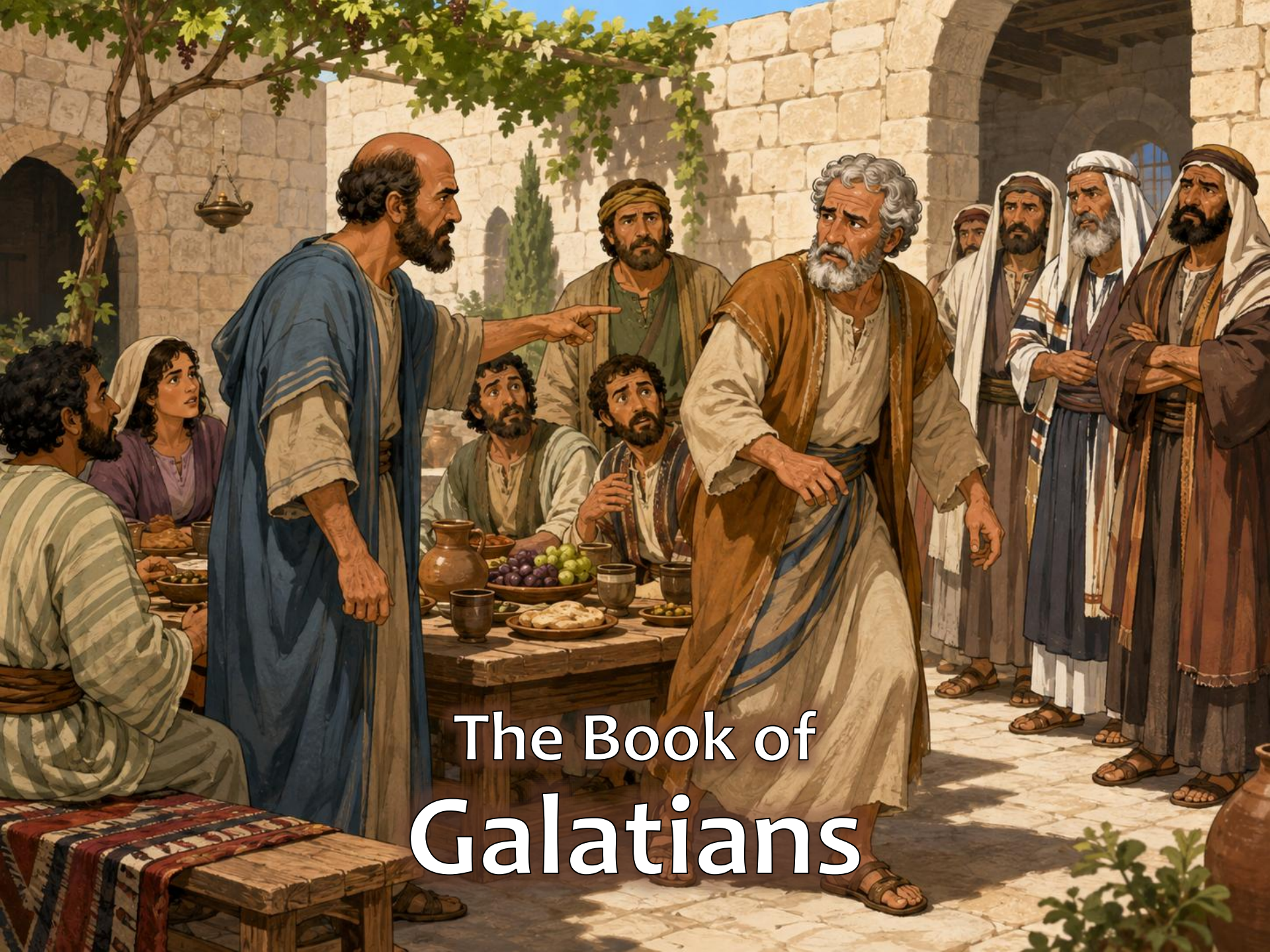
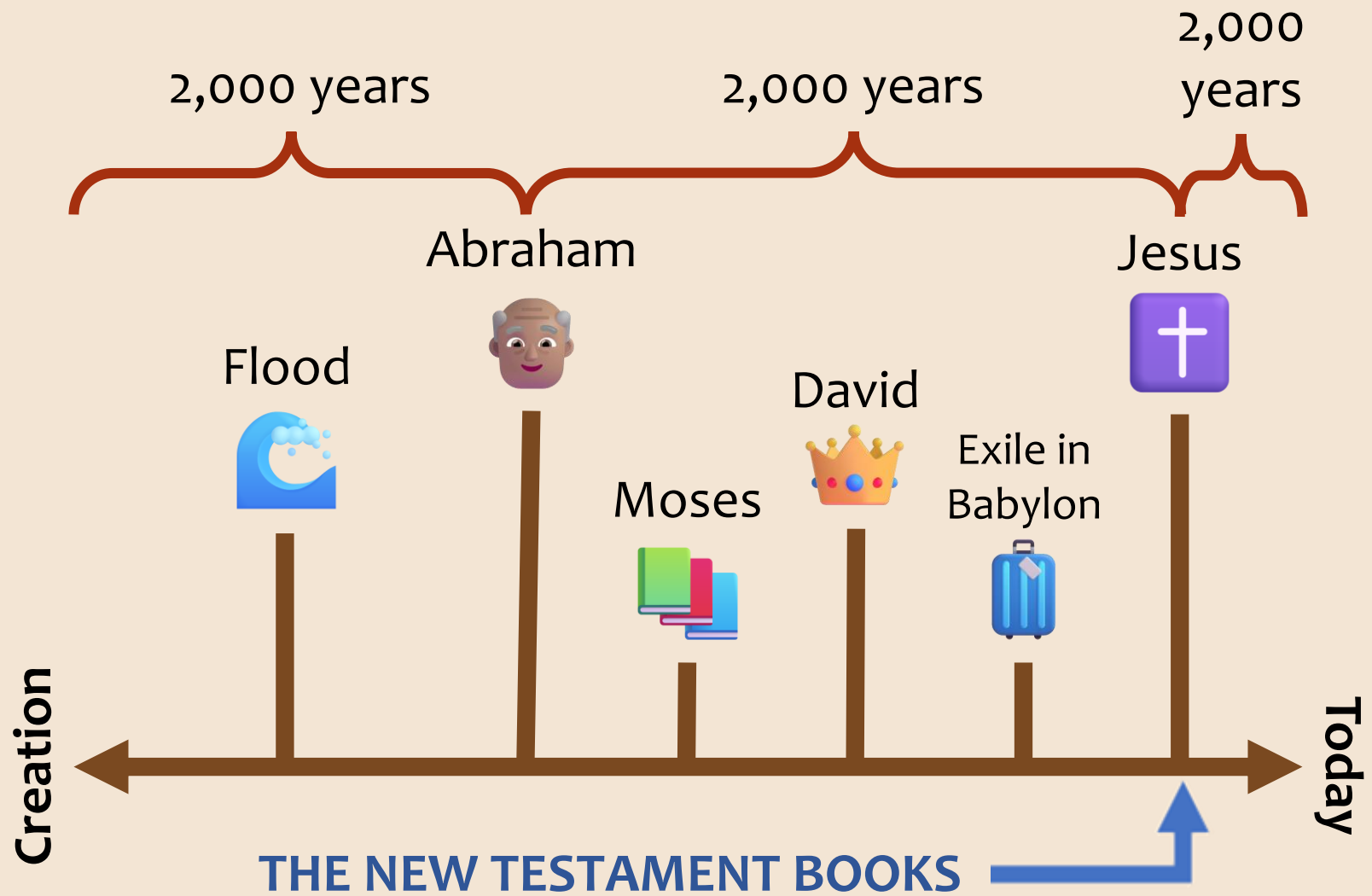


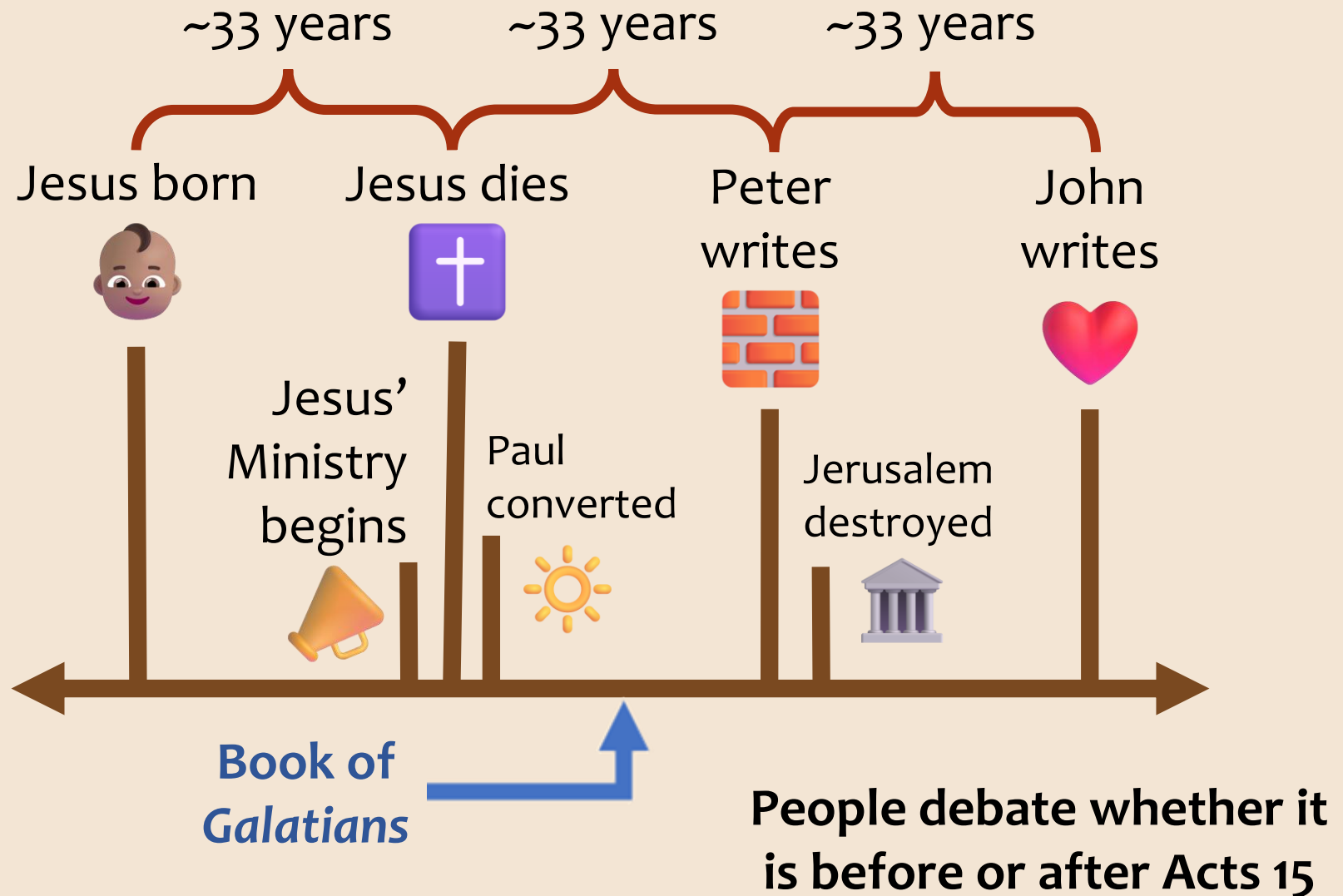


The Book of Galatians

Bible timeline



Bible timeline

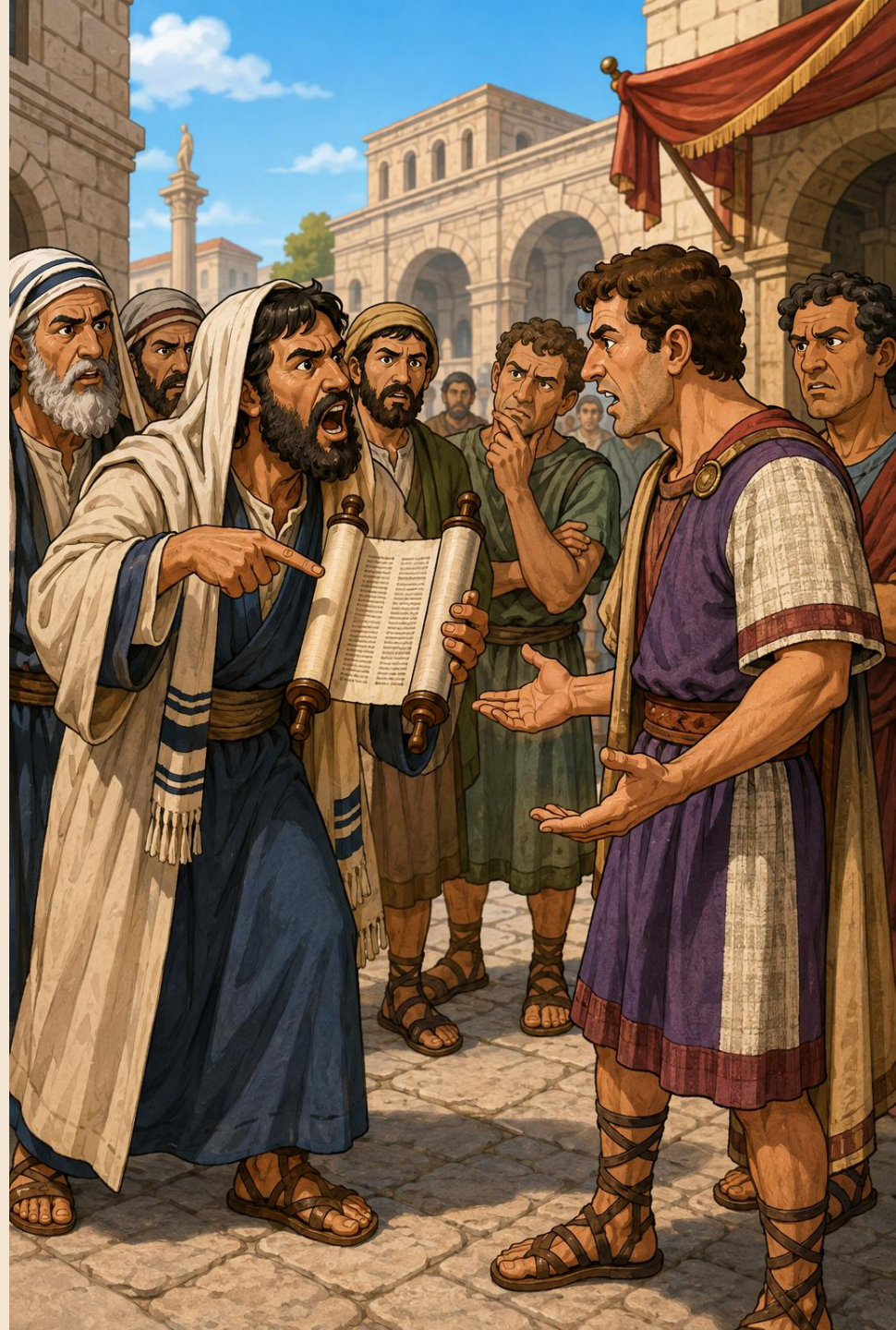


Summary

Galatians

- Christians do NOT need to observe the Old Testament laws

- He says “circumcision” a lot in the book
- It’s not just one of the laws or even the most important:
- He is using circumcision like a *nickname* for the Old Law (*aka* Law of Moses, *aka* Old Testament)
- Technically, this is called *synecdoche*



Why Galatians is special

- Paul (the author) is FURIOUS
 - The letter starts very abruptly
 - He mentions a time he had to publicly shame the apostle Peter about circumcision
 - **5:12** is one of the most uncomfortably graphic statements in Scripture
 - So... this is no minor issue.



Main characters

-  **Paul**
 - Author
 - Is blowing a gasket
-  **Christians in Galatia** (a region)
 - Converted by Paul fairly recently
 - Almost certainly Gentiles
-  **Judaizing teachers**
 - Trying to convince the Galatians that all (male) Christians must be circumcised
-  **Abraham** (as a memory)

Outline of *Galatians*

- **1:1-9 – You fell for this?**
 - I taught you, yet you are following lies now?
- **1:10 – chapter 2 – Paul's history with circumcision**
- **Chapter 3 – 5:12 – The persuasive essay**
 - Covenant of circumcision was given to Abraham, yet he is the father of all who believe – even Gentiles
- **5:13 – 6:10 – Be kind to each other**
 - Fruit of the Spirit
 - Bear each other's burden
- **6:11-18 – Conclusion**
 - Circumcision is over

Theology and doctrine

- Does a Christian need to follow the Old Testament laws?
 - You cannot get a more resounding “NO!” than the book of Galatians
 - The book focuses on *circumcision*, but the point is the whole Old Law
 - “...if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose” (**Galatians 2:21**, ESV)
 - It hints at the Sabbath and other feasts in **4:10**, “You observe days and months and seasons and years!” (ESV)
 - And we can say the same for eating pork, sacrificing animals, etc. The Old Testament is not binding on us today
 - Observances are optional, though
 - Paul asked Timothy to be circumcised (**Acts 16:3**), and he paid for men completing a vow in the temple (**Acts 21:20-26**)

Recap of *Galatians*

- **Summary**

- Christians do NOT need to observe the Old Testament laws

- **Why it is special**

- Paul (the author) is FURIOUS

- **Main characters**

- Paul
- Christians in Galatia
- Judaizing teachers
- Abraham (in memory)

- **Outline**

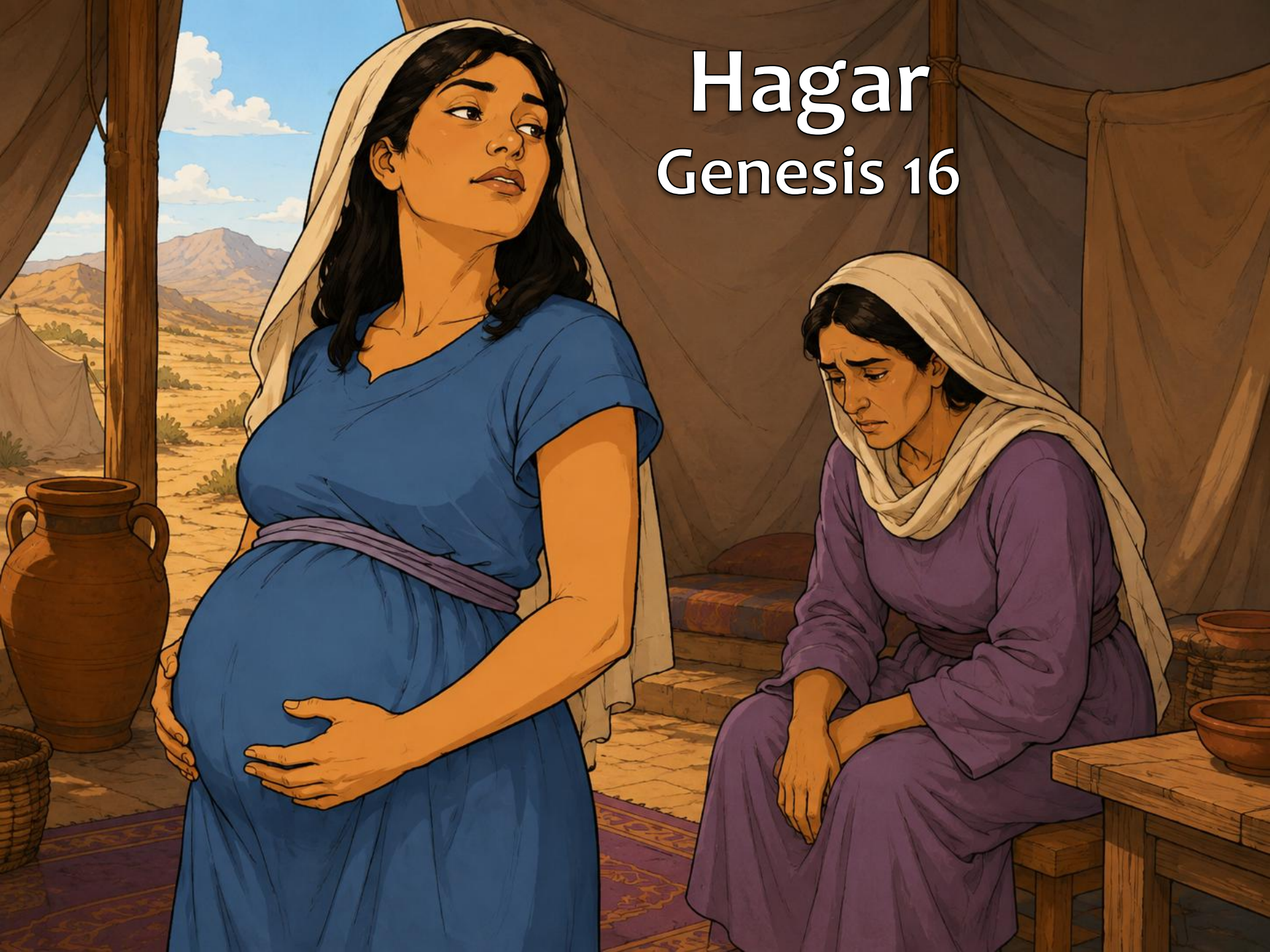
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- **6:11-18** – Conclusion

- **Theology and doctrine**

- [See summary]

Hagar

Genesis 16



Summary

Hagar
Genesis 16

- 
- An illustration of a pregnant woman, Hagar, running away from the viewer into a vast, arid desert landscape. She is wearing a blue tunic with a purple sash and a white headscarf that is blowing in the wind. Her expression is one of distress or urgency. The background features rolling yellow-brown hills under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent brown box containing text is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.
- Hagar has a son for Abram, fights with Sarai, and runs away
 - This is the birth of Ishmael, Abraham's first son
 - But this is not what God promised; Isaac will later be born to Sarah
 - Ishmael is still blessed here

Why this story is special

- It is the beginning of God choosing a “son of promise” in Abraham’s descendants
 - In this story, Ishmael comes from Sarah/Sarai giving up
 - Later, Isaac is born against all odds to a 90-year-old Sarah
 - Isaac is the son of promise
 - This is a theme (Jacob, Samuel, John the Baptist, Jesus)

Main characters

-  **Abram**
 - Was promised a son
-  **Sarai**
 - Assumes – after a decade – that she will not be the mom
-  **Hagar**
 - Sarai's maidservant
-  **Angel of the LORD**
 - Talks to Hagar who ran away
-  **Ishmael**
 - Son of Hagar and Abraham

Outline of *Genesis 16*

1. Vs. 1-3: Sarai tells Abram to have a child with Hagar
2. Vs. 4-5: *Hagar then looks down on Sarai
3. Vs. 6-8: Hagar runs away
4. Vs. 9-12: The angel of the LORD comforts Hagar
5. Vs. 13-14: Hagar blesses the LORD
6. Vs. 15-16: Ishmael is born

*Note: “mistress” in this story means Sarai: Sarai is in charge of a servant

In case you missed it

- “Hagar” is basically the same word as foreigner/stranger/sojourner
- And Hagar is Egyptian (**Genesis 16:1**)
- This is ironic because
 - Hagar the Egyptian was oppressed in Sarah’s house
 - Sarah’s descendants will be foreigners who are oppressed in Egypt (**Genesis 15:13**)
- Israelites were told:
 - “You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt,” **Exodus 23:9** (ESV).

Theology and doctrine

- **Galatians 4:21-31** uses the Hagar story to make a point about the Old Law
 - But not the one you would probably expect
 - He says that Jews and Christians (to include Gentiles) are like Sarah and Hagar
 - Jews = Sarah, right? (Wrong!)
 - Jews are like Hagar because they are in slavery
 - Christians are like Sarah because they are children of promise
- Imagine how the Jews would have felt if they read Paul's words!

Recap of Genesis 16

- **Summary**

- Hagar has a son for Abram, fights with Sarai, and runs away

- **Why it is special**

- It is the beginning of God choosing a “son of promise” in Abraham’s descendants

- **Main characters**

- Abram
- Sarai
- Hagar
- Angel of the LORD
- Ishmael

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Galatians 4:21-31

- **Outline**

1. **Vs. 1-3:** Sarai tells Abram to have a child with Hagar
2. **Vs. 4-5:** Hagar then looks down on Sarai
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6. **Vs. 15-16:** Ishmael is born

- **In case you missed it**

- The oppression of Hagar the Egyptian by Sarai mirrors the oppression of the Israelites in Egypt

Poem: Isaiah 54

“Sing, O barren one”

- Verse 1 is quoted in **Galatians 4:27**
 - Don't try to make this entire poem about Sarah: verses 7-8 do not fit with the Genesis 16 story
 - Isaiah is writing about Jerusalem or Judah, where God calls the people back to Him after He has punished them (with exile)