



Hosea

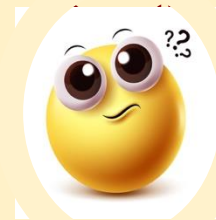
Covenant Lawsuit

God's call

When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD.”

Hosea 1:2 (NASB 95)

An odd, curious, unbelievable call!



Metaphor

Definition:

relate the unfamiliar to the familiar

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

1 Cor 3:6-9 Eph 6:10-12

Relational Beings

A Love Story

Hosea depicts as do few other biblical books the passionate and agonized love of God for his people and creation. The agony of his love comes to the fore most clearly in Hosea 11:8–11.

Craig G. Bartholomew and Heath A. Thomas,
[The Minor Prophets: A Theological Introduction](#)

A Love Story

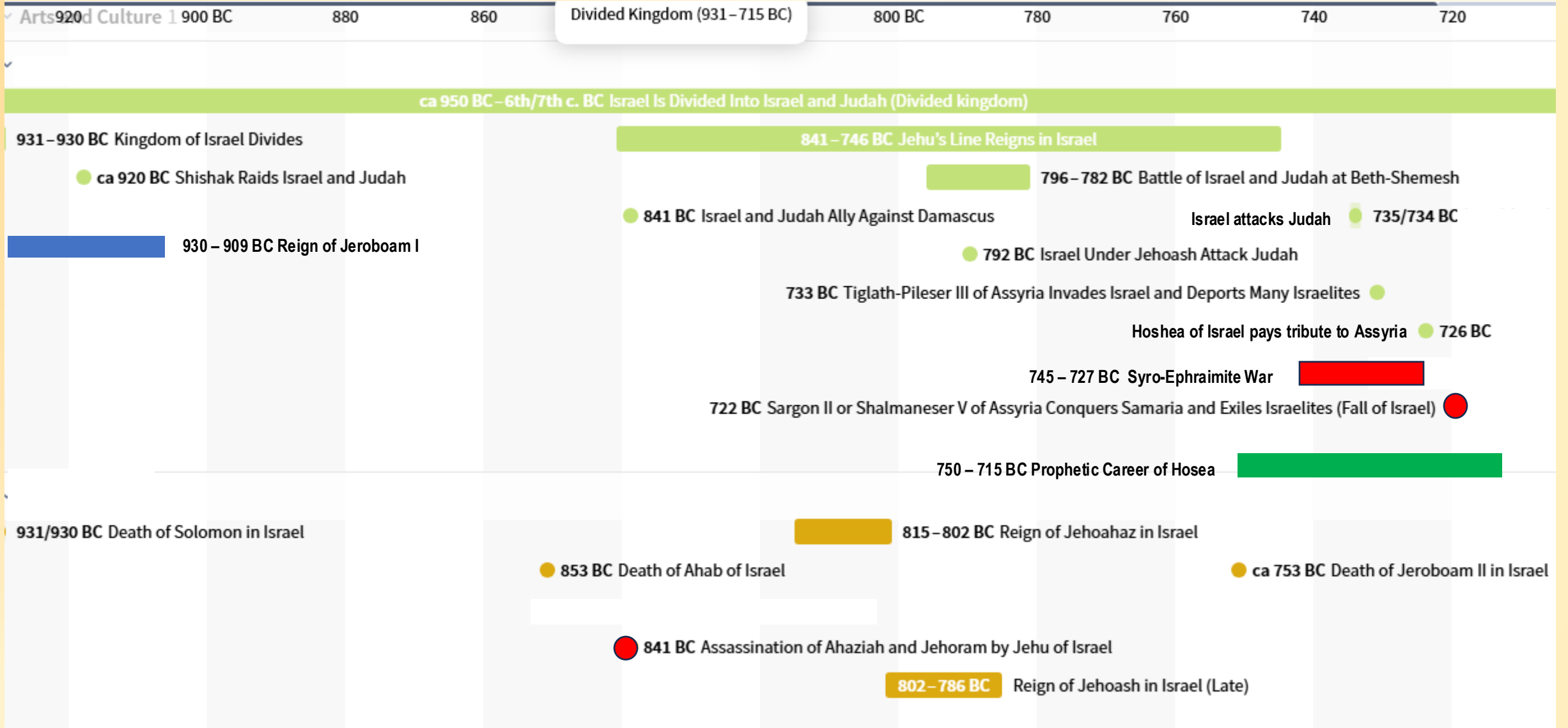
God is conceived, not as the self-detached Ruler, but as the sensitive Consort to Whom deception comes and Who nevertheless goes on pleading for loyalty, uttering a longing for a reunion, a passionate desire for reconciliation.

Abraham J. Heschel
The Prophets

The Bigger Picture

Hosea is a pageant of the love of God for Israel, indeed, for his people in every place and age. But when we ask, “Where in the whole of human history is that love most clearly seen?” the answer is obviously, “At the cross of Christ.” It is that cross and the work accomplished on that cross that is portrayed in chapter 3. It shows us God’s work of redemption—the work by which the Lord Jesus Christ delivered us from sin’s bondage at the cost of his own life—portrayed in Hosea’s purchase of his fallen wife from slavery.

James Montgomery Boice,
[*The Minor Prophets: An Expositional Commentary*](#)



The Purpose of Hosea

Listen to the LORD's message, you Israelites!

For the LORD has a covenant lawsuit against the people of Israel.

For there is neither faithfulness nor loyalty in the land,
nor do they acknowledge God.

² There is only cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery.

They resort to violence and bloodshed.

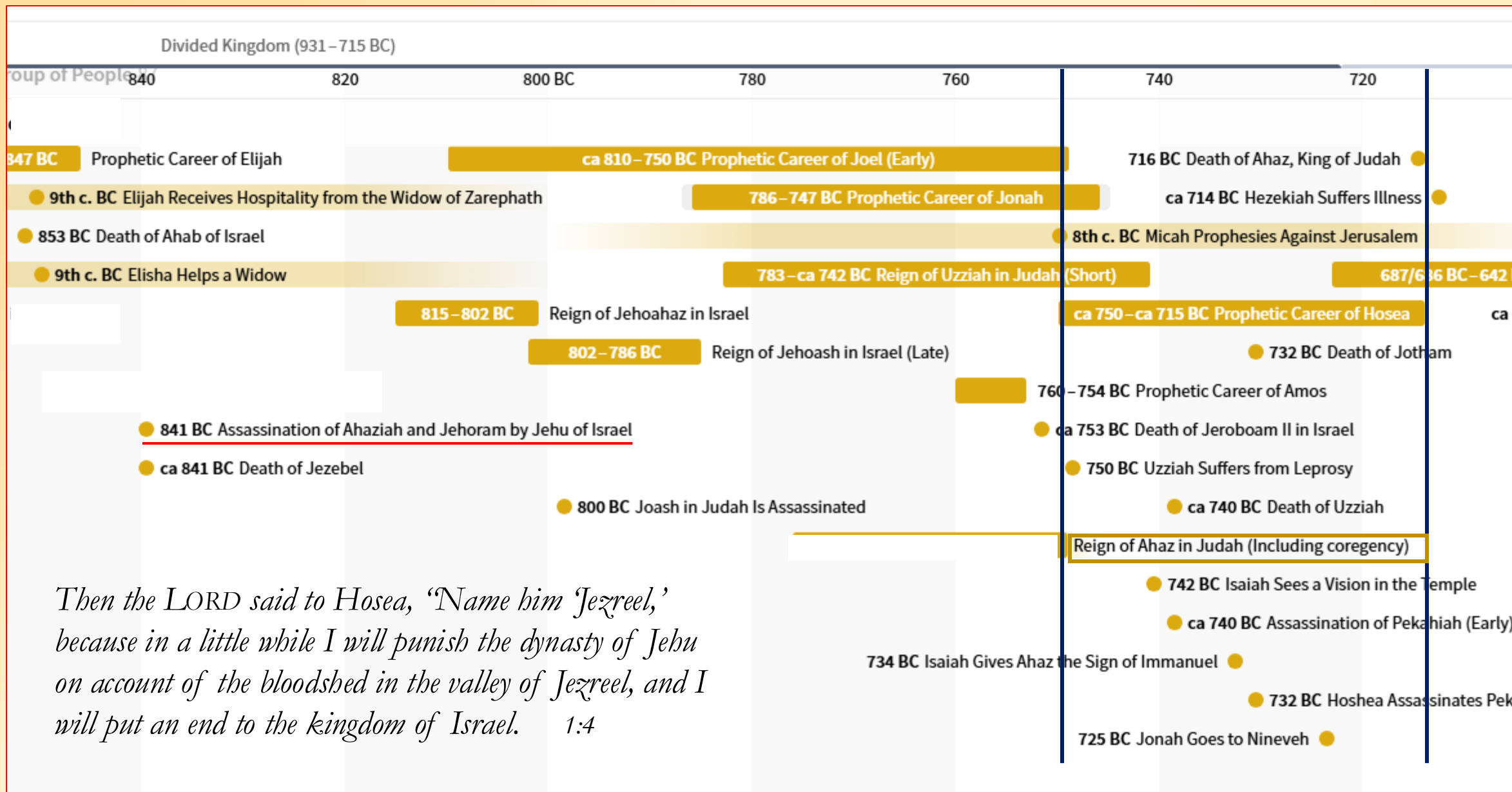
³ Therefore the land will mourn, and all its inhabitants will perish.

The wild animals, the birds of the sky, and even the fish in the sea will perish.

Hosea 4:1–3 (NET 2nd ed.)

Book Contents

Verse range	Main theme
1:1 thru 3:5	God calls Hosea; intro to metaphor
4:1 thru 5:15	God convenes the court
6:1 thru 7:16	God rejects their appeal
8:1 thru 10:15	God pronounces sentence
11:1 thru 12:1	God's reminder of mercy in the past
12:1 thru 13:16	God's discipline in the present
14:1 thru 14:9	God provides hope for the future



Book Contents

Judgment	Restoration
1:2 thru 9	1:10 thru 2:1
2:2 thru 13	2:14 thru 3:5
4:1 thru 5:14	5:15 thru 6:3
6:4 thru 11:7	11:8 thru 11
11:12 thru 13:16	Ch. 14

Judgment

⁸ **“Yet until now she has refused to acknowledge** that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil; and that it was I who lavished on her the silver and gold— that they used in worshiping Baal!

⁹ **Therefore, I will** take back my grain during the harvest time and my new wine when it ripens; **I will** take away my wool and my flax that I had provided in order to clothe her.

¹⁰ Soon **I will** expose her lewd nakedness . . .

¹¹ **I will** put an end to all her celebrations . . .

¹² **I will** destroy her vines and fig trees . . .

¹³ **“I will** punish her for the festival days when she burned incense to the Baal idols; she adorned herself with earrings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, **but she forgot me!” says the LORD.**

Hosea 2:8–13

Hope

¹⁴ “**However**, in the future **I will** allure her;
I will lead her back into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

¹⁵ From there **I will*** give back her vineyards to her,
and turn the ‘**Valley of Trouble**’ into an ‘**Opportunity for Hope**.’

There she will sing as she did when she was young, when she came up from the land of Egypt.

Hosea 2:4–15

Syro-Ephraimite War

- ⁸ Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah! Sound the trumpet in Ramah!
Sound the alarm in Beth Aven; tremble in fear, O Benjamin!
- ⁹ Ephraim **will be ruined** in the day of judgment.
What I am declaring to the tribes of Israel **will certainly take place!**
- ¹⁰ The princes of Judah are like those who move boundary markers.
I will pour out my rage on them like a torrential flood.
- ¹¹ **Ephraim will be oppressed**, crushed under judgment,
because he was determined to pursue worthless idols.

Hosea 5:8–11 (NET 2nd ed.)

Syro-Ephraimite War

I will be like a moth to Ephraim, like wood rot to the house of Judah.

¹³ **When** Ephraim saw his sickness and Judah saw his wound,
then Ephraim turned to Assyria, and begged its great king for help.

But he will not be able to heal you. He cannot cure your wound!

¹⁴ **I will be like** a lion to Ephraim, like a young lion to the house of Judah.

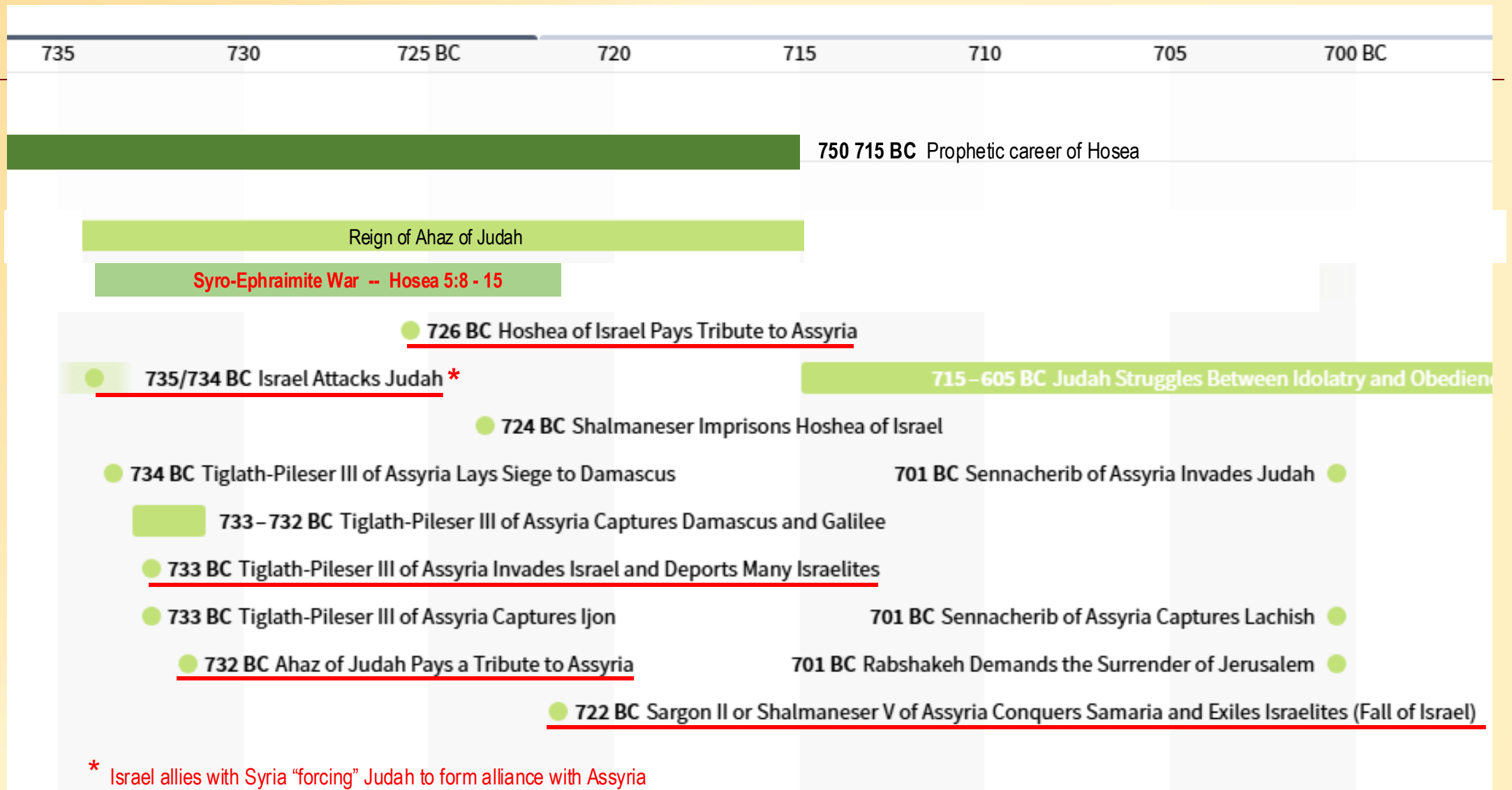
I myself will tear them to pieces,

then **I will** carry them off, and no one will be able to rescue them!

¹⁵ Then **I will** return again to my lair until they have suffered their punishment.

Then they will seek me; in their distress they will earnestly seek me.

Hosea 5:12–15 (NET 2nd ed.)



Hope for the Future

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for your sin has been your downfall!

² Return to the LORD and repent!

Say to him: “Completely forgive our iniquity; accept our penitential prayer, that we may offer the praise of our lips as sacrificial bulls. 14:1-2

⁴ “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger will turn away from them.

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily, he will send down his roots like a cedar of Lebanon.

⁶ His young shoots will grow; his splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. 14:4-6

Concluding Plea

Who is wise?
Let him discern these things!
Who is discerning?
Let him understand them!
For the ways of the LORD are right;
the godly walk in them,
but in them the rebellious stumble.

Hosea 14:9 (NET 2nd ed.)

A Quick Thought

What does it take to become wise enough to discern things
so they can be understood?

Final Thoughts

An obvious take-away from Hosea is the emotional trauma that can be caused by infidelity.

But, with regard to relationships,
what sin is even worse than infidelity?

One form of infidelity was idolatry. What is the basic definition of it?

Do we have any “idols” that fit that definition?

Final Thoughts

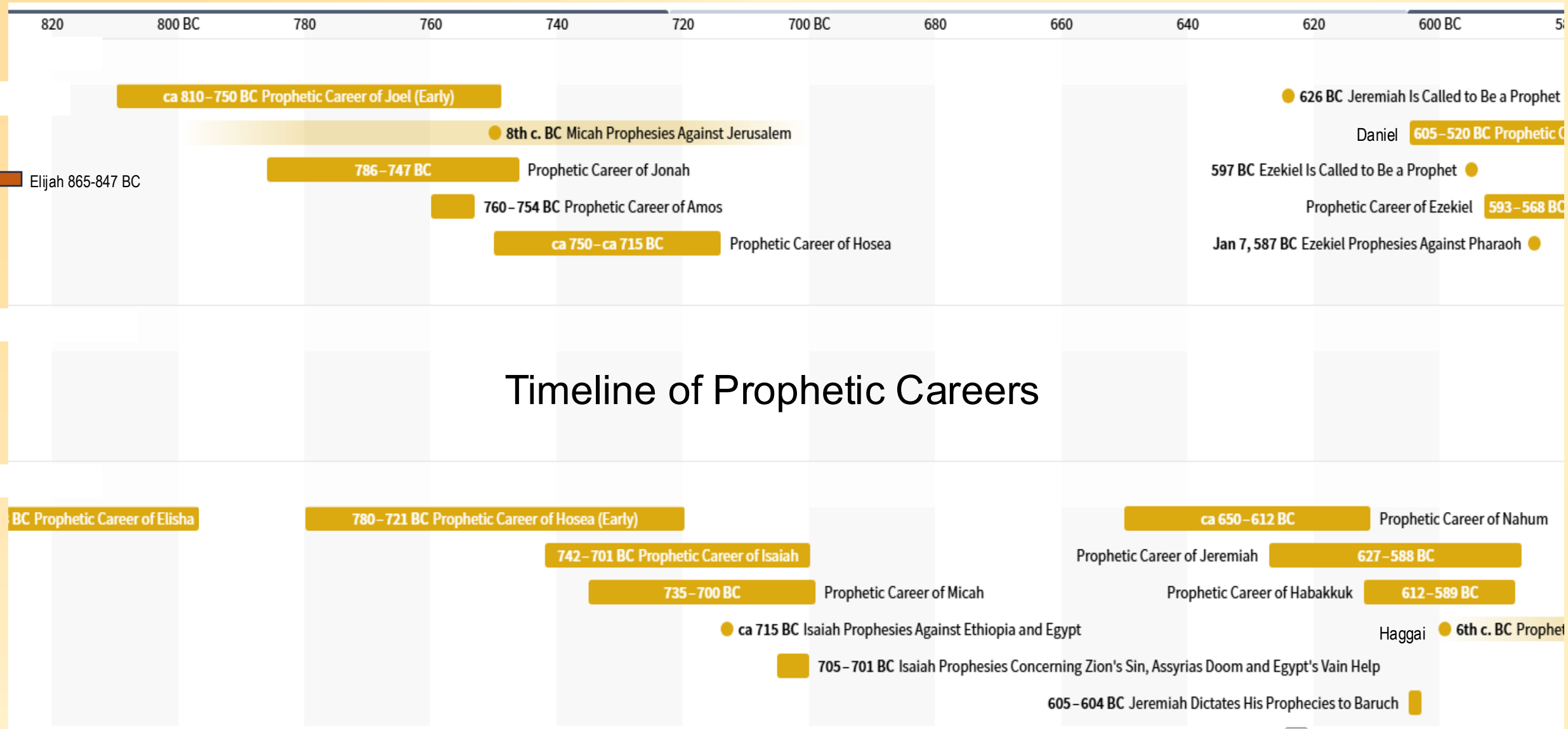
Throughout the existence of the northern kingdom Israel involved itself in many unholy alliances.

How long do you tend to wait before calling out to God for His "assistance"?
What causes you to wait?

Have you ever found yourself in the position of having to forgive someone close to you for some “big sin”?

What sacrifices did you need to make?

Do you think much about God’s amazing sacrifice for you?



Timeline of Prophetic Careers

