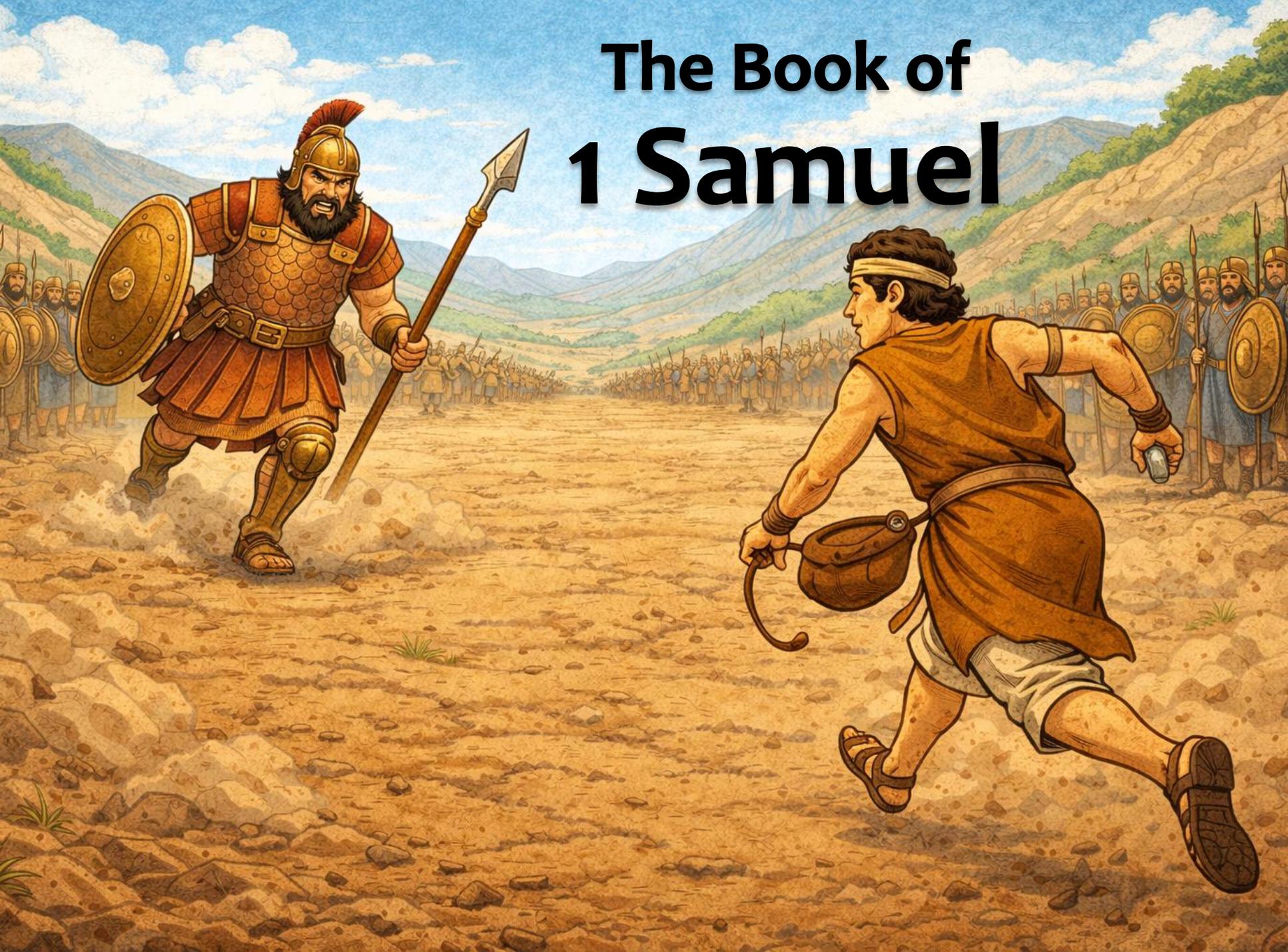
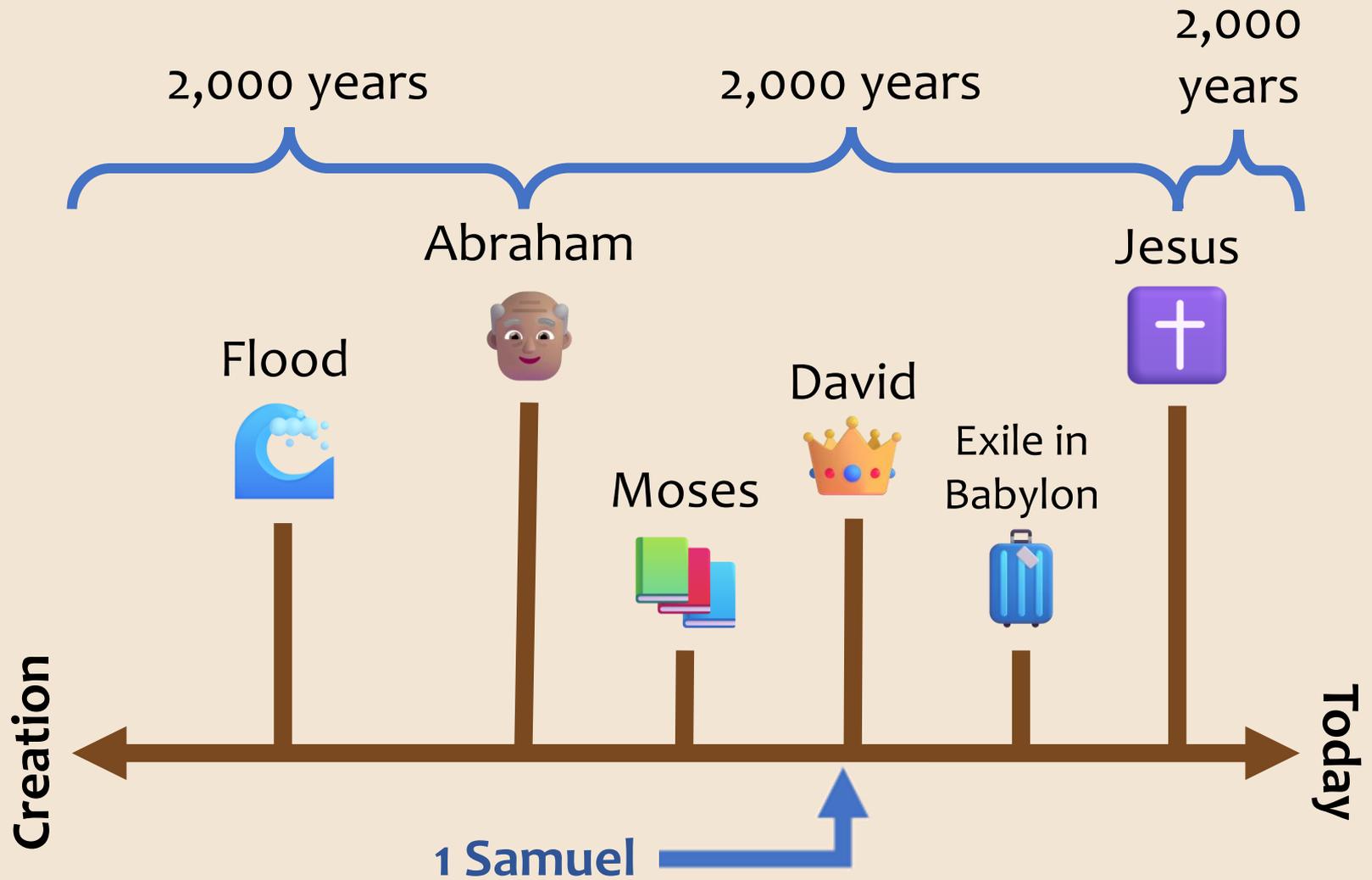


# The Book of 1 Samuel



# Bible timeline





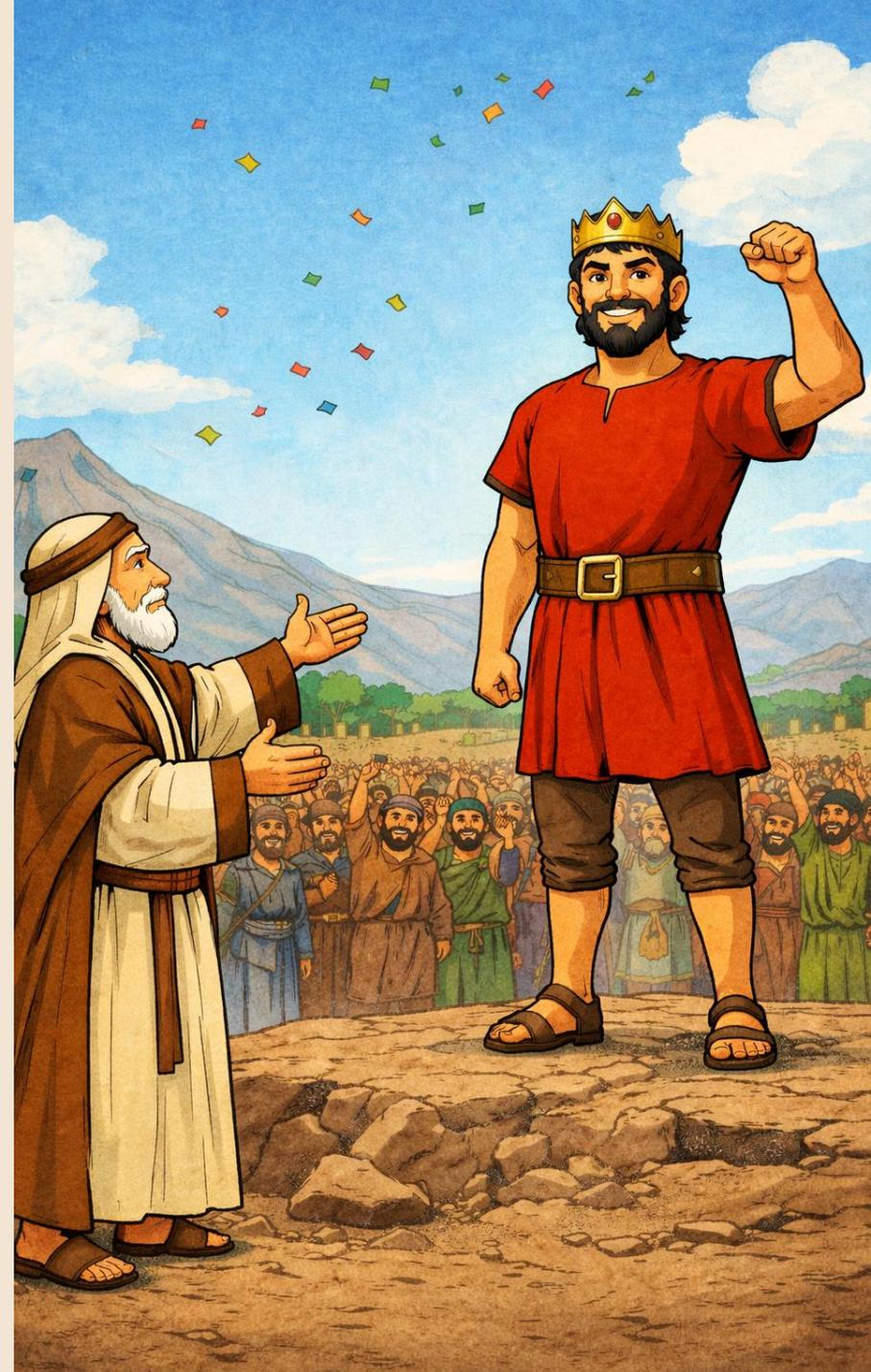
# A brief note

- Our Bibles have “1 Samuel” and “2 Samuel”
- In ancient times, these were a single book called “Samuel”
  - The reason for splitting them was logistics – it didn’t all fit on one scroll in the (later) Greek translation
- But the split is very logical:
  - **1 Samuel:** David before he was king
    - (and Saul and Samuel)
  - **2 Samuel:** David’s reign
  - 1 Samuel ends with Saul and Jonathan’s deaths

# Summary

## 1 Samuel

- Israel demands to have a king rule over it
  - The priests Eli and Samuel fail to raise godly sons
  - The people want a king like the other nations have
  - Saul is the first king, and he reigns until the end of the book
  - But halfway through the book, David is pre-ordained to succeed Saul



# Why 1 Samuel is special



- It's the beginning of Israel as a KINGDOM
  - Not just a nation or a country
  - And it starts out... poorly. Saul fails often.
  - But we see the rise of David and his righteous attitude

# Main characters

-  **Eli**
  - Good priest who had terrible sons
-  **Samuel**
  - Good priest who had terrible sons
-  **King Saul**
  - Terrible king with an awesome son
-  **David**
  - Not king yet
-  **Jonathan**
  - Son of Saul and friend of David

# Outline of *1 Samuel*

## **Chapters 1-7: The rise of Samuel, a judge**

- Born miraculously
- Called (literally) by God

## **Chapters 8-15: The rise and fall of Saul, the first king**

- Starts out humble
- Disobeys God's commands

## **Chapters 16-31: David rises, while Saul finishes his reign**

- David is anointed to be the *next* king
- But Saul still reigns for years after that (“lame duck”)
- Saul repeatedly tries to kill David

# Theology and doctrine

1. God gave the people the king they wanted (**1 Samuel 8:9**), and then he gave them the king they needed (**1 Samuel 13:14**)
2. “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” (**1 Samuel 15:22**)
  - Saul disobeyed, then sacrificed (seems as a cover-up)
3. Why was the first king (Saul) from Benjamin?
  - **Genesis 49:10** says, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah...”
  - And it is true: David is from Judah, and from then on, all legitimate kings are his descendants
  - But why the one-off Benjamite king?

# Recap of *1 Samuel*

- **Summary**

- Israel demands to have a king rule over it

- **Why it is special**

- It's the beginning of Israel as a KINGDOM

- **Main characters**

- Eli
- Samuel
- Saul
- David
- Jonathan

- **Outline**

- **Chapters 1-7:** The rise of Samuel, a judge
- **Chapters 8-15:** The rise and fall of Saul, the first king
- **Chapters 16-31:** David rises, while Saul finishes his reign

- **Theology and doctrine**

- “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” (**1 Samuel 15:22**)

# David is anointed king

1 Samuel 16:1–14



# Summary

David anointed king  
1 Samuel 16:1–14

- David was chosen to be king many years before he actually reigned.
- Why is this odd?
  - Normally, the next king is a son (or nearest relative) of the current king, or he steals it by coup
  - David was none of those
  - Instead, God stripped the kingdom from Saul, because he failed to obey God, and gave it to David



# Why this story is special

- 
- “For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart,” **1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)**
    - Saul looked like a leader, and so did David’s oldest brother, apparently. But they did not have the dedication that God wanted

# Main characters

-  **Samuel**
  - Priest who anoints David
  - And previously anointed Saul and defrocked him
-  **David**
  - Handsome shepherd boy
-  **Jesse**
  - Father of David and 7 other sons

# Outline of *David's anointing* (1 Sam. 16)

1. Time for Samuel to anoint a new king (v. 1)
2. Samuel is scared; the LORD has a plan (v. 2)
3. Go to Bethlehem to sacrifice and invite the elders of the city and Jesse and his sons (vs. 3-5)
4. Samuel thinks the first son, tall and handsome, is the one, but God says, No (vs. 6-7)
5. Not the next six sons, either (vs. 8-10)
6. Finally, David is brought in from the field (v. 11)
7. God says, That's the one (v. 12)
8. The Spirit of the LORD "came upon David" (v. 13) but left Saul (v. 14)

# In case you missed it

- Appearance is not important, yet David was quite handsome (**verse 12**)
  - It's not a disqualifier; it's just not relevant
- Height is not important – so was David short?
  - Again, there's no concrete evidence of this.
  - Shorter than Goliath? Of course! Everyone was.
  - If anything, he is simply young
- Saul losing the throne seems to be well-known
  - It was only the previous chapter
  - Yet Samuel is scared of Saul finding out about this anointing, as are the city elders (**verses 2 and 4**)

# Theology and doctrine

- Godly leaders know that they are up to the task
  - They must be humble, but that is not the same as being afraid to lead
  - If they had no confidence, how could they feel right about the decisions they made or advice they gave?
- Saul was afraid to lead
  - He doubted himself (**1 Samuel 9:21**) and hid at his own inauguration (**1 Samuel 10:21-22**)
  - When it came time to obey God by waiting (ch. 13) and killing the enemies (ch. 15), Saul chickened out
- David demanded to lead
  - Not in this story, but when Israel faces Goliath and the Philistines (**1 Samuel 17:33-37**)
  - He knew where the victory came from: from the LORD

# Recap of *David's anointing* (1 Sam. 16)

## • Summary

- David was chosen to be king many years before he actually reigned.

## • Why it is special

- God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7)

## • Main characters

- Samuel
- David
- Jesse

## • Theology and doctrine

- Godly leaders know that they are up to the task

## • Outline

1. Need a new king (v. 1)
2. Samuel is scared (v.2)
3. Go to Jesse's house (vs. 3-5)
4. Not the oldest son (vs. 6-7)
5. Not the next six (vs. 8-10)
6. What about David? (v. 11)
7. He's the one (v. 12)
8. The Spirit of the LORD came upon David (v. 13) but left Saul (v. 14)

## • In case you missed it

- Appearance is not important, but David was still handsome
- It seems everyone already knew that Saul was rejected

# Poem: Isaiah 11

## A Shoot from Jesse

- A prophecy of the messiah
- Jesse is the father of David
  - The poem never says “David” – but he is implied

### Outline:

- The messiah will be good and make things right (**vs. 1-5**)
  - Tree stump symbolizes a family that was nearly destroyed
  - From it, a sprout emerges against the odds
  - Verses 2-5 describe the messiah’s irrefutable goodness
- No more strife (**vs. 6-9**)
  - A wild animal is paired with a generally harmless one (or two), and yet they don’t destroy each other
- The LORD will bring everyone back home (**vs. 10-16**)
  - The heathen nations are separated from the Jews
  - Israel and Judah are, or would be, in exile
  - But thanks to the messiah, they will all reunite
  - Notice the “remnant” in vs. 11 and 16