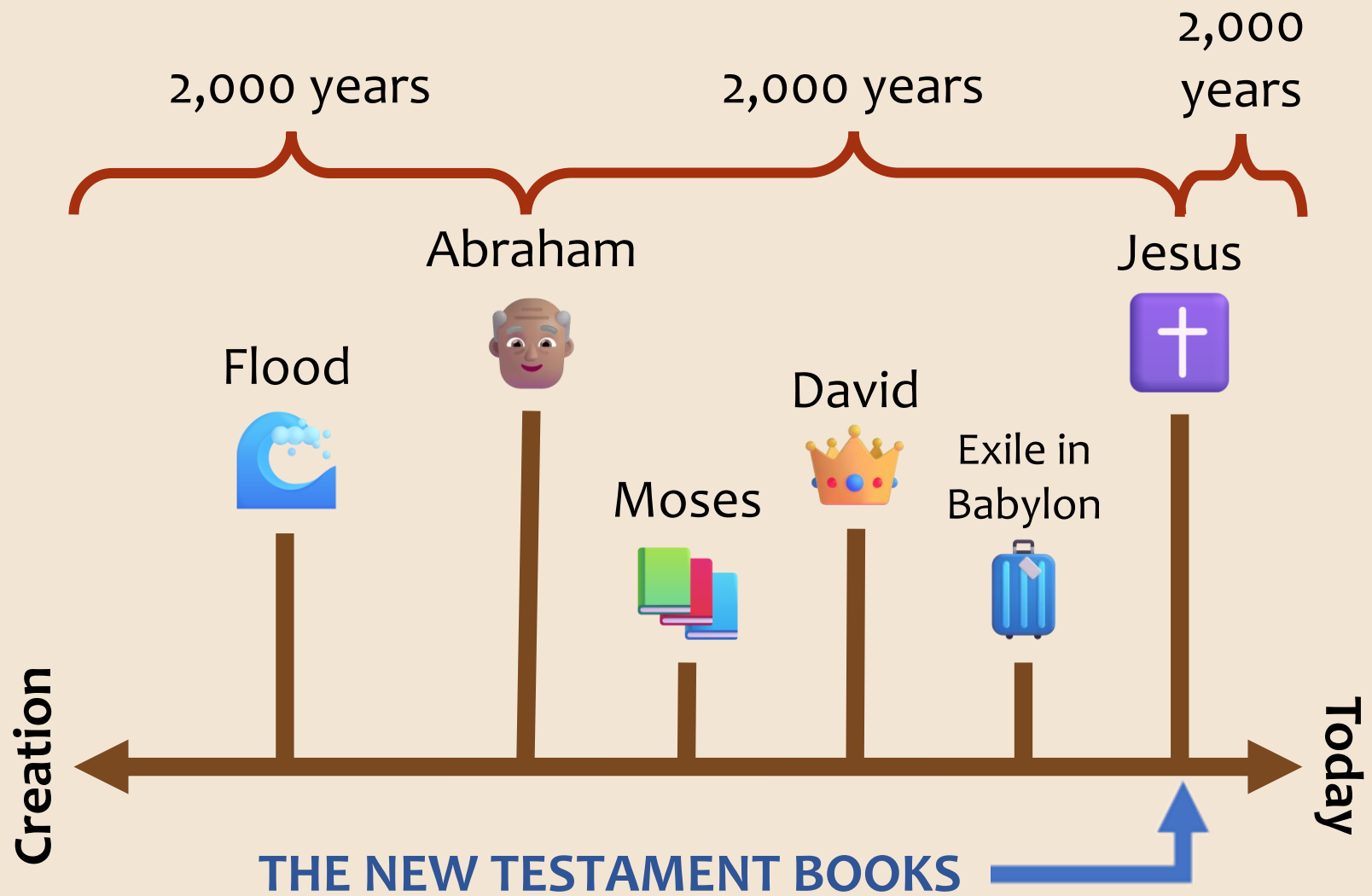


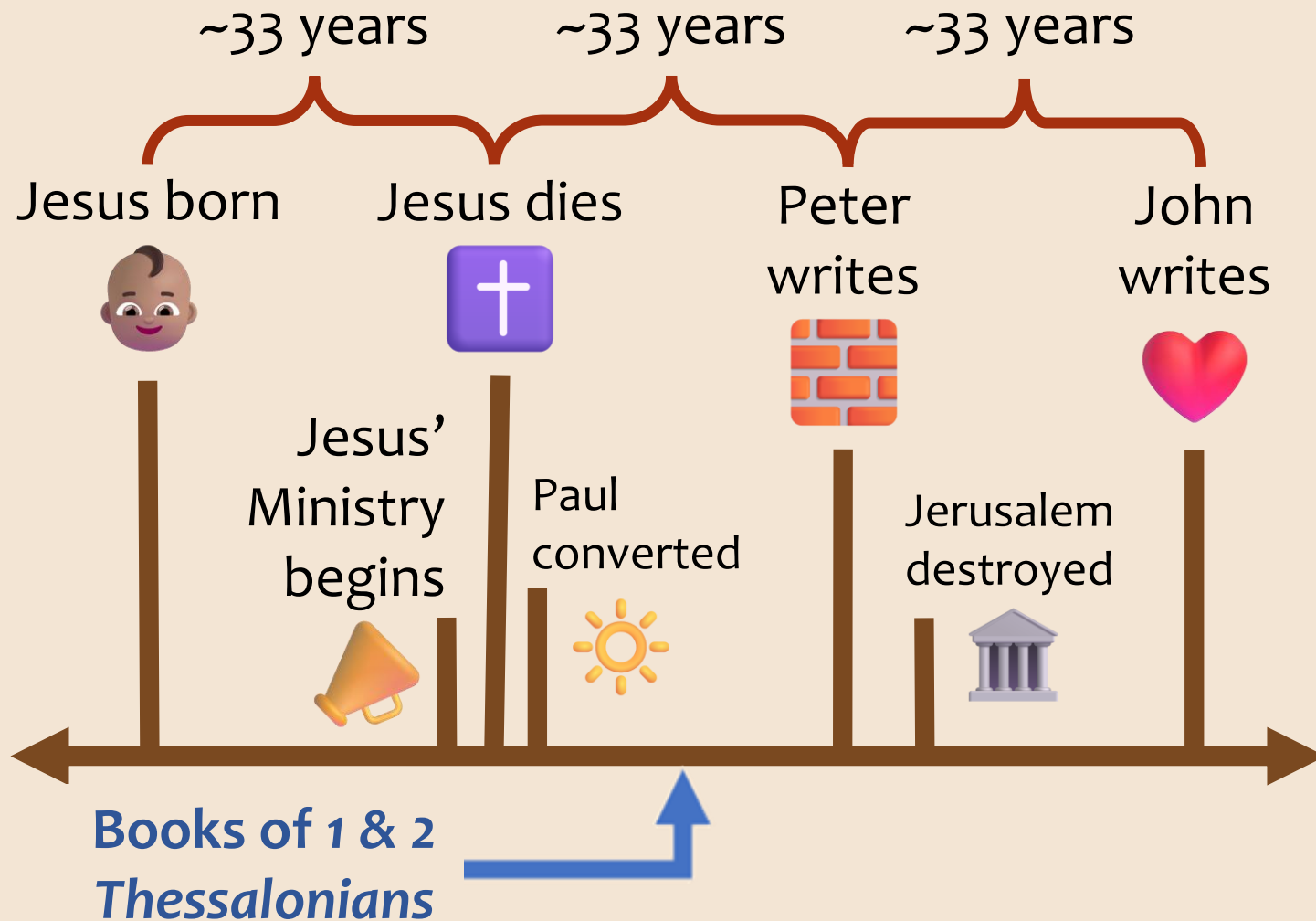
The Books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians



Bible timeline



Bible timeline



Summary

1 & 2 Thessalonians

- Encouragement to Christians in Thessalonica that:
 - 1) Jesus will return, and
 - 2) because of that, you need to remain faithful and work hard.



Why 1 & 2 Thessalonians are special

- **1 Thessalonians 4** has one of the clearest teachings of Jesus' return.
 - It is just like we often think, that we will go *"in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"* (v. 17, ESV)



Main characters

-  **Paul**
 - Main author
-  **Christians in Thessalonica**
 - Received the letter
 - Brief mention of the church's start in **Acts 17:1-15**
-  **Timothy**
 - Messenger (1 Thessalonians 3:2, 6)

Outline of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

1. **1 Th. chapters 1-3** We love you and miss you
 - We worked hard (2:9)
2. **1 Th. 4:1-12** Live right on Earth
 - Work hard (v. 11)
3. **1 Th. 4:13-5:11** Jesus will return
 - How (4:13-18); When (5:1-5); Therefore, be ready (5:6-11)
4. **1 Th. 5:12-28** Live right on Earth
 - Appreciate those who work hard (vs. 12-13)
 - You work hard (v. 14)
5. **2 Th. chapters 1-2** Jesus will return
 - In judgment (**chapter 1**); But not yet (2:1-12)
 - You need to endure (2:13-17);
6. **2 Th. Chapter 3** Live right on Earth
 - Pray for us (Paul & co., vs. 1-5)
 - Warn people who do not work hard (vs. 6-15)

Theology and doctrine

Marking someone

- **1 Corinthians 5** is our clearest passage teaching us that churches should “remove” a rebellious person
- A visible part of that process is to make known to the (local) church that other members need to stop any fellowship with the person.
 - This is often called “marking,” or “withdrawing fellowship.”
- There are many other passages involved, but a major one is **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15** (esp. v. 14, “If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, [you all] take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.” [ESV]).
 - The word “take note” means “to *distinguish*, that is, mark” (Strong’s)
 - It does not mean to *publicly announce* something – but it *can*, and the context here implies it
- You might read **Romans 16:17** in the KJV as “mark them which cause divisions...” – but this is a different word and not really the same idea.

Recap of 1 & 2 *Thessalonians*

• Summary

- Encouragement to Christians in Thessalonica that
1) Jesus will return,
2) because of that, you need to remain faithful and work hard.

• Why it is special

- 1 Thessalonians 4 has one of the clearest teachings of Jesus' return.

• Outline

1. 1 Thess. 1-3: We love you and miss you
2. 1 Thess. 4:1-12: Live right on Earth
3. 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11: Jesus will return
4. 1 Thess. 5:12-28: Live right on Earth
5. 2 Thess. 1-2: Jesus will return
6. 2 Thess. 3: Live right on Earth

• Theology and doctrine

- Marking someone
(2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)

• Main characters

- Paul
- Christians in Thessalonica
- Timothy

Signs of the End

Matthew 24



Summary

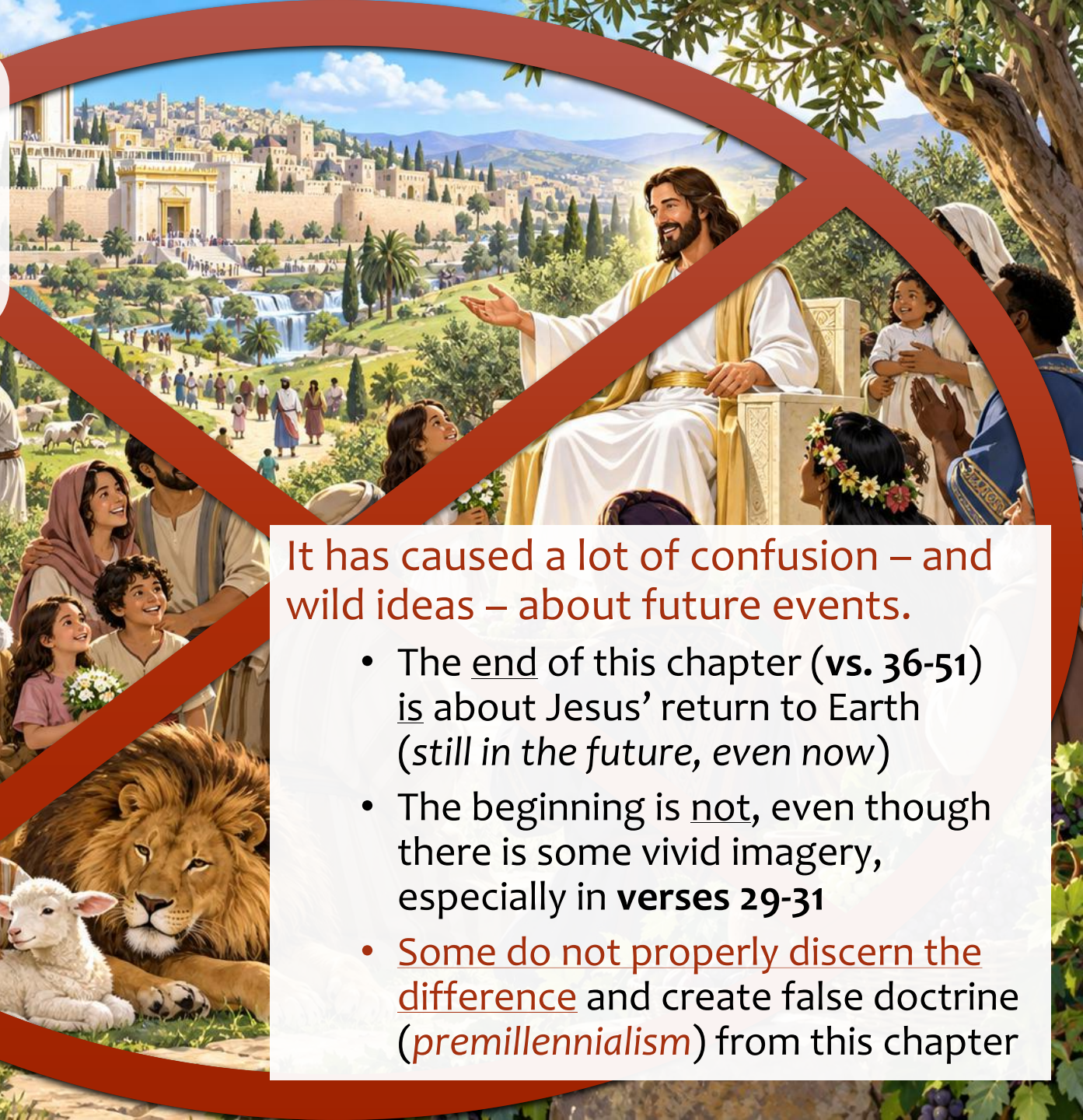
Signs of the End
Matthew 24

- Jesus predicts two things:
 - the destruction of Jerusalem,
 - and Judgment Day.

To us in 2026, the first has happened already (1,956 years ago), and the second has not



Why this story is special



It has caused a lot of confusion – and wild ideas – about future events.

- The end of this chapter (**vs. 36-51**) is about Jesus' return to Earth (*still in the future, even now*)
- The beginning is not, even though there is some vivid imagery, especially in **verses 29-31**
- Some do not properly discern the difference and create false doctrine (*premillennialism*) from this chapter

Main characters

-     **The disciples**
 - Specifically, “Peter and James and John and Andrew” (**Mark 13:3**)
 - Asked about some buildings
-  **Jesus**
 - The Christ
 - The Son of Man
 - Answers the questions – beyond what was likely meant by them

Outline of *Matthew 24*

1. Vs. 1-2 Jesus predicts destruction of the temple
2. V. 3 The disciples ask three* distinct questions
 1. When will that happen (the temple)?
 2. What will be the sign of “your coming”?
 3. What will be the sign of “the end of the age”?
3. Vs. 4-28 Jesus answers question 1
4. Vs. 29-35 Jesus answers question 2
5. Vs. 36-51 Jesus answers question 3

*To be clear, they may only be asking two questions, and I have outlined the questions that Jesus answers – which is almost certainly not the same as what the disciples meant.

Also the disciples probably meant “your coming” as part of “the end of the age,” but Jesus answers it for both that and the temple destruction

In case you missed it

Verse 36 marks a big change in the language

Jerusalem/Temple Destroyed Matthew 24:4–35	Second Coming Matthew 24:36–51
“This generation” will see it, v. 34	You will not know, vs. 36, 42, 44
Tribulation precedes it, vs. 21–22	Ordinary life continues until judgment, vs. 37–39
Signs are given, vs. 4–15, 29–33	Stay ready at all times; it will be a surprise, vs. 42–44
False christs/signs are warnings, vs. 23–28	
Flee <u>Judea</u> when the sign appears, vs. 16–20	

Theology and doctrine

In the Bible, it's not always talking about the end of the world, even if it sure sounds like it.

- **Matthew 24:29-31** sounds like the end of everything
 - “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (ESV)
- Does this sound familiar?
 - **Isaiah 19:1**, “An oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt” (ESV)
 - **Isaiah 13:1, 9-13**, “The oracle concerning Babylon... For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. ... Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place” (ESV)
- But I still say **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17** is about the end

Recap of *Matthew 24*

- **Summary**

- Jesus predicts two things: the destruction of Jerusalem, and Judgment Day

- **Why it is special**

- It has caused a lot of confusion – and wild ideas – about future events

- **Main characters**

- The disciples
- Jesus

- **Outline**

1. **Vs. 1-2:** Jesus predicts destruction of the temple
2. **V. 3:** The disciples ask 3 questions
3. **Vs. 4-28:** Jesus answers question 1
4. **Vs. 29-35:** Jesus answers question 2
5. **Vs. 36-51:** Jesus answers question 3

- **In case you missed it**

- Verse 36 marks a big change in the language

- **Theology and doctrine**

- In the Bible, it's not always talking about the end of the world, even if it sure sounds like it.
 - Isaiah 19:1
 - Isaiah 13:1, 9-13

Poem: Habakkuk 3

Asking for the LORD's Wrath

- “A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet” (v. 1)
- This is the last chapter of the book
 - First two chapters are a conversation between Habakkuk and the LORD
- It is strangely psalm-like
 - This chapter is the only place to use “Selah” outside Psalms
 - It has a musical direction at the end
 - Though why not at the beginning?
- He is asking the LORD to bring justice, like in the days of old
 - Vs. 3-6: He sent glory, plagues, earthquakes
 - Vs. 8-11: You had sent water to conquer
 - Vs. 12-15: You marched to victory
 - Vs. 16-19: I fear and rejoice