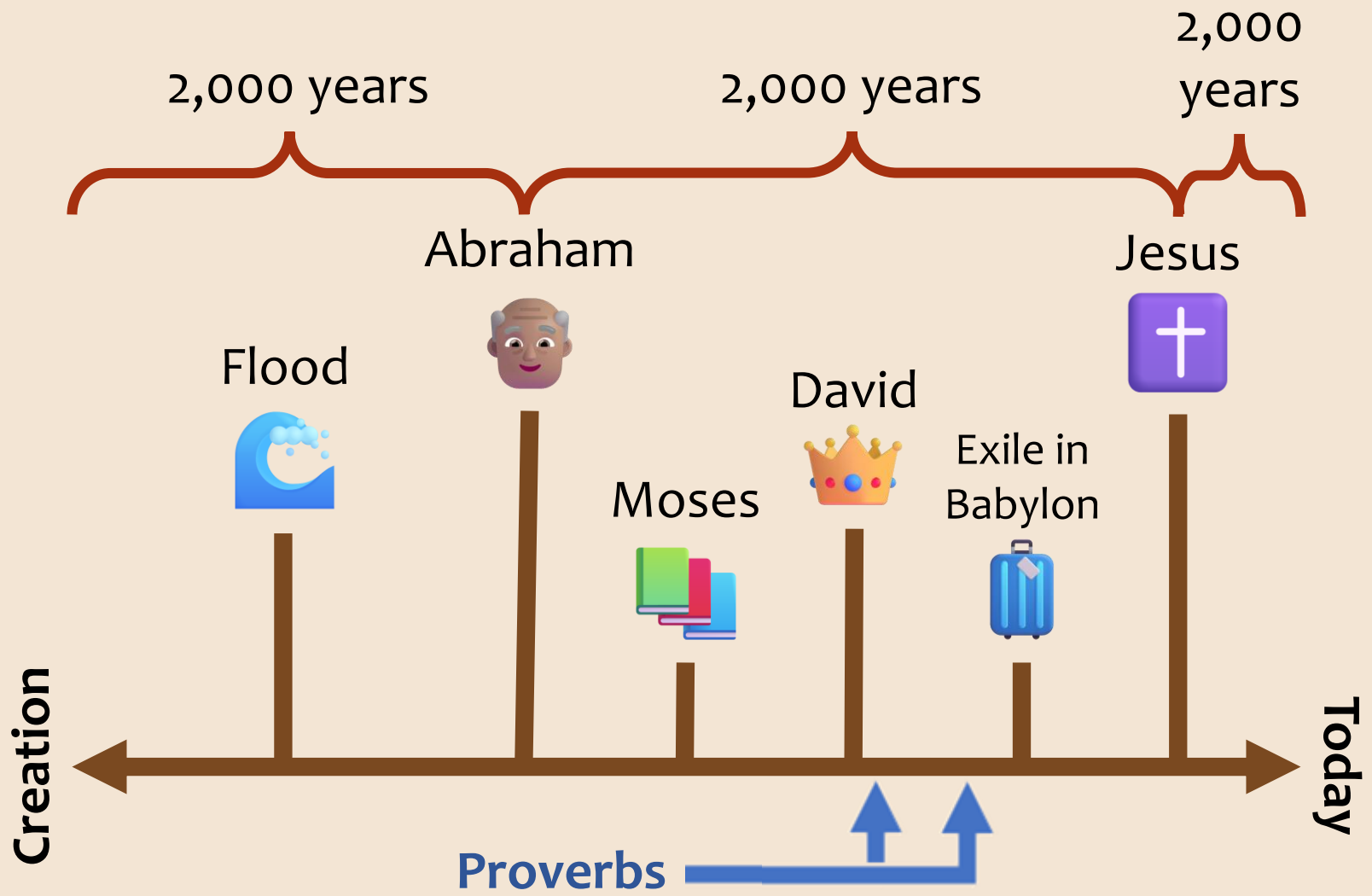


The Book of Proverbs



Bible timeline



Summary

Proverbs

- A book about wisdom.
- This is done with “proverbs” – which are short sayings of wisdom – as well as poems







Why Proverbs is special

- It's direct.
 - Poems and stories usually make you work – hard – for the meaning and application.
 - Even other Bible prose (letters and sermons) can be hard to understand.
 - But the proverbs say simply “this is good and this is bad.”



Main characters

-  **Solomon**
 - Main named author
 - Was wise (*ahem*)
-  **Father and son**
 - The dynamic of much of the advice
-  **Lady wisdom**
 - Wisdom is *personified* as a woman in the first 9 chapters
-  **Forbidden woman**
 - Bad news for the young man getting the advice

Outline of *Proverbs*

- **Poems: chapters 1-9**

- Father to son
- Seek lady wisdom
- Run from the adulterous woman

- **Proverbs: chapters 10-29**

- Short wise sayings
- Rarely more than 2 verses in a row on the same topic

- **Poems: chapters 30-31**

- “The words of Agur” – chapter 30
- “The words of king Lemuel... that his mother taught him” – chapter 31

Theology and doctrine

- It's not ONLY helpful advice and life hacks
 - Choose friends wisely, **Proverbs 22:24–25**
 - Words are powerful, **Proverbs 18:21**
 - Work hard, **Proverbs 6:10-11**
- Like all of the Bible, it teaches us God's character and what He wants from us
 - “Every one *that is* proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD,” **Proverbs 16:5**, KJV
 - “Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker,” **Proverbs 14:31**, ESV
 - “To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice,” **Proverbs 21:3**, NASB

Recap of *Proverbs*

- **Summary**

- A book about wisdom

- **Why it is special**

- It is direct

- **Main characters**

- Solomon
- Father and son
- Lady Wisdom
- Forbidden woman

- **Outline**

- Poems: **chapters 1-9**
- Proverbs: **chapters 10-29**
- Poems: **chapters 30-31**

- **Theology and doctrine**

- It's not ONLY helpful advice and life hacks



Solomon's Wisdom

1 Kings 3

Summary

Solomon's Wisdom
1 Kings 3

- Solomon asks for wisdom... and gets it in abundance





Why this story is special



- Solomon is the picture of wisdom... and its opposite
 - He had the wisdom... to ask for wisdom
 - Yet some things seem a little off at the beginning of the story

Main characters

-  **Solomon**
 - New king
 - Asks for wisdom
-  **Two women and a baby**
 - Women are fighting over whose child it is

Outline of *1 Kings 3*

1. **Vs. 1-4:** Solomon does some suspicious things
2. **V. 5:** God asks Solomon
3. **Vs. 6-9:** Solomon asks for wisdom to govern
4. **Vs. 10-14:** God gives him that and more
5. **V. 15:** Solomon celebrates... like a priest?
6. **Vs. 16-22:** Two women bring a case to Solomon
7. **Vs. 23-28:** Solomon uses his wisdom to settle the matter

In case you missed it

- Solomon's warning signs (**vs. 1-4**)
 - Marrying an Egyptian
 - Not forbidden, but...
 - Canaanites are, **Deuteronomy 7:1-4**
 - Other nations are also trouble (**Deuteronomy 23:3**; compare **Nehemiah 13:23-27**)
 - Sacrificing on the high places
 - Not forbidden. For a time, the altar was on a “high place” separated from the ark (**2 Chronicles 1:3-13**)
 - But “high places” (notice the plural) become evidence of pagan worship (**2 Kings 17:9-12**)
 - Good kings are judged for not removing them (**1 Kings 15:14, 22:43**; **2 Kings 12:3, 14:4, 15:4, 15:35**; compare **2 Kings 18:4-5**)
 - Solomon later sins just as expected
 - **1 Kings 11:1-9**
 - He married women definitely forbidden
 - He built high places for pagan gods

Theology and doctrine

- Solomon still did the right thing in asking for wisdom
 - It's ironic that he had serious early lapses in judgment
 - But he still knew the importance of wisdom
 - Wisdom is not what made him fall
 - Arguably, he should have followed his own wisdom
 - He explores this in the book of Ecclesiastes (**Ecclesiastes 7:25-26**, for example)

Recap of 1 Kings 3

- **Summary**

- Solomon asks for wisdom... and gets it in abundance

- **Why it is special**

- Solomon is the picture of wisdom, and its opposite

- **Main characters**

- Solomon
- Two women and a baby

- **In case you missed it**

- Warning signs (vs. 1-4)
- **Deuteronomy 7:1-4**
- **2 Kings 17:9-12**
- **1 Kings 11:1-9**

- **Outline**

1. **Vs. 1-4:** Solomon does some suspicious things
2. **V. 5:** God asks Solomon
3. **Vs. 6-9:** Solomon asks for wisdom to govern
4. **Vs. 10-14:** God gives him that and more
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6. **Vs. 16-22:** Two women bring a case to Solomon
7. **Vs. 23-28:** Solomon uses his wisdom

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Solomon still did the right thing in asking for wisdom
- **Ecclesiastes 7:25-26**

Poem: Proverbs 8

Wisdom's speech

- Wisdom *personified* as a woman
- **Vs. 1-3:** Wisdom calls
- **Vs. 4-11:** Listen to me
- **Vs. 12-21:** Look how well it turns out if you listen
- **Vs. 22-31:** Wisdom is as old as creation
- **Vs. 32-36:** Wisdom will save your soul

