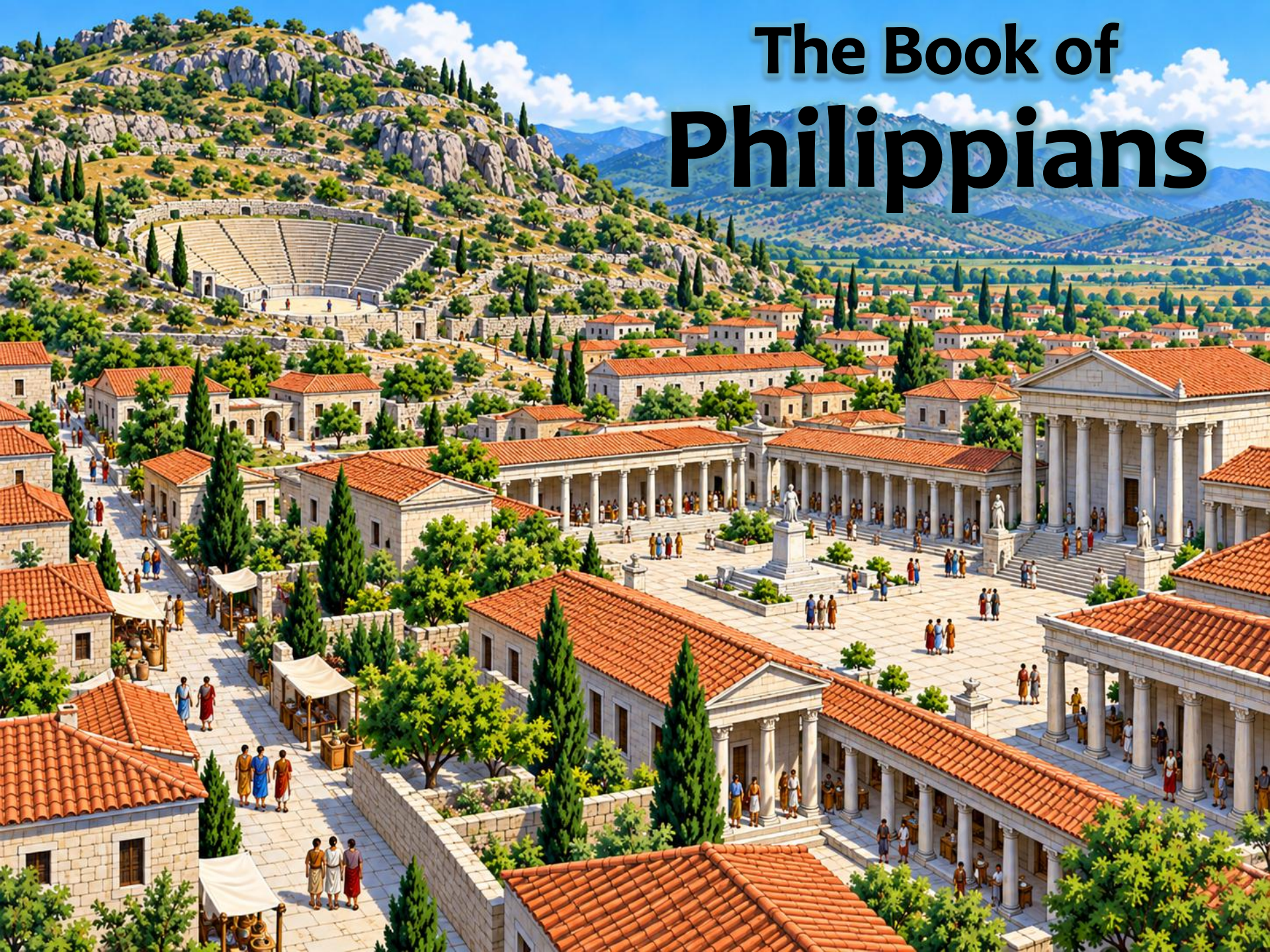
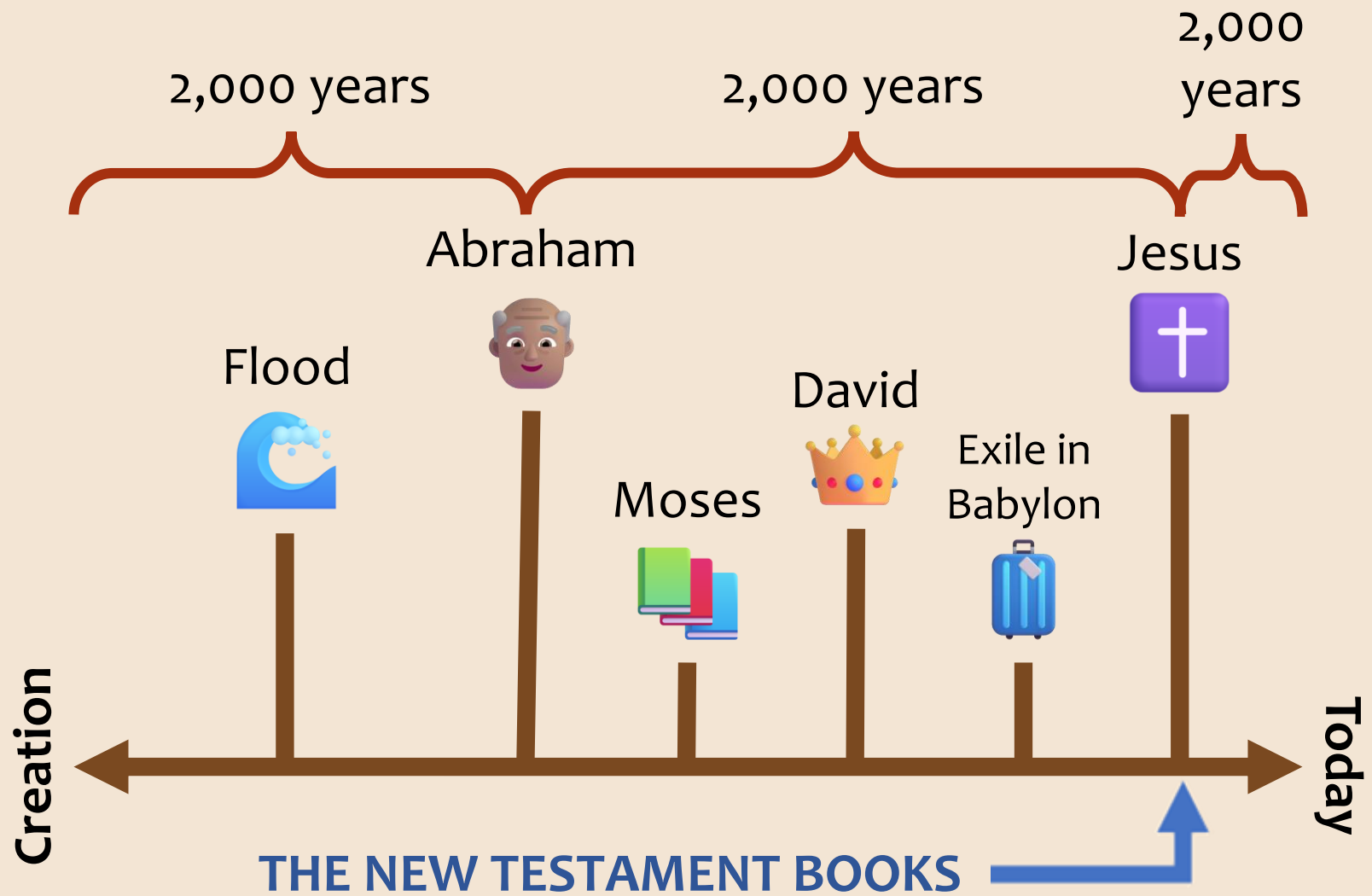


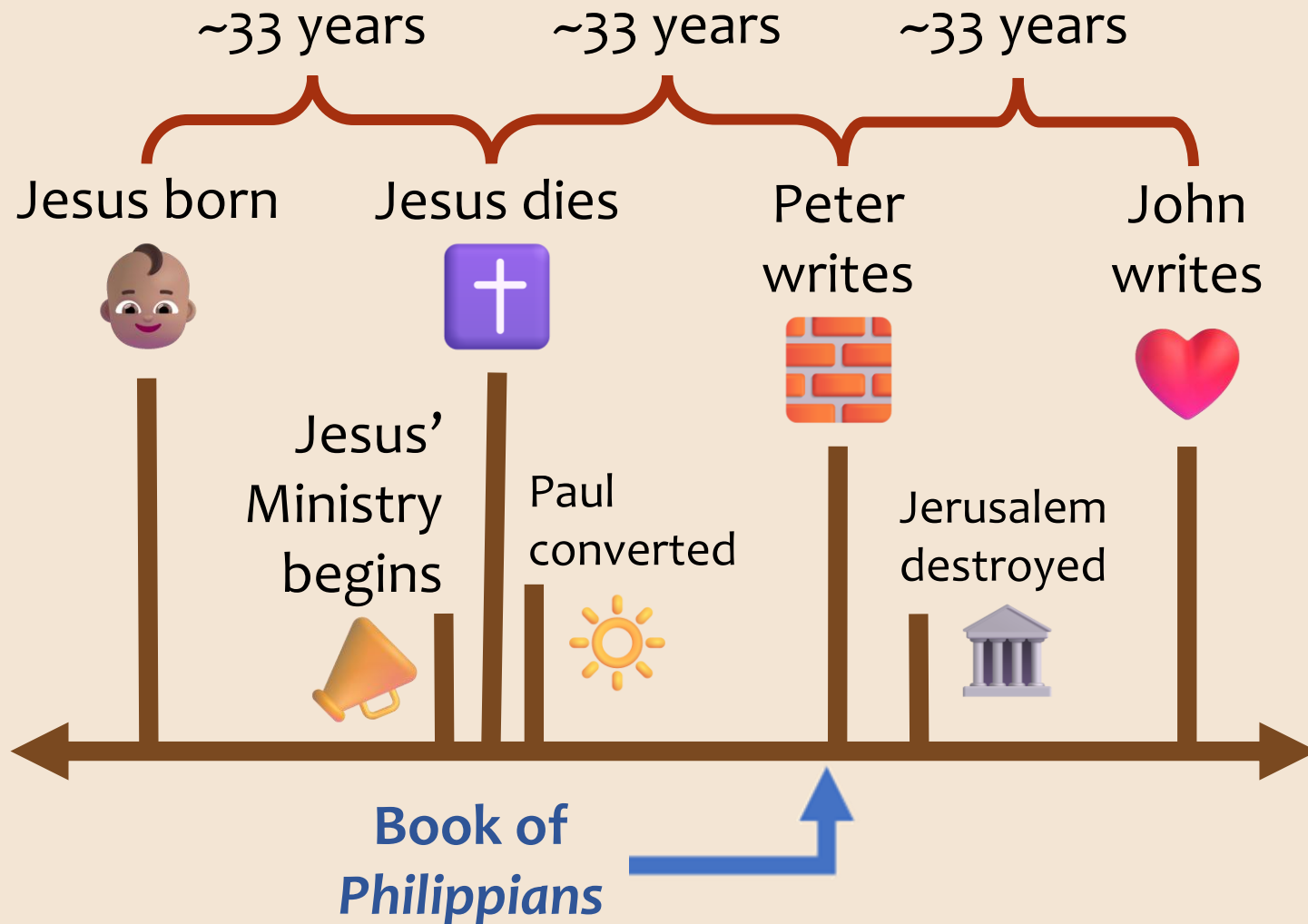
The Book of Philippians



Bible timeline



Bible timeline



Summary

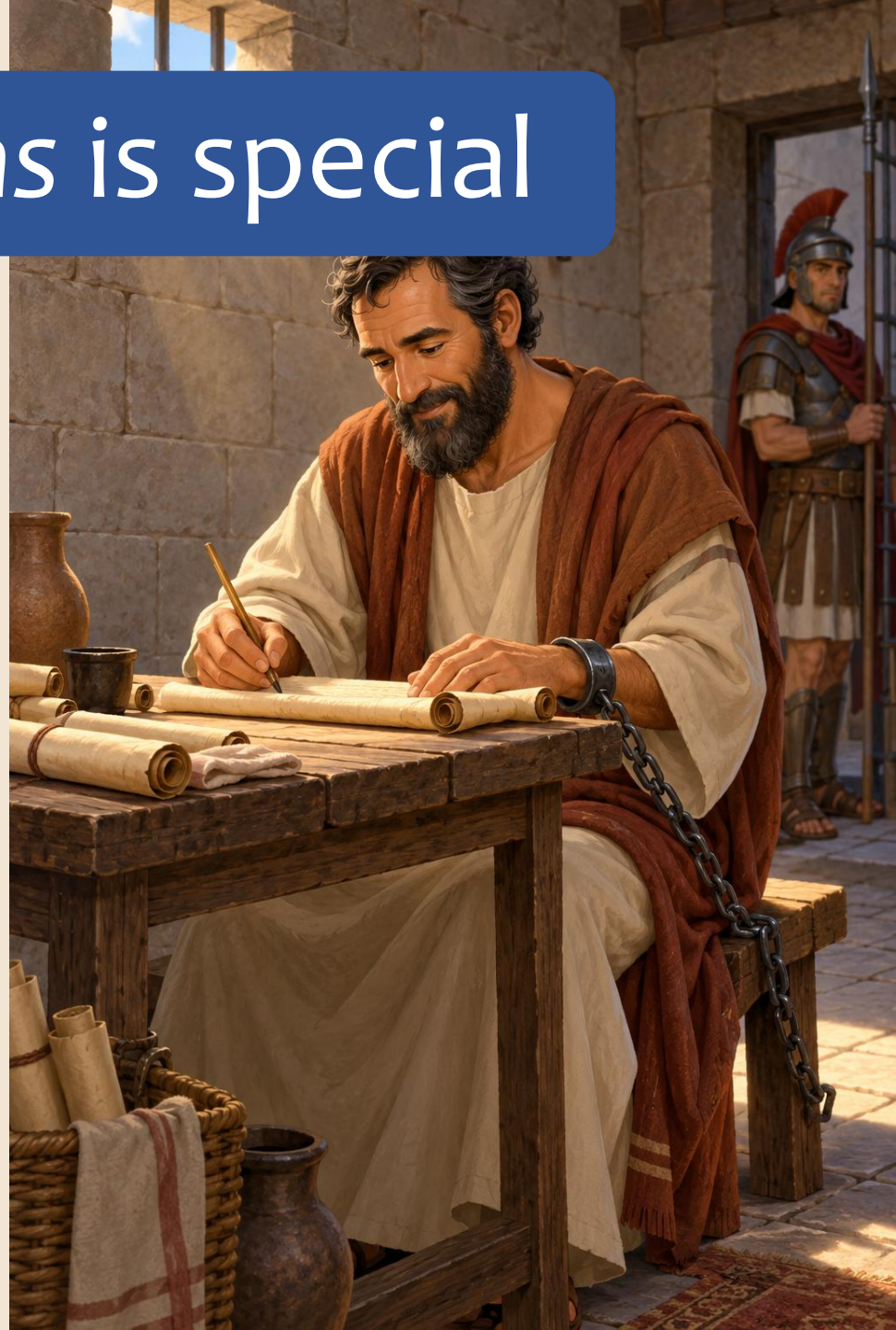
Philippians

- A letter of encouragement to the Christians in Phillipi
- Philippi is a city
 - The people that live there are *Philippians*



Why *Philippians* is special

- Paul is very gentle.
- It seems like a sermon from an old preacher
 - It is focused on building character in the people reading it, and not as much explaining things to them
 - There are parts that are deep, but they are stated in words that are surprisingly plain.



Main characters

-  **Paul**
 - Author
 - In prison when writing (1:7, 12-13)
-  **Christians in Philippi**
 - Possibly (still) including Lydia and the jailer
 - See **Acts 16:12-40**

Outline of *Philippians*

- **1:1-26:** I am doing well
- **1:27 – Chapter 2:** Encouraging the Philippians
 - Be strong
 - Be humble
 - Look out for each other
 - Timothy and Epaphroditus care about you
- **Chapter 3:** Beware of bad guys
- **Chapter 4:** Encouraging the Philippians

Theology and doctrine

We can talk about our feelings

- In *Philippians*, Paul gives voice to some major ideas that Christians think about; some even feel wrong to discuss
 - I don't always want to stay on Earth – but I know people need me to (1:23-26)
 - It is REALLY hard to find Christians you trust (2:20-21)
 - I am doing the best I can in my faith (3:12)
 - Tell myself to think positive thoughts (4:8)
 - I know I should not need to go into “nice mode” but be happy all the time, but if I am being honest, I just need to work hard at this more often than I care to admit.

Recap of *Philippians*

• Summary

- A letter of encouragement to the Christians in Phillipi

• Why it is special

- Paul is very gentle
 - It seems like a sermon from an old preacher

• Main characters

- Paul
- Christians in Philippi
 - See **Acts 16:12-40**

• Outline

- **1:1-26**: I am doing well
- **1:27-chapter 2**: Encouraging the Philippians
- **Chapter 3**: Beware of bad guys
- **Chapter 4**: Encouraging the Philippians

• Theology and doctrine

- We can talk about our feelings

The Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:16-40



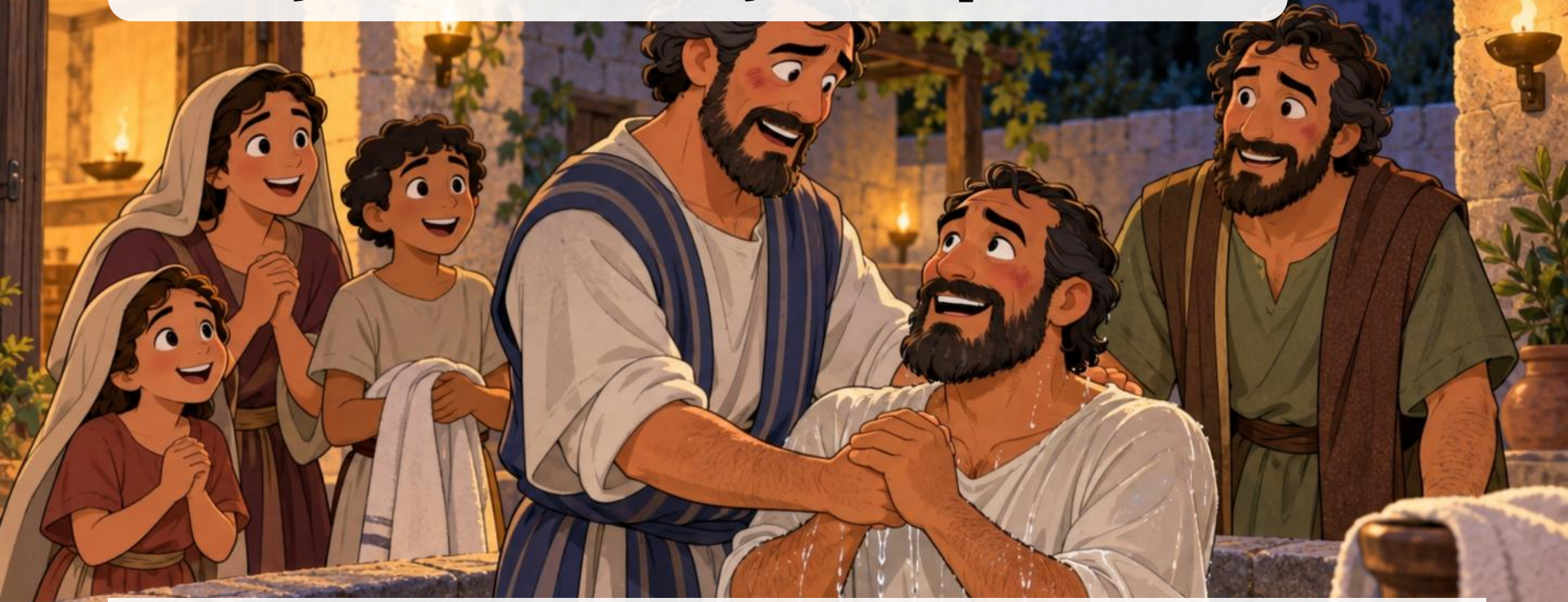
Summary

The Philippian Jailer
Acts 16:16-40

- A prison guard believes in Jesus after some amazing events.
 - It helped that Paul and Silas are some of the prisoners.



Why this story is special



- The main character literally asks, “What must I do to be saved?”
 - The answer, from Paul and Silas, was “Believe in the Lord Jesus”
 - The response from the jailer and his family was to be baptized
 - Implying that baptism was one of the things they taught

Main characters

In order of appearance:

-  **Fortune-telling slave girl**
 - Had a demon
-  **Paul**
 - Cast the demon out of the girl
-  **Slave girl's owners**
 - Not happy
-  **Silas**
 - Respected disciple and prophet (**Acts 15:22, 32**)
 - Imprisoned with Paul (**16:19**)
-  **Philippian jailer**
 - Came to Jesus

Outline of *Acts 16:16-40*

1. **Vs. 16-18:** Paul casts a demon out of a slave girl
2. **Vs. 19-24:** The owners have Paul and Silas thrown in jail
3. **V. 25:** Paul and Silas sing and pray in prison
4. **Vs. 26-28:** An earthquake sets everyone free, yet no one leaves
5. **Vs. 29-34:** The jailer believes in Jesus and he and his family are baptized
6. **Vs. 35-40:** Paul demands some justice

In case you missed it

- The prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas (v. 25)
 - Sure, they had little choice there
 - It suggests they were interested. The Greek implies this also.
- WHY did none of the prisoners escape?
 - We can't know the size of the prison; unlikely to be more than one or two dozen inmates
 - Regardless, the earthquake that opened all doors and broke all prisoners' bonds, it somehow did not destroy the building, apparently
 - That very picky earthquake seems a miracle itself; but the prisoners not escaping is what seems to have amazed the jailer
- You wonder if the reason the prisoners stayed was because of Paul and Silas' singing and praying, and what they learned from it

Theology and doctrine

Having joy in hard times

- Paul and Silas were singing in jail!
 - They were punished for a good deed, but they did not take it out on the people around them; instead they showed what it looks like to be a Christian
- The book of Philippians is not written from this prison
- But the advice sure sounds familiar
 - 1:12-14
 - 1:29-30
 - 3:8
 - 4:4-7
 - 4:11-13

Recap of Acts 16:16-40

- **Summary**

- A prison guard believes in Jesus after some amazing events

- **Why it is special**

- The main character literally asks, “What must I do to be saved?”

- **Main characters**

- Fortune-telling slave girl
- Paul
- Slave girl’s owners
- Silas (**Acts 15:22, 32**)
- Philippian jailer

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Having joy in hard times

- **Outline**

1. **Vs. 16-18:** Paul casts a demon out of a slave girl
2. **Vs. 19-24:** The owners have Paul and Silas thrown in jail
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6. **Vs. 35-40:** Paul demands some justice

- **In case you missed it**

- The prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas (**verse 25**)
- Is this why they did not flee?

Poem:

Philippians 2:5-11

The Humility of Christ

- One of the most famous descriptions of Christ in the New Testament
- Surprisingly poetic
- Plain language, but still has dense concepts
 - Grasped?
 - Emptied himself?

5 *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*

6 who, although He existed
in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant,
and being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

9 For this reason also,
God highly exalted Him,
and bestowed on Him the name
which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus
EVERY KNEE WILL BOW,
of those who are in heaven
and on earth
and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (NASB)