



The Hidden Treasures of Christmas

PART ONE

PASTOR BOB FORDER

CHRISTMAS 2024
Studies

A Two-Part Study Rediscovering What Tradition Has Obscured

**THE TRUTH
ABOUT CHRISTMAS
ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE**





**CHRISTMAS
STARTS
WITH
CHRIST**









THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:1-7

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. **2**(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) **3** And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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The Blood Curse on Jeconiah*

Thus saith the LORD, Write this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

Jeremiah 22:30

** Also called Jehoiachin*

The House of David

Matthew:

- Solomon**
- Rehoboam
- Abijah
- Asa
- Jehoshaphat
- Jehoram
- Ahaziah*
- Joash*
- Amaziah*
- Uzziah
- Jotham
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah
- Manasseh
- Amon
- Josiah

- Jehoiakim***
- Jehoiachin***
- Salathiel**
- Zerubbabel
- Abiud
- Eliakim
- Azor
- Sadoc
- Achim
- Eliud
- Eleazar
- Matthan
- Jacob
- Joseph**

Luke:

- Nathan**
- Mattatha
- Menan
- Melea
- Eliakim
- Jonan
- Joseph
- Juda
- Simeon
- Levi
- Matthat
- Jorim
- Eliezer
- Jose
- Er
- Elmodam
- Cosam
- Addi
- Melchi
- Neri

- Salathiel**
- Zerubbabel
- Rhesa
- Joanna
- Juda
- Joseph
- Semei
- Mattathias
- Maath
- Nagge
- Esli
- Naum
- Amos
- Mattathias
- Joseph
- Janna
- Melchi
- Levi
- Matthat
- Heli
- (Mary)**

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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Micah 4:8

8 And you, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto you shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.



THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Genesis 35:19

19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. **20** And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day. **21** And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

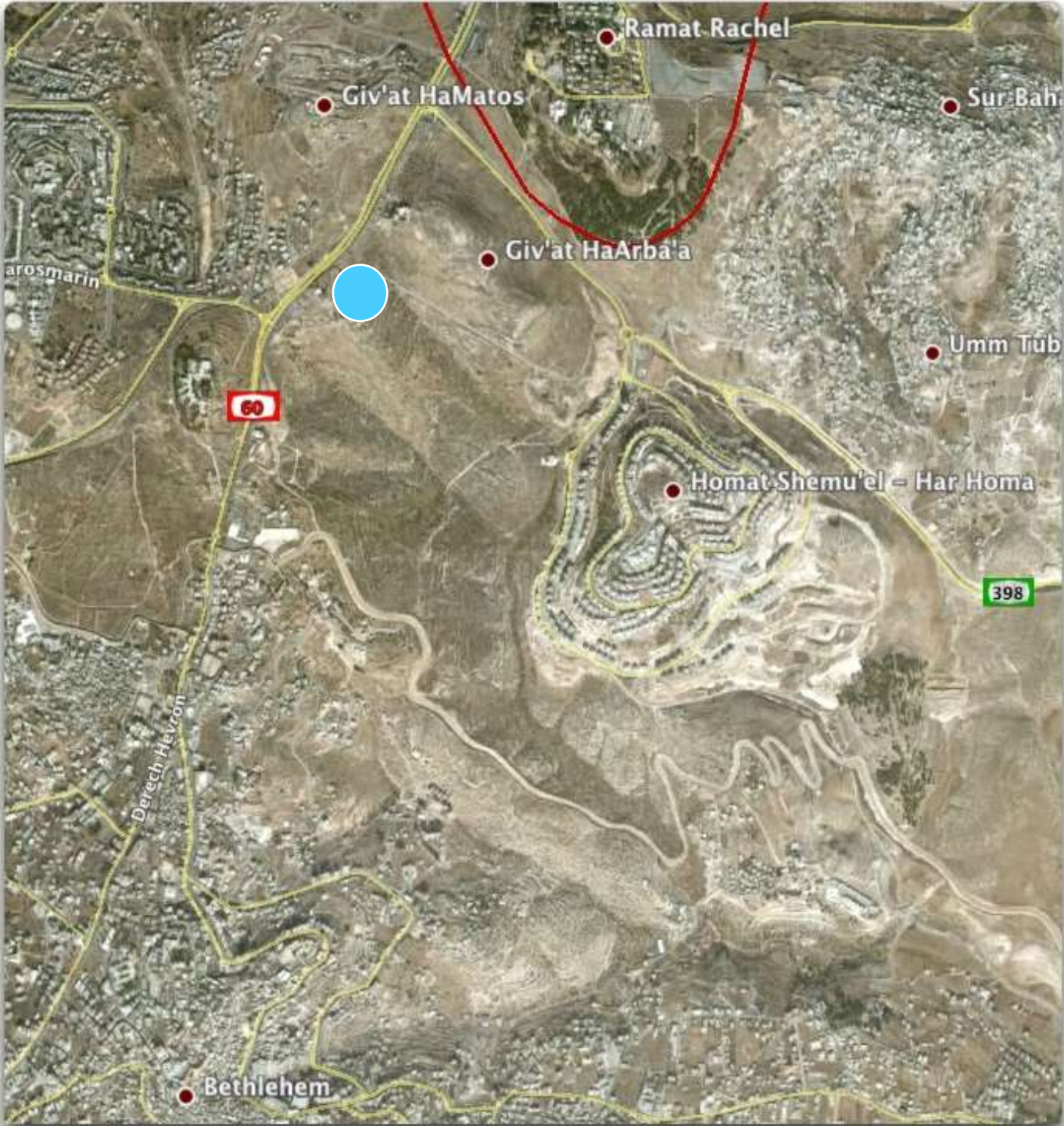
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Ramat Rachel

Giv'at HaMatos

Sur Bah

arosmarin

Giv'at HaArba'a

Umm Tub

60

Homat Shemu'el - Har Homa

398

Derech Hevron

Bethlehem

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Micah 4: 9 & 10

9 Now why do you cry out aloud? is there no king in you? is your counsellor perished? for pangs have taken you as a woman in travail. 10 Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shall you go forth out of the city, and you shalt dwell in the field, and you shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt you be delivered; there the Lord shall redeem you from the hand of your enemies.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Micah 5: 2 & 3

2 But You, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:8-14

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall be a sign to you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:15-20

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18** And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

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**3 THE SHEPHERDS ARE TOLD BY THE ANGEL
TO GO TO SEE THE BABY JESUS IN THE
MANGER**

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:

21, And when after eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

23(As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) **24** And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed to him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple:
and when the parents brought in the child
Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,
28 Then took he him up in his arms, and
blessed God, and said, **29** Lord, now let your
servant depart in peace, according to your
word: **30** For my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 Which you have prepared before the face of
all people

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. **33** And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. **34** And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Lev 12:1-5

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. **3** And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

4 And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. 5 But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days.

So, for a boy - its 7 days unclean

***and then she would continue in the
blood of her purifying for another 33
days***

$$7 + 33 = 40 \text{ days}$$

***On the 8th day during that time (for a
boy) the circumcision took place***

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Lev 12:

6 And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to the priest: **7** Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that has born a male or a female.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

8 And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtledoves, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

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**4. AFTER 40 DAYS JOSEPH & MARY TAKE JESUS
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5 THEN THEY RETURN HOME TO NAZARETH

Nazareth

The Israelites were unable to capture the fortified towns of the plains during the early period of settlement.

The Great Sea
(Mediterranean Sea)

65 Miles

Jerusalem

The Israelites were under constant attack from Philistine invaders who occupied the coastal area at about this time.

Bethlehem

MANASSEH



Although all of Bashan was assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh, it is doubtful that settlement reached beyond the Yarmuk Valley.

During the period of Judges, invading Ammonites, Moabites and Midianites were repulsed by the Israelites.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Matt 2:

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, **2** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. **3** When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of you shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. 7 Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented to him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

WHO WERE THE WISE MEN



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WHO WERE THE WISE MEN











The Shrine of the Magi, Cologne Cathedral

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Questions;-

1. *Just who were these 'wise men'?
2. *Why are they in the Bible?
3. *Why do they have such a prominent place in scripture?
4. *They were strangers from a foreign land, so why would they want to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts, and come all the way from the east to do it?

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Six Major Empires of the Ancient World

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Medo-Persia

Greece

Rome









THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

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Giovanni - The Journey of the Magi



**Detail from "Adoration of the Magi" by Botticelli
National Gallery of Art**

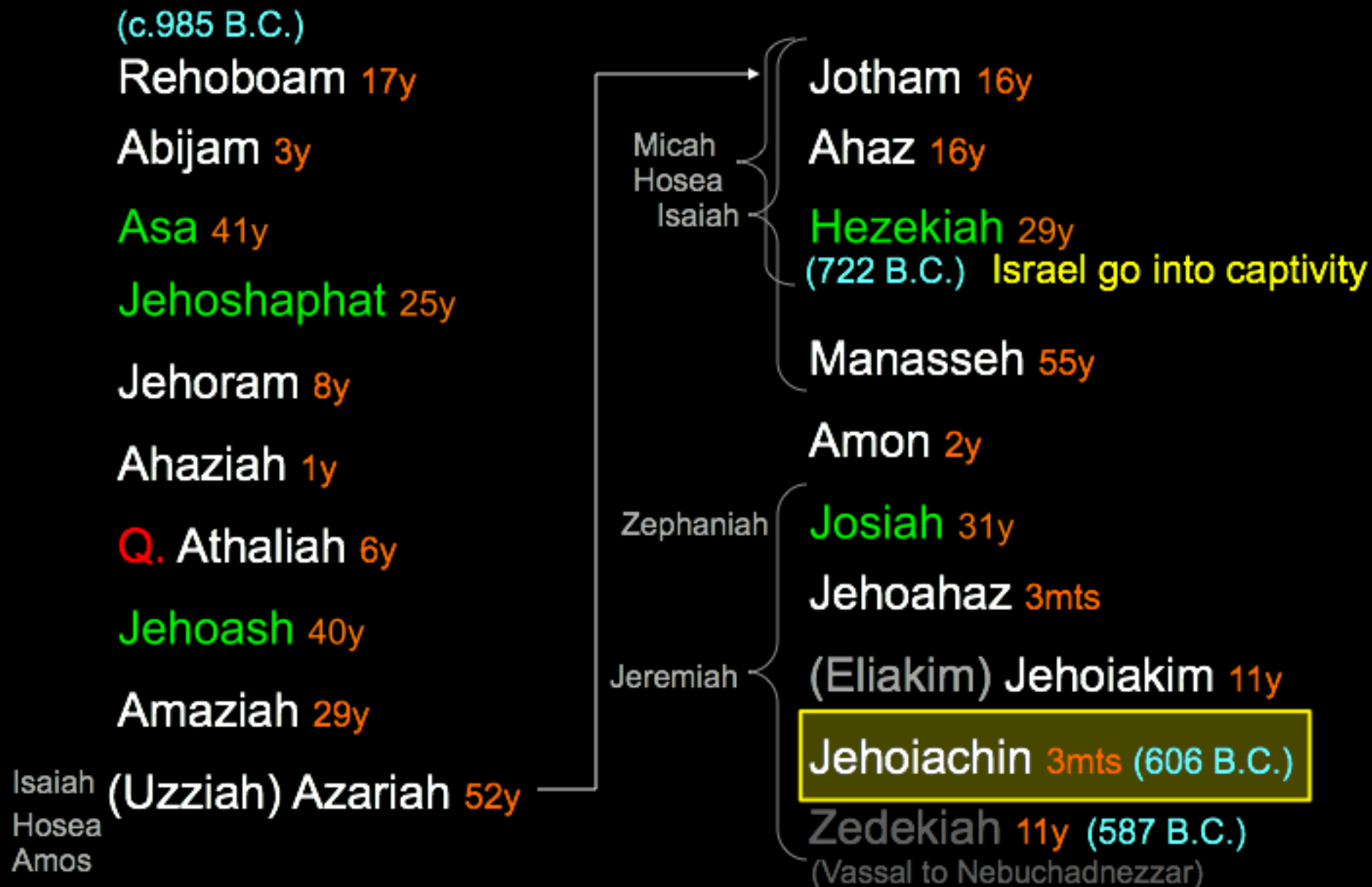


Gozzoli's painting "The March of the Magi" Circa 1460

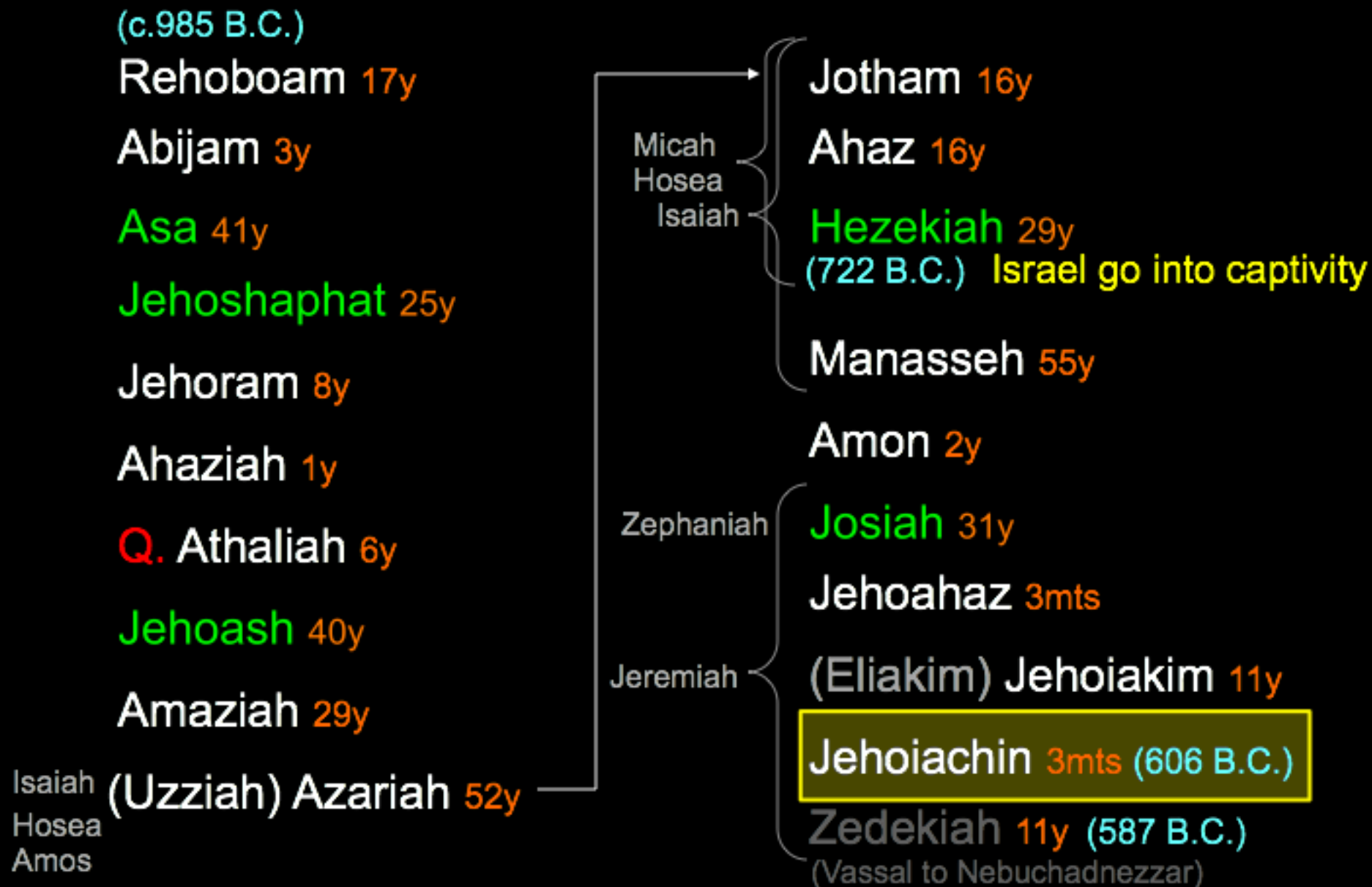




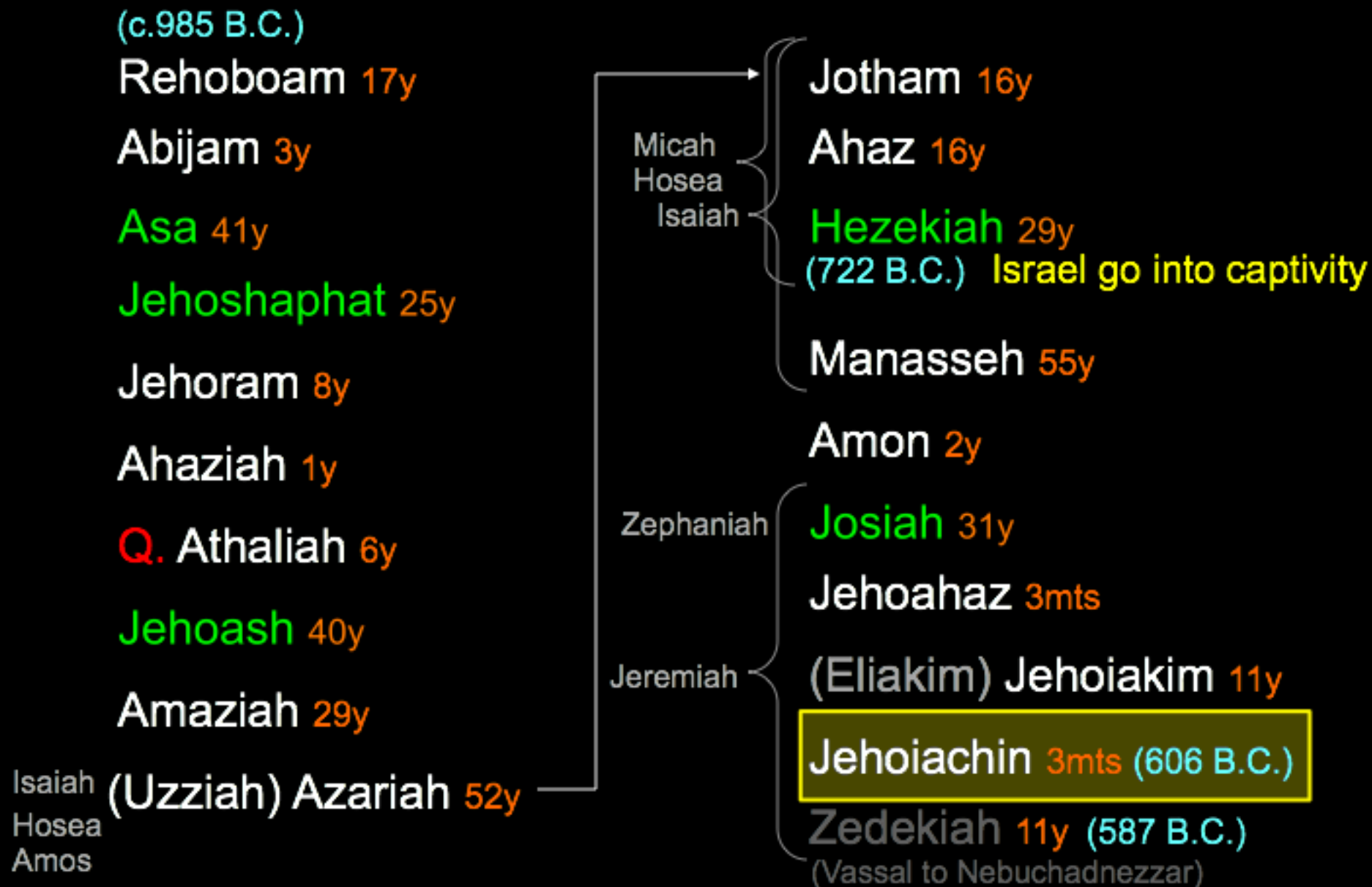
The History of the Kings of Judah



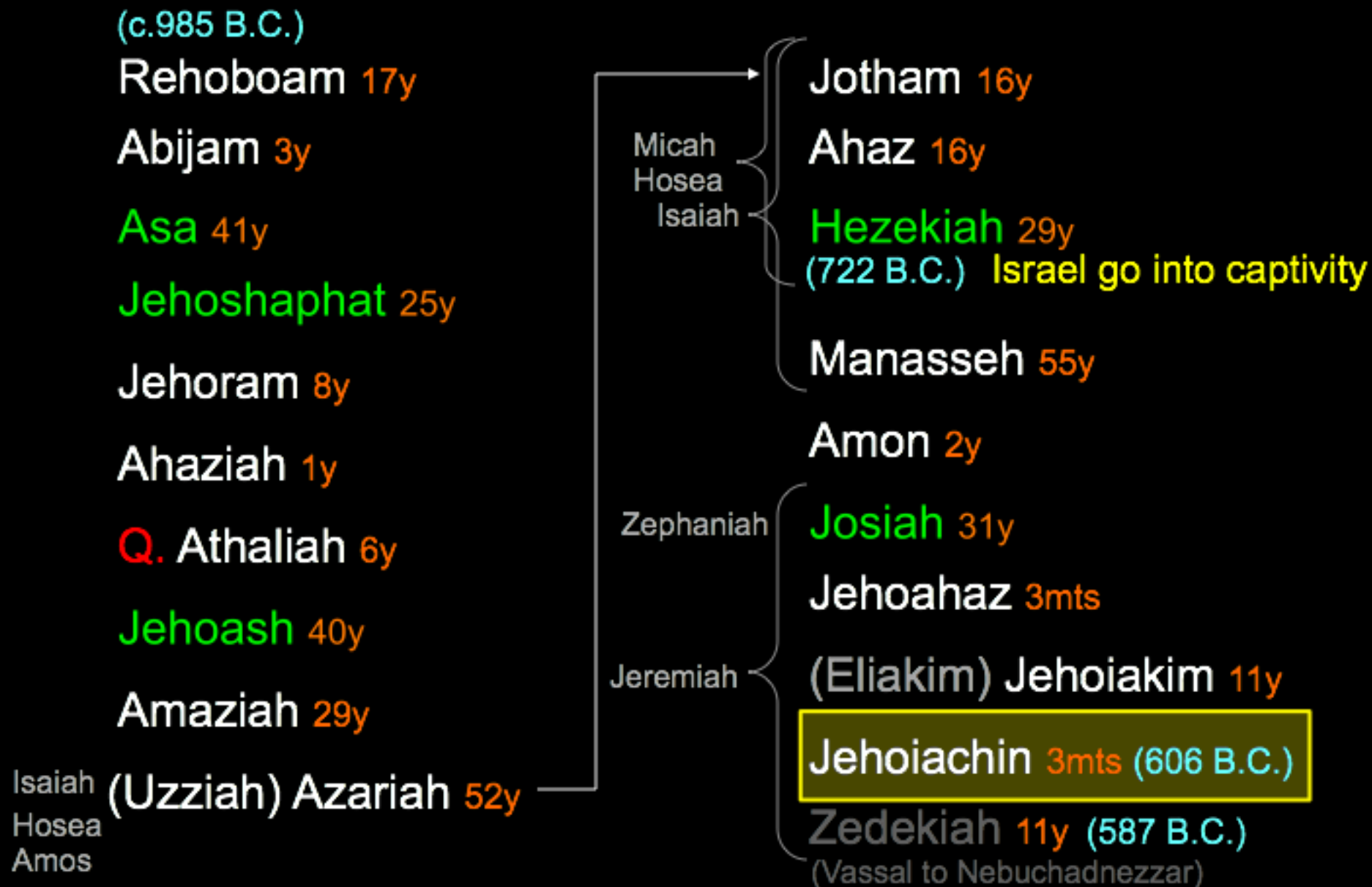
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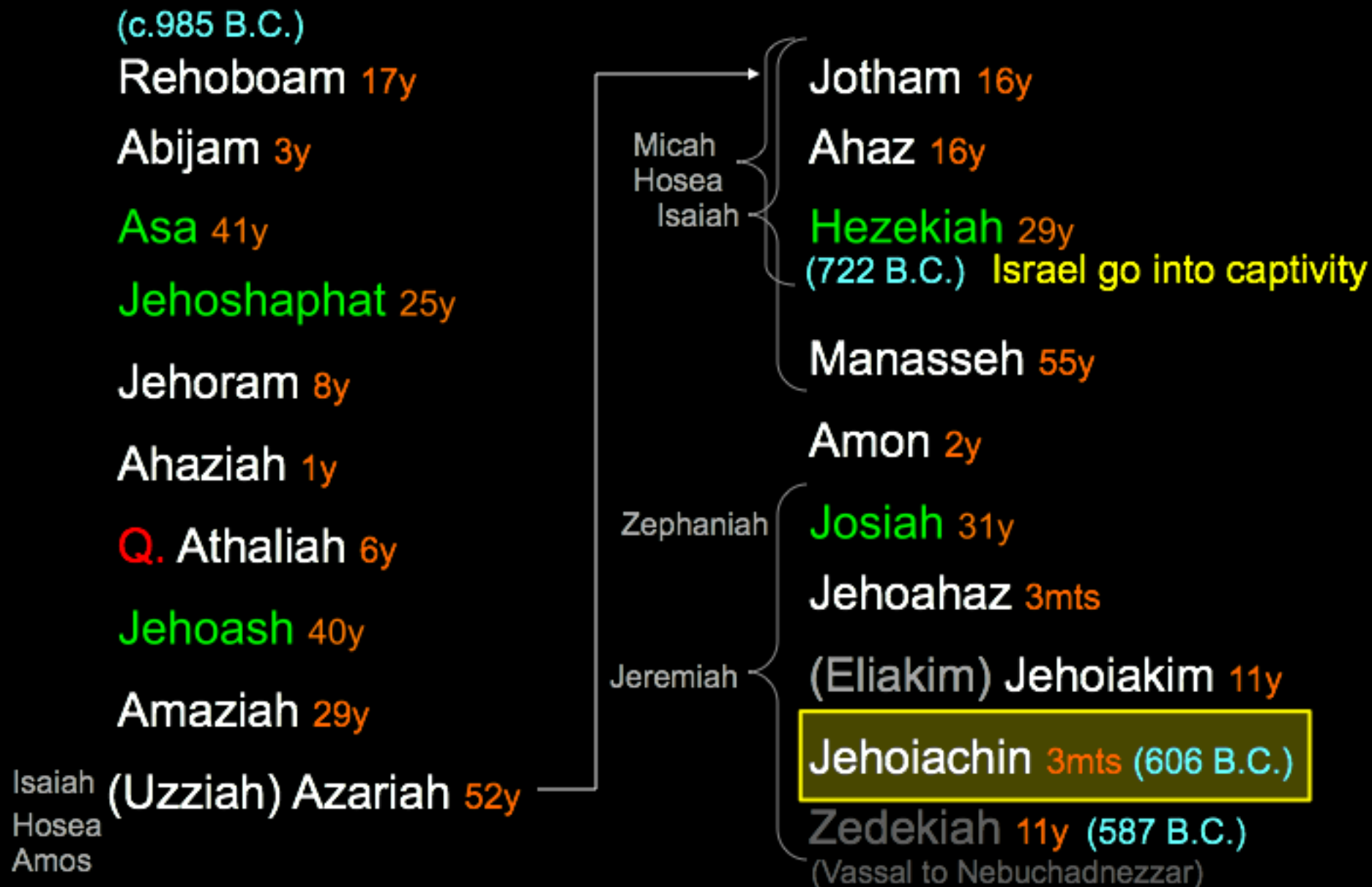
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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

- *The Family were back in Nazareth when the Magi came
- *By then Jesus was a young child
- *No kings at the manger
- *No Kings at all, only magi !
- *No record of only 3 Magi
- *No star between the East & Jerusalem
- *No star over the manger, No camels
- *It was a special supernatural star
- *The star had to have led them to Nazareth

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

- Virtually all the Christmas crib scenes are problematical (kings in the stable with all kinds of animals etc.)
- Many Christmas cards are in error (star over the stable etc.)
- Even many Christmas carols have wording that is problematical
- Any cards showing three 'kings' on camels are in error
- Any Nativity scene showing snow is also in error

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Jesus said, “if you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31 & 32)

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