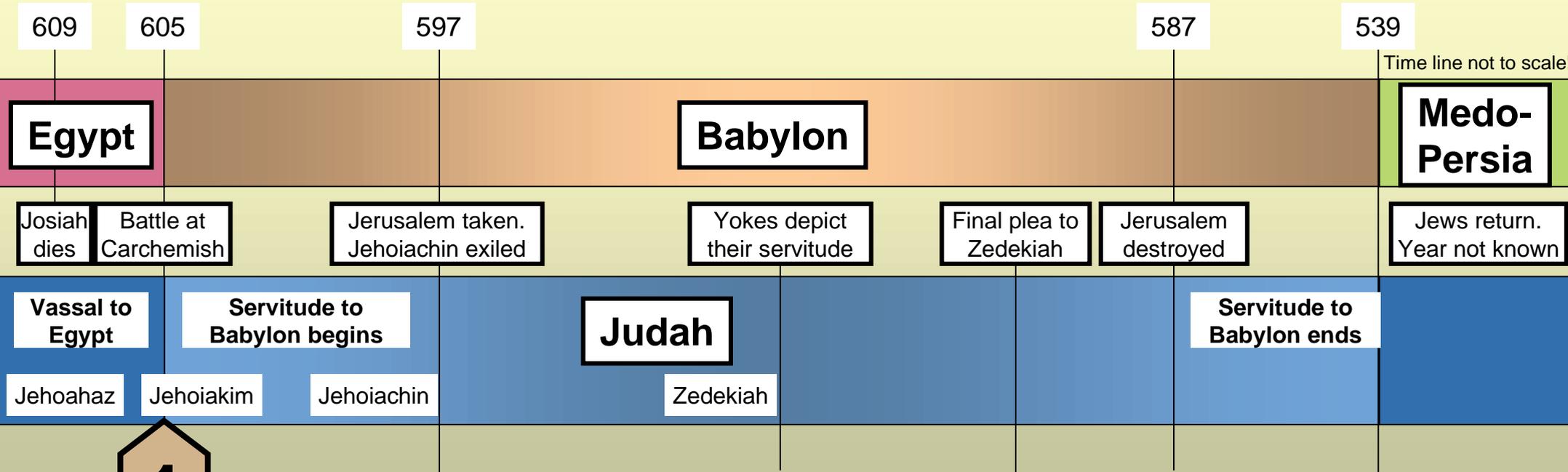


These Nations will Serve Babylon Seventy Years

You, O king (Nebuchadnezzar), are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. (Dan 2:37-38).



1

Historical events

- Josiah, the great reforming king of Judah, was killed in 609 BCE
- His successor Jehoahaz reigned for 3 months.
- Pharaoh Necho removed Jehoahaz and exiled him to Egypt.
- Pharaoh Necho placed Jehoiakim on the throne.
- Babylon defeated Pharaoh Necho at Carchemish, 605 BCE.
- Judah's subservience thus moved from Egypt to Babylon.
- Jeremiah saw this as God's punishment for Judah's backsliding that followed Josiah's death. (Jer 25:7-8)
- Jeremiah prophesied that all the nations would serve Babylon for seventy years. (Jer 25:11)
- Daniel said that by his 3rd year, Nebuchadnezzar ruled the world.

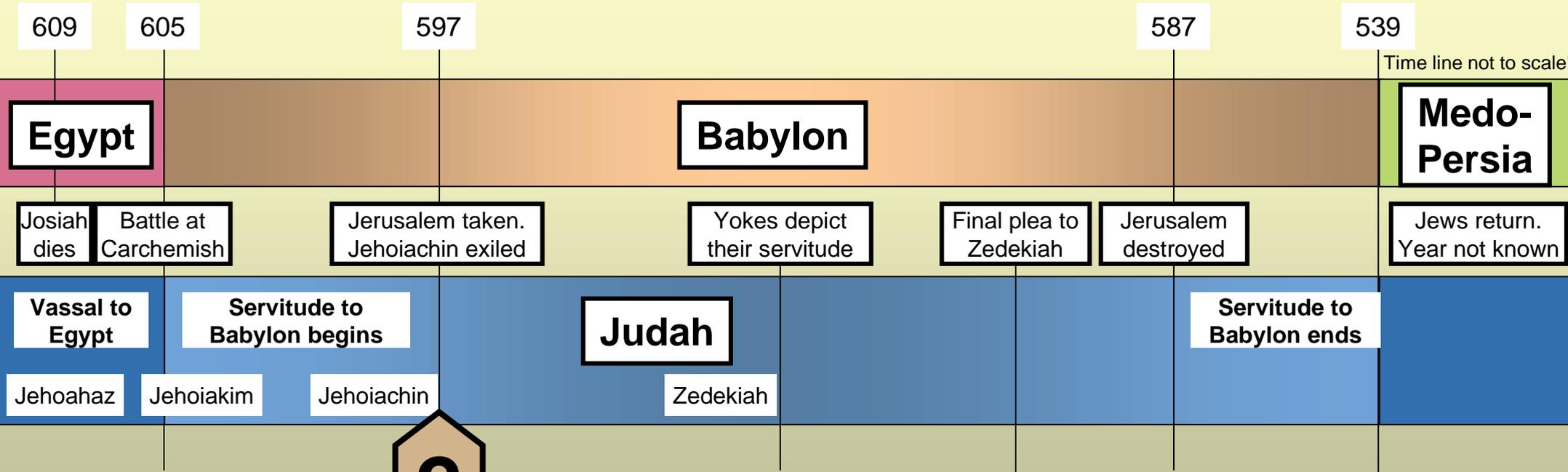
Biblical statements

The LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to bring punishment on Amon god of Thebes, on Pharaoh, on Egypt and her gods and her kings, and **on those who rely on Pharaoh**. I will hand them over to those who seek their lives, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers." (Jer 46:25-26)

The LORD Almighty says this: "**Because you have not listened to my words**, I will summon all the peoples of the north and **my servant Nebuchadnezzar** king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them **against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations**. ... This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and **these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years**." (Jer 25:8-11)

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2

Historical events

- Jehoiakim had a natural allegiance towards Egypt.
- When Egypt and Babylon fought a battle that ended in a “draw”, Jehoiakim withdrew his allegiance to Babylon.
- When Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem, he found a new king on the throne, Jehoiachin.
- Nebuchadnezzar put the new king in prison in Babylon and replaced him with Zedekiah.
- Jeremiah saw this rebellion by Judah against Babylon as going against the LORD’s previous decision that the people would serve Babylon for 70 years.
- Jeremiah wrote to the exiles (Ch 29) warning them not to listen to the false prophets who were declaring that the servitude would soon finish.

Biblical statement

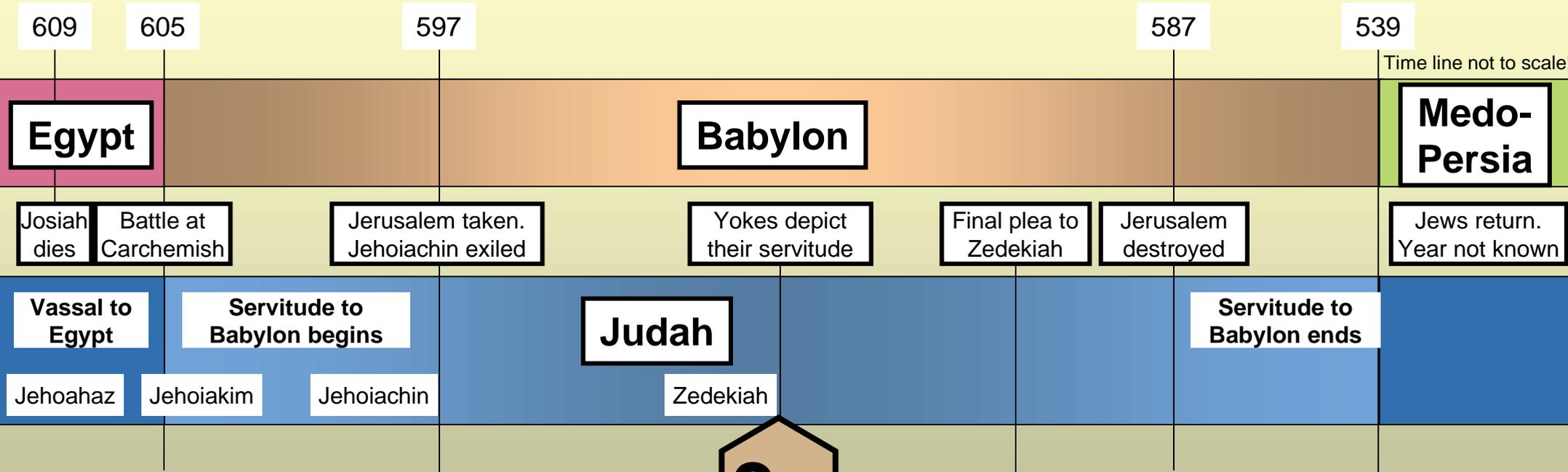
Build houses and **settle down**; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters ... Increase in number there; do not decrease. “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. **They are prophesying lies** to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

This is what the LORD says: **“When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.”** (Jer 29:5,6,8-10)

(The Swedish and Danish NWT also say “for” Babylon at Jer 29:10.)

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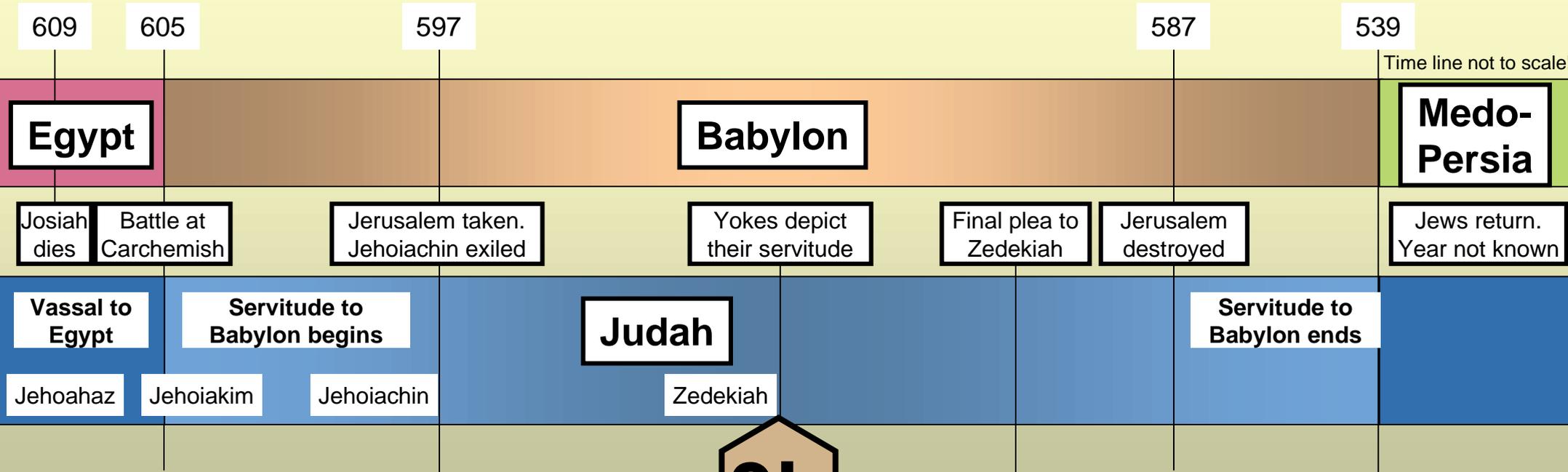
3a

Summary of Jeremiah 27

- Early in the reign of Zedekiah, the LORD told Jeremiah to make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on his neck.
- He then told the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, that all nations were to be subject to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
- If any nation or kingdom would not serve Nebuchadnezzar or bow its neck under his yoke, the LORD would punish that nation until it was destroyed.
- They were not to heed the prophets, diviners, interpreters of dreams, your mediums, or sorcerers who were telling them that they should not serve the king of Babylon.
- Their prophecies were lies that only served to remove them far from their lands, where they would perish.
- Any nation that bowed its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and served him would be permitted to remain in its own land to till it and to live there.

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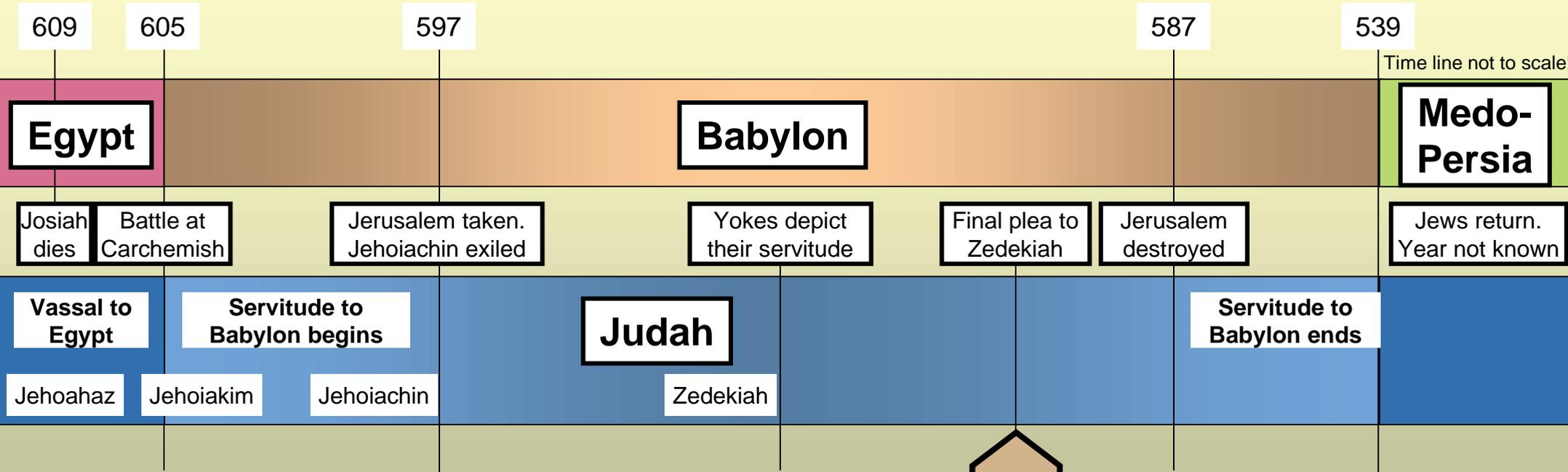
3b

Summary of Jeremiah 28

- Later in that same year, the prophet Hananiah said that the LORD would break the yoke of the king of Babylon, bring back all the articles of the LORD'S house, their king Jehoiachin, and all the other exiles from Judah who were sent to Babylon.
- Hananiah said that the LORD declared: "I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon."
- Jeremiah and Hananiah were thus showing that the yoke of servitude was already in place, well before Jerusalem was destroyed.
- Jeremiah said that the prophet who prophesied peace would be recognized only if his prediction came true.
- Hananiah took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it, declaring that the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar would be broken in the same way.
- Shortly afterwards, the LORD said that Hananiah had broken a wooden yoke, but in its place they would get a yoke of iron. The LORD said "I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to make them serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him."
- The servitude would continue. The only feature that the people could control was the severity of their servitude. If they rebelled against their servitude, the yoke would be replaced with an even stronger one.

These Nations will Serve Babylon Seventy Years

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4

Summary of events

- The LORD had decreed seventy years of servitude to Babylon by all the surrounding nations.
- The only factor they could control was the severity of that servitude.
- If they continued to rebel against the LORD's decree, the severity would worsen.
- As a final call upon Zedekiah, the prophet Jeremiah pleaded with him to surrender, as this would save Jerusalem.
- The seventy years could be fulfilled without the city being destroyed or the land ravaged.

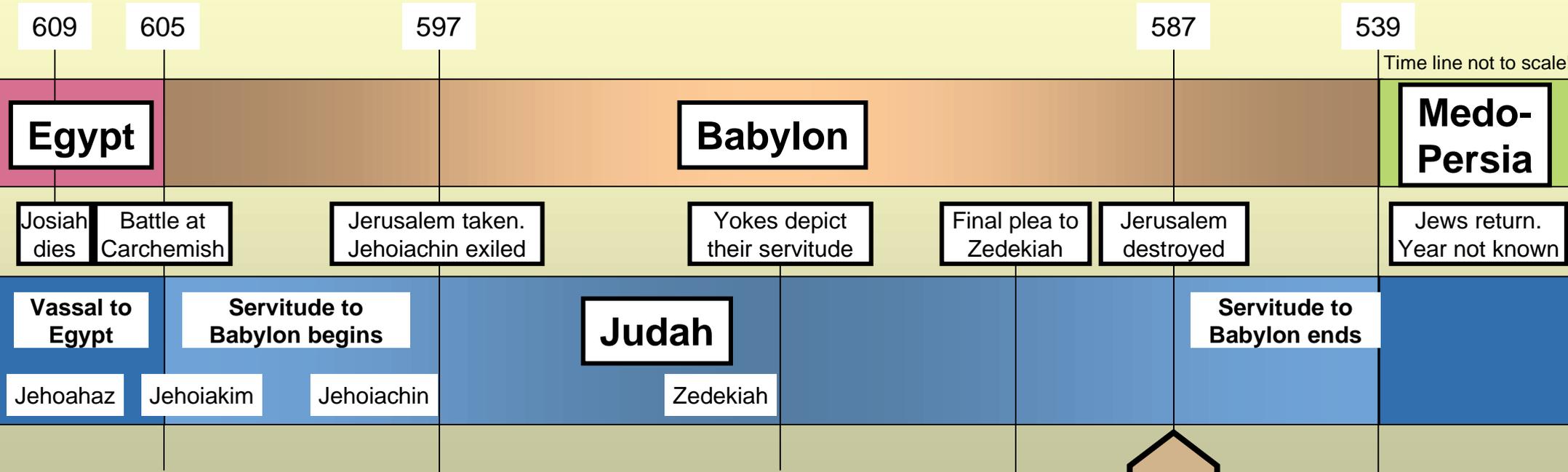
Biblical statement

"If you (Zedekiah) **surrender** to the officers of the king of Babylon, your **life will be spared** and **this city will not be burned down.**" (Jer 38:17)

Zedekiah ... did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah ... He also **rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar**, who had made him take an oath in God's name. He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the LORD, the God of Israel. (2 Chr 36:11-13)

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5

Biblical record

The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.

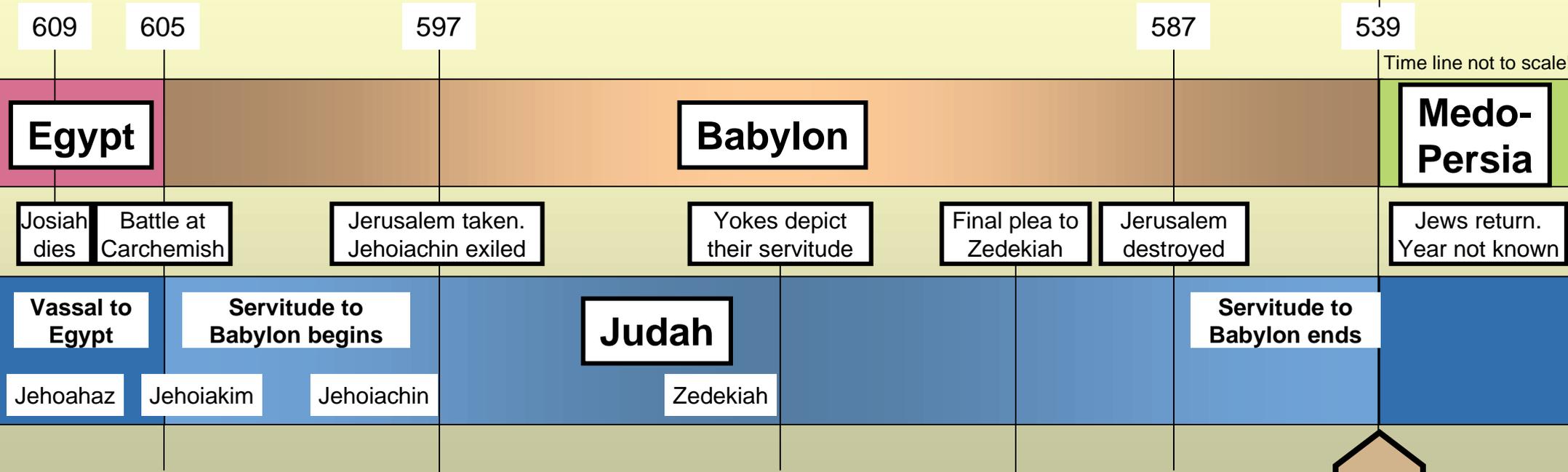
He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD'S temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons **until the kingdom of Persia came to power.**

The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, **until the seventy years were completed** in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by **Jeremiah.** (2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

These Nations will Serve Babylon Seventy Years

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. ... *Peres:* Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. (Dan 5:26-28)

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Biblical statements

6

When the seventy years are fulfilled, **I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians.** (Jer 25:12)

All nations will serve (Nebuchadnezzar) and his son and his **grandson until the time for his land comes**; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him. (Jer 27:7)

Then you will call upon me and **come and pray to me**, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you **seek me with all your heart.** (Jer 29:12-13)

In the first year of (Darius') reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and **pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.** I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed. (Daniel 9:2-4)