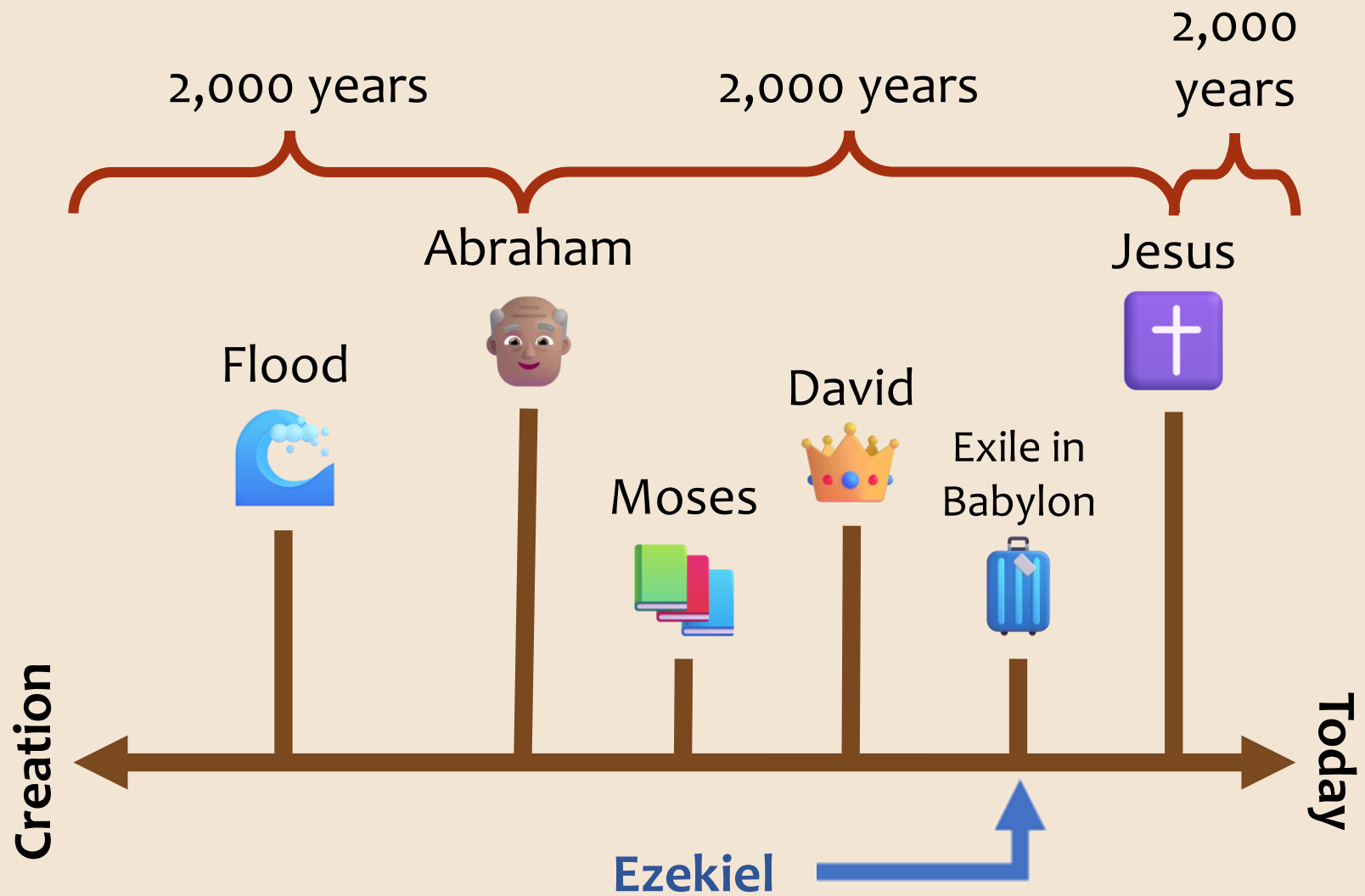


The Book of Ezekiel



Bible timeline



Summary

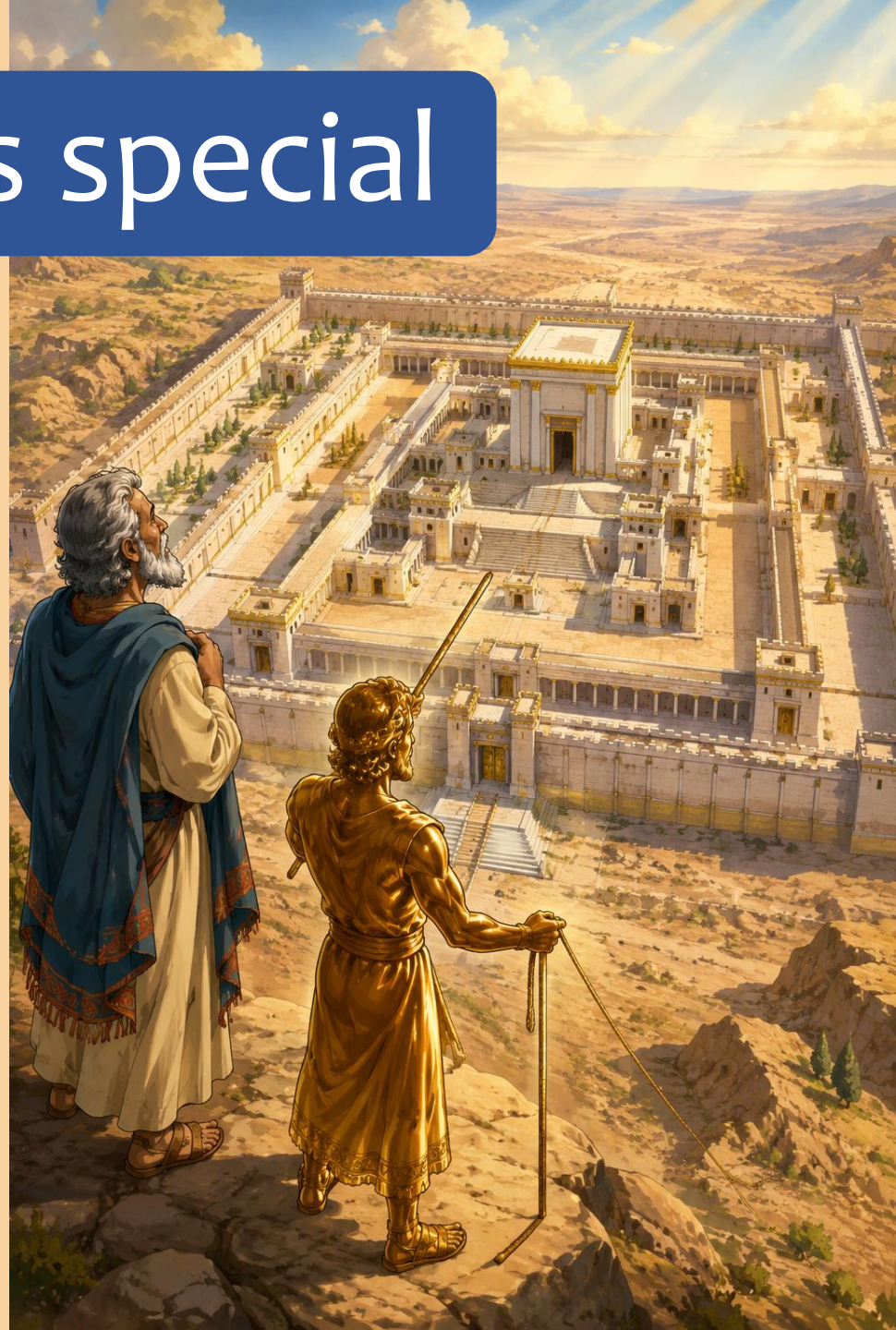
Ezekiel

- Ezekiel prophesies to the exiles in Babylon, and sees some amazing visions
 - And does a few weird “sign-acts,” like this in chapter 4



Why Ezekiel is special

- He is in exile before Jersuaalem falls
 - But the LORD is there, too (see **chapter 1**)
- This is an unusual perspective
 - False prophets *in Babylon* (very likely) were saying this exile will not be long (**Jeremiah 29:4-10**; cf **28:2**)
 - Ezekiel tells the people to wake up (**Ezekiel 13:9-10, 16**)
 - Soon they see he was right (**Ezekiel 33:21, 29**)



Main characters

-  **Ezekiel**
 - Prophet
 - Priest (**Ezekiel 1:3**)
 - Possibly starting on his 30th birthday (**1:1-2**; cf **Num. 4:3**)
-  **The (first) exiles**
 - Waiting for this to all pass by
-  **Jewish leaders**
 - Some in exile, some in Judah
 - Do terrible things

Outline of *Ezekiel*

Before this book: 1st captivity; Ezekiel was part of this

- **Chapters 1-24: Everything is bad**

- Chs. 1-3: Ezekiel is called
- Chs. 4-7: Some weird prophesying
- Chs. 8-11: Temple vision
- Chs. 12-24: Various prophecies (doom!)

Fall of Jerusalem; 2nd captivity

- **Chapters 25-48: Justice and Restoration**

- Chs. 25-32: Judgment on other nations
- Ch. 33: Recap and news: Jerusalem was taken
- Chs. 34-39: Prophecies, but with hope
- Chs. 40-48: A new temple and promised land (symbolic)

Theology and doctrine

- The glory of the LORD
 - It's... a presence? ...that moves around
- In *Ezekiel*:
 - 1:28 It's around the floating throne... in Babylon
 - 3:23 In a valley
 - 8:4 Back in Jerusalem (inner court)
 - 9:3 Entrance of the temple
 - 10:18 Back to the floating throne
 - 11:23 To a mountain east of Jerusalem
 - 43:4-5 Enters and fills the (symbolic) temple
 - 44:4 Again fills the temple

Theology and doctrine

The visions – and their connection to *Revelation*

Ezekiel	Revelation	Scene
1:26-28	4:2-3	Rainbow around throne
1:5–14	4:6–8	Four living creatures
1:22	4:6	Crystal expanse/sea
3:3, 14	10:9-10	Eating "bittersweet" scroll
9:4	7:2-3	Marks on forehead
27:27-36	18:11-17	Wealthy city
37:27	21:3	They shall be my people
38–39	20:7–10	Gog and Magog
40:2–5	21:10, 15	Measure temple; high mountain
47:1, 12	22:1–2	River of life
48:30–35	21:12–14	Twelve gates and tribes

Recap of *Ezekiel*

- **Summary**

- Ezekiel prophesies to the exiles in Babylon, and sees some amazing visions

- **Why it is special**

- He is in exile before Jerusalem falls

- **Main characters**

- Ezekiel
- Exiles
- Jewish leaders

- **Outline**

- **Chs. 1-24:** Everything is bad
- **Chs. 25-48:** Justice and Restoration

- **Theology and doctrine**

- The glory of the LORD travels through the book
- Many visions are identical or extremely similar to scenes in the book of Revelation

Temple Abomination Vision

Ezekiel 8



Summary

Temple Abomination Vision Ezekiel 8

- Ezekiel is whisked around by a heavenly being, to see the terrible things done in the temple in Jerusalem
 - But no one can see Ezekiel, it seems
 - It's like "A Christmas Carol," where the ghost shows what life is like without the main character...
 - ...but this seems to actually be happening



Why this story is special



- It's devastating
 - The corruption is worse than any may have imagined
 - Ezekiel might be glad he is NOT in Jerusalem after all

Main characters

-  **Ezekiel**
 - Fly on the wall
-  **The hand of the LORD**
 - Ezekiel's tour guide
 - Called “the Spirit” in verse 3 and throughout chapter 11
-  **70 elders of Israel**
 - Worshiping idolatry... in the temple... in the dark

Outline of *Ezekiel* 8

(This is part of one long vision from chapters 8-11)

1. **Vs. 1-3** The hand yanks Ezekiel away

Four “abominations,” getting progressively worse

2. **Vs. 3-6** An “image of jealousy” near the altar gate
3. **Vs. 7-13** The 70 elders and their idolatry
4. **Vs. 14-15** “Women weeping for Tammuz” (a false god)
5. **Vs. 16-17** Sun worshipers at the entrance of the temple
6. **V. 18** God promises wrath

In case you missed it

- “Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan” is singled out in **Ezekiel 8:11**. Why?
- From *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*:
 - Shaphan the scribe was the person who read the Book of the Law found in the temple to king Josiah (**2 Kings 22:10**).
 - A son of his son Ahikam acted along with him and was a protector of Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 39:14**),
 - and another son is mentioned (**Jeremiah 36:10**) as having a chamber in the upper court where Baruch read Jeremiah’s roll in the ears of the people.
 - If Jaazaniah was a son of *this* Shaphan, he pursued a different course from his father and brothers.

[Text reformatted]

Theology and doctrine

- Condemnation of ungodly leadership
 - The prophets *really* hammer this in – as does Jesus
 - **Isaiah 56:10-12**, Israel's "watchmen are blind... without knowledge... they never have enough. But they are *shepherds*..." (ESV)
 - **Jeremiah 23:1-4** "Woe be unto the *pastors* that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD." (KJV)
 - **Ezekiel 34**, "Woe, *shepherds* of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?" (NASB)
 - **Micah 3** "Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?" (ESV)
 - **Malachi 1:1-10**, "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle *fire on My altar*!" (NASB)
 - **Matthew 23**, "woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (KJV)

Recap of *Ezekiel* 8

- **Summary**

- Ezekiel is whisked around by a heavenly being, to see the terrible things done in the temple in Jerusalem

- **Why it is special**

- It's devastating

- **Main characters**

- Ezekiel
- The Spirit (or a hand?)
- 70 elders of Israel

- **In case you missed it**

- Shaphan was a good person (**2 Kings 22:10**); his son was not (**Ezekiel 8:11**)

- **Outline**

1. **Vs. 1-3** The hand yanks Ezekiel away
2. **Vs. 3-6** An “image of jealousy” near the altar gate
3. **Vs. 7-13** The 70 elders and their idolatry
4. **Vs. 14-15** “Women weeping for Tammuz” (a false god)
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- **Theology and doctrine**

- Condemnation of ungodly leadership is big with the prophets, including Jesus

Poem: Ezekiel 28:1-10

Prophecy against the prince of Tyre

- Chapters 26-28 are all prophecy against Tyre
 - This focuses on “the prince”; another section condemns the king
- Tyre was a prosperous city northwest of Judah (an enemy city)
- Interesting reference to Daniel in verse 3
 - He lived in Babylon at the same time as Ezekiel
 - Compare chapter 14 (vs. 14 and 20), “even *though* these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could *only* deliver themselves” (**Ezekiel 14:14** NASB)