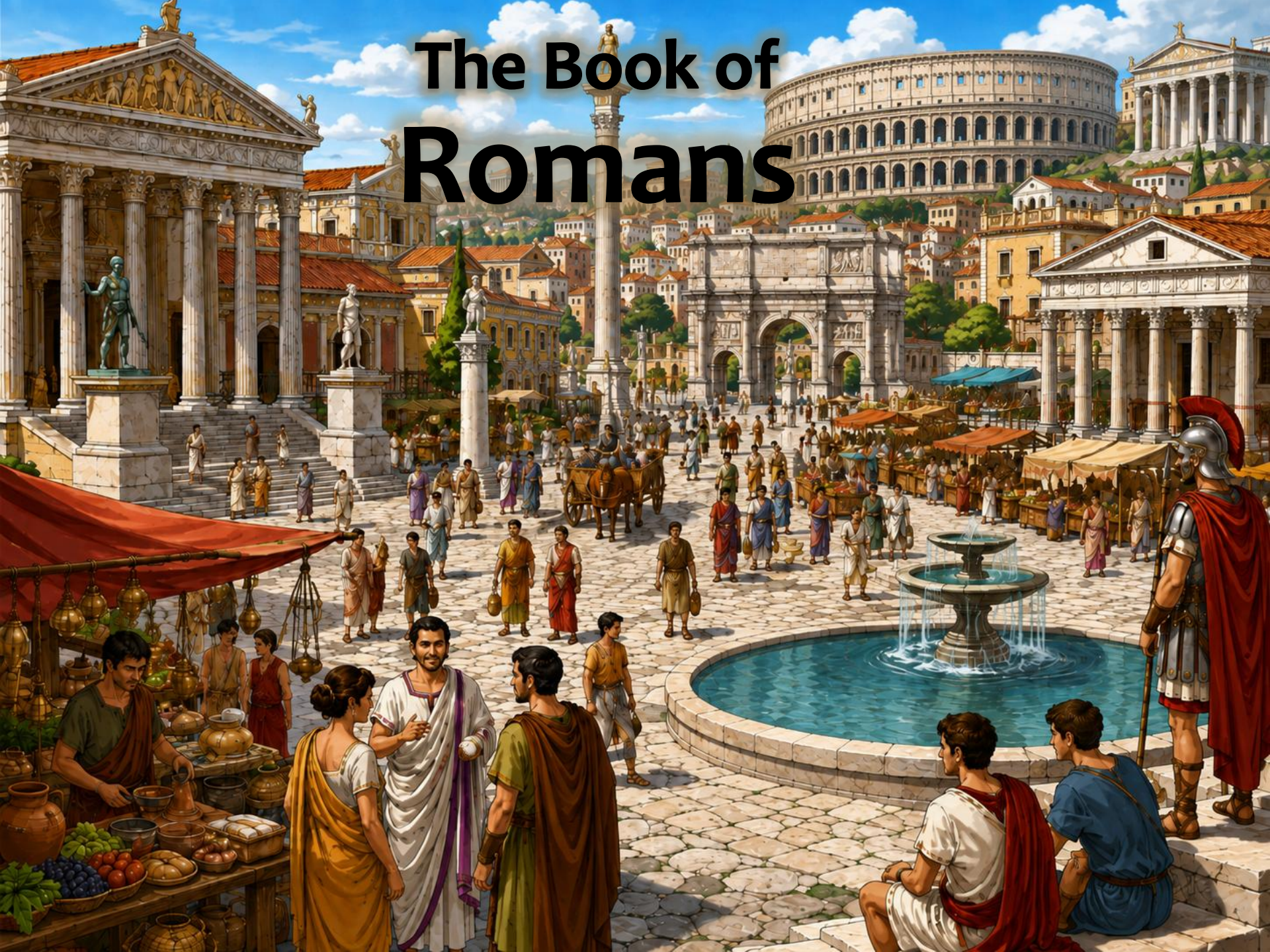
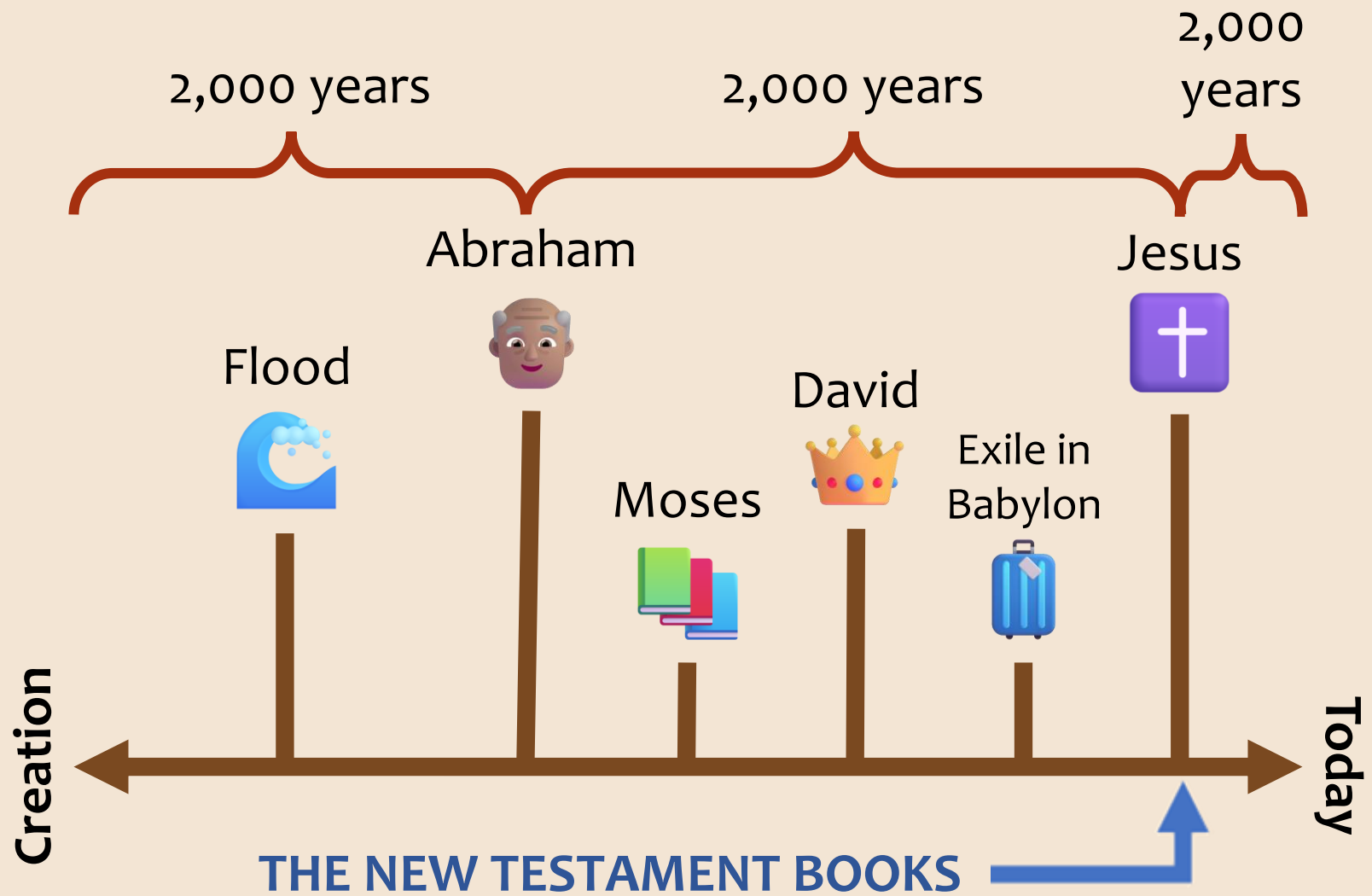


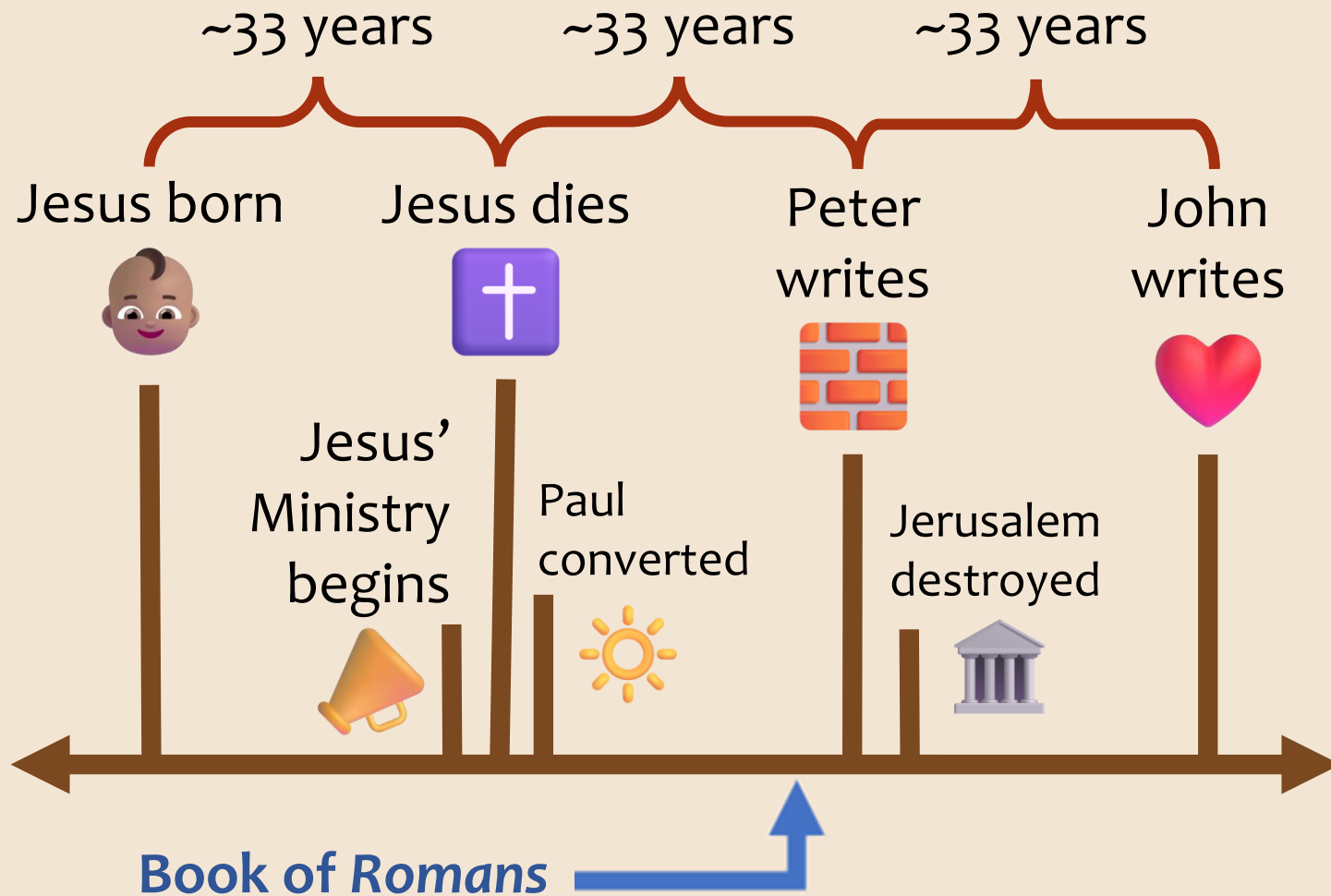
The Book of Romans



Bible timeline



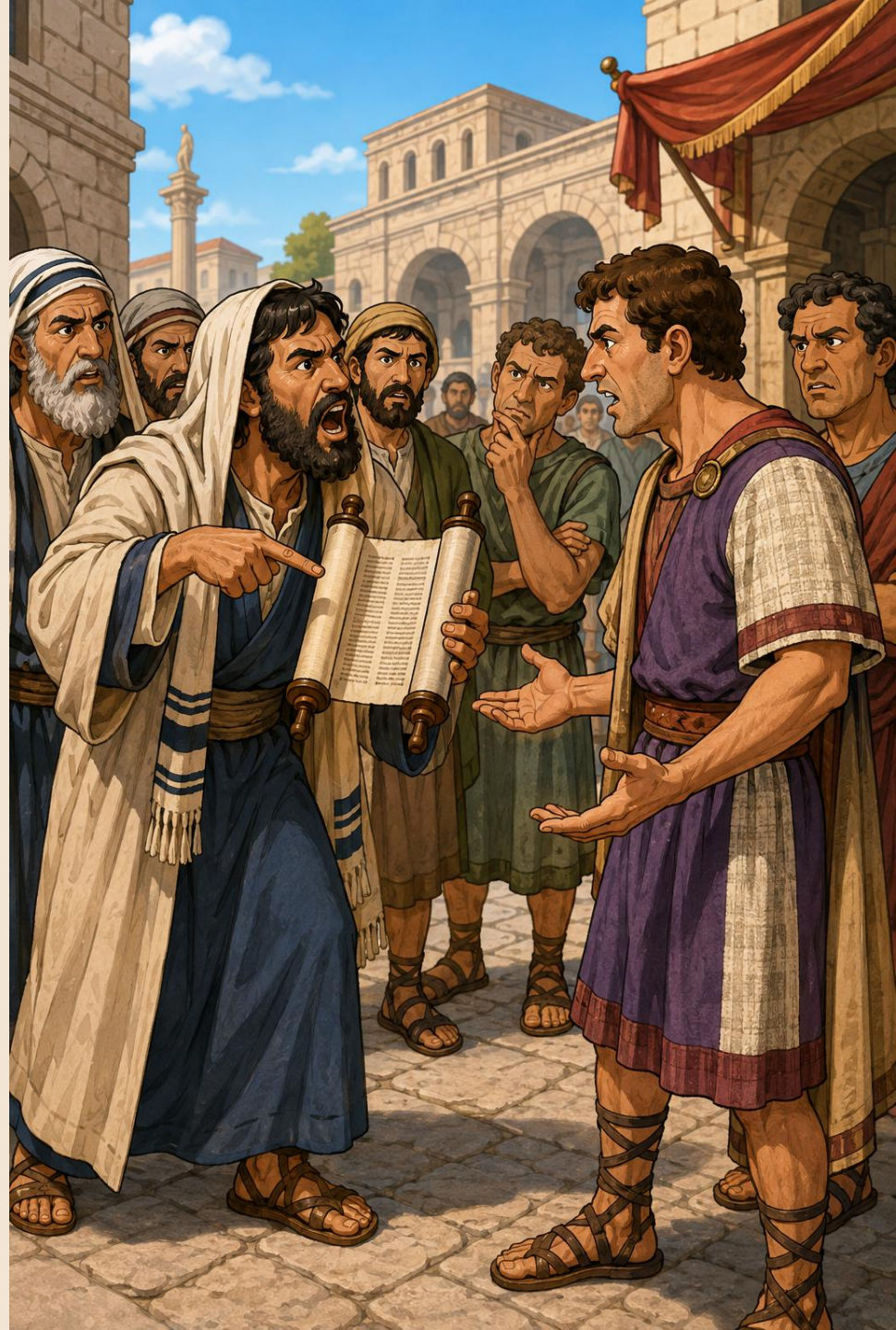
Bible timeline



Summary

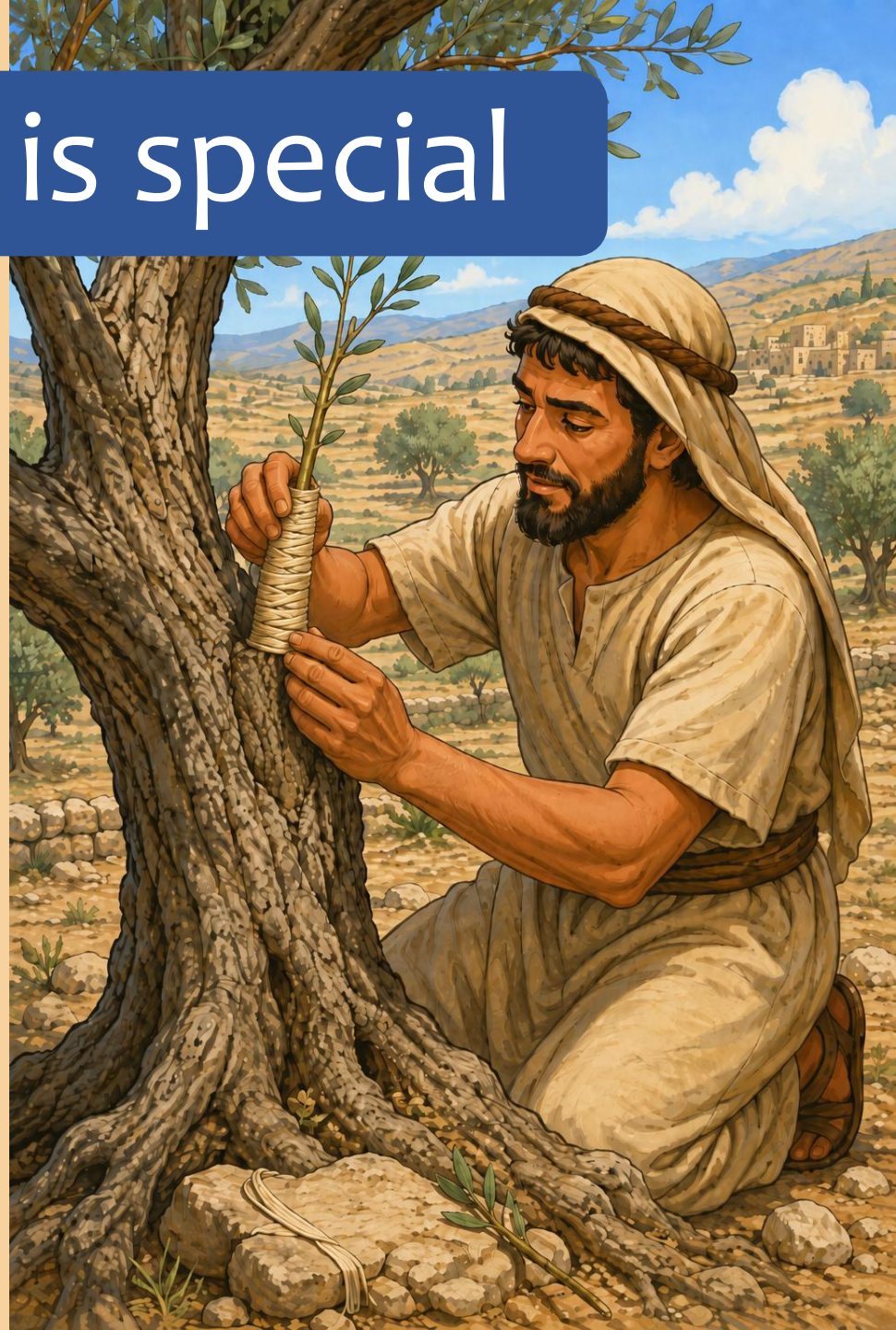
Romans

- Paul wants the Christians in Rome to get along, despite any differences.
- He supports this in many ways:
 - We have all sinned (3:23)
 - Abraham was blessed before circumcision (4:9-10)
 - We are different members of one body (12:4-5)
 - We need to respect differences (**chapter 14**)



Why Romans is special

- It is probably the deepest book in the New Testament
 - Or to sound more academic, the ESV Study Bible raves, “*As a theological treatise, the book of Romans is a grand edifice...*” (2008).
 - But in English, it explains the need for Jesus from ground zero – we all sin and are not right with God, but God both judges and pardons, if we are in Christ.



Main characters

-  **Paul the apostle**
 - Author
 - Never met these people (1:10)
-  **Jews (in Rome)**
 - Deserve to be here – right?
-  **Gentiles (in Rome)**
 - Grafted in
-  **Abraham (as a memory)**
 - Father of Jews and Gentiles

Outline of *Romans*

- **Chapters 1-8: Sin and justification**
 - Chapters 1-4: What is righteousness and justification?
 - Chapters 5-7: Dying to sin (in many senses)
 - Chapter 8: The point of it all: Life in the Spirit
- **Chapters 9-11: Is God unfair to the Jews?**
- **Chapters 12-16: Practical advice**
 - Chapter 12: Be nice
 - Chapter 13: Obey leaders
 - Chapters 14-15: Respect each other's opinions
 - Chapters 15-16: Instructions to the saints there

Theology and doctrine

- “Justification” and “Righteous-ification”
 - Greek word family is *dikaio*, *dikaio**syne*, *dikaioo*, etc.
 - About 65x in Romans – by far the most
 - (Matthew is next at 27x)
 - It is not obvious in English that this is one word family
 - “Righteous” means, “in the right”
 - How do you make that a verb? “Righteousify”? Nope – not in English!
 - Instead, the word is “justify”
 - You can see the difficulty especially in **Romans 3:26**,
 - “It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” (ESV)
 - To be consistent, the translators could avoid “righteous” and “righteousness” and say “just” and justice”
 - But then “justice” sounds like a cop in an action movie

Recap of *Romans*

- **Summary**

- Paul wants the Christians in Rome to get along despite any differences

- **Why it is special**

- It is probably the deepest book in the New Testament

- **Main characters**

- Paul
- Jews
- Gentiles
- Abraham (as a memory)

- **Outline**

- **Chapters 1-8:** Sin and justification
- **Chapters 9-11:** Is God unfair to the Jews?
- **Chapters 12-16:** Practical advice

- **Theology and doctrine**

- “Justification” and “righteousness” are the same basic words in Greek

Abraham's Covenant

Genesis 15



Summary

Abraham's Covenant
Genesis 15

- Abraham (Abram) believes God's promise that he will have many descendants, and they will inhabit Canaan
 - He performs a sacrifice and God passes through it, showing His approval.
 - But at the moment he has no descendants... and the land won't be theirs for 400 years.





Why this story is special

- Abraham “believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness,” verse 6 (ESV)
 - This verse is cited 4 times in the New Testament books: **Romans 4:3** and **22**; **Galatians 3:6**; **James 2:23**

Main characters

-  **Abraham**
 - Called *Abram* in the story
 - Between 75-85 years old at this point
-  **The LORD**
 - Speaks to Abram
 - Almost certainly the fire that passes through the sacrifice

Outline of *Genesis 15*

1. **Verses 1-6:** Abram promised many descendants
2. **Verses 7-8:** Abram promised much land
3. **Verses 9-10:** Abram sacrifices
4. **Verses 11-16:** A prophecy of oppression for the descendants, until they come back to the land
5. **Verse 17:** Fire passes through the sacrifice – a manifestation of the LORD
6. **Verses 18-21:** A covenant “with Abram” of the land to be given to the descendants

In case you missed it

- It doesn't say "the LORD" passed through
 - But how did the pot and torch just float on by unless there was something divine happening?
 - Also, smoke and fire sounds like the pillars of cloud and fire (**Exodus 13:21-22**) which were the LORD
- The animals were divided, but the birds were not
 - Somewhat like the law of Moses, where animal sacrifices were cut apart, but birds were sacrificed whole

Theology and doctrine

- The Hebrew phrase for *making a covenant* is literally “cutting a covenant” – not just here, but through the OT – possibly originating from this story
- It’s a binding promise, like a contract; some say it implies a relationship is established also
- Marriage is a covenant (**Malachi 2:14**, “your wife by covenant”)

Covenant	Principal passages	Covenant sign or confirmation
Noah	Genesis 6:18; 9:8–17	Rainbow
Abraham	Genesis 15:18; 17:1–14	Circumcision
Moses	Exodus 19:3–8; 24:3–8; Deuteronomy 4:13	Sabbath; covenant blood
Priesthood	Numbers 25:10–13; Malachi 2:4–5	Perpetual priesthood
David	2 Samuel 23:5; Psalm 89:3–4, 28–37	Enduring royal line
New covenant	Jeremiah 31:31–34; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8–10	Jesus’ blood; the Lord’s Supper as remembrance

Recap of Genesis 15

- **Summary**

- Abraham believes God's promise that he will have many descendants and they will inhabit Canaan

- **Why it is special**

- Abraham *"believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness,"* verse 6 (ESV)

- **Main characters**

- Abram
- The LORD

- **Theology and doctrine**

- The Hebrew phrase for *making a covenant* is literally "cutting a covenant"

- **Outline**

1. **Verses 1-6:** Abram promised many descendants
2. **Verses 7-8:** Abram promised much land
3. **Verses 9-10:** Abram sacrifices
4. **Verses 11-16:** A prophecy of oppression for the descendants, until they come back to the land
5. **Verse 17:** Fire passes through the sacrifice
6. **Verses 18-21:** A covenant of the land to be given to the descendants

- **In case you missed it**

- It doesn't say "the LORD" passed through
- The animals were divided, but the birds were not

Poem: Psalm 19

The words of God

- Outline

- Verses 1-6: Creation speaks about God
- Verses 7-9: The law of the LORD is perfect
- Verses 10-11: It's good to listen to those words
- Verses 12-14: I need to do what is right