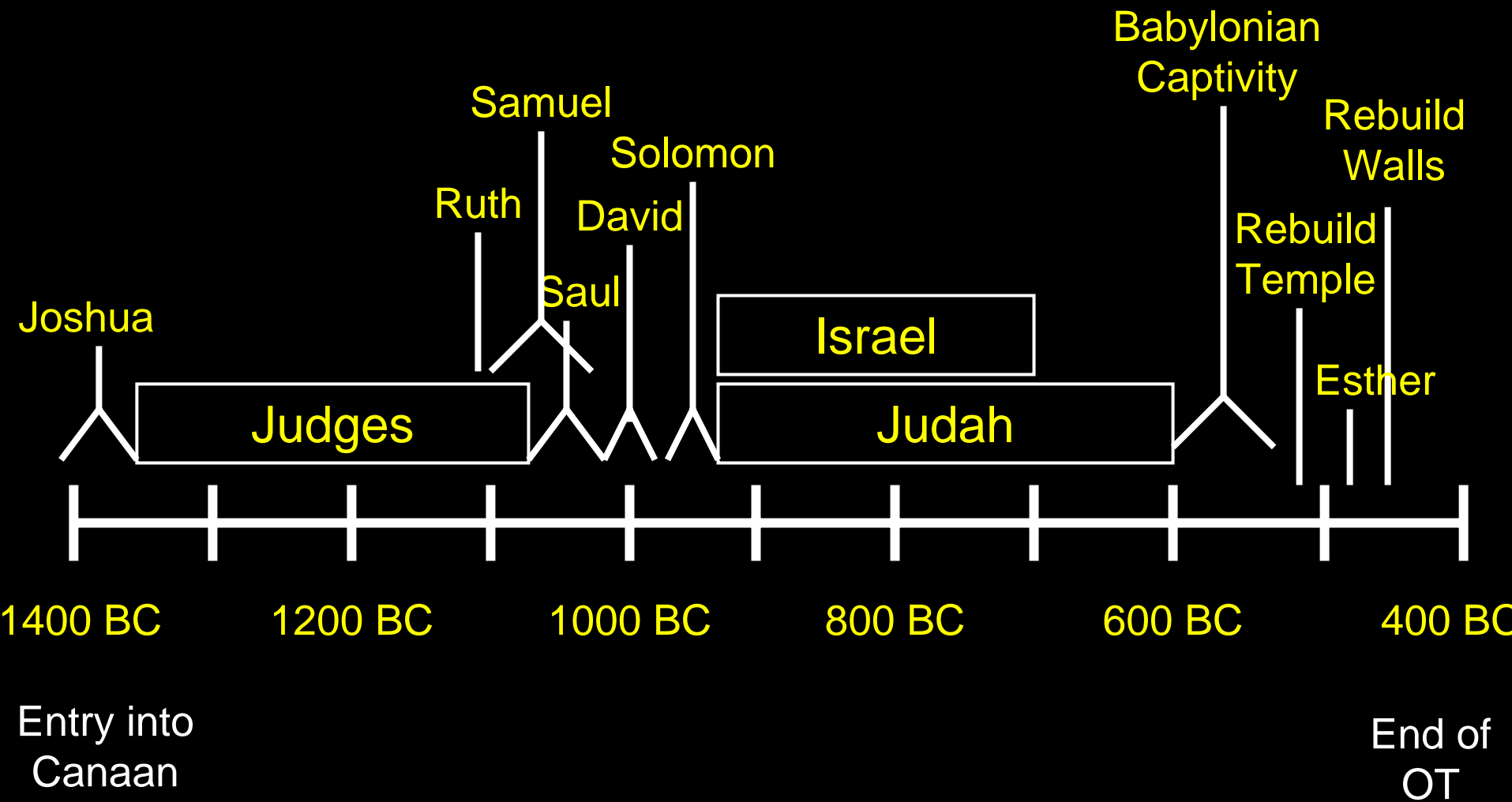
- ❖ Reconstruction of the Wall (1:1 - 7:73)
- ❖ Restoration of the People (8:1 - 13:31)

Survey of Esther

- ❖ The Threat to the Jews (1 - 4)
- ❖ The Triumph of the Jews (5 – 10)

Main Characters in Esther

- ❖ **Esther** – Jewess who becomes queen of Ahasuerus, wins freedom from annihilation for Jews in Persian kingdom
- ❖ **Mordecai** – Esther's uncle, provides information and support to Esther enabling her to save Jews from death
- ❖ **Haman** – Plots annihilation for all Jews in kingdom, is executed for his plot
- ❖ **Ahasuerus** – King of Persia, chooses Esther for his queen, grants requests to Esther



Character Studies in the Old Testament

Look for answers to these questions:

- What do we learn of God as He handles this character?
- What do we learn of Christ either in comparison or in contrast to this character?
- What do we learn about this character from a practical Christian living perspective?