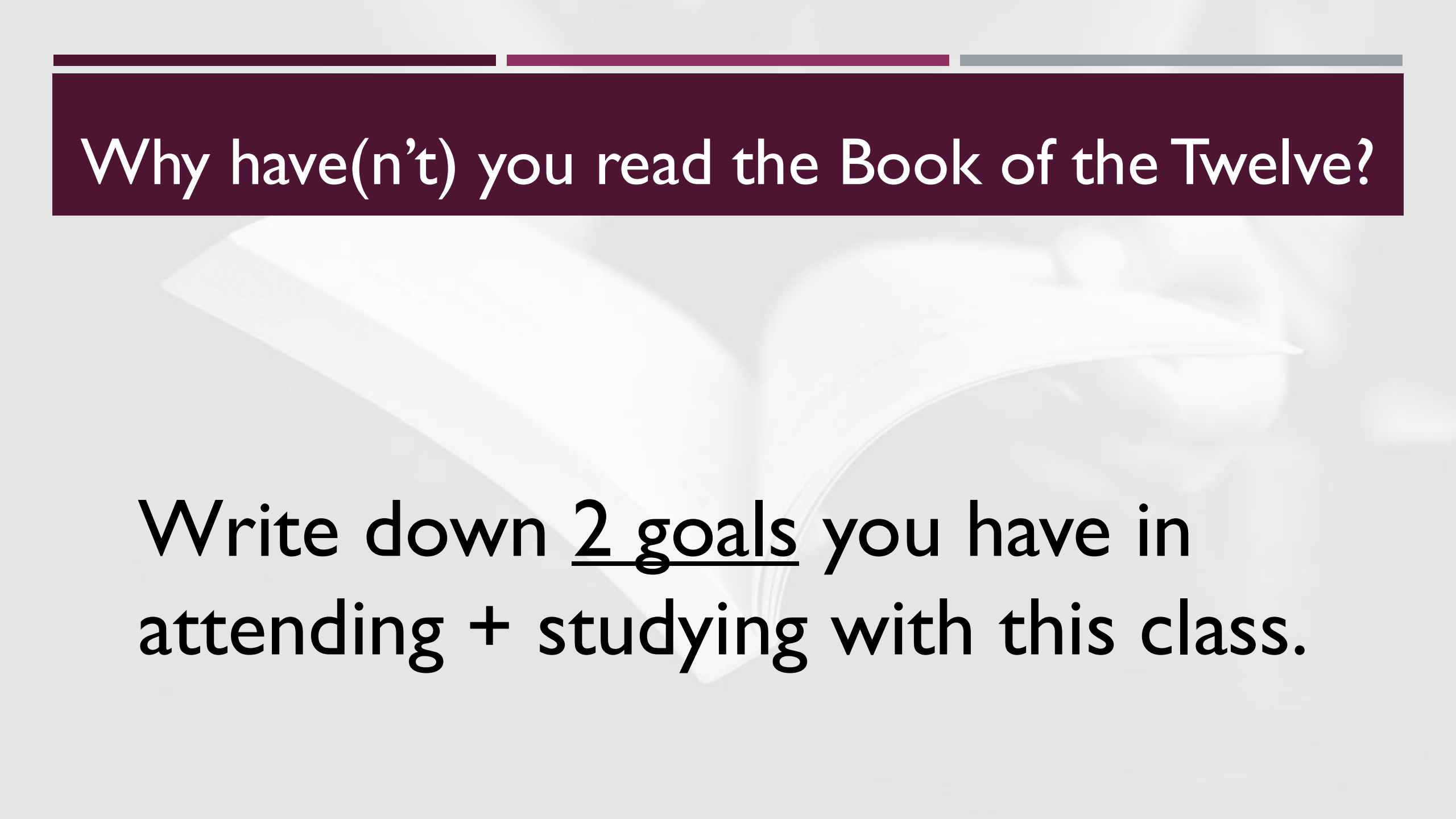


PLEASE
GRAB A
HANDOUT

The Book of the Twelve

*Answers for modern questions
from ancient texts.*



Why have(n't) you read the Book of the Twelve?

Write down 2 goals you have in attending + studying with this class.





“No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until *‘justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.’*”

Amos 5:24



- Riding of the donkey
- 30 pieces of silver
- Look on him who they've pierced
- Strike the shepherd, sheep scatter

The book of Zechariah is quoted in the gospels six (6) times, second only to the Psalms.

The number of words in the shortest Old Testament Book (Obadiah).

WHAT IS...

292? דָּבָר

WHAT IS THE “BOOK OF THE TWELVE”?

Hosea

Micah

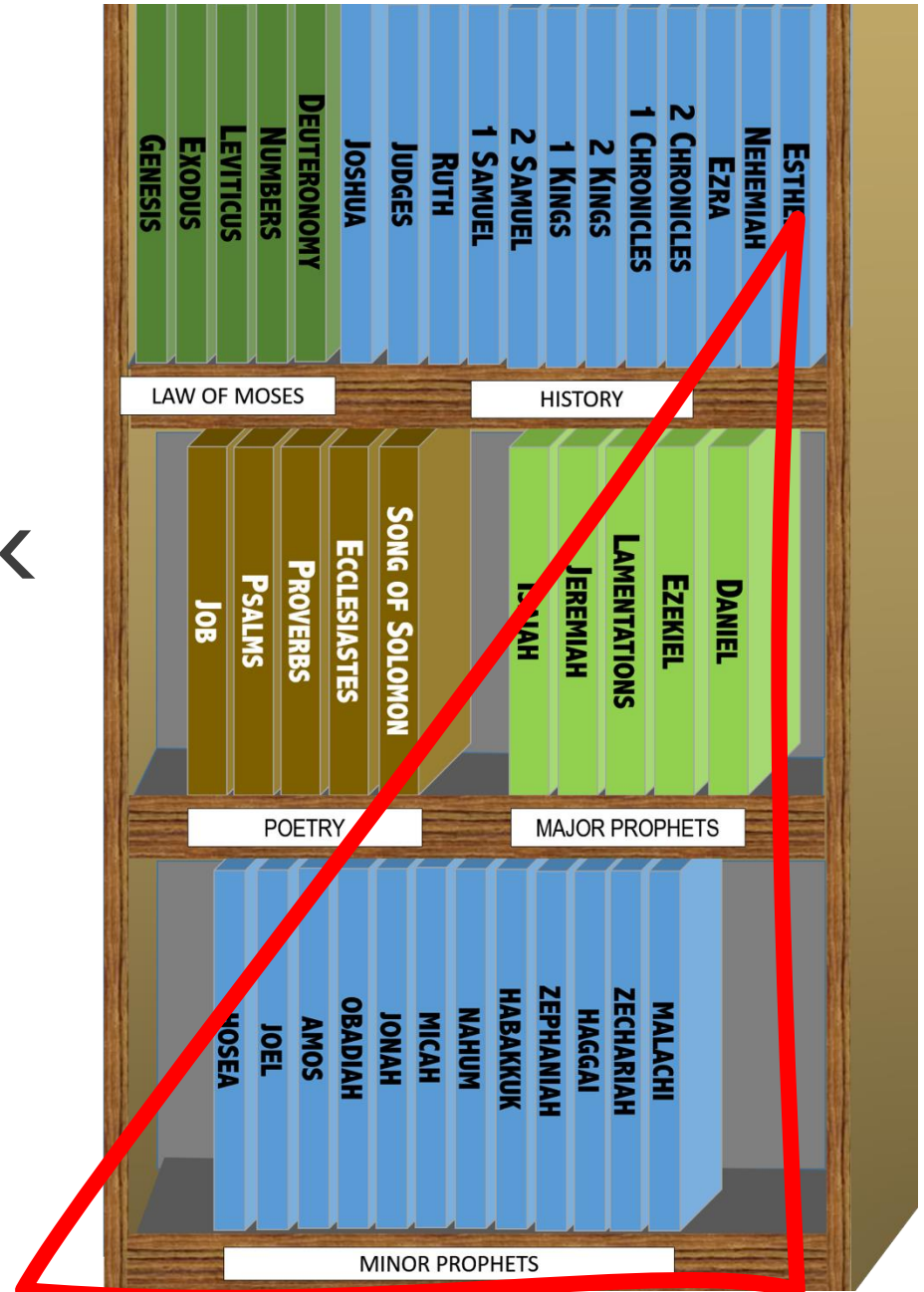
Malachi

This is the number of literary categories the Old Testament is traditionally divided in to...

5

WHAT IS THE “BOOK OF THE TWELVE”?

- A single scroll – a single book
- “Minor” prophets = shorter, not less important
- One bigger story*



ONE BIGGER STORY

- **Act 1: Warning (Hosea through Zephaniah, *roughly*)** God's people, Israel and Judah, have broken the covenant. Idols worshipped, the poor oppressed, rank (but “polished”) unfaithfulness. Prophet after prophet warns: judgment is coming; turn back.
- **Act 2: Judgment.** That judgment does come. The northern kingdom falls to Assyria. Later, Judah falls to Babylon. The nations around Israel get judged too. God isn't just Israel's God, He's judging everybody's sin.
- **Act 3: Hope and Rebuilding (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)** A remnant returns from exile. These last three books are about rebuilding — rebuilding the temple, rebuilding the community, rebuilding faith. But it ends with a problem: things aren't fully fixed. The last verses of Malachi look forward to someone still to come.

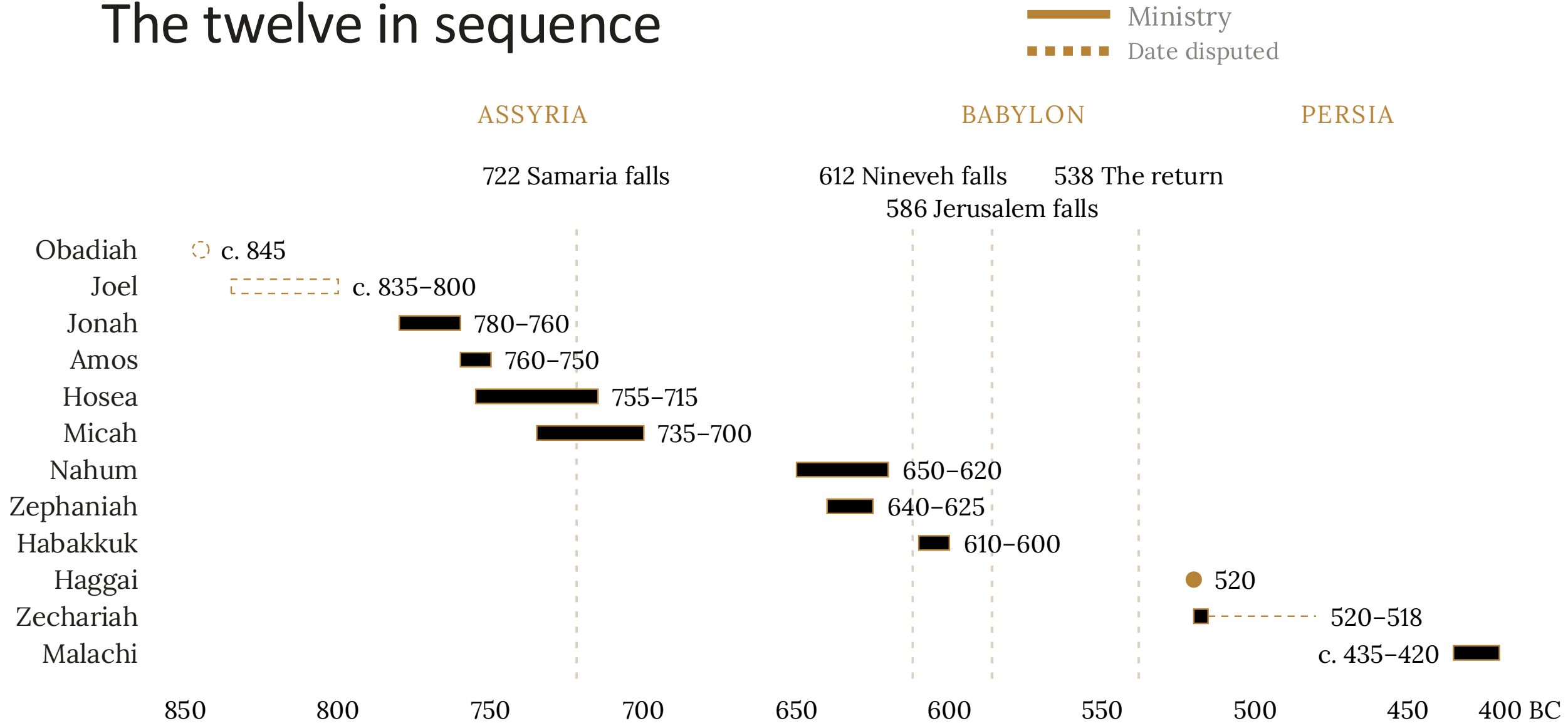
The Old Testament ends with

The approximate number of years from first minor prophet to the last (Obadiah → Malachi)

WHAT IS...

425?

The twelve in sequence



The books in canonical order

BOOK	TRADITIONAL DATE	ORDER IN TIME	POWER IN THE LAND
Hosea	c. 755–715 BC	5	Assyria
Joel	c. 835–800 BC †	2	Assyria
Amos	c. 760–750 BC	4	Assyria
Obadiah	c. 845 BC †	1	Assyria
Jonah	c. 780–760 BC	3	Assyria
Micah	c. 735–700 BC	6	Assyria
Nahum	c. 650–620 BC	7	Assyria
Habakkuk	c. 610–600 BC	9	Babylon
Zephaniah	c. 640–625 BC	8	Assyria
Haggai	520 BC	10	Persia
Zechariah	520–518 BC †	11	Persia
Malachi	c. 435–420 BC †	12	Persia

The dates of the “falls”

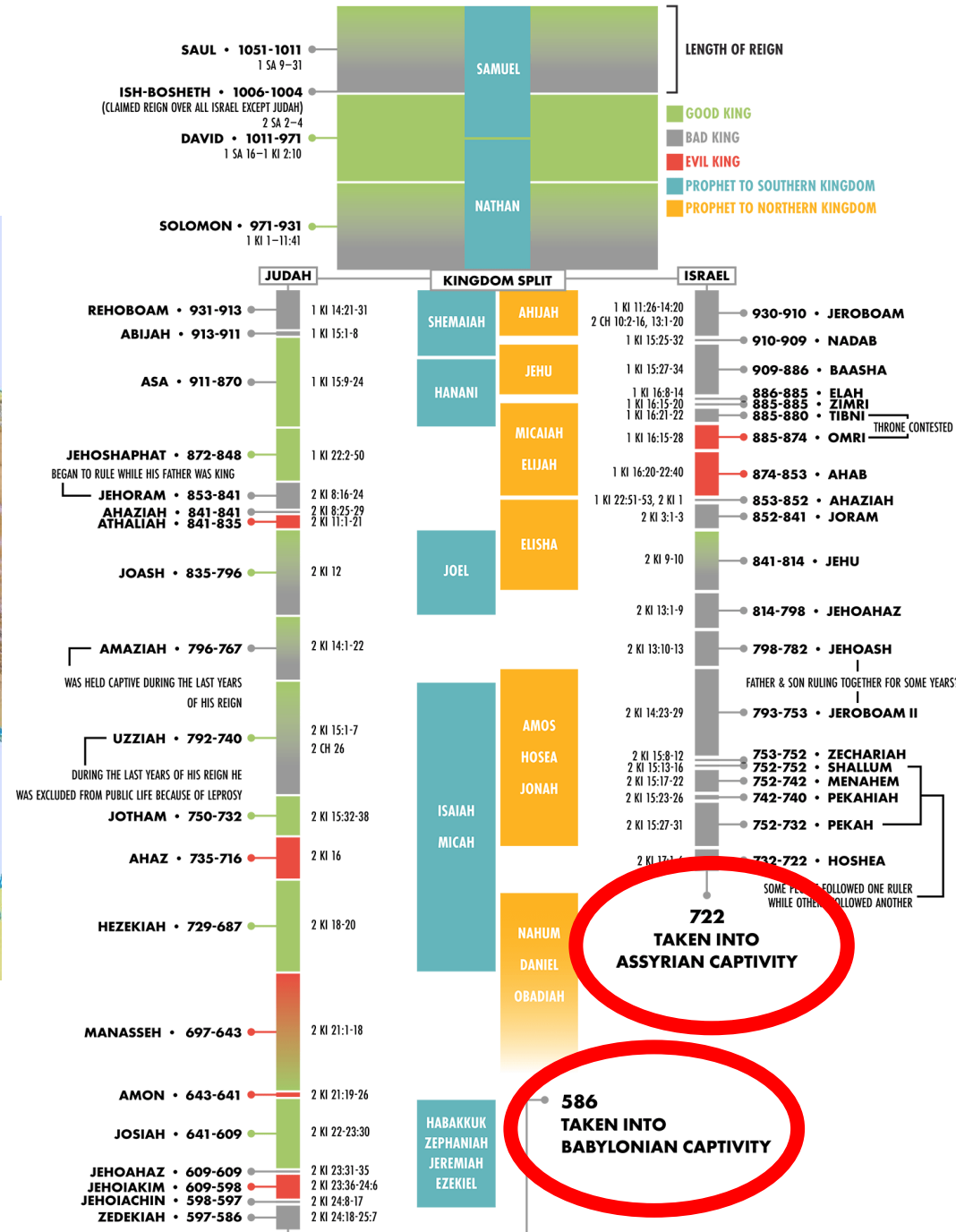
Israel to Assyria (722 BC)

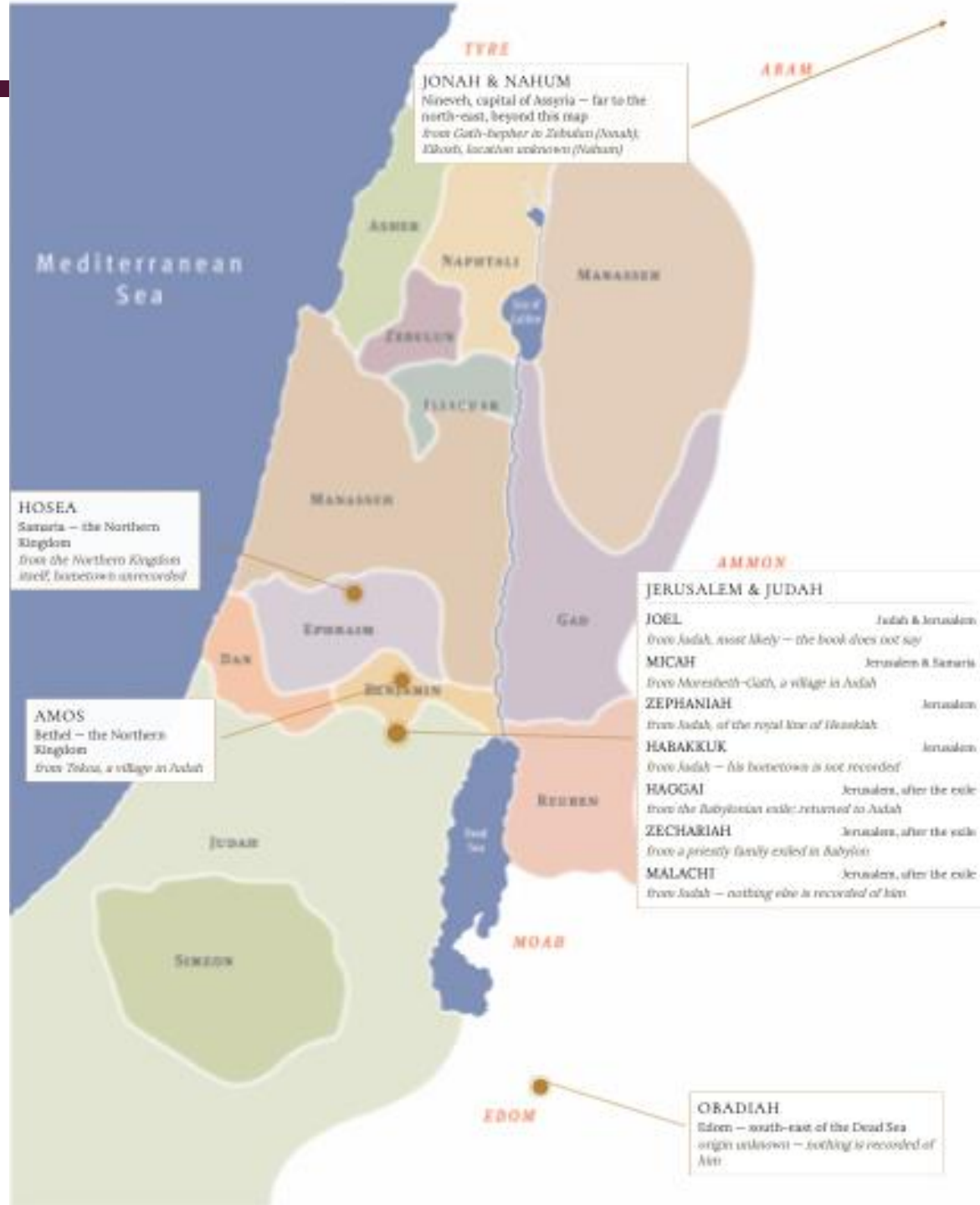
Judah to Babylon (586 BC)

WHAT IS (ARE?) . . .

722 & 586?

THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL & JUDAH





UNIFYING THEMES

- **God takes sin seriously.** Idolatry, injustice, apathy, empty worship.
- **"The Day of the LORD."** A coming day when God sets things right, through judgment and rescue.
- God cares about **the poor and the oppressed.**
- **God's mercy (and judgment) reaches beyond Israel.** Jonah & the Ninevites.
- **A remnant always survives.** In his grace, God always preserves a faithful few.
- **Restoration is coming.** Every single book that pronounces judgment also holds out hope.



-
- Who God is DOES NOT CHANGE.
 - POINT DIRECTLY to JESUS
 - THE WAITING isn't over

SO WHAT? ...*TODAY*

Hosea

How forgiving is God?

Joel

What is real repentance?

Amos

Is there a problem with prosperity?

Obadiah

Does God have my back?

Jonah

Is correct doctrine enough?

Micah

Who is like the Lord?

Nahum

Can God be mocked?

Habakkuk

Why isn't God fair?

Zephaniah

What will the Last Day be like?

Haggai

What does God want from me?

Zechariah

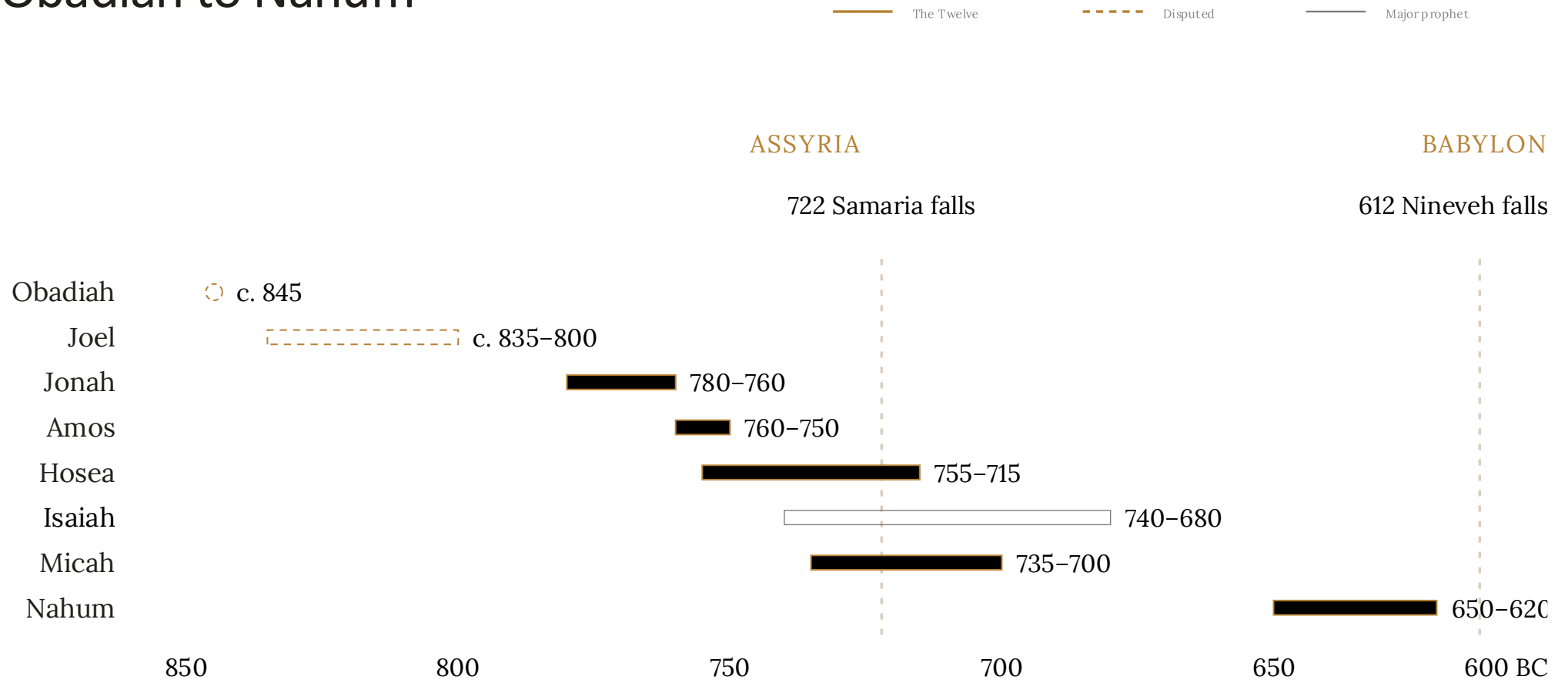
Has God forgotten me?

Malachi

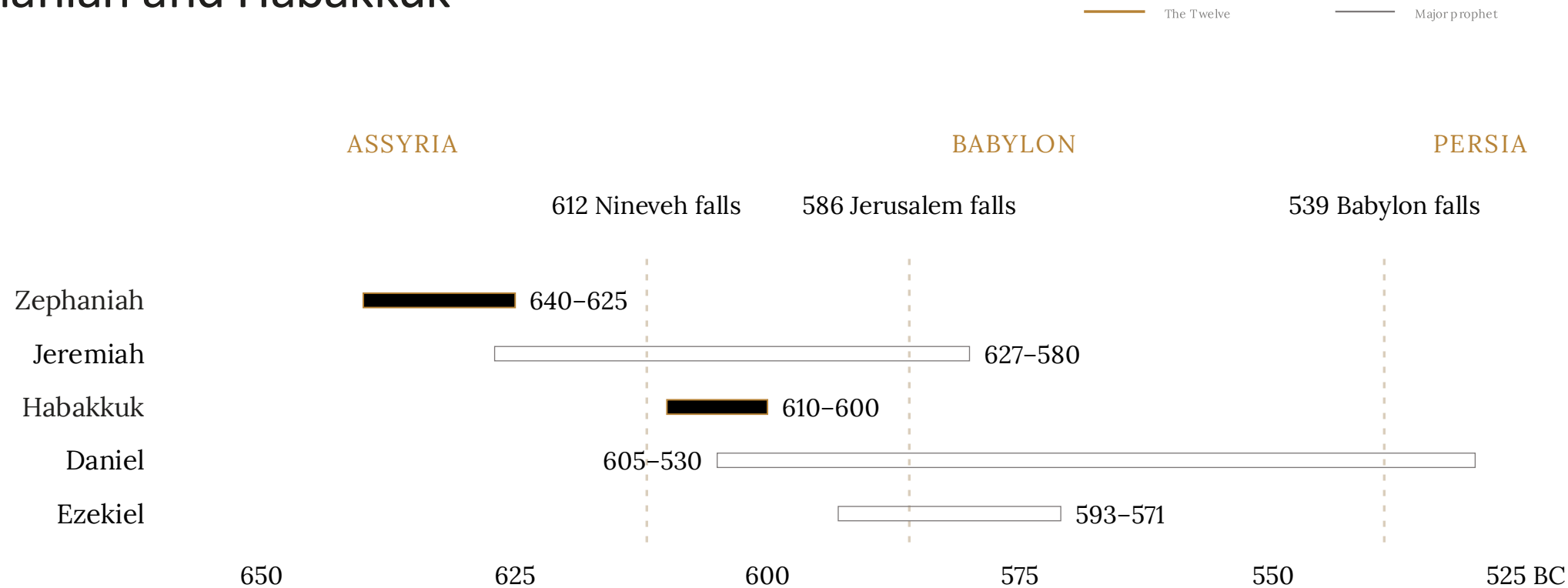
One last message from God...



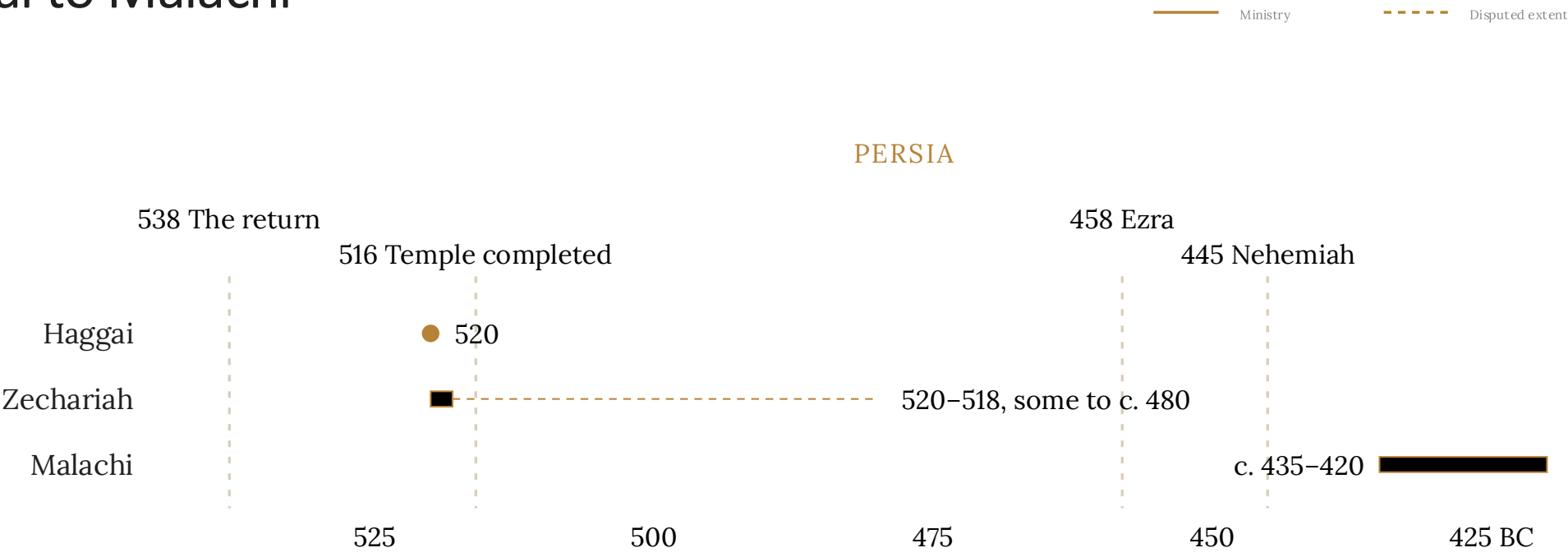
From Obadiah to Nahum



Zephaniah and Habakkuk



Haggai to Malachi



Haggai and Zechariah date their own oracles to the second year of Darius. Malachi carries no date of its own; the traditional reckoning places it about eighty years later, in the years around Nehemiah.