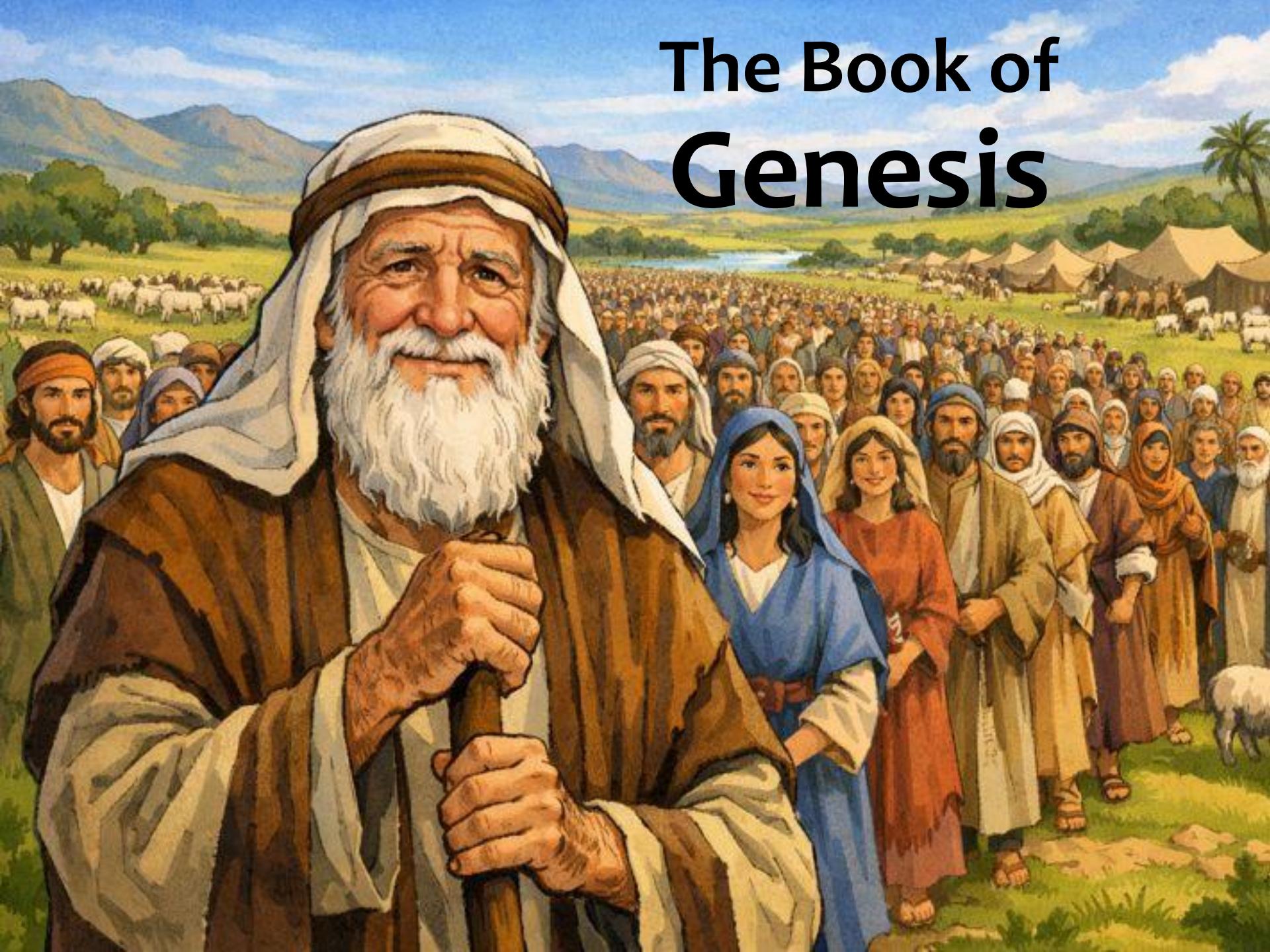
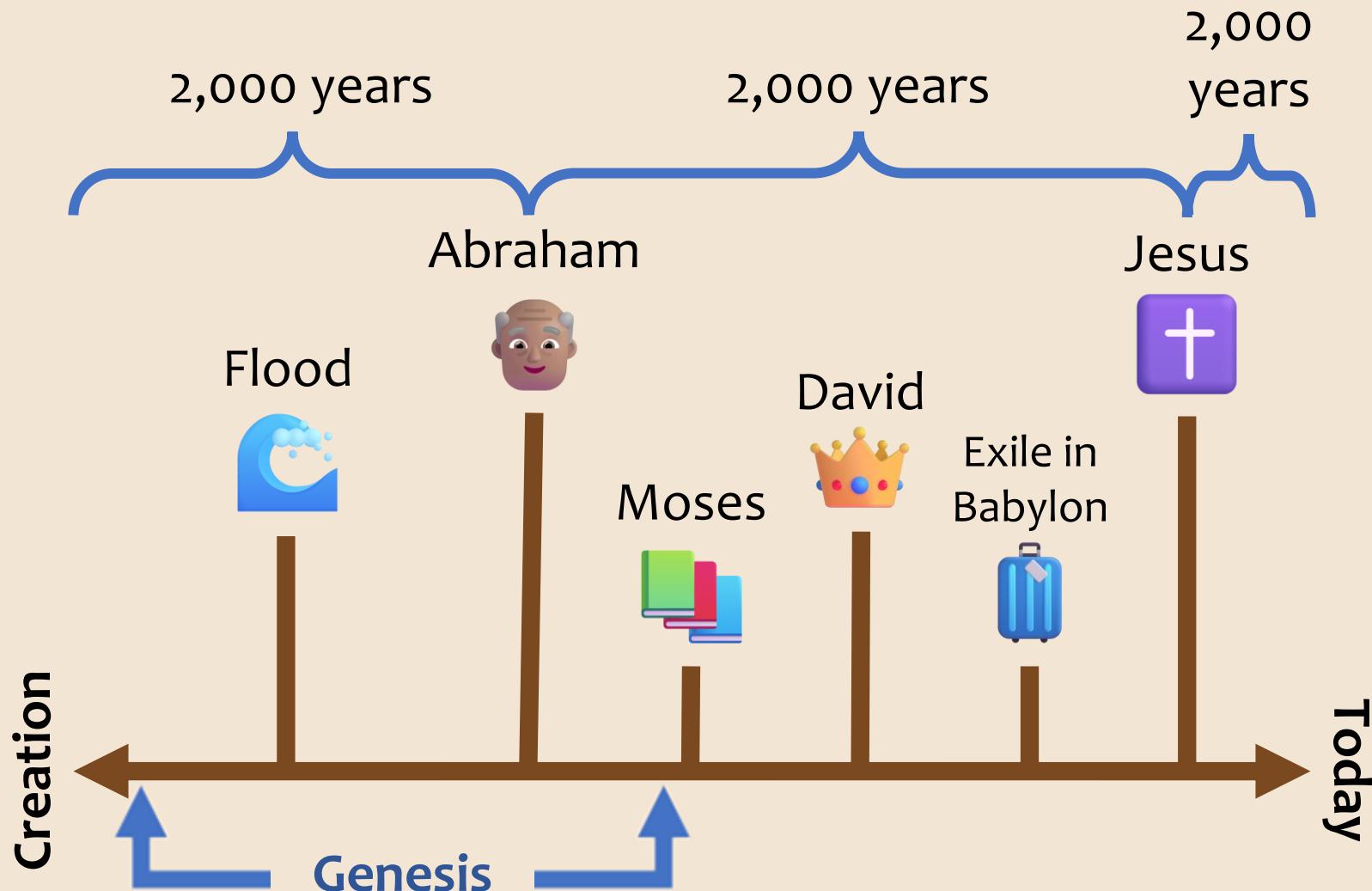


The Book of Genesis



Bible timeline



Overview

Genesis

The beginning

- First, of the whole world
 - Chapters 1-11
- And then of the nation of Israel
 - Chapters 12-50



Why Genesis is special

It is the story of where Israel came from.

- You know, the nation that just exists for the remainder of the Bible?
- It starts with one man – Jacob.

Also, the principles in Genesis outlast the other *Old Testament* books

- The apostles routinely appeal to the stories about Adam and Eve and Abraham as a basis for Christian living and doctrine.
 - **Galatians 3:8** says that "the gospel" was given to Abraham
 - Jesus cites **Genesis 2:24** as the foundation of marriage (**Matt. 19:4-6**)
 - **Hebrews 6-7** says Jesus as priest and king was prophesied by Melchizedek (see **Genesis 14:18-20**)
 - **Romans 4** makes the point that faith (a hallmark of Christianity) goes back to Abraham

Main characters in Genesis

-  **God**
 - Literally walks and talks with people in the story
 - Also, consider “the angel of God” who appears in several stories
-  **Abraham**
 - If you remember one name in Genesis, pick him
-  **Jacob**
 - Grandson of Abraham
 - He is literally “Israel”
-  **Joseph**
 - Son of Jacob (1 of 12)
 - He single-handedly saves Israel



Who is missing?

Structure of Genesis

Chapters 1-11

Creation, Adam, Cain, Noah



Chapters 12-50

Abraham and his descendants



Structure of Genesis

Chapters 1-11

Creation, Adam, Noah

- **Chapters 1-5**

- Creation
- Adam and Eve
- Their descendants (till Noah)

- **Chapters 6-10**

- Noah's Ark
- Noah's descendants (till Abraham)

- **Chapter 11**

- Tower of Babel

Chapters 12-50

Abraham and his descendants

- **Chapters 12-24**

- Abraham
- Isaac gets chapter 24 mostly to himself

- **Chapters 25-36**

- Mostly Jacob
- Also Esau

- **Chapters 37-47**

- Joseph

- **Chapters 48-50**

- Jacob blesses his sons and is honored

Theology and doctrine

- There is a pattern to the stories of Abraham's family
 - One child in a family is blessed (or blessed more than the others)
 - The blessed child continues the legacy of Abraham
 - Usually not the first child, ironically
 - The other child (or children) begins a nation that is hostile
 - But it doesn't need to be that way

In detail:

- Abraham had 2 sons
 - Isaac is blessed
 - Ishmael is sent away
- Isaac had 2 sons
 - Jacob takes Esau's birthright. Jacob is renamed Israel
 - Esau becomes the enemy nation of Edom
- Jacob (Israel) has 12 sons
 - Judah is blessed to have the future messiah descended from him
 - Levi is the tribe of priests
 - But almost all of the other sons will eventually unite against Judah

Recap of Genesis

- **Overview**

- The beginning of the world and then of the nation of Israel

- **Why it is special**

- Israel's origin story
- Broad lessons and theology that still apply today

- **Main characters**

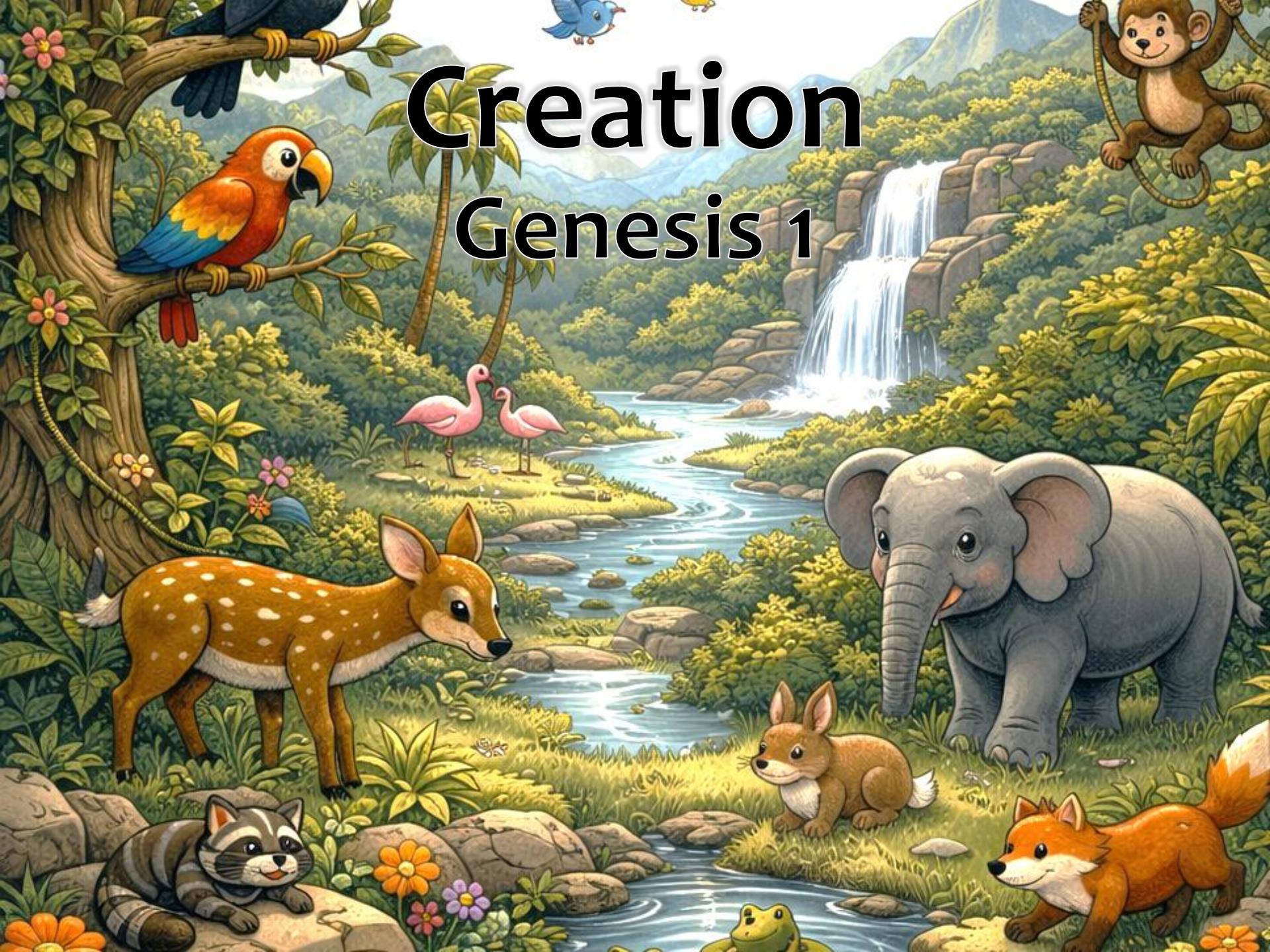
- God
- Abraham
- Jacob
- Joseph

- **Outline**

- Chapters 1-5 – Creation; Adam and Eve and their descendants
- Chapters 6-10 - Noah's Ark and Noah's descendants
- Chapter 11 – Tower of Babel
- Chapters 12-24 – Abraham
- Chapters 25-36 – Jacob
- Chapters 37-47 – Joseph
- Chapters 48-50 – Jacob's farewell

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Pattern of blessing one son, who carries on the promises that were made to Abraham



Creation

Genesis 1

Overview

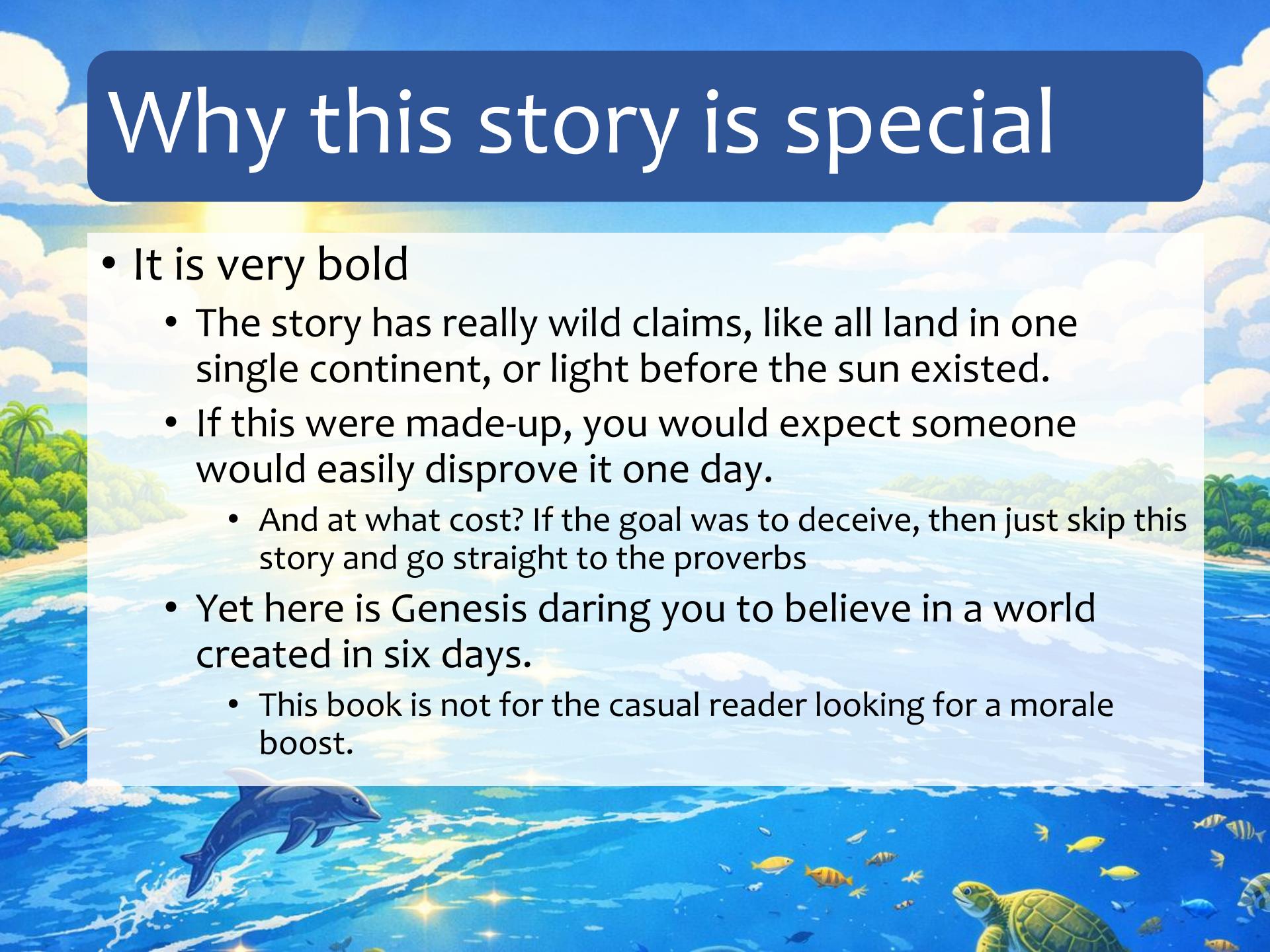
Genesis 1

- God created the world in six days.
- Yes, really.



Why this story is special

- It is very bold
 - The story has really wild claims, like all land in one single continent, or light before the sun existed.
 - If this were made-up, you would expect someone would easily disprove it one day.
 - And at what cost? If the goal was to deceive, then just skip this story and go straight to the proverbs
 - Yet here is Genesis daring you to believe in a world created in six days.
 - This book is not for the casual reader looking for a morale boost.



Main characters

-  God

Day 1



The heavens
(no stars or sun)

Day 2



Sky and seas

Day 3



Land and plants

Outline of Creation

There is a rhythm to
the days.

On days 1-3, realms
are created

1. Space
2. Sky and sea
3. Land

On days 4-6, the
realms are filled

4. Stars and planets
5. Sky and sea
animals
6. Land animals and
mankind

Day 4



Sun, moon, stars

Day 5



Birds and sea
animals

Day 6



Land animals
and people

In case you missed it

- God says “it was good” almost every day of creation (vs. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)
 - And it all was “very good” (v. 31)
- But...
 - Day 2 is not described that way
 - Day 3 has a *double* good – the land and then the plants
- Why?
 - Day 2 creates the realm for birds.
 - But birds need land, too, for sleeping and other things.
 - So the habitat for birds was *not complete* until partway into day 3.
- Also, we read in **Genesis 2:18** that before God made Eve, it was “not good that the man should be alone” (KJV)
 - Presumably this is in the middle of day 6 since that day was good as a whole

Theology and doctrine

- Is it six actual days?
 - Each day of creation ends with "there was morning and there was evening" (**Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31**).
 - That's a pretty concrete definition of a day.
- Mankind has a special place in creation
 - Created last
 - Given "dominion" over all creatures
 - Made in the image of God himself
 - Their story is given even more detail in **Genesis 2:4-25**

Recap of the creation story

- **Overview**

- God created the world in six days.

- **Why it is special**

- It is bold, and tests the faith of those claiming to take the Bible literally

- **Main character**

- God

- **In case you missed it**

- The proclamations of “it is good” are not evenly distributed

- **Outline**

- *Realms*

- Day 1 – space
- Day 2 – sky and sea
- Day 3 – land and plants

- *Filling the realms*

- Day 4 – sun, moon, stars
- Day 5 – birds and sea creatures
- Day 6 – land animals and man

- **Theology and doctrine**

- It is six actual days
- Man(kind) is special among creation

ALL the heavens

- (1) Praise **ye** the **LORD**. Praise **ye** the **LORD** from the heavens: praise **him** in the heights.
- (2) Praise **ye** **him**, all **his** angels: praise **ye** **him**, all **his** hosts.
- (3) Praise **ye** **him**, sun and moon: praise **him**, all **ye** stars of light.
- (4) Praise **him**, **ye** heavens of heavens, and **ye** waters that be above the heavens.

He made it all

- (5) Let **them** praise the name of the **LORD**: for **he** commanded, and **they** were created.
- (6) **He** hath also stablished **them** for ever and ever: **he** hath made a decree which shall not pass.

Water and sea

- (7) Praise the **LORD** from the earth, **ye** dragons, and all deeps:
- (8) Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling **his** word:

Psalm 148 (KJV)

Land and animals

- (9) Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:
- (10) Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

People great and ordinary

- (11) Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:
- (12) Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

Exalted

- (13) Let **them** praise the name of the **LORD**: for **his** name alone is excellent; **his** glory is above the earth and heaven.
- (14) **He** also exalteth the horn of **his** people, the praise of all **his** saints; even of the children of **Israel**, a people near unto **him**. Praise **ye** the **LORD**.