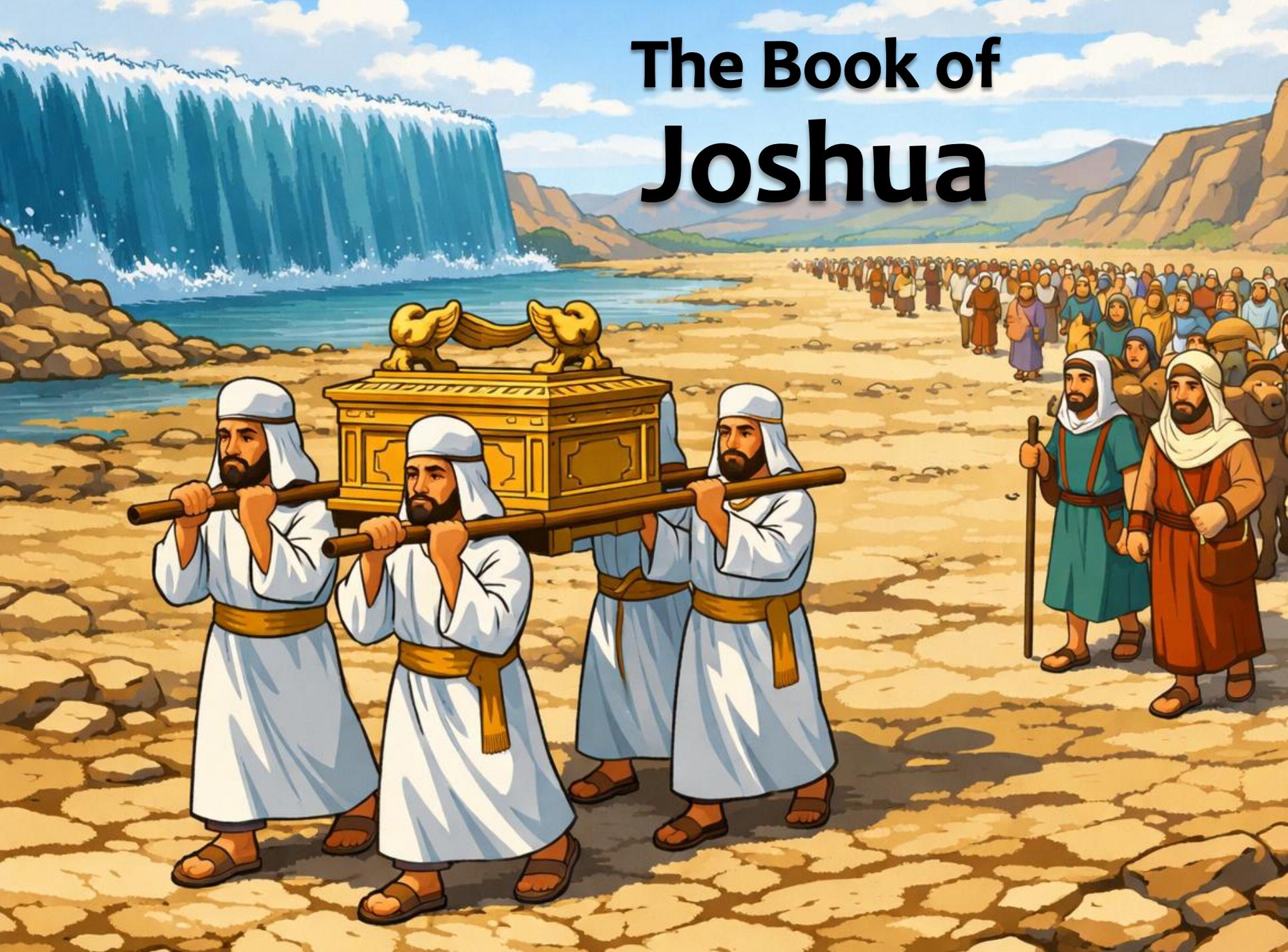
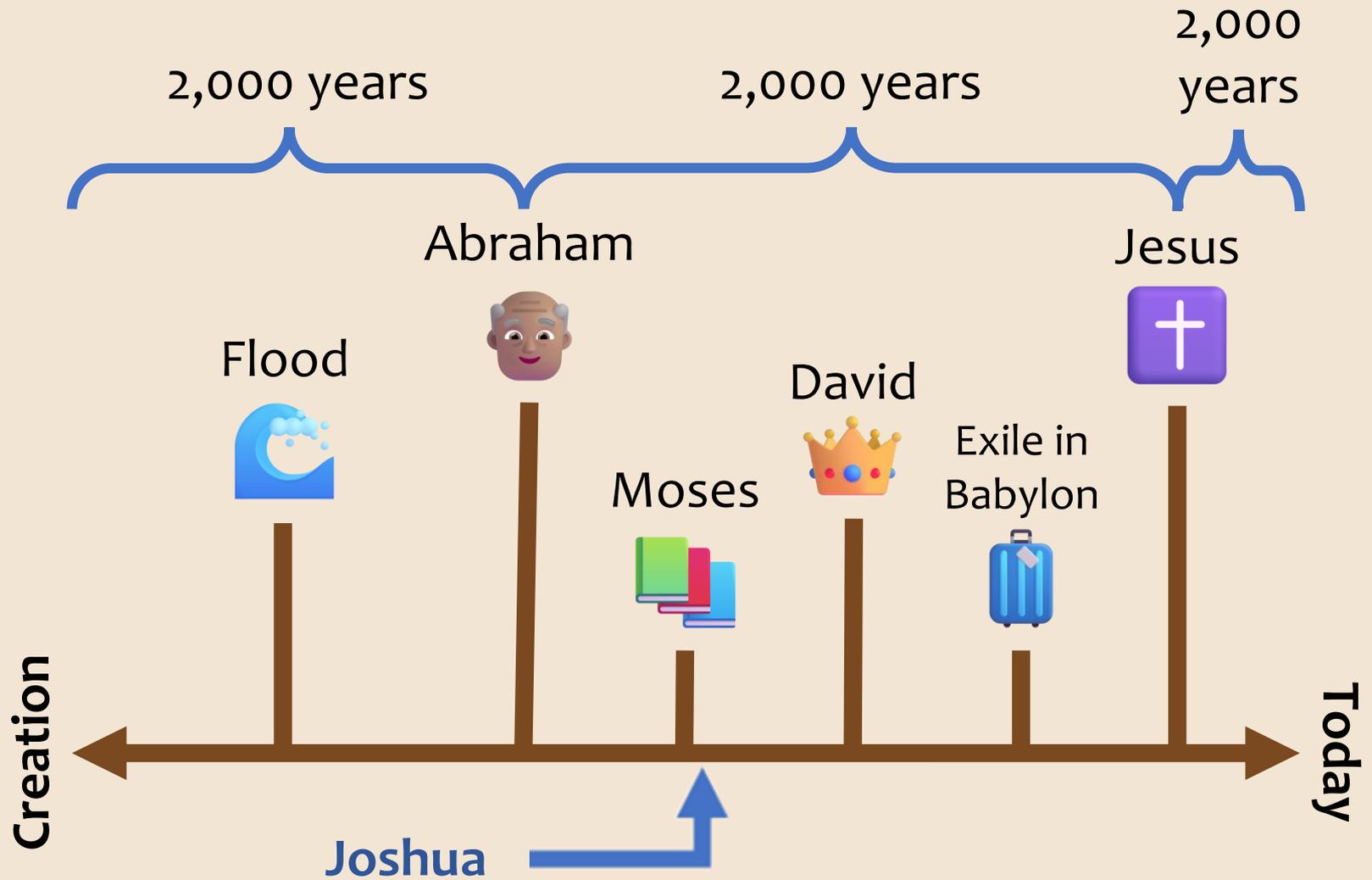


The Book of Joshua



Bible timeline



Summary

The book of *Joshua*

- Joshua leads Israel in conquering **Canaan** and dividing up the land



Why *Joshua* is special

- The people of Israel **FINALLY** get their own land
 - Before this, Israel was merely a nation of *people*
 - Now they have a *country*
- **Deuteronomy 6:10-12**



Main characters

-  **Joshua**
 - Leader of Israel, in every sense
-  **Rahab**
 - Canaanite who is not killed, because of her faith in the LORD
-  **Achan**
 - Israelite whose greed costs 36 lives, and is killed as punishment

Outline of *Joshua*

The 24 chapters split very neatly in two:

- **Israel conquers Canaan: chapters 1-12**
 - Chapters 1-5: Crossing into the land
 - Rahab, crossing the Jordan
 - Chapters 6-12: Taking the land
 - Jericho, Achan and Ai, Gibeonites
- **Israel divides Canaan, like states : chapters 13-24**
 - Chapters 13-22: Dividing the land
 - Also, cities of refuge, Eastern tribes' altar
 - Chapters 23-24: Joshua's farewell

Theology and doctrine

- This was a good time for Israel
 - **Joshua 24:31**, “Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel.” (ESV)
 - Joshua led them well, and their obedience stuck through the end of that generation of elders
 - True, the next generation fails utterly (**Judges 2:7-12**)
 - But for now, think on the good at this time
- Joshua is the last solo leader
 - Until the people demand a king, against the will of God
 - But after this, the “judges” rule over regions in Israel (no , not that kind of judge)

Recap of Joshua

- **Overview**

- Joshua leads Israel in conquering Canaan and dividing up the land

- **Why it is special**

- The people of Israel finally get their own land

- **Main characters**

- Joshua
- Rahab
- Achan

- **Outline**

- Israel conquers Canaan (Chapters 1-12)
- Israel divides up the land, like states (Chs. 13-24)

- **Theology and doctrine**

- This was a good time for Israel (**Joshua 24:31**)
- Joshua is the last solo leader (until there are kings)

The Battle of Jericho

Joshua 6



Summary

The Battle of Jericho
Joshua 6

- If conquering Canaan is a war, Jericho is the first battle of this war
- Victory comes when the LORD causes the city wall to fall – and because the people obey



Why this story is special



- It shows victory is always and only through the LORD
 - The warriors of Israel will be asked to fight normal battles later on, but this battle makes it obvious that the LORD is real reason for victory

Main characters

-  **Joshua**
 - Leader
-  **Priests**
 - Carry the ark and blow trumpets with the soldiers while marching
-  **“Armed men”**
 - Went before the priests (v. 9)
-  **Rahab**
 - Canaanite who is not killed, as promised

Outline of the Battle of Jericho

Joshua 6

- **V. 1** Jericho is on lockdown – since they heard the Israelites were coming
- **V. 2** The LORD promises victory over Jericho
- **Vs. 3-7** The plan, part 1: Lots of marching, with trumpets and shouting at the end
- **Vs. 8-16** They do everything up to the shouting
- **Vs. 17-19** The plan, part 2: Destroy everything except Rahab's family and the gold and silver and metal vessels
- **Vs. 20-21** They shout and the wall “falls down flat,” and the Israelites charge in and take the
- **Vs. 22-25** They save Rahab, kill everyone else, and loot the treasures

In case you missed it

- The Ark of the Covenant was carried by the priests (v. 12) but surrounded by “armed men” (v. 9)
- The first six days, trumpets are going but no one is allowed to talk (vs. 9-10)
- A curse if anyone rebuilds Jericho (v. 26), which happens in **1 Kings 16:34**, apparently
- They go back to base camp each day (v. 14)

Theology and doctrine

- It would have to reason that one of those seven days had to be a Sabbath, right?
 - Yet they worked every day
- Just before this story, in **Joshua 5:13-15**, is a bizarre account of the commander of the LORD's army
 - I suspect that this is like the Angel of the LORD (**Exodus 3:2-4**, for example), where the story shifts to the LORD himself speaking (**Joshua 6:1-2**).
 - In this case we have a chapter break, but it seems like it could be all one continuous story.

Recap of The Battle of Jericho

- **Summary**

- The first battle in the war to conquer Canaan

- **Why it is special**

- It shows victory is always *and only* through the LORD

- **Main characters**

- Joshua
- Priests
- Armed men
- Rahab

- **In case you missed it**

- Guards around the ark
- No talking for first 6 days
- Curse for rebuilding Jericho
- They go back to camp each day

- **Outline**

- Jericho is on lockdown (v. 1)
- The LORD promises victory (v. 2)
- Plan, part 1: marching, with trumpets and shouting at the end (vs. 3-7)
- They do everything up to the shouting (vs. 8-16)
- Plan, part 2: Destroy everything except Rahab's family and the treasures (vs. 17-19)
- They shout and the wall "falls down flat," and the Israelites charge in and take the city (vs. 20-21)
- They do part 2 – save Rahab; kill everyone else; loot the treasures (vs. 22-25)

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Was one day a Sabbath?
- Is the story related to 5:13-15?

Poem: Psalm 127

A household from God

- **Joshua 24:15**, “... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (KJV)
- **Psalm 127:1**, “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” (ESV)