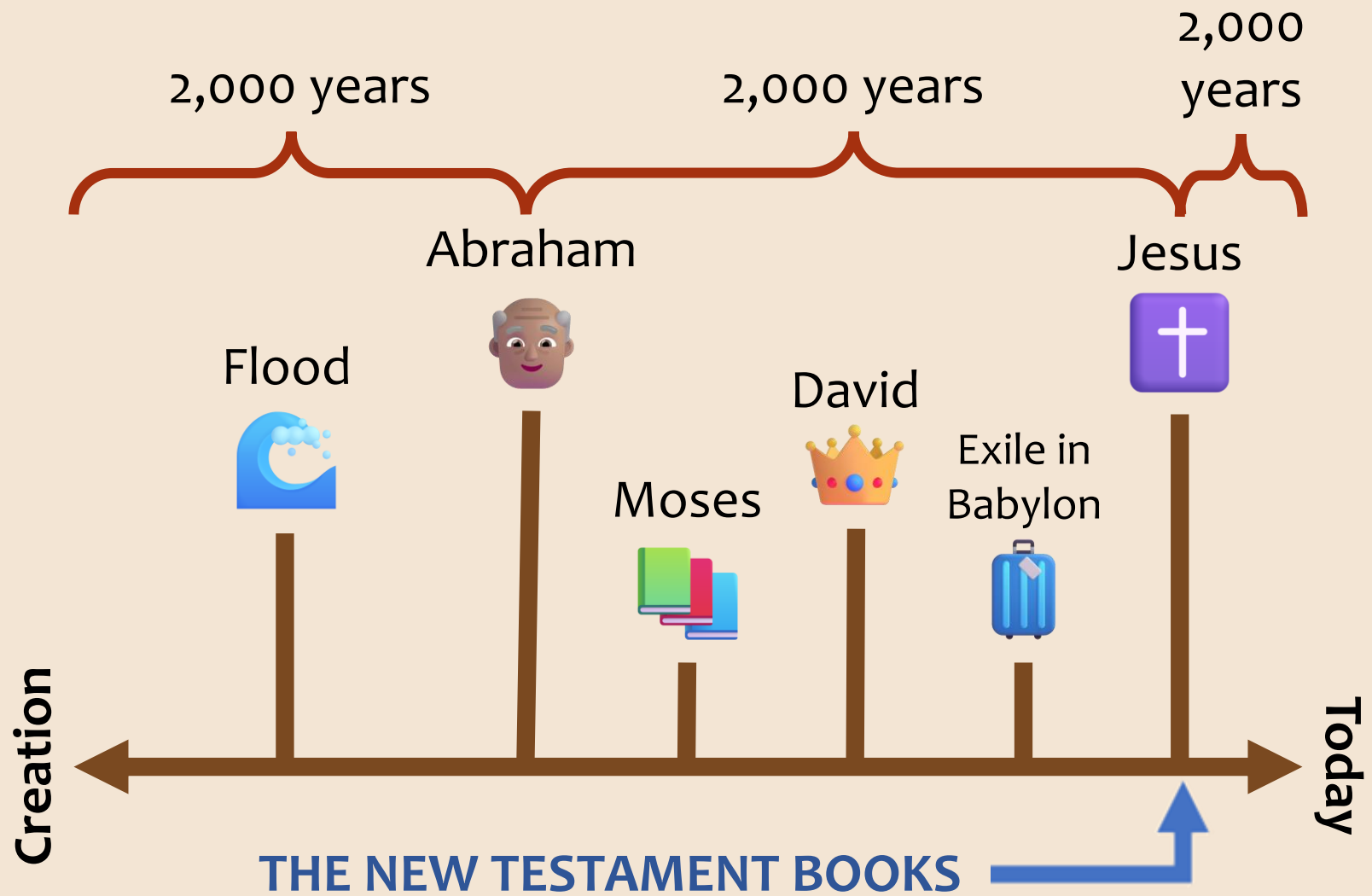


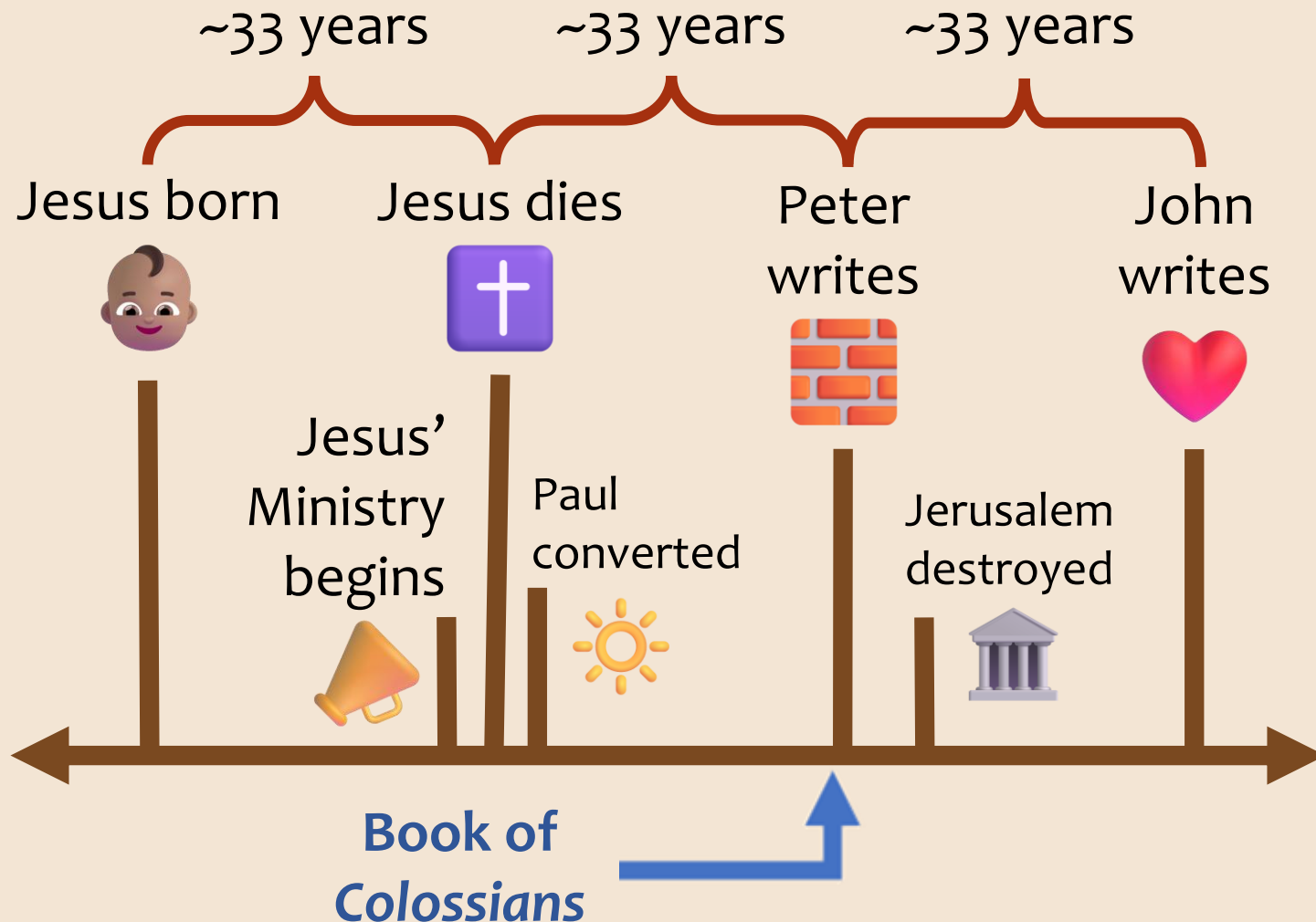
The Book of Colossians



Bible timeline



Bible timeline



Summary

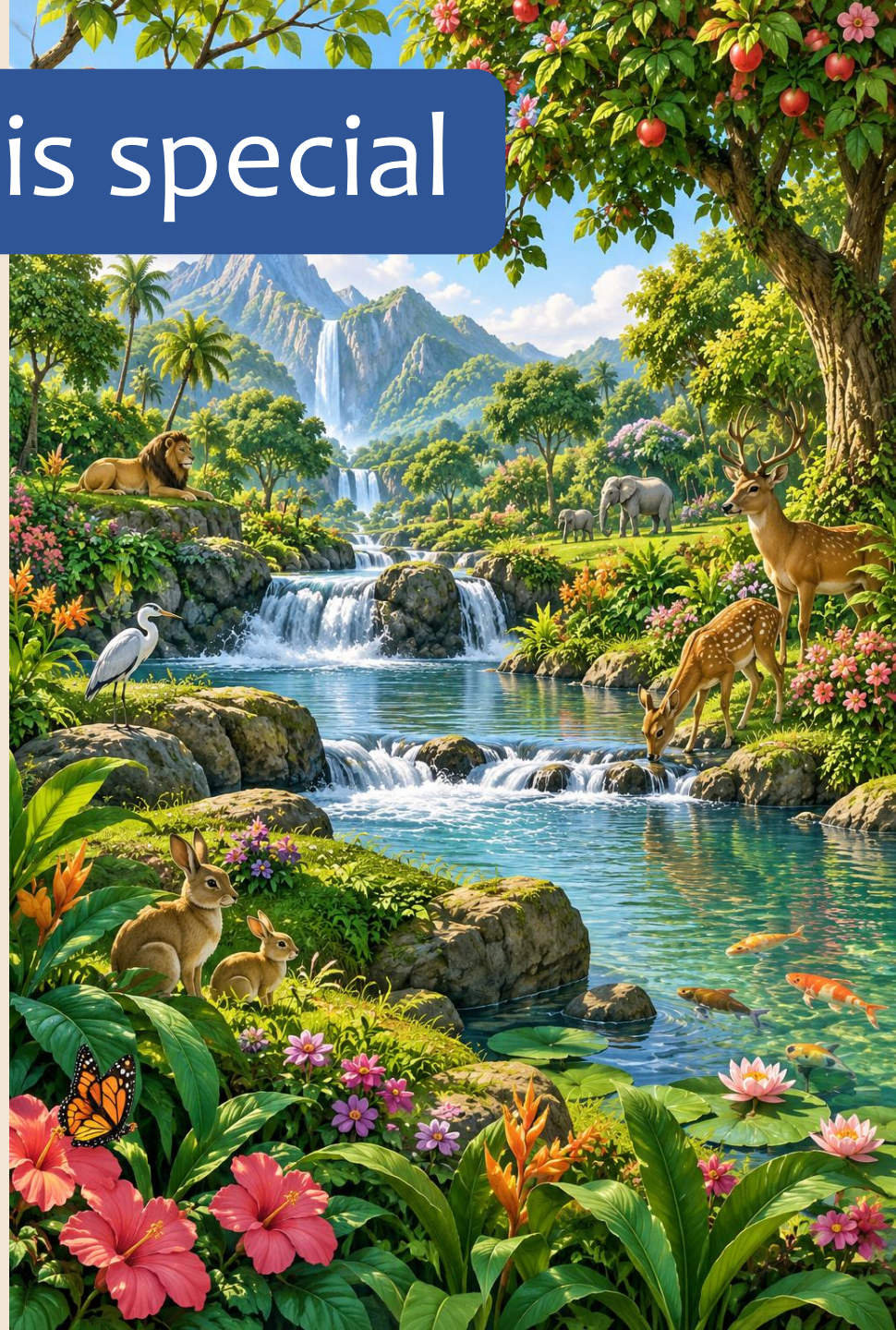
Colossians

- A letter to the Christians in Colossae telling them not to mix Christianity with other religions.
 - Yes, that includes requiring Jewish traditions
 - But it's more than that; in **2:4-23**, Paul describes
 - “philosophy” (v. 8)
 - “elemental spirits of the world” (vs. 8, 20)
 - “asceticism and worship of angels” (v. 18)
 - “self-made religion ... and severity to the body” (v. 23)
 - [All quotes from ESV]



Why Colossians is special

- **Colossians 1:15-20** describes how Christ is “preeminent”
 - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
 - NASB translates this as “*first place in everything.*” Such as:
 - Firstborn
 - Creator of heaven, earth, and spiritual things
 - Head of the church (and started it; **Matthew 16:18**)
 - First to be raised from the dead
 - The consequence is that he
 - Rules all (ALL – **2:10**)
 - And is all (ALL) that we need (**2:10, 19**)



Main characters

-  **Paul**
 - Wrote the letter, with Timothy, but says “I” a lot
-  **Christians in Colossae**
 - Colossae, Laodicea and Hierapolis are very close to each other (4:13)
-  **Epaphras**
 - Good guy; may have started the church (1:7)
 - Is still “one of them” in Colossae (4:12)
 - But seems to be with Paul at the moment (4:12)

Outline of *Colossians*

- **Chapters 1-2: Introduction and theology**

- 1:1-8: We are hearing great things about you all
- 1:9-14: So, keep up the good work
- 1:15-20: A very profound description of Christ's exceptionalism
- 1:21-23: Christ did this for you
- 1:24-29: My (Paul's) ministry
- 2:1-5: Hang in there, because...
- 2:6-23: There are false teachers who don't think Christ is enough (so we need extra rules)

- **Chapters 3-4: Practical advice and conclusion**

- 3:1—4:6: Have a Christ-like mind
 - 3:18—4:1: Big subsection focusing on roles of submission
- 4:7-18: Let's stay in touch

Theology and doctrine

Man-made rules vs. God's rules

- **Colossians 3** has a bunch of “rules” – Children obey parents; servants obey masters; etc.
- But in **chapter 2**, Paul asks why “do you submit to regulations” (**v. 20**, ESV)?
- As he says in **verse 23**, “These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.” (NASB).
- Often these rules have some beginning in God's rules, but then make them more oppressive
 - **1 Timothy 4:1-3**, it's evil to “forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods”
 - **Colossians 3:21**, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart” (NASB)
- However, I would argue that
 - Elders of a church can make specific, restrictive rules
 - Fathers can set specific rules for their households

Recap of *Colossians*

- **Summary**

- A letter to the Christians in Colossae telling them not to mix Christianity with other religions.

- **Why it is special**

- **Colossians 1:15-20** describes how Christ is “preeminent” (v. 18)

- **Main characters**

- Paul
- Christians in Colossae
- Epaphras

- **Outline**

- **Chapters 1-2:** Introduction and Theology
- **Chapters 3-4:** Practical advice and conclusion

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Man-made rules vs. God’s rules

Cornelius

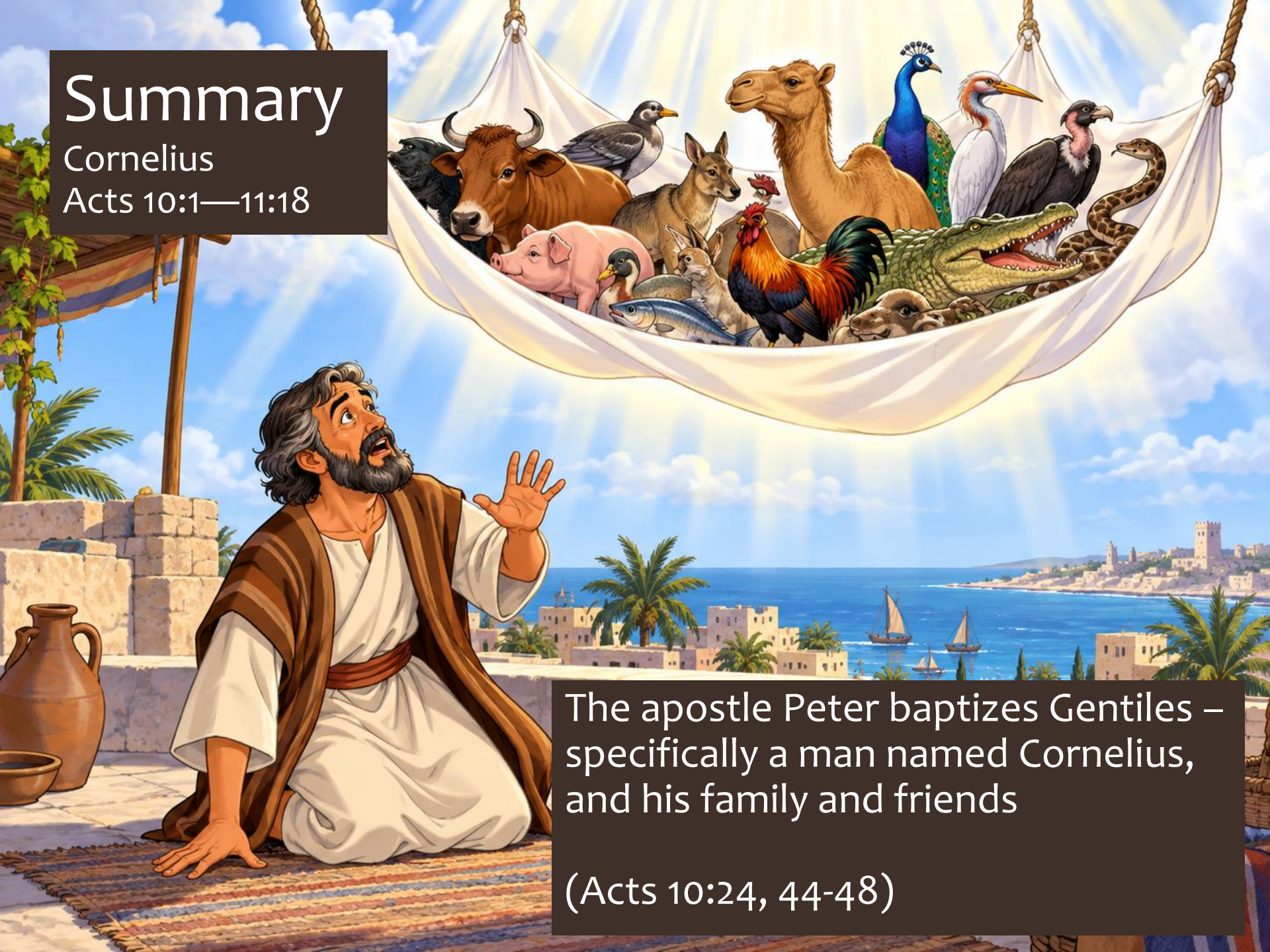
Acts 10:1—11:18



Summary

Cornelius

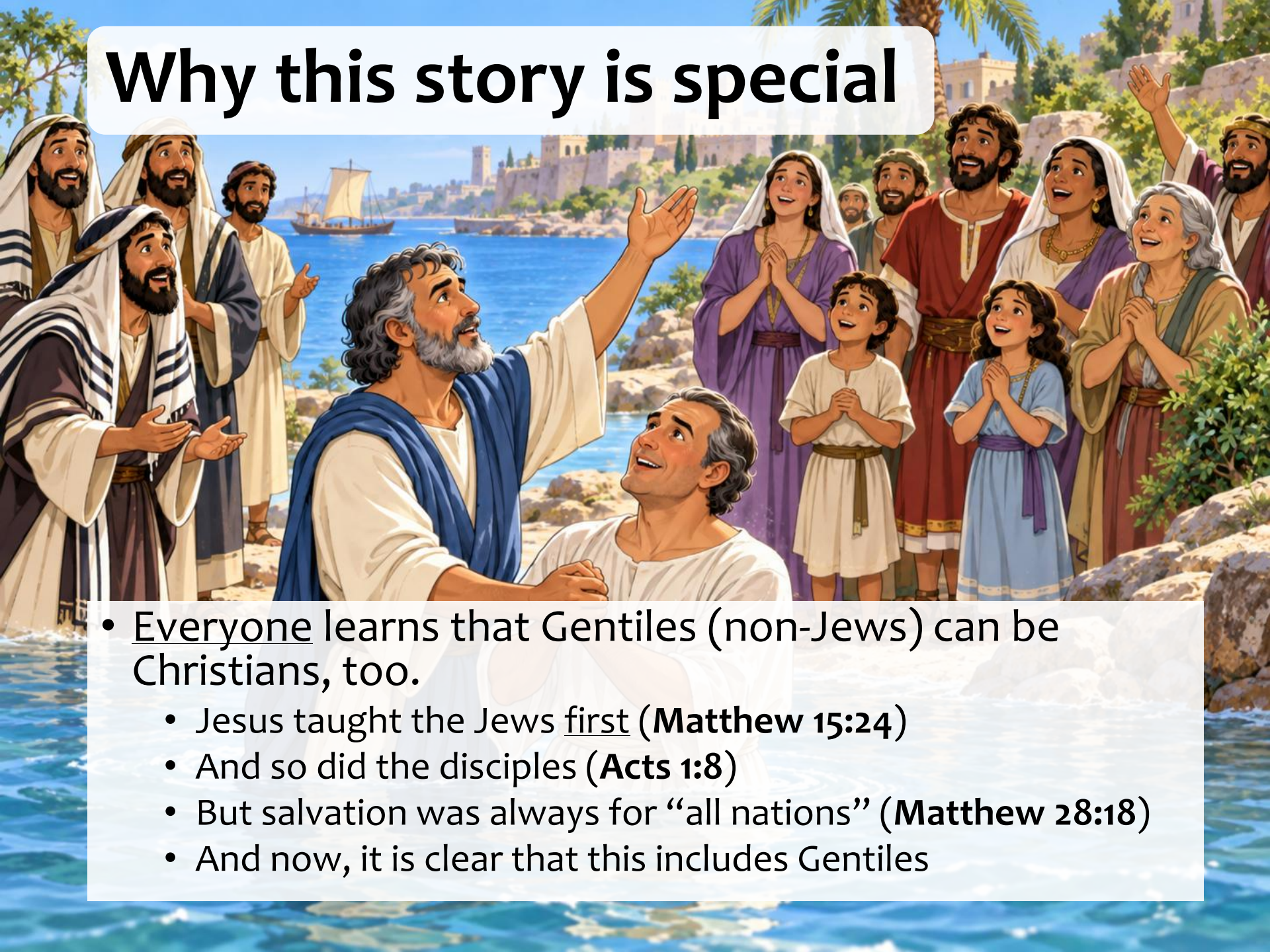
Acts 10:1—11:18



The apostle Peter baptizes Gentiles – specifically a man named Cornelius, and his family and friends

(Acts 10:24, 44-48)

Why this story is special



- Everyone learns that Gentiles (non-Jews) can be Christians, too.
 - Jesus taught the Jews first (**Matthew 15:24**)
 - And so did the disciples (**Acts 1:8**)
 - But salvation was always for “all nations” (**Matthew 28:18**)
 - And now, it is clear that this includes Gentiles

Main characters

-  **Cornelius**
 - A Gentile, yet “one that feared God with all his house” (10:1, KJV)
-  **Simon Peter**
 - Apostle, and a Jew
-  **Simon, the tanner**
 - Has a house
-  **A lot of friends and family**
 - Peter’s friends (presumably all Jews)
 - Cornelius’ friends and family (all Gentiles, is implied)

Outline of *Acts 10:1—11:18*

1. **10:1-8:** An angel tells Cornelius to get Peter to travel to him
2. **10:9-16:** Peter has a vision (3x) of unclean animals
3. **10:17-23:** Cornelius' men come for Peter
4. **10:24-33:** Peter meets Cornelius – with many other people there
5. **10:34-43:** Peter's speech – anyone can be saved
6. **10:44-48:** The Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit and are baptized
7. **11:1-18:** Peter explains the story in Jerusalem

In case you missed it

- From what we read, God does not tell Peter exactly that “Gentiles are OK now.” Peter deduces this.
 - Peter sees a sheet and animals (vs. 11-12)
 - He is told to “kill and eat” (v. 13)
 - We deduce that these are unclean animals, since that’s Peter’s complaint (v. 14)
 - God says they are clean (v. 15)
 - But Peter later explains, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean” (v. 28, ESV).

Theology and doctrine

- This was not the end of the argument
 - Between this story and the council in Acts 15, there should be no doubt that Gentiles could be Christians, without needing to act like Jews.
 - But did that settle the matter in everyone's minds? Definitely not.
 - The letter to the Colossians, well over a decade later, shows people were still teaching the opposite.

Theology and doctrine

- Was baptism only a sign, since the believers had already received the Spirit?
 - No.
 - God does not force people to be saved, or to believe, or to be baptized.
 - But, He does, in fact, sometimes force people to receive the Holy Spirit
 - **1 Samuel 19:15-24**, Saul prophesies when he wants to kill David
 - **Numbers 24:1-3**, Balaam tried not to prophesy, but God made him
 - Also, prophesy is often temporary (**Numbers 11:25**)
 - The Holy Spirit on the Gentiles in Acts 10 did communicate approval, or at least impartiality
 - But don't assume it always means "this person is saved, or is standing rightly before God."

Recap of Acts 10:1—11:18

- **Summary**

- The apostle Peter baptizes Gentiles – specifically a man named Cornelius, and his family and friends

- **Why it is special**

- Everyone learns that Gentiles (non-Jews) can be Christians, too

- **Main characters**

- Cornelius
- Simon Peter
- A lot of friends and family

- **In case you missed it**

- Peter seems to deduce about the Gentiles

- **Outline**

1. **10:1-8:** An angel tells Cornelius to get Peter to travel to him
2. **10:9-16:** Peter has a vision (3x) of unclean animals
3. **10:17-23:** Cornelius' men come for Peter
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- **Theology and doctrine**

- This was not the end of the argument about Jews and Gentiles
- The Gentiles were not saved until they were baptized

Poem: Psalm 104

God controls all

- God is great (majestic and just plain large) **vs. 1-2**
 - God controls the big things (air and water)
 - God controls the air **vs. 3-5**
 - God controlled the flood **vs. 6-9**
 - God directs the rivers **vs. 10-13**
 - God's land blessings bless others
 - People are blessed by agriculture **vs. 14-15**
 - Birds are blessed by the trees **vs. 16-17**
 - Animals are blessed by the rocks **v. 18**
 - God controls the big things (time and space)
 - God controls time (Sun and moon direct people and animals) **vs. 19-23**
 - God controls life (its creation and abundance) **vs. 24-30**
 - God controls tectonic activity (!!!) **vs. 31-32**
- I will praise the LORD **vs. 33-35**