

Advent

A WAITING NATION

Entering into Israel's Story

November 29th, 2015

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

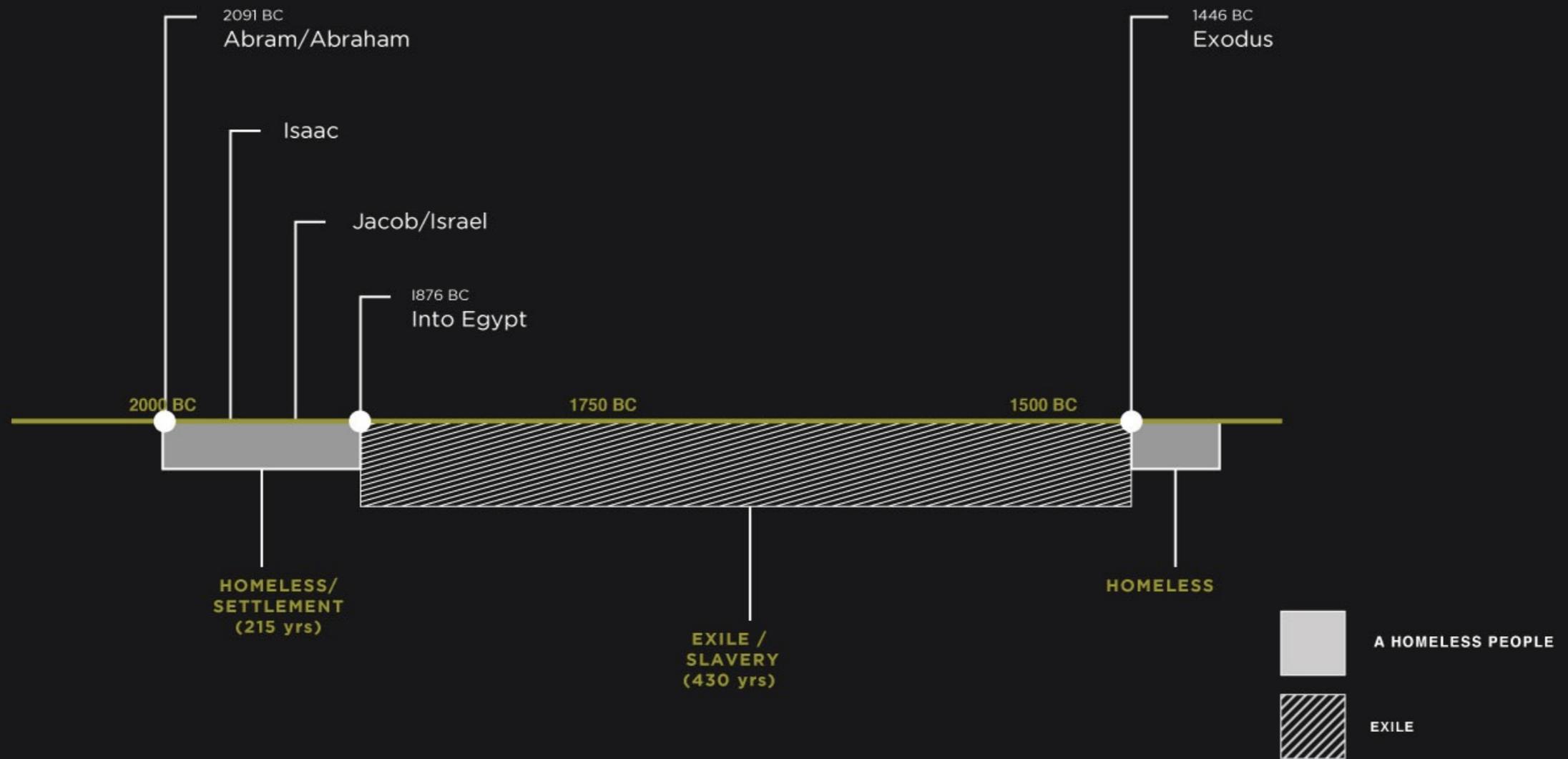
Luke 4:14-21

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
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He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners and *recovery of sight for the blind,*
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to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

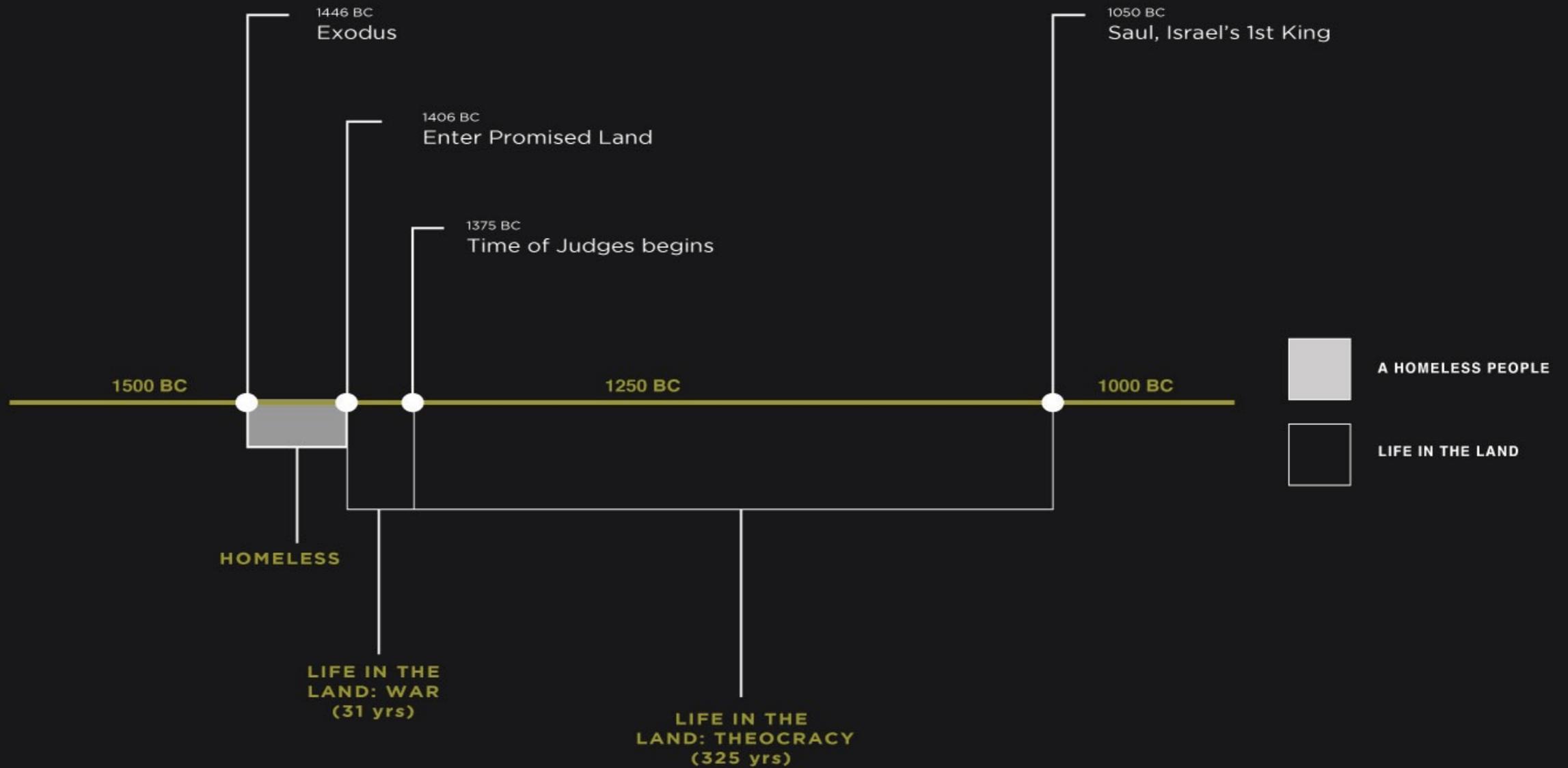
If we detach Advent from its context within Israel's story, we can end up celebrating a caricature Christmas.

Come, oh, come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

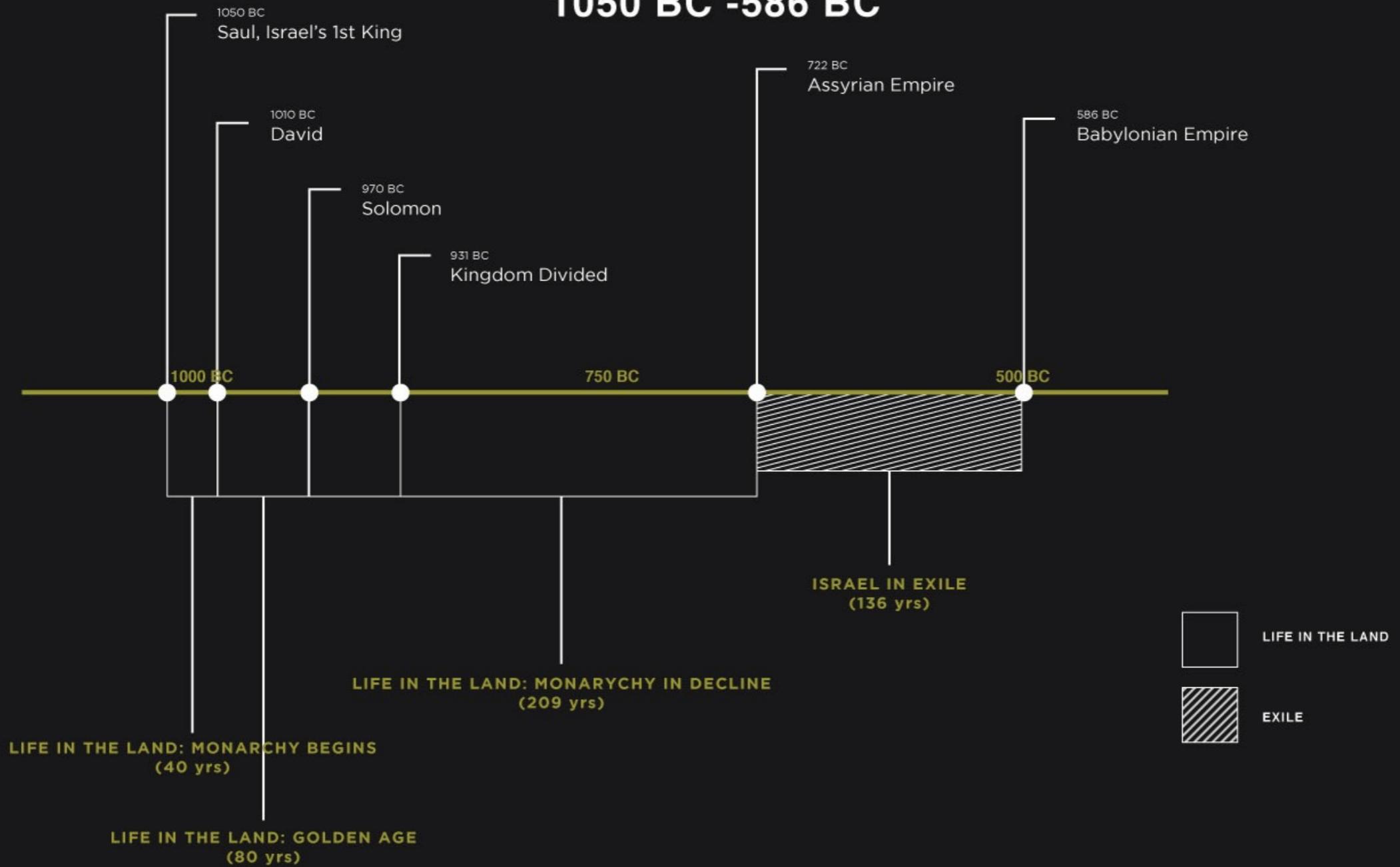
2091 BC - 1446 BC



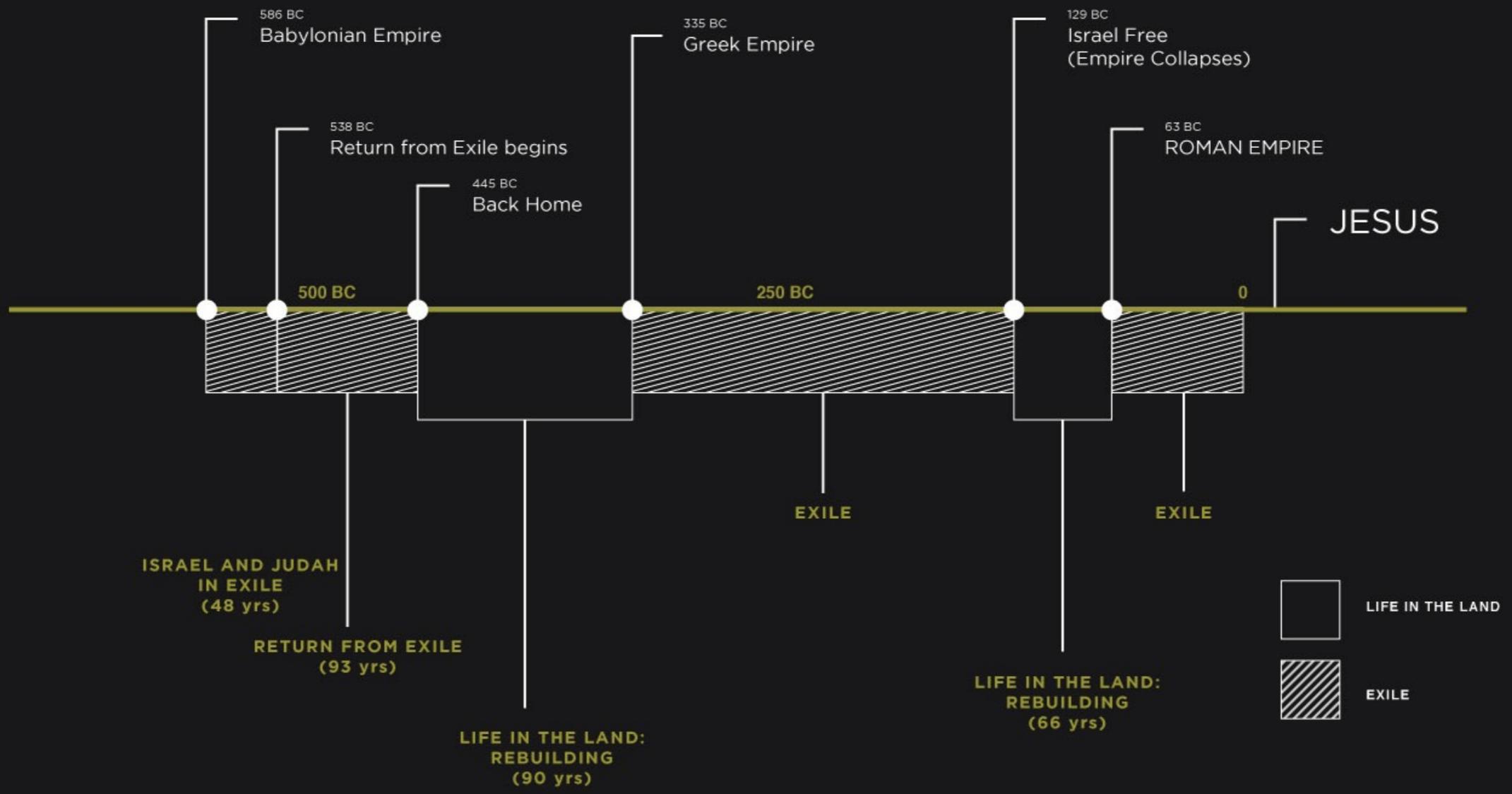
1446 BC - 1050 BC



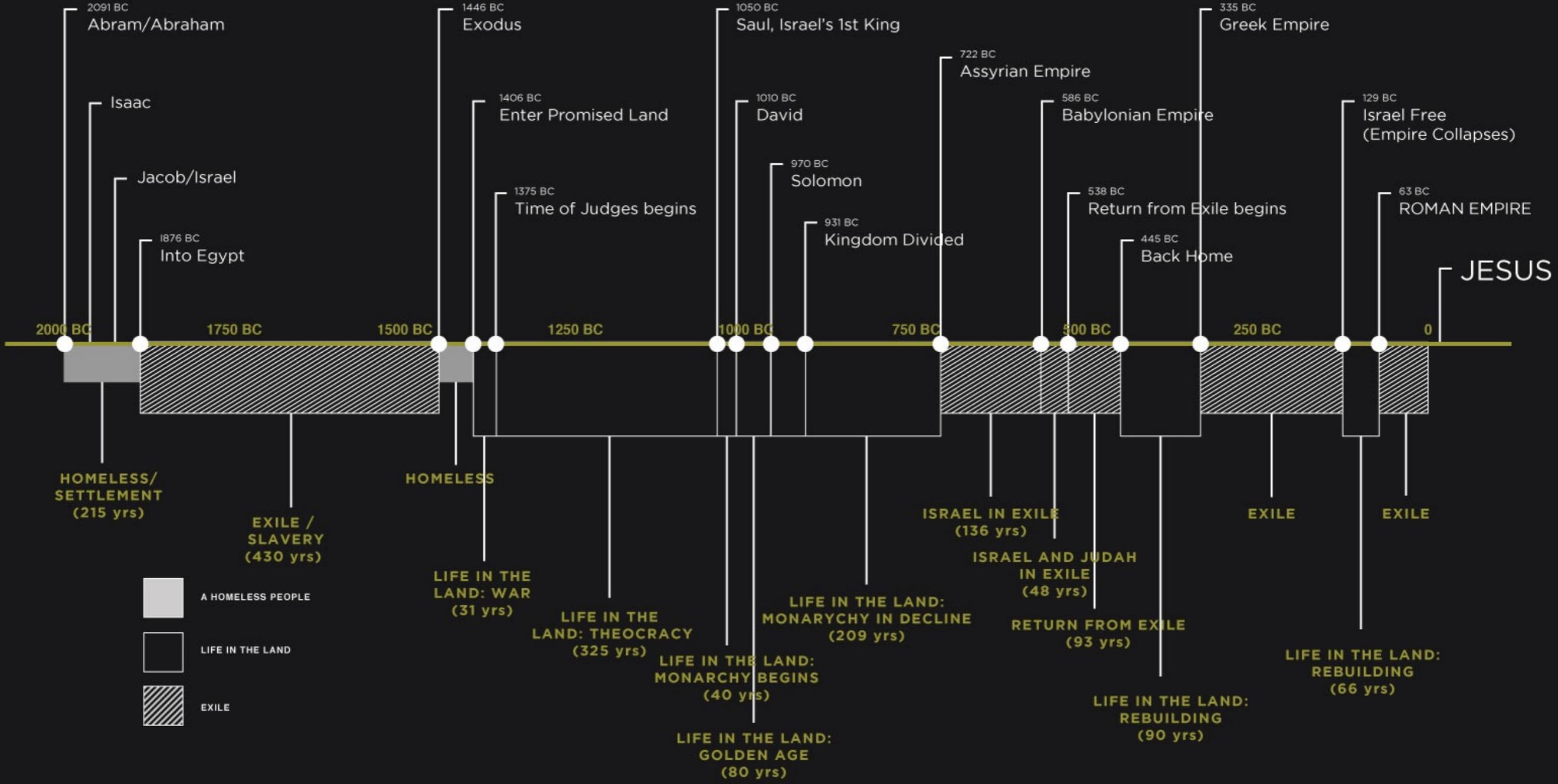
1050 BC -586 BC



586 BC - JESUS



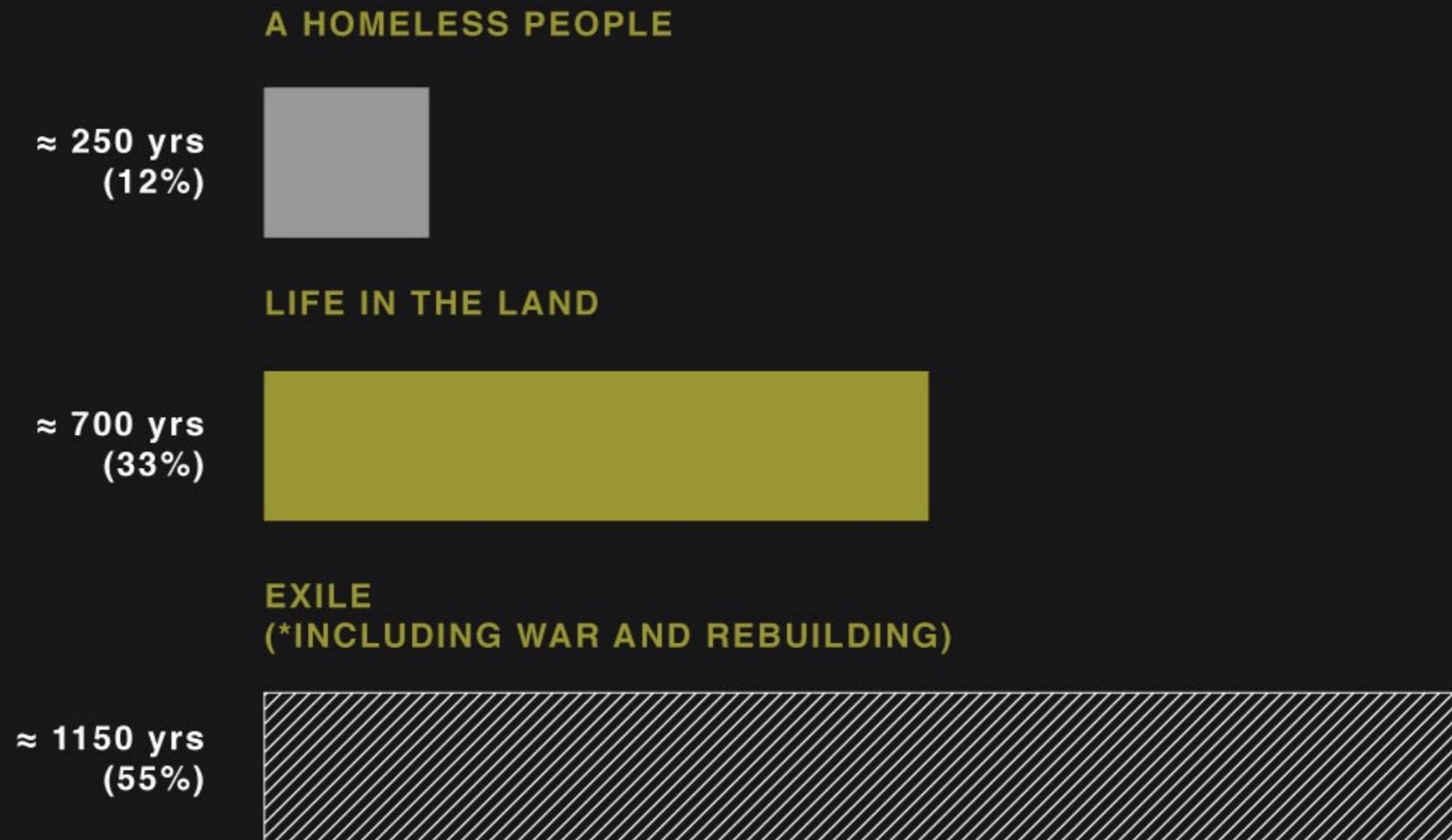
2091 BC - Jesus



2091 BC - JESUS



Snapshot of Israel's 2100 Year History before Jesus



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to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 4:17

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark 1:14-15

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.
For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower,
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.
But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

Refugee, Malcolm Guite