



KING JOSIAH

640-609 B.C.

WHAT WALKING IN
THE WAYS OF GOD
LOOKS LIKE

2 Chronicles 34:2 (NKJV)

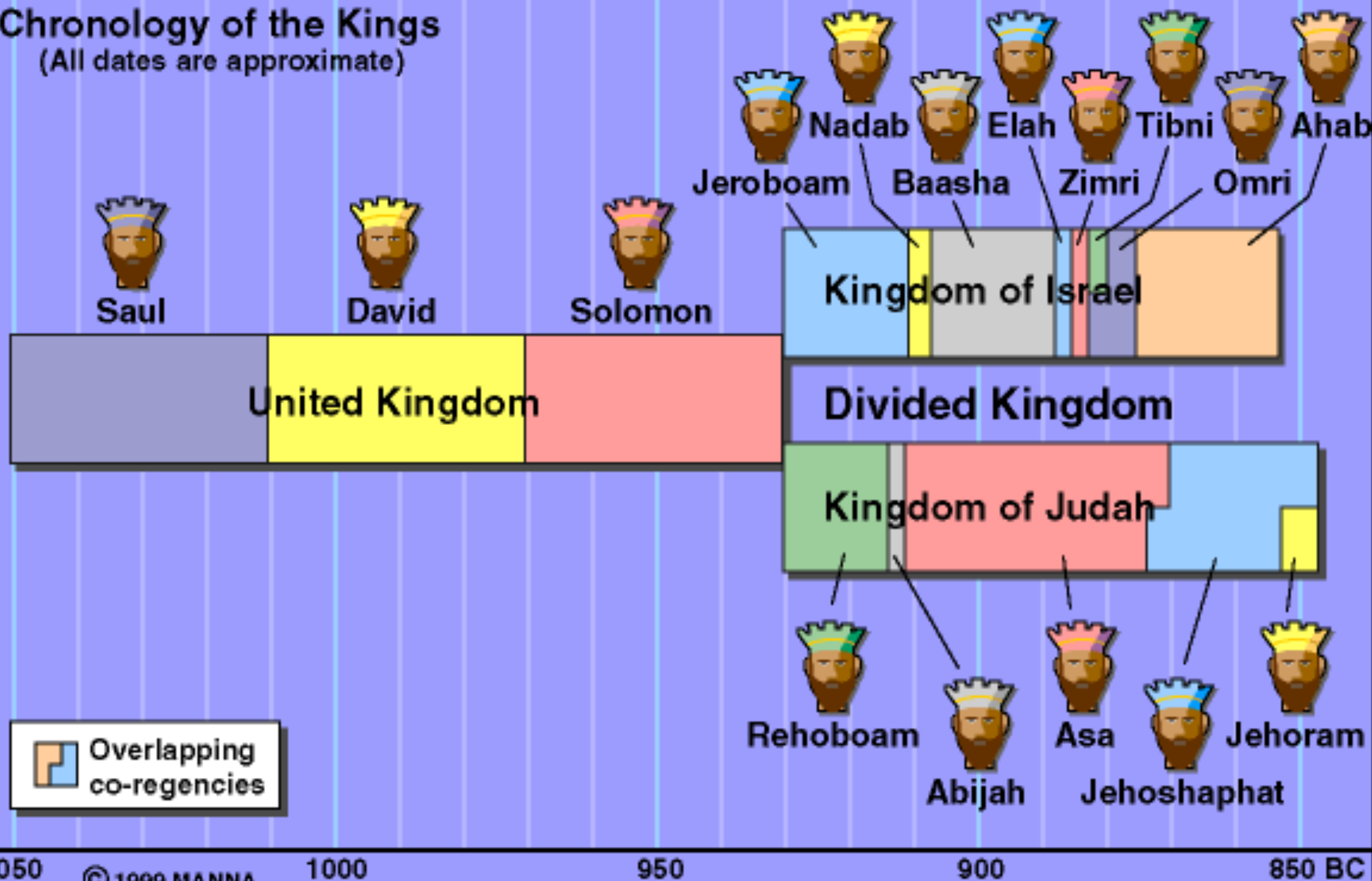
² And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

2 Chronicles 34:1-35:19

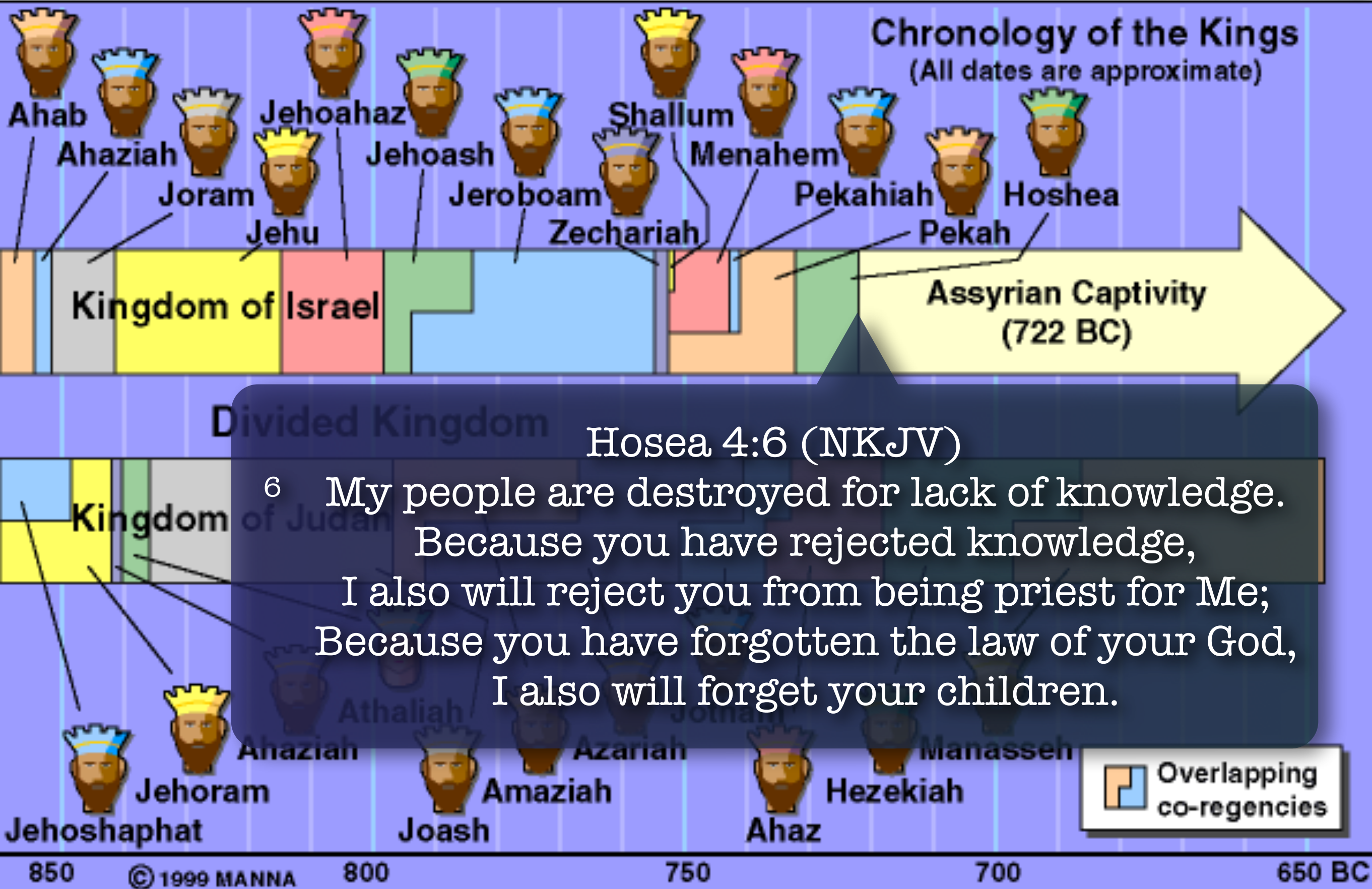
2 Kings 21:24-23:30

KING JOSIAH WHAT WALKING IN THE WAYS OF GOD LOOKS LIKE

Chronology of the Kings (All dates are approximate)



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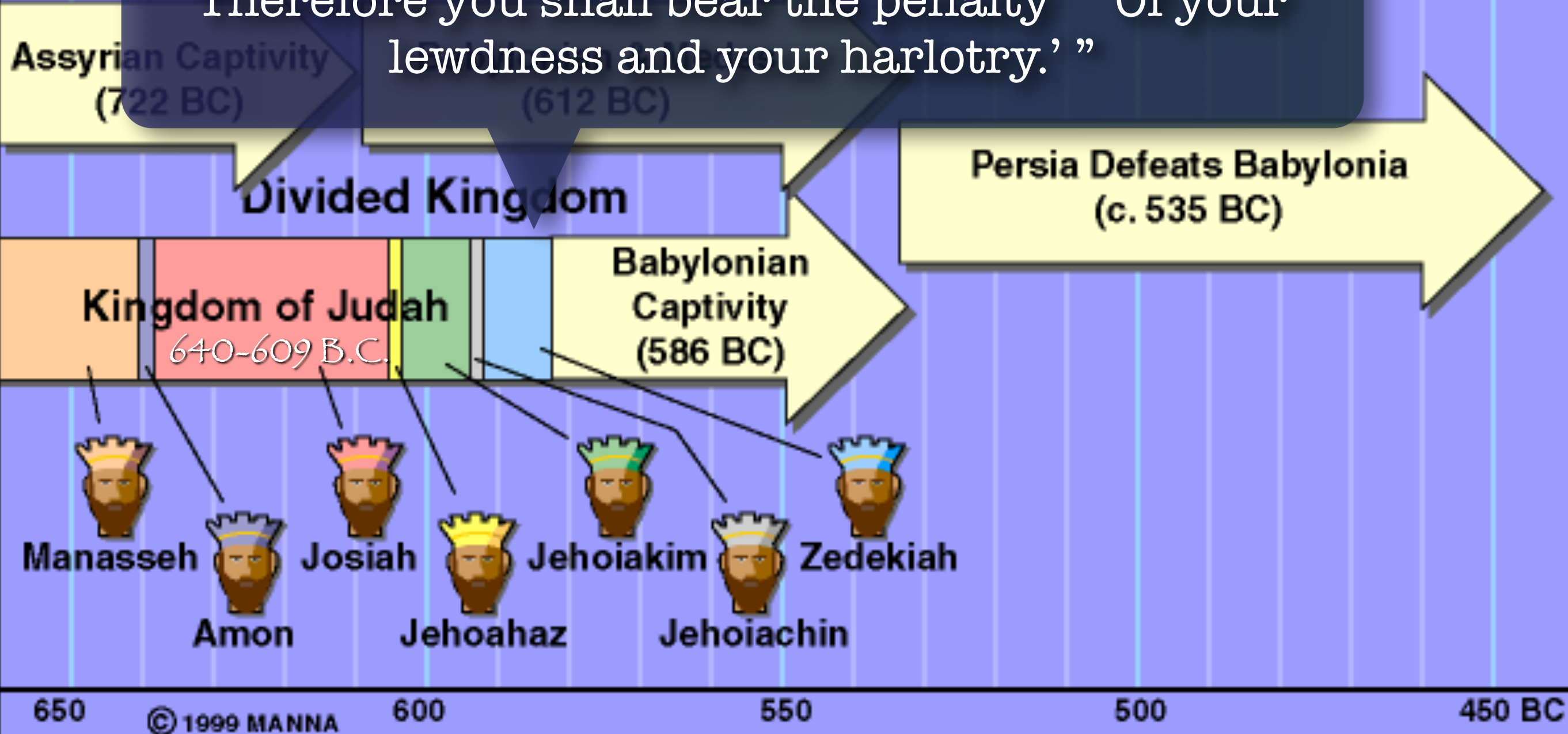
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Chronology of the Kings

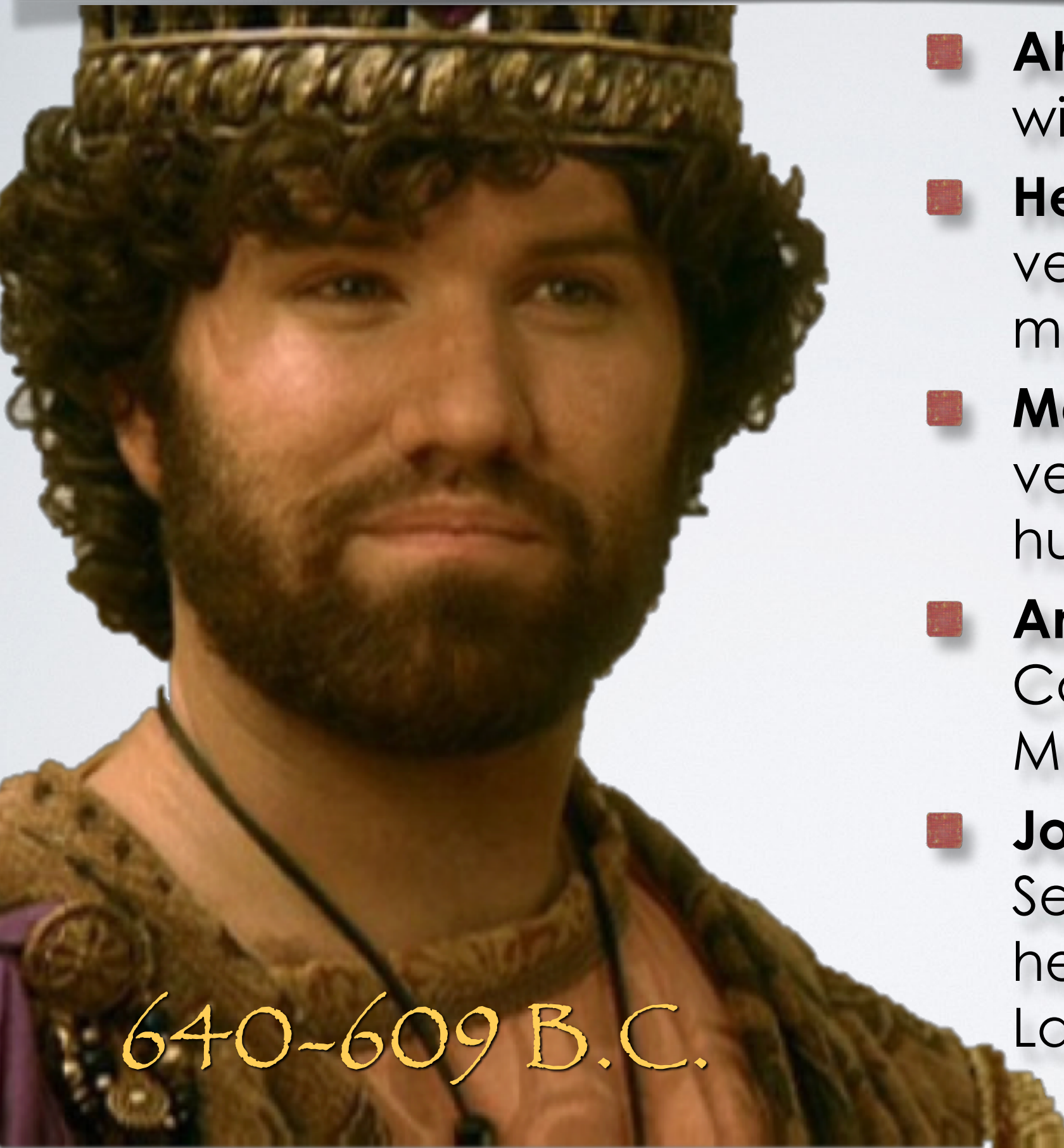
(All dates are approximate)

Ezekiel 23:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, Therefore you shall bear the penalty Of your lewdness and your harlotry.’ ”



KING JOSIAH WHAT WALKING IN THE WAYS OF GOD LOOKS LIKE



- **Ahaz** (734 – 715 B.C. very wicked)
- **Hezekiah** (715 – 686 B.C. A very good king, instituted many religious reforms)
- **Manasseh** (696 – 642 B.C. very wicked, practiced human sacrifice)
- **Amon** (642 – 640 B.C. Continued the evil ways of Manasseh)
- **Josiah** (640 – 609 B.C. Served God with a loyal heart / restored the the Law in Judah)

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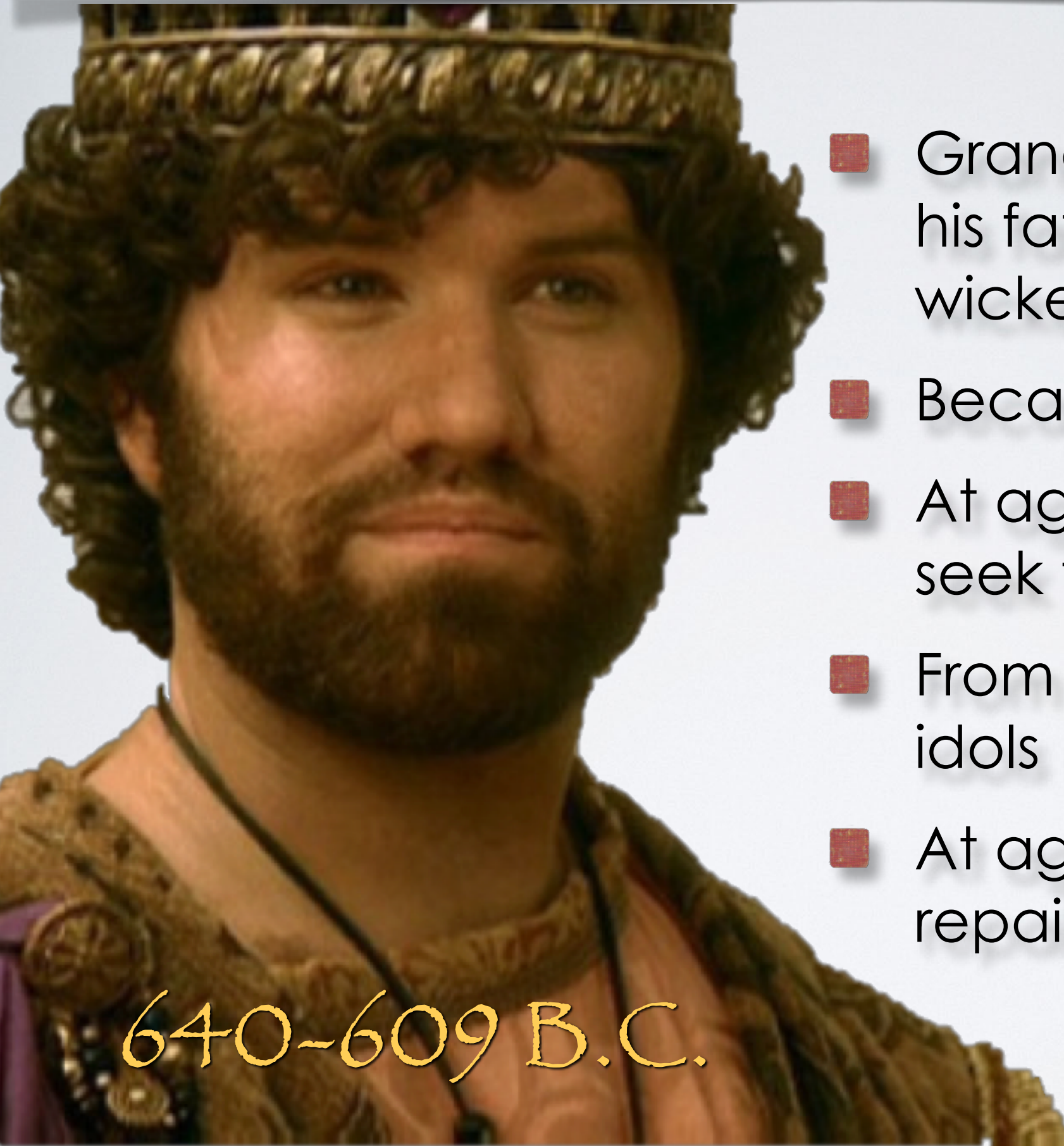
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Important world events that would impact Judah

- (630) Nahum's prophecy against Nineveh
- (627) Jeremiah begins his work and prophecies
- (626) Nabopolassar becomes the first king of the Babylonian empire
- (612) Fall of Nineveh by the union of Babylon & Media
- (609) Death of Josiah by Pharaoh-Necho
- (605) Battle of Carchemish [Control of Babylon over Egypt & Assyria]

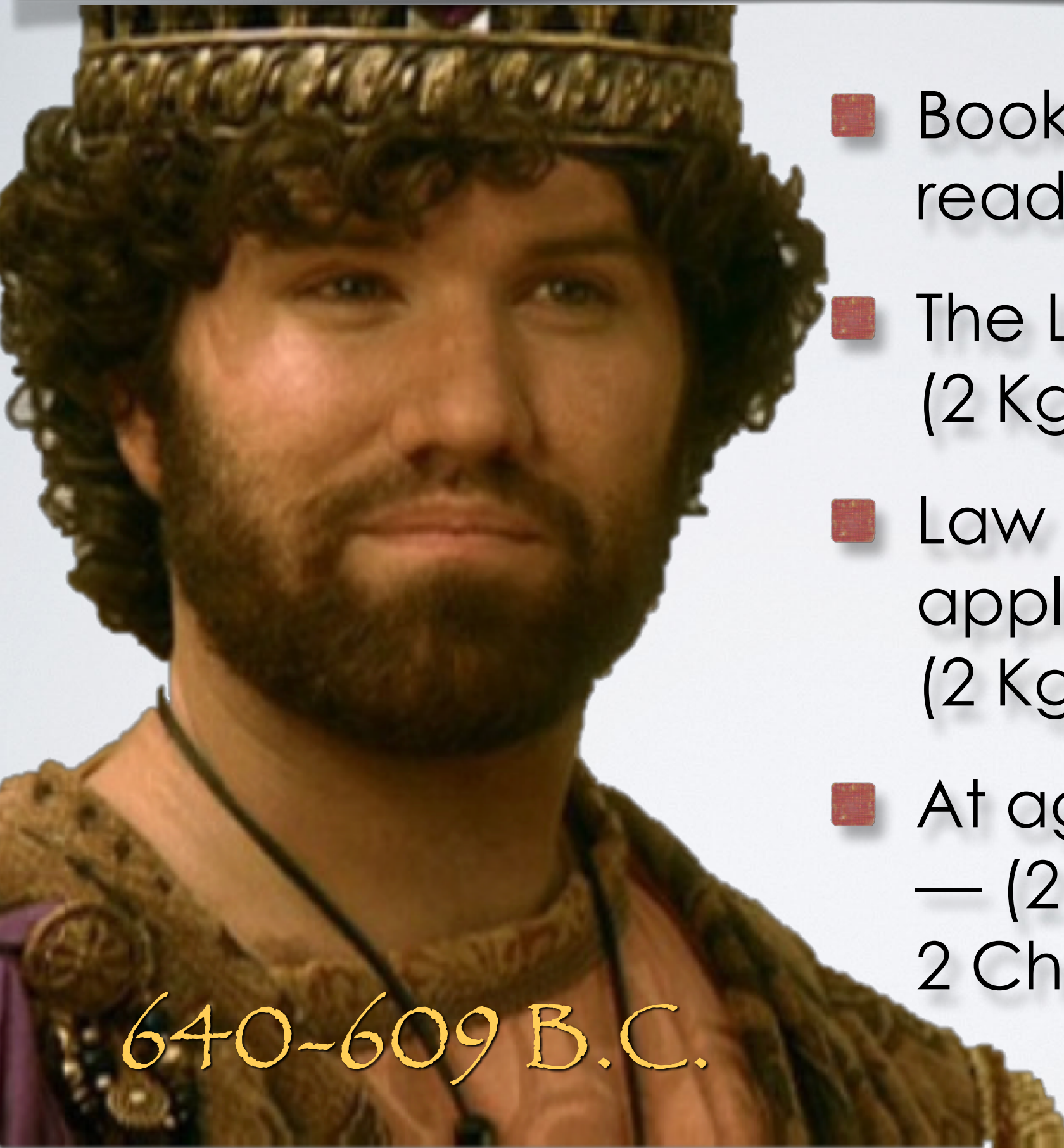
KING JOSIAH WHAT WALKING IN THE WAYS OF GOD LOOKS LIKE



- Grandfather Manasseh, & his father Amon, BOTH wicked kings
- Became king at 8 yrs. old.
- At age 16, he began to seek the Lord (2Chron 34:3)
- From age 20 - 26 destroyed idols (2Chron 34:3-8)
- At age 26, ordered Temple repaired (2Kgs 22:3-7)

640-609 B.C.

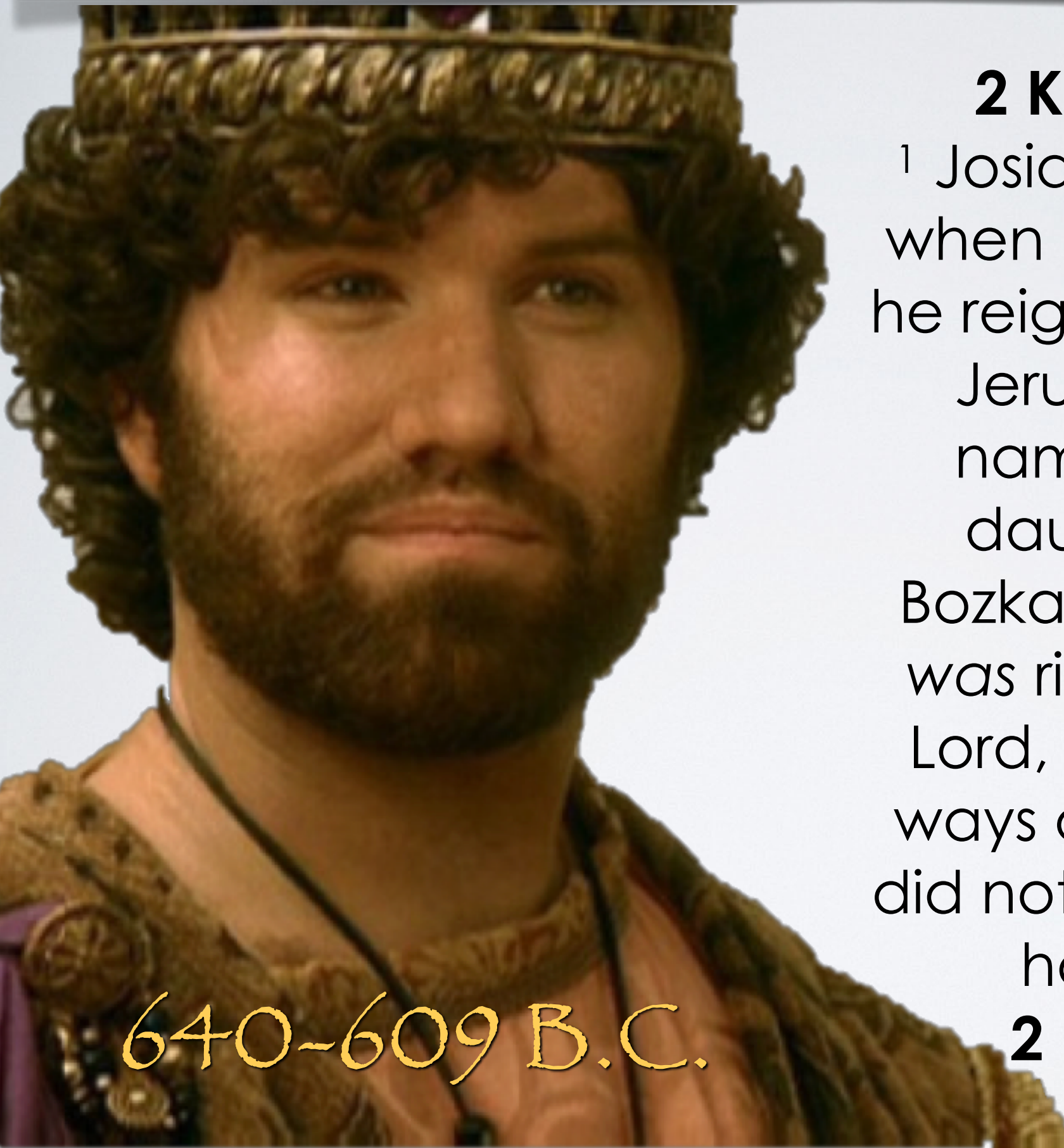
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- Book of the Law found & read — (2 Kgs 22:8-11)
- The LORD consulted — (2 Kgs 22:12-20)
- Law read publicly & applied to people — (2 Kgs 23:1-23)
- At age 39, killed in battle — (2 Kings 23:29-30; 2 Chron 35:20-27)

640-609 B.C.

KING JOSIAH WHAT WALKING IN THE WAYS OF GOD LOOKS LIKE



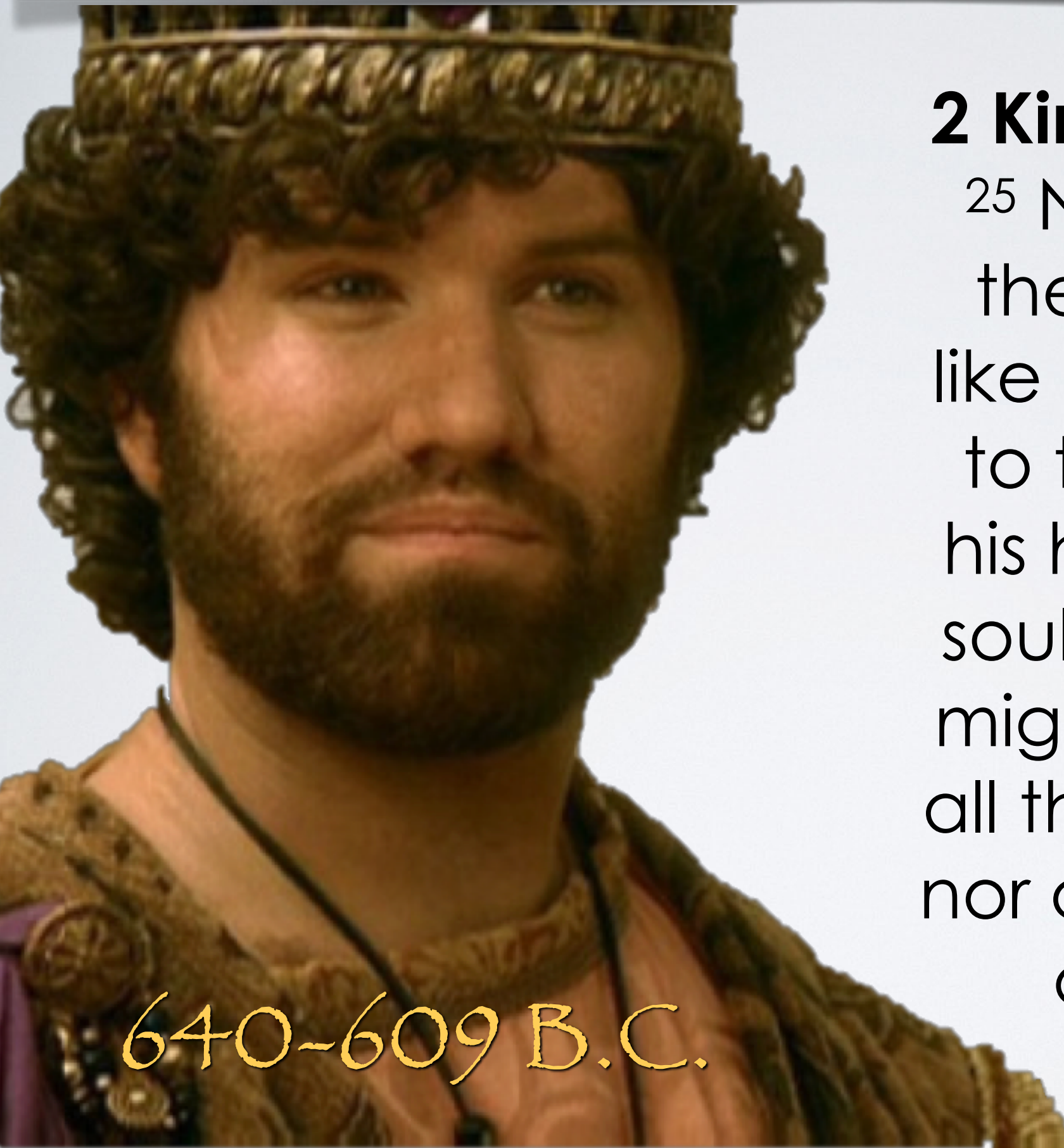
2 Kings 22:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. ² And he did *what* was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

2 Chronicles 34,1.2

640-609 B.C.

KING JOSIAH WHAT WALKING IN THE WAYS OF GOD LOOKS LIKE



2 Kings 23:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did *any* arise like him.

640-609 B.C.

KING JOSIAH WHAT WALKING IN THE WAYS OF GOD LOOKS LIKE

THREE STAGES OF REFORM

- **FIRST:** At age 16, Josiah began to seek the Lord. —(2 Chronicles 34:3a)

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David;



THREE STAGES OF REFORM

- **FIRST:** At age 16, Josiah began to seek the Lord. —(2 Chronicles 34:3a)
 - ▶ He apparently was blessed with God-fearing advisors who resisted the idolatrous influence of his father (2 Chronicles 34:3a).
 - ▶ Apparently they taught him of David and how God blesses those who are faithful and earnest in their allegiance to God and His service.




THREE STAGES OF REFORM

- **SECOND:** At age 20, Josiah began to cleanse Jerusalem. (2 Chron 34:3b)


in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images



THREE STAGES OF REFORM

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- An illustration on the left side of the slide depicts King Josiah and a priest. King Josiah, in the background, wears a white robe with a gold sash and a gold headband. He has a beard and is looking down with a serious expression. In the foreground, a priest with a grey beard and a black headband is holding a large, unrolled scroll of parchment, reading it intently. The background of the illustration shows architectural details of a temple interior.
- **SECOND:** At age 20, Josiah began to cleanse Jerusalem. (2 Chron 34:3b)
 - ▶ Reforms even more extensive than Hezekiah's (cf. 2 Ki 18:4; 2 Chron 29:3-36).
 - ▶ Destroyed the altars of the Baals, the wooden, carved and molded images as far north as the cities of Naphtali -- nominally controlled by Assyria (2 Chron 34:3b-7).

THREE STAGES OF REFORM

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- An illustration on the left side of the slide depicts King Josiah and a priest. King Josiah, in the background, wears a crown and a white robe with a gold sash, looking upwards with a pained or reverent expression. In the foreground, a priest with a grey beard and a black headband is intently reading a large, unrolled scroll of parchment. The scene is set against a warm, golden background.
- **SECOND:** At age 20, Josiah began to cleanse Jerusalem. (2 Chron 34:3b)
 - ▶ Purged the Mount of Olives which had been a “*mt of corruption*” since Solomon — (2 Ki 23:13-14).
 - ▶ Uncovered the altar of wicked Jeroboam as well as the tomb of the prophet who had warned him; **fulfills prophecy of 1 Kings 13:1-5** (332 yrs later - 2 Kings 23:15-18).

THREE STAGES OF REFORM


- **THIRD:** At age 26, Josiah orders the temple repairs: 2 Chron 34:8

2 Chronicles 34:8 (NKJV)


⁸ In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God.



THREE STAGES OF REFORM

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- An illustration on the left side of the slide depicts King Josiah and a priest. King Josiah, in the background, is shown with a beard and a crown, wearing a white robe with a gold sash, looking upwards with a distressed expression. In the foreground, a priest with a grey beard and a black headband is holding and reading from a large, unrolled scroll of parchment. The background of the illustration shows architectural details of a temple interior.
- **THIRD:** At age 26, Josiah orders the temple repairs: 2 Chron 34:8
 - ▶ A copy of the book of the law was discovered (2 Chronicles 34:14-15).
 - ▶ When read to Josiah, he tore his clothes - horrified at how far Judah had departed from God. (2 Kings 22:12-20; 2 Chro. 34:20-28).
 - ▶ Provided basis for complete restoration of God's will in Judah — (2 Kings 23:4-20).

THREE STAGES OF REFORM

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- An illustration on the left side of the slide depicts King Josiah and a scribe. King Josiah, in the background, is shown with a beard and a crown, wearing a white and gold robe, with his hands clasped in prayer. In the foreground, a scribe with a grey beard and a black headband is seated, holding and reading a large, unrolled scroll of parchment.
- **THIRD:** At age 26, Josiah orders the temple repairs: 2 Chron 34:8
 - ▶ Calls the people to pledge to follow God's word (2 Kings 23:1-3).
 - ▶ Kept the Passover to its fullest extent since the days of the judges – (2 Kings 23:21-25; 2 Chron. 35:1-19)

EXTENT OF JOSIAH'S RESTORATION



- All pagan vessels found in the temple were burned & ashes carried to Bethel (2 Ki 23:4)
- Removed the pagan priests that had been appointed by Manasseh & Amon (2 Ki 23:5)
- Removed the image (idol of Asherah) from the temple, burned it and spread the ashes on graves of the people (2 Ki 23:6)
- Houses of the sodomites (homosexual priests) were torn down (2 Ki 23:7)
- Defiled the “high places” where the Lord was worshiped illegitimately [w/out authority] (2 Ki 23:8-9)

EXTENT OF JOSIAH'S RESTORATION



- Defiled Topheth, (*valley of Hinnom*) where children were sacrificed to Molech (2 Ki 23:10)
- Destroyed a monument of horses & chariots that had been dedicated to the sun (god) (2 Ki 23:11)
- Broke down & ground to dust certain unauthorized altars - cast the dust into the brook Kidron (2 Ki 23:12)
- Destroyed the pagan shrines honoring the gods of the Zidonians, Moabites & Ammonites that had been built by Solomon (2 Ki 23:13-14)

EXTENT OF JOSIAH'S RESTORATION




- He removed the altar that Jeroboam had built at Bethel, destroying the high place and the idol (2 Ki 23:15)
- Burned the bones of those who had practiced idolatry [fulfilling the prophecy of 1 Ki 13:2] (2 Ki 23:16)
- Destroyed the shrines and high places in Israel [Samaria] and killed the priests and burned their remains on the altars they had erected (2 Ki 23:19-20)
- Removed those who practiced witchcraft (2 Ki 23:24)

JOSIAH'S DEATH




- In 609 B.C., Josiah attempted to block Pharaoh Necho II of Egypt as he marched north to assist Assyria in her fight with Babylon. — (2 Chron 35:20-24; 2 Kin 23:28-30)
- ▶ Necho wanted Assyria as a buffer state between Egypt and Babylon.
- ▶ Josiah engaged him at Megiddo.
- ▶ The archers shot Josiah & seriously wounded him dying later in Jerusalem.
- ▶ Great lamentation followed his death (2 Chron 35:20-27; Jer 22:10-12; Lam. 4:20).

LESSONS FROM JOSIAH

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- A painting depicting King Josiah and a priest. King Josiah, on the left, is shown from the chest up, wearing a white tunic and a gold headband. He has a beard and is looking down at a large, unrolled scroll. The priest, on the right, is shown from the chest up, wearing a white tunic and a gold headband. He has a beard and is looking down at the same scroll. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.
- **Josiah was faithful in an evil environment.**
 - ▶ His righteousness did not come from the influence of his family - His grandfather Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-9, 16); nor his father Amon (2 Kings 21:19-22).
 - ▶ His righteousness did not come from the influence of society. - His people were worse than the nations God destroyed (2 Kings 21:9). - Jerusalem was filled “from one end to another” with blood (2 Kings 21:16). - His people were totally given over to idolatry (2 Kings 21:2-7, 21).

LESSONS FROM JOSIAH

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- **Josiah Used His position to Glorify God.**
 - ▶ He instituted great changes in Israel - He removed idolatry and associated sins -
 - ▶ In the 18th year of his reign, 622 B.C., he began repairs on the house of the Lord in Jerusalem (2 Kings 22:3-7). — Nearly two and a half centuries had passed since the former restoration by Joash (2 Kings 12:4-16).
 - ▶ When the Law of God was found - he demanded the people obey it fully — 2 Chronicles 34:29-33

LESSONS FROM JOSIAH




- **Josiah Changed as his knowledge of God's will increased —**
 - ▶ The king's reaction at the reading of the law was one of immediate grief -- the tearing of his robes. The basis of his grief was twofold: Judah's guilt and her coming judgment.
 - ▶ He tender-heartedly received the will of God and humbled himself (James 1:21; Colossians 1:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
 - ▶ Judah was to be punished, but Josiah would be spared (2 Kin 22:18-20).

LESSONS FROM JOSIAH

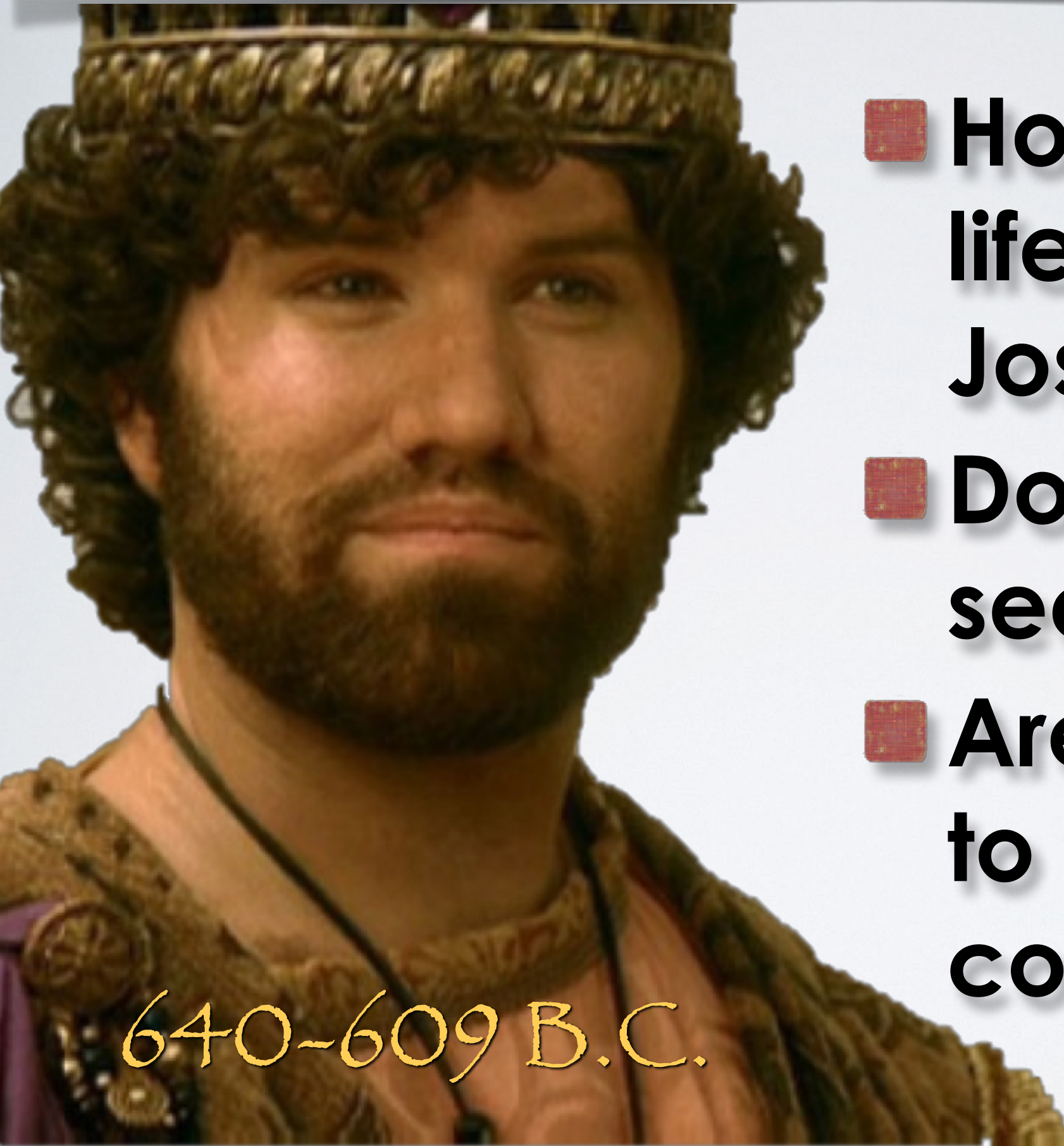


- We can be faithful regardless of our parents / our environment / or our past — **We all have a choice** - Ezekiel 18:20ff
- We should fully destroy sin in our lives and seek to destroy it in the lives of others — We **cannot participate** in, **approve** of, nor **facilitate** the sins of others — Eph 5:3-14; Rom. 1:32; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
- We should always seek to **grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord** - always bringing ourselves into greater harmony with God's word as we learn better — Acts 17:11,12; 2 Pet 3:15-18; 2 Cor 13:5; etc.

LESSONS FROM JOSIAH

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- An illustration on the left side of the slide depicts King Josiah and a priest. King Josiah, with a beard and wearing a crown-like headband, is shown in a white robe with a gold sash, looking upwards with a pained or emotional expression. Below him, an older man with a grey beard and a black headband is intently reading a large, unrolled scroll of parchment. The background of the illustration shows architectural details of a temple interior.
- **Jeremiah & Josiah called Israel back to God's written revelation, which was several hundred years old!**
 - ▶ God's word is understandable & doable — 2 Chron. 34:19; Eph 3:3-5; 2 Tim 3:16,17; Acts 20:32; Jam 1:21,22
 - ▶ God's stated, written word is the ONLY standard by which we may determine truth today — Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:16,17
 - ▶ We also need to seek Bible authority for all we do — Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 4:6

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- How does your life compare to Josiah's?
- Do you desire to seek the Lord?
- Are you willing to obey Him completely?

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2 Chronicles 34:1-35:19
2 Kings 21:24-23:30

Charts by Don McClain

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