

LOSTER

Strength
&
Dignity



ESTHER Strength & Dignity

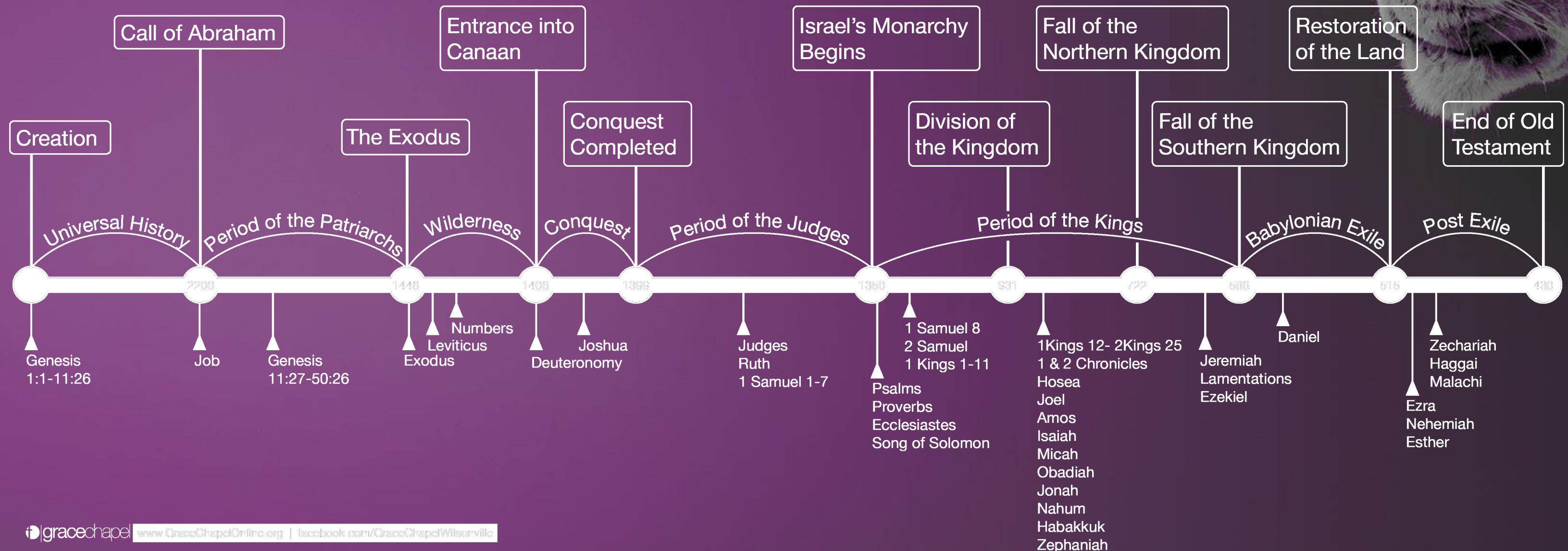
Introduction

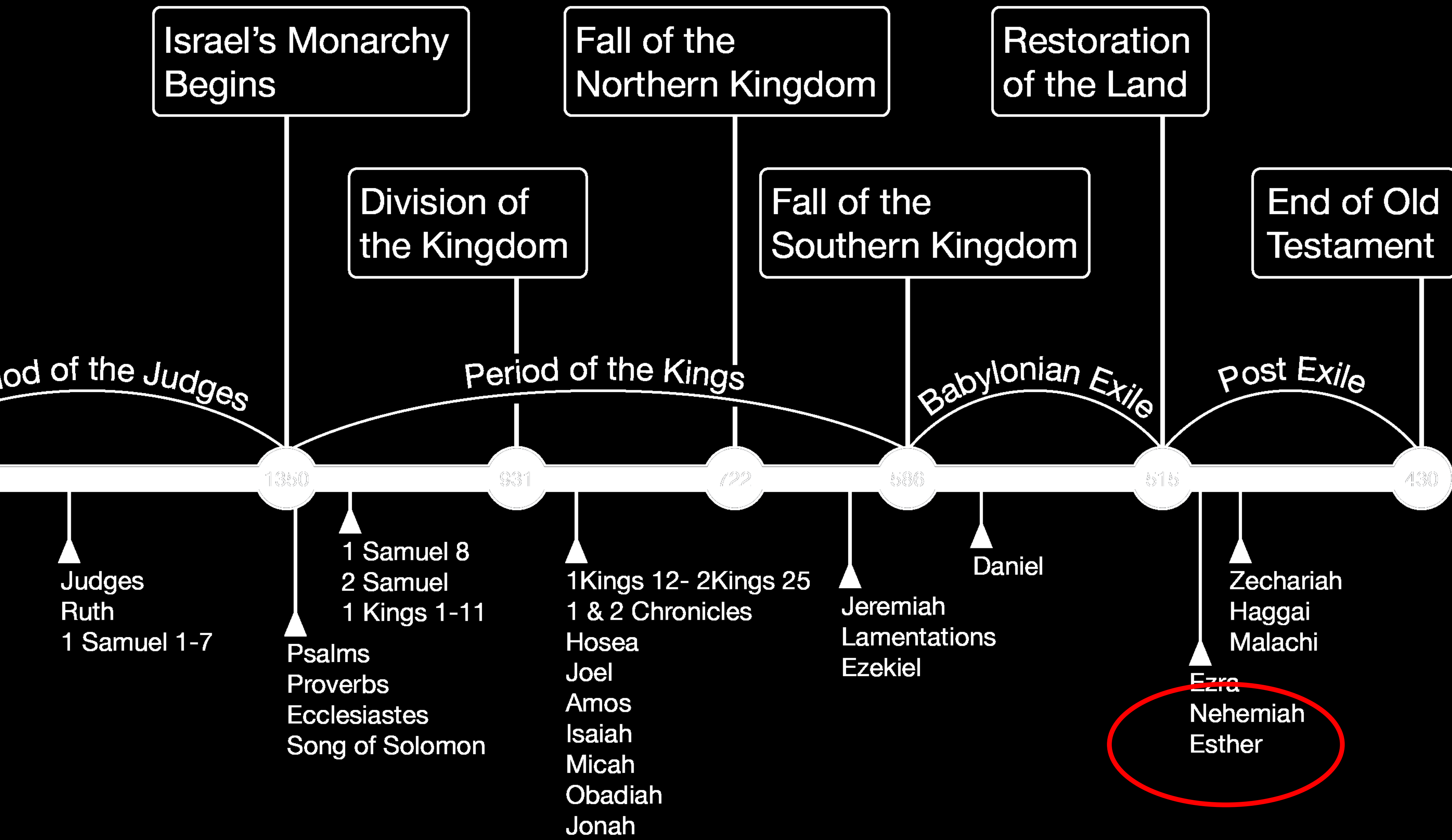


ESTHER Strength & Dignity

Introduction

Context In Jewish History





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Introduction

The Persian Empire

- Also known as the Achaemenid Empire
(a ruling clan of Persia)
- Lasted approximately
from 559 B.C. to 331 B.C.



DARIUS I (522BC - 486BC)



ACHAEMENID EMPIRE

XŠASSA

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Introduction

The Persian Empire

- Cyrus the Great started ruling in 559 BC
- Cyrus overthrew the Median, Lydian, and Babylonian Empires
- Cyrus created an empire of many nations.



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The Persian Empire

- Was tolerant of other's national religions
- Cyrus sent the exiles to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 1)
- Cyrus -> Cambyses II -> Darius -> Xerxes
- Darius was king when Daniel went to the lion's den (Daniel 6)



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The Persian Empire

- Xerxes is the king in the book of Esther
- Xerxes was the antagonist in the movie “300”
- Persia’s capital was the Citadel of Susa
- Susa is one of the worlds oldest cities
- Susa is located in modern day Iran













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Introduction

Theology of the book of Esther

- God is not mentioned
(similar to Song of Solomon)



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Introduction

Theology of the book of Esther

- Major Themes
 - God's Providence
 - God cares for Israel
 - Women have Power



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Introduction

Popular Verse

“... who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”
(Esther 4:14 NIV)



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