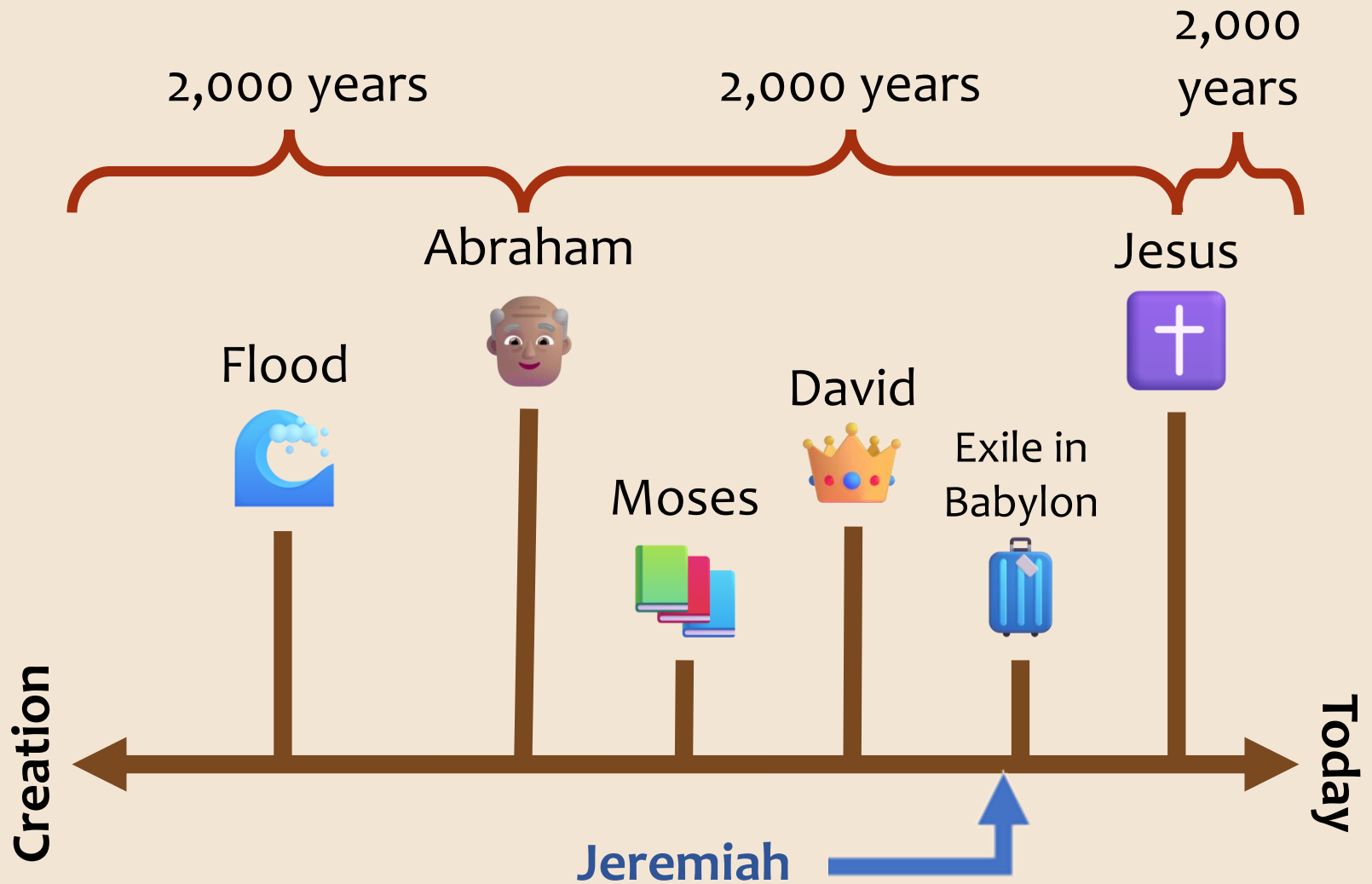




The Book of Jeremiah

Bible timeline



Summary

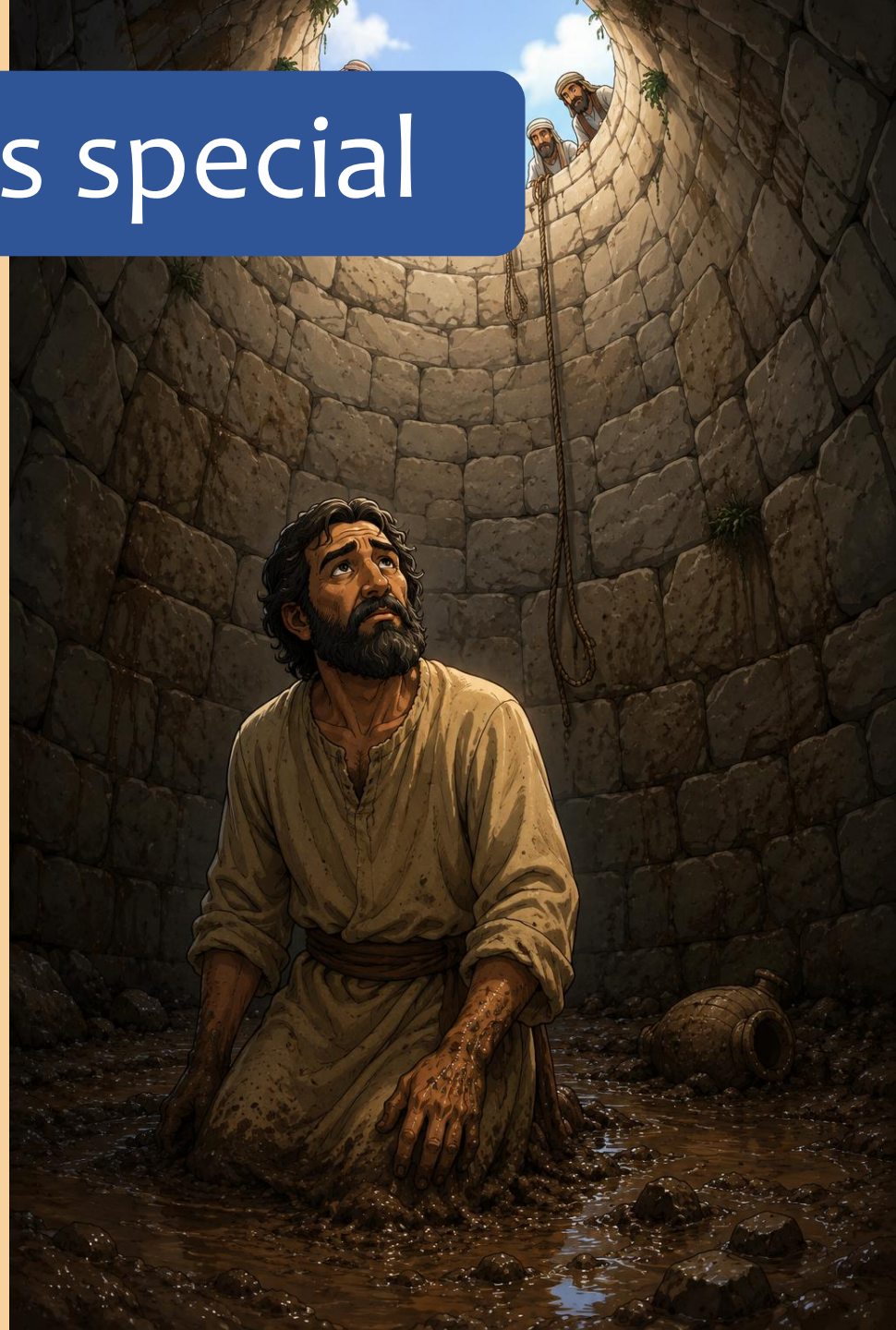
Jeremiah

- A man named **Jeremiah** spent about 40 years warning Judah to repent, and that **Babylon** would destroy them






Why *Jeremiah* is special

- Christians tend to recall **the prophecy of 70 years of captivity** (chapter 25), **the New Covenant** (31),
 - And the Branch (23 and 33)
- But the book is probably more notable for Jeremiah the person and his persecution as a prophet. He is known as the weeping prophet:
 - Was told to not marry (16:2)
 - Had death threats from the king and priests and prophets (26:8, 21)
 - Cast into a well (38:6)
 - Captive to Egypt (43:6-7)



Main characters

-  **Jeremiah**
 - Prophet of God
 - Everyone hates him
-  **Baruch**
 - Scribe of Jeremiah (36:4)
-  **Zedekiah**
 - Final king of Judah (before Babylon took charge)

Outline of *Jeremiah*

- Call of Jeremiah: **chapter 1** **Stories**
- Judgment on Judah: **chs. 2-25** **Speeches**
 - Chs. 2-10: Judah failed
 - Chs. 11-20: Jeremiah and God speak back and forth
 - Chs. 21-25: Judah's leaders failed
- Jeremiah is enemy of the leaders: **chs. 26-29** **Stories**
- New Covenant hope: **chs. 30-33** **Speeches**
 - Called the Book of Consolation
- Jeremiah is enemy of the leaders: **chs. 34-45** **Stories**
- Judgment on other nations: **chs. 46-51** **Speeches**
- Babylon captures Jerusalem: **chapter 52** **Stories**

Theology and doctrine

- Our books of the Bible are edited (righteously)
 - The Bible never says its books were a single draft by a single human author; the evidence is the opposite
- *Jeremiah* was a compilation
 - **Chapter 36** seems to indicate how (**vs. 1-2, 32**)
 - **Chapter 52** is almost identical to **2 Kings 24:18-25:30**
 - **Jeremiah 51:64** ends, “Thus far are the words of Jeremiah” in KJV, ESV and NASB; NIV says, “The words of Jeremiah end here.”
- Other books show marks of editing or collaboration
 - About 92 OT verses contain the phrase “to this day”
 - **Romans 1:1** says it is from Paul, but the end of the book mentions “I Tertius, who wrote this letter” (**16:22 ESV**)
 - **Deuteronomy** is the last of the five “books of Moses,” yet it ends with the death and burial of Moses (**34:5-6**) and that, “the people of Israel wept for Moses... thirty days” (**34:8, ESV**)

Recap of *Jeremiah*

- **Summary**

- Jeremiah spent about 40 years warning Judah that Babylon would destroy them

- **Why it is special**

- Prophecies of 70 years of captivity and the New Covenant
- Jeremiah's personal suffering

- **Main characters**

- Jeremiah
- Baruch
- Zedekiah

- **Outline**

1. Call of Jeremiah: **chapter 1**
2. Judgment on Judah: **chs. 2-25**
3. Jeremiah is enemy of the leaders: **chs. 26-29**
4. New Covenant hope: **chs. 30-33**
5. Jeremiah is enemy of the leaders: **chs. 34-45**
6. Judgment on other nations: **chs. 46-51**
7. Babylon captures Jerusalem: **chapter 52**

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Our books of the Bible are edited/compiled (**Jeremiah 36**)

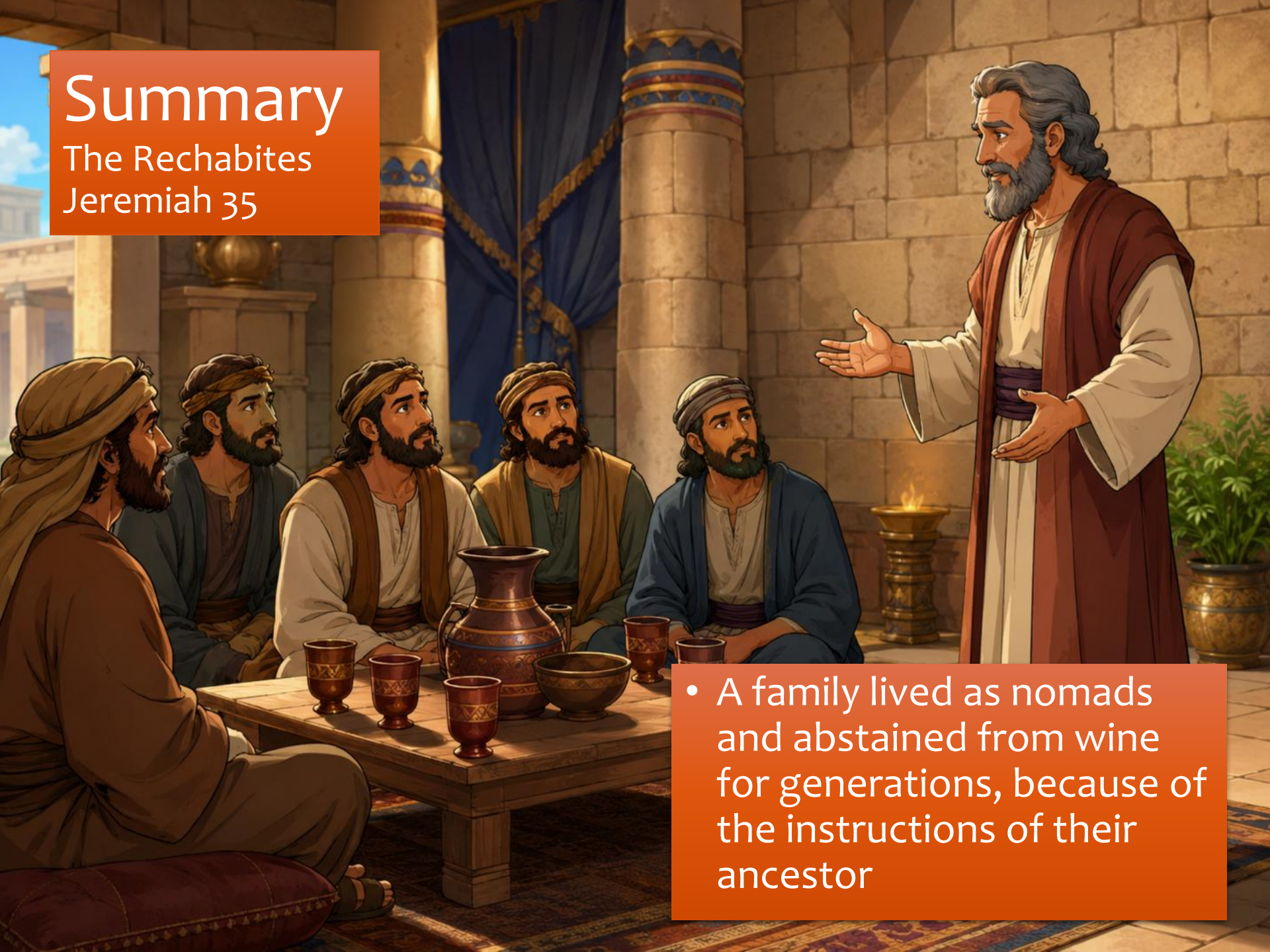
The Rechabites

Jeremiah 35



Summary

The Rechabites
Jeremiah 35






- A family lived as nomads and abstained from wine for generations, because of the instructions of their ancestor

Why this story is special

- Promises can be kept beyond our lifetimes
 - Organizations often are held together only by a charismatic leader, and once he leaves, the unity disappears. But a *legacy* is built from following guiding principles for generations.
 - Israel/Judah needed that then. And the church needs this today.



Main characters

-  **Jeremiah**
 - Prophet
-  **Rechabites**
 - Nomadic clan adopted into the Israelites long ago
-  **Judah**
 - Hard-headed

Outline of *Jeremiah 35*

1. **Vs. 1-5** – The LORD tells Jeremiah to serve wine to the Rechabite family
2. **Vs. 6-10** – They refuse because of a promise made by an ancestor
3. **V. 11** – They found refuge there (the *city* of Jerusalem) since Babylon is attacking [the rural areas]
4. **Vs. 12-17** – The LORD wants Judah to see the obedience of the Rechabites for generations, in contrast to Judah's sins
5. **Vs. 18-19** – A blessing on the Rechabites

In case you missed it

- Who are the Rechabites?
- It's complicated
 - They are *Kenites* (**1 Chronicles 2:55**)
 - Kenites are “descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses” (**Judges 4:11** ESV)
 - So, in origin, they are not Israelites (not descended from Jacob)
 - But they lived in Israel (**Judges 1:16**)
 - And were shown kindness by Israel (**1 Samuel 15:6**)
- So they were somewhat adopted into Israel, by “common law”
 - Not “officially” or by blood, but by *tradition*
 - But they didn't overstep their welcome

Theology and doctrine

- This echoes the adoption of Gentiles into the church
 - **Romans 11:13-24**

Recap of *Jeremiah 35*

• Summary

- A family lived as nomads and abstained from wine for generations because of their ancestor

• Why it is special

- Promises can be kept beyond our lifetimes

• Main characters

- Jeremiah
- Rechabites
- Judah

• Outline

1. **Vs. 1-5** – Go serve wine to the Rechabite family
2. **Vs. 6-10** – They refuse because of a promise made by an ancestor
3. **V. 11** – They are hiding from Babylon
4. **Vs. 12-17** – The obedience of the Rechabites for generations, in contrast to Judah's sins
5. **Vs. 18-19** – A blessing on the Rechabites

• In case you missed it

- The Rechabites were descended from Moses' father-in-law and informally adopted into Israel

• Theology and doctrine

- This echoes the adoption of Gentiles into the church (**Romans 11:13-24**)

Poem: Lamentations 2

Jerusalem will be punished

- *Lamentations* is traditionally thought to be written by Jeremiah
 - It is a book of 5 poems (one per chapter)
 - First 4 are acrostic – verses begin with successive letters of the (Hebrew) alphabet
 - The fifth one... it's complicated
- Outline of Lamentations 2:
 - Vs. 1-9: The LORD became Jerusalem's enemy
 - Vs. 10-12: People in Jerusalem are miserable
 - Vs. 13-16: You, Jerusalem, are a shell of your former self
 - Vs. 17-19: And you need to be repenting to God
 - Vs. 20-22: Hey God, it's getting really bad over there— don't You want to do something?