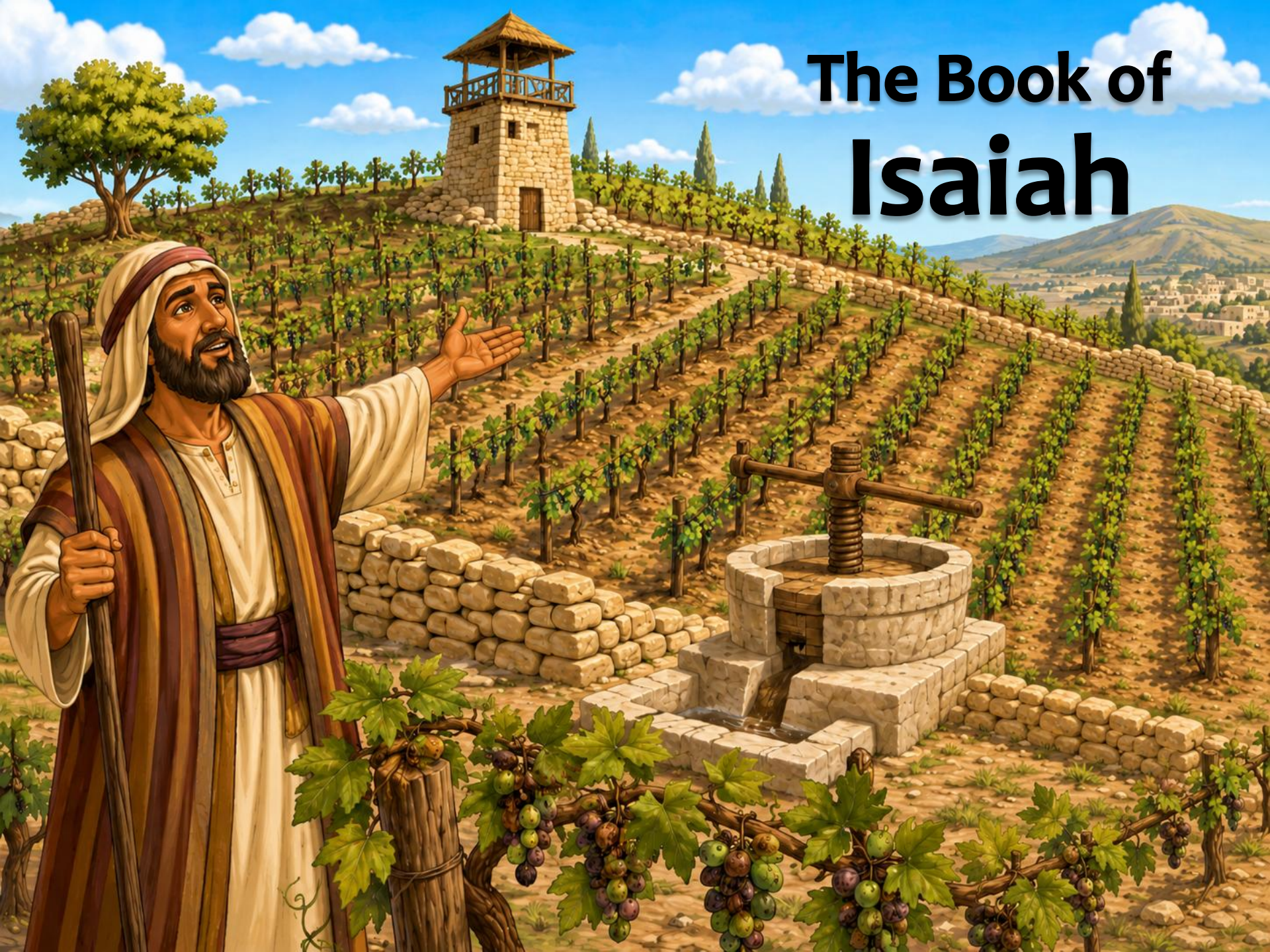
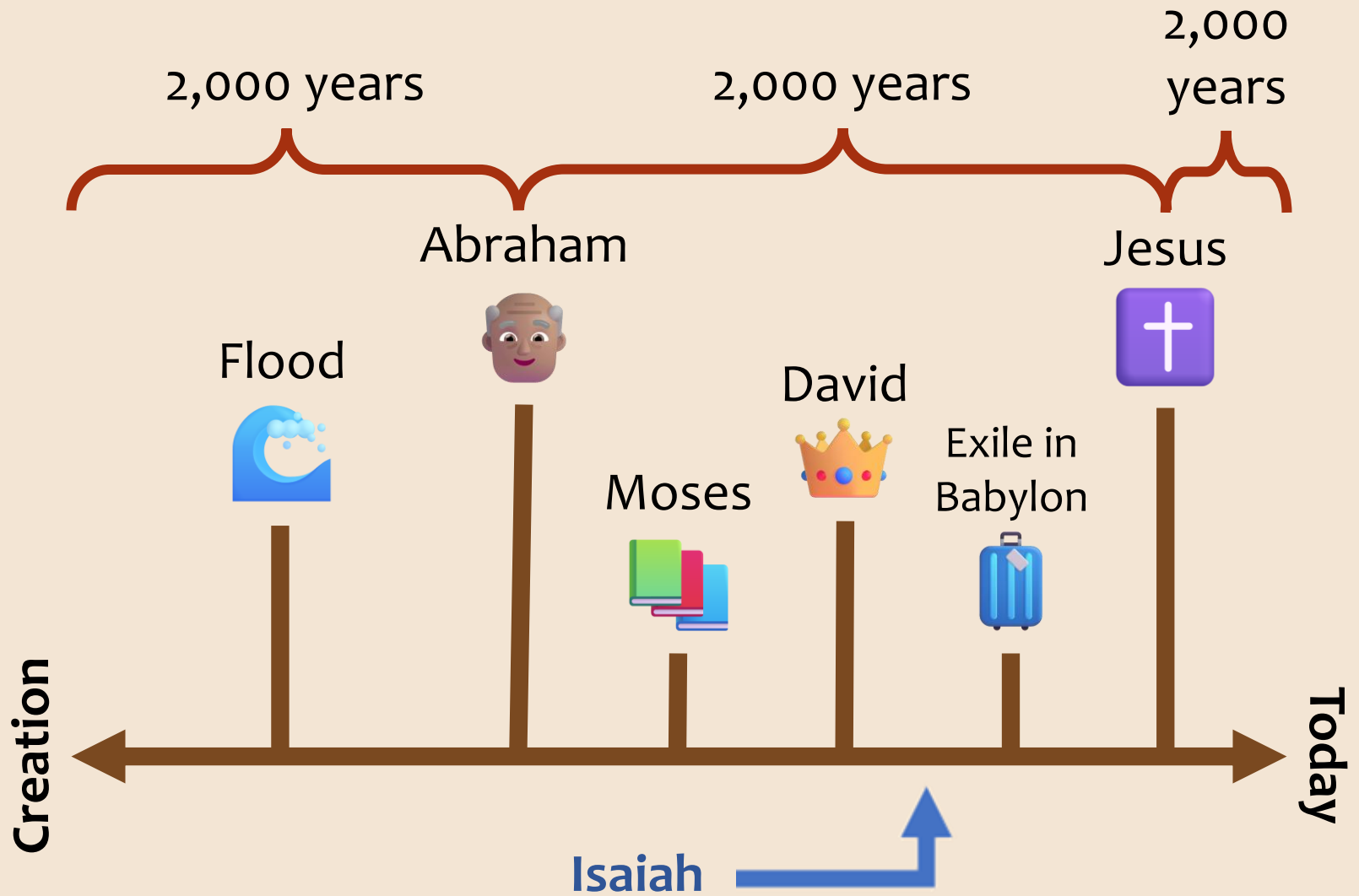


The Book of Isaiah



Bible timeline



Summary

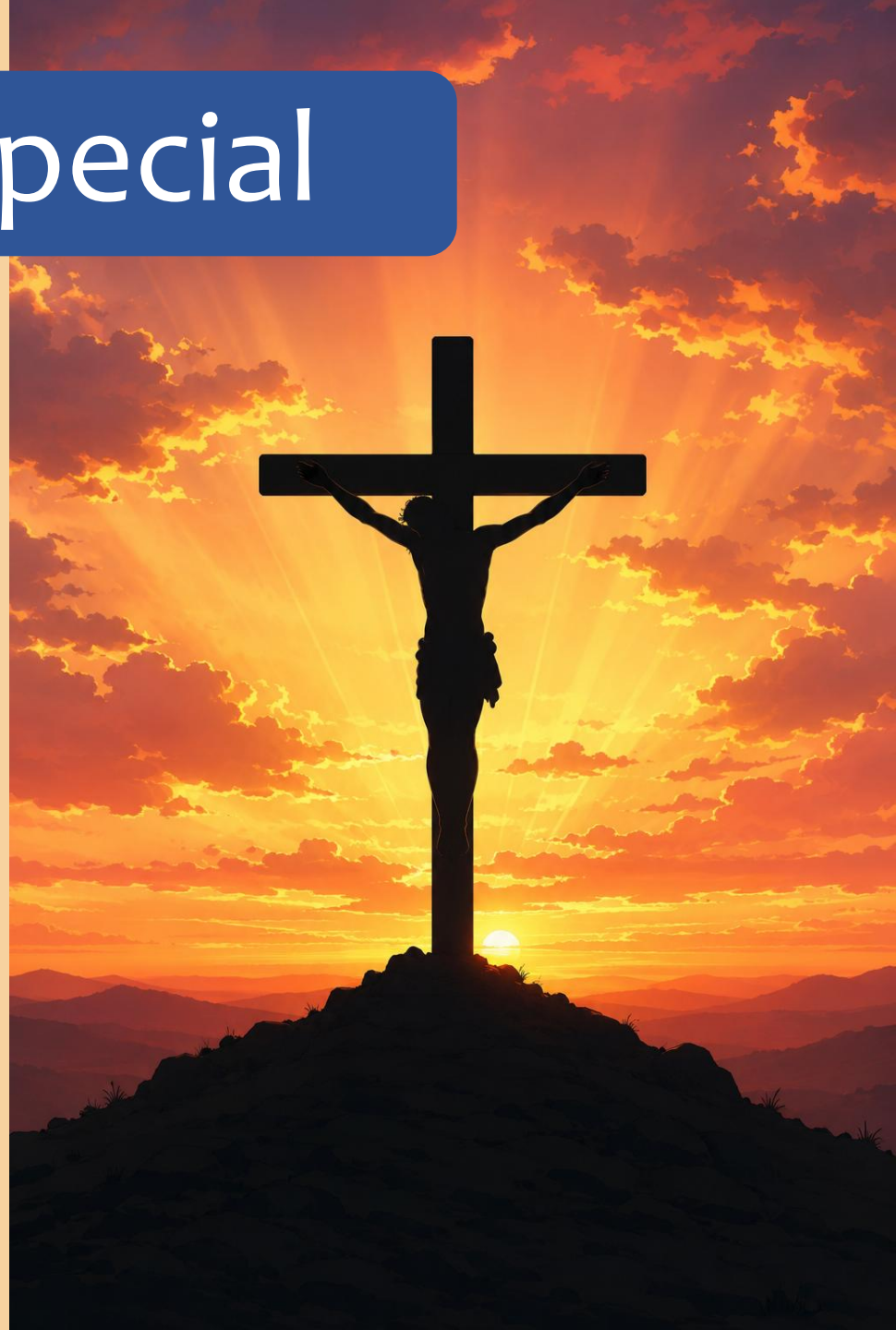
Isaiah

- A book of prophecy – in both senses of the word
 - Judgment of Judah and other nations
 - Foretelling the messiah
- Isaiah lived around the *middle* of the kingdom of Judah
 - But his prophecies extend far beyond then




Why *Isaiah* is special

- Christians have called the book of Isaiah “**The Fifth Gospel**”
 - It has so many prophecies of Jesus, they are so vivid, and the book is quoted so much in Romans and the gospels, that you’d almost expect it to be organized with the New Testament books



Main characters

-  **Isaiah**
 - A prophet
-  **King Hezekiah**
 - Needs help
-  **Judah and Jerusalem**
 - Not doing well
-  **Assyria**
 - Enemy nation

Outline of *Isaiah*

- **Pre-exile judgment: chapters 1-39** Present
 - Judah will be judged; there is hope (1-12)
 - Judgment on the world (13-27)
 - Judgment on Jerusalem (28-33)
 - Stories about Hezekiah (36-39)
- **Post-exile comfort: chapters 40-55** Near future
 - “Comfort my people” (40)
 - The servant songs (42, 49, 50, 52/53)
- **Gospel hope: chapters 56-66** Distant future
 - “... the LORD has anointed me to bring good news...” (61:1, ESV)
 - New heavens and new earth (65)

Theology and doctrine

- How did Isaiah know about the exile?
 - Isaiah lived 100+ years before the exile to Babylon
 - Starting in chapter 40, the exile is described like it happened already and is over (**Isaiah 40:1-3**)
 - Cyrus is mentioned *by name* (**Isaiah 44:24 – 45:6**)
 - Cyrus ends the exile (**Ezra 1:1-3**)
- Of course, some say other people wrote it
 - In contrast to **Isaiah 1:1**
- But it is reasonable that Isaiah wrote it
 - It fulfills the previous chapter (**39:6-7**)
 - Exile was foretold by Moses (**Deut. 4:27-31; 30:3**)
 - Josiah was also prophesied by name (**1 Kings 13:2; 2 Kings 23:15-20**)

Recap of *Isaiah*

- **Summary**

- A book of prophecy – in both senses of the word (judgment and foretelling the messiah)

- **Why it is special**

- Called “The Fifth Gospel”

- **Main characters**

- Isaiah
- Hezekiah
- Judah and Jerusalem
- Assyria

- **Outline**

- Pre-exile judgment: **chs. 1-39**
 - (Present)
- Post-exile comfort: **chs. 40-55**
 - (Near future)
- Gospel hope: **chapters 56-66**
 - (Distant future)

- **Theology and doctrine**

- How did Isaiah know about the exile? (**Isaiah 44:24 – 45:6; Ezra 1:1-3**)

Isaiah's throne vision

Isaiah 6



Summary

Isaiah's throne vision
Isaiah 6

- Isaiah sees a vision of the Lord – and takes part in it
 - Isaiah famously says, “Here am I, send me!”






Why this story is special



- A rare description of the Lord and (some of) His heavenly servants
 - Though the *point* is probably more about the calling of Isaiah and his reactions

Main characters

-  **Isaiah**
 - Has a vision
-  **The Lord**
 - Sitting on a throne
-  **Seraphim**
 - Flying heavenly beings

Outline of *Isaiah 6*

1. **Vs 1-4:** A vision of the Lord and His servants
2. **Vs. 5-7:** Isaiah is cleansed of sin by a seraph
3. **Vs. 8-10:** Isaiah's mission of preaching
4. **Vs. 11-13:** "Lord, how long?"

In case you missed it

- **Verses 1, 8, and 11** say “Lord” (not all caps)
 - **Vs. 3, 5, and 12** say “LORD”
 - “Lord” is *Adonai*; “LORD” is *Yahweh* (YHWH)
 - Jesus notes the difference
 - (Matthew 22:43-46 quoting Psalm 110:1)
 - Though both describe the same being in **Psalm 8:1**
- Is there anything to this?
 - I don’t see any reason to dwell on it excessively
 - But some propose “Lord” refers to Christ – Jesus quotes **verses 9-10** in **Matthew 13:14-15**
 - The *Lord* “high and lifted up” in verse 1 is repeated in **Isaiah 52:13**, where it refers to Jesus (“my servant”)

In case you missed it

- This is not in heaven... apparently
 - It's the temple
 - **Verse 1** says, “the train of his robe filled the temple” (ESV)
 - **Verse 4**, “And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke” (ESV)
 - Yet there is room for a six-winged creature to fly around
 - If this is in the Most Holy Place, it's a 30-foot cube (**1 Kings 6:20**), and the two *cherubim*'s wings touched each other and the walls (**1 Kings 6:27**)
 - But let's not overthink this. God is not bound by walls.

Theology and doctrine

- Heavenly beings around the throne
 - The vision in Isaiah 6 is of seraphim
 - That's plural – one is a seraph
 - Seraphim only appear *by name* in Isaiah 6, and likely are the same as the creatures in **Revelation 4:8**
 - FAR more common are the cherubim
 - **Psalm 99:1**, “The LORD... sits enthroned upon the cherubim” (ESV)
 - That's meant in a VERY real sense in **Ezekiel 10:1** – the cherubim literally held up the flying throne
 - But also, there were golden cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant, on the “*mercy seat*,” where the LORD would come to (**Exodus 25:22**)

Recap of *Isaiah 6*

- **Summary**

- Isaiah sees a vision of the Lord – and takes part in it

- **Why it is special**

- A rare description of the Lord and (some of) His heavenly servants

- **Main characters**

- Isaiah
- The Lord
- Seraphim

- **Outline**

1. Vs 1-4: A vision of the Lord and His servants
2. Vs. 5-7: Isaiah is cleansed of sin by a seraph
3. Vs. 8-10: Isaiah's mission of preaching
4. Vs. 11-13: "Lord, how long?"

- **In case you missed it**

- This is not in heaven

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Seraphim vs. cherubim

Poem: The first “Servant Song”

Isaiah 42:1-9

- There are four “servant songs” in Isaiah
 - In chapters 42, 49, 50 and 52-53
- They are quoted in the New Testament books as being about Christ
 - “A bruised reed shall he not break” (KJV)
 - (42:3 → Matthew 12:20)
 - “I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles” (KJV)
 - (49:6 → Acts 13:47)
 - “I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting” (ESV)
 - (50:6 → Matthew 26:67)
 - And you know Isaiah 53