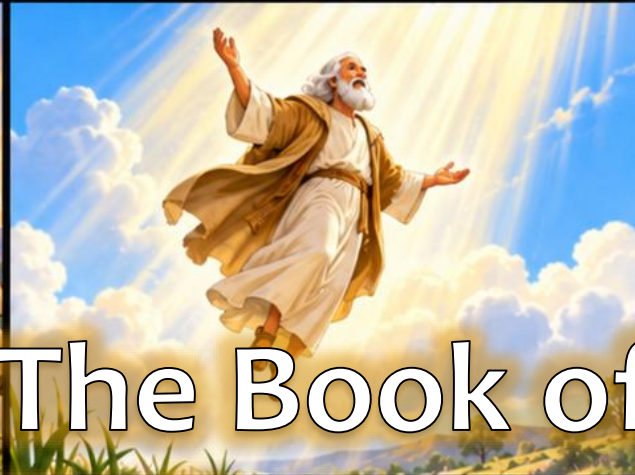
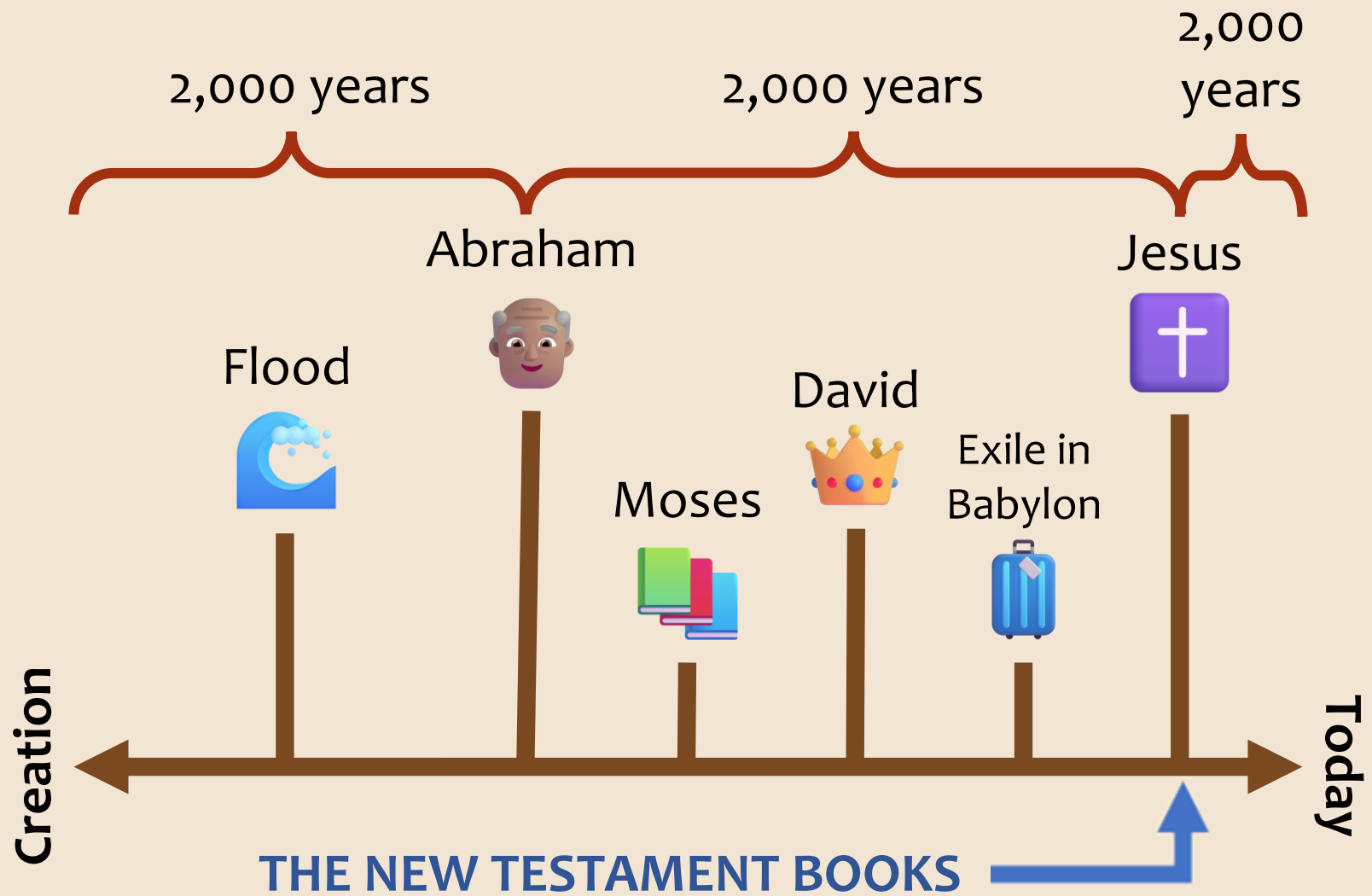


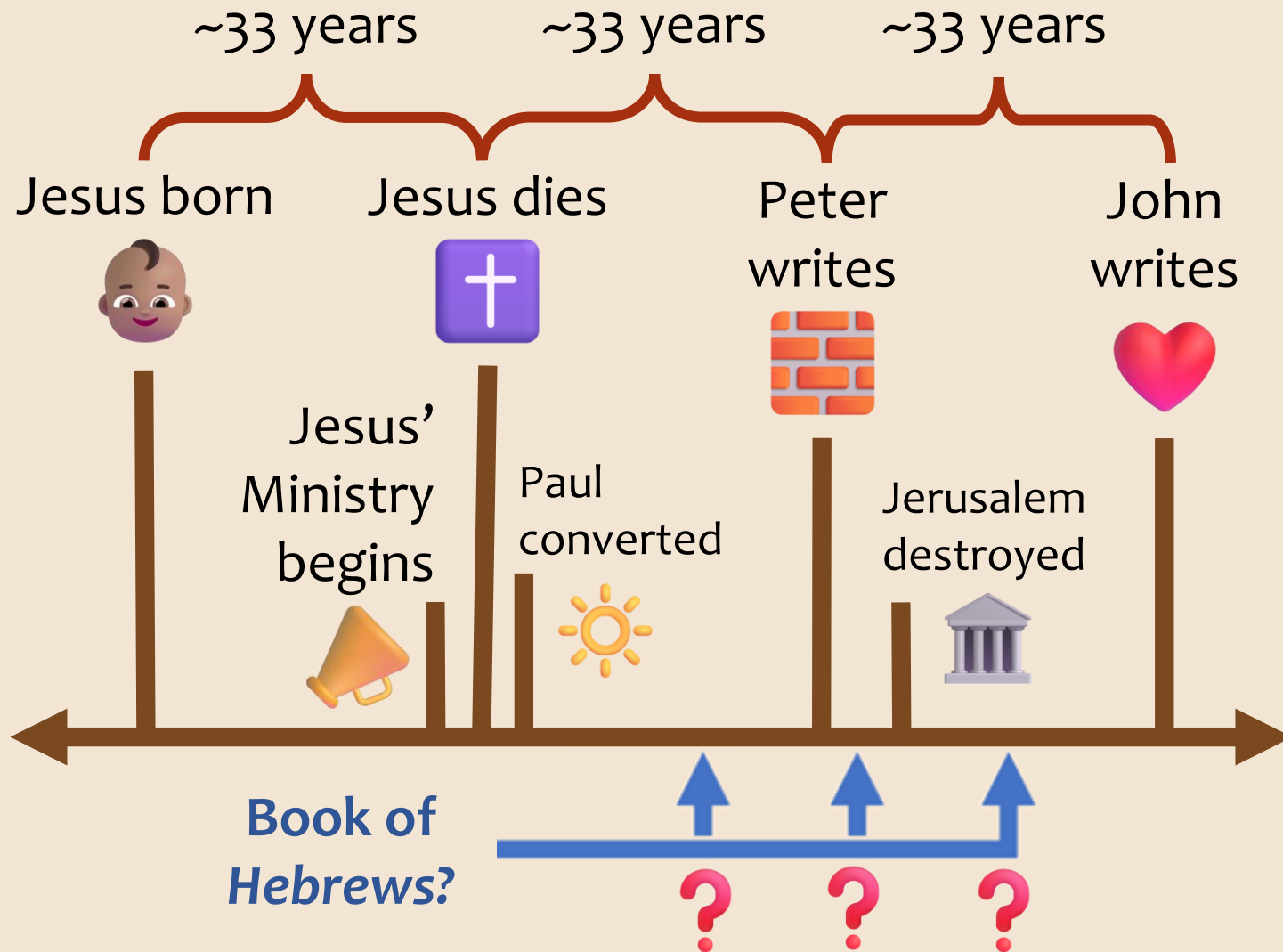


The Book of Hebrews

Bible timeline



Bible timeline



Summary

Hebrews

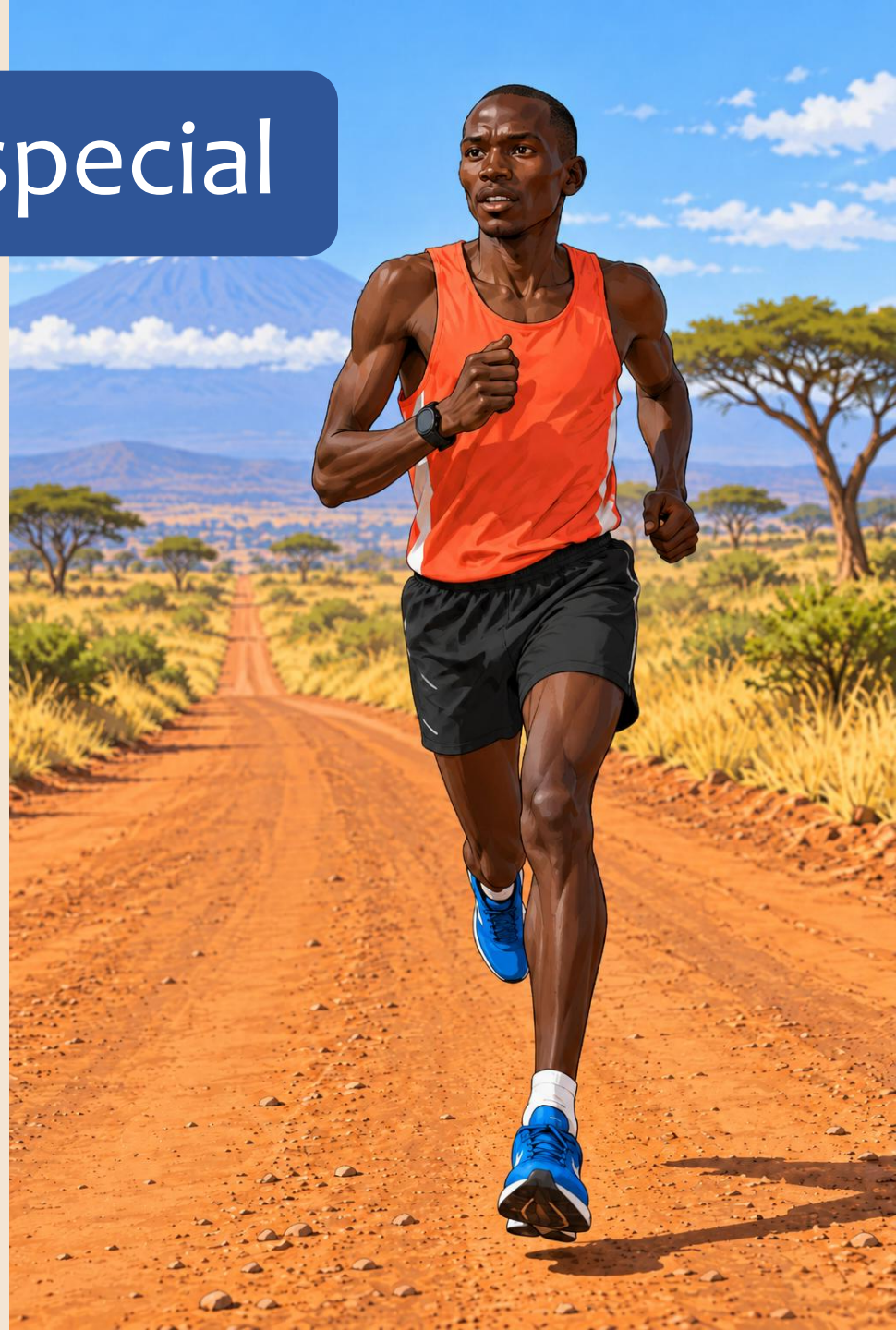
Encouraging believers to not lose their faith

- The audience is Christians
 - 3:1 – brothers who are called
 - 5:12 – should be teachers
- Christians do fall away (3:12; 6:6; 10:38)
- We need to endure (12:1)



Why *Hebrews* is special

- It is saying that Christianity means (1) knowing the fundamentals fluently, and (2) enduring through trials
 - We know that the audience struggles with basic ideas of Christianity (**5:11-12**)
 - Endurance is throughout the book, especially in **10:19-39** and **chapter 12**
 - I'd argue it is the conviction of the fundamentals that is the very thing that gives you endurance.



Main characters

-  ???
 - We do not know who wrote it
-  **Jesus Christ**
 - Mediator of a New Covenant
-   **Moses and Abraham**
 - Fathers of the Old Covenant
-  **Melchizedek**
 - Ancient king and priest
 - Jesus is a priest “in the order of Melchizedek”

Who wrote Hebrews?

- Tradition says Paul
- Many today say Paul
- Others think someone else
 - Very polished Greek
 - Does not go on tangents as much
 - Maybe Apollos, Luke, or Barnabas

Outline of *Hebrews*

- **1:1 – 10:18 – Jesus is better**

- Better than angels (chapters 1-2)
- Better than Moses (ch. 3)
- Great high priest (chs. 4-9)
 - Better covenant, better than the tabernacle
- Better sacrifice – once for all (10:1-18)

- **10:19 – 13:25 – Endure**

- Keep assembling with Christians (10:24-25)
- Stop sinning (10:26)
- Faith of the ancestors looked to the future (ch. 11)
- God's discipline helps you endure (ch. 12)

Theology and doctrine

Falling away

Christians can depart from the faith, and Hebrews has some of the strongest passages for this.

- **Hebrews 10:37-39**, “those who shrink back and are destroyed” (ESV)
- **Hebrews 10:29**, sinner was “sanctified”
- **Hebrews 10:26-27**, “For if we go on sinning deliberately...” (ESV)
- **Hebrews 6:4-6**, falling away
- **Chapter 3** – the rebellious Israelites hardened their hearts and missed out on the promised land
 - Think of Pharaoh, whose heart was hardened by God after he kept on rejecting God

Recap of *Hebrews*

- **Summary**

- Encouraging believers to not lose their faith

- **Why it is special**

- Christianity means (1) knowing the fundamentals fluently, and (2) enduring through trials

- **Main characters**

- Jesus Christ
- Moses and Abraham
- Melchizedek

- **Outline**

- 1:1 – 10:18 – Jesus is better
- 10:19 – 13:25 – Endure

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Christians can depart from the faith
- 10:37-39
- 10:29
- 10:26-27
- 6:4-6
- Chapter 3

Melchizedek

Genesis 14:17-24



Summary

Melchizedek

Genesis 14:17-24

- Melchizedek, who is a king and priest, blesses Abram, and Abram gives him a tithe.
 - 9 kings went to war; 4 against 5 (**vs. 8-9**).
 - The 5 lost, and the 4 stole Lot (Abram's nephew, **v. 12**)
 - Abram defeated the 4 kings and rescued Lot and his possessions (**v. 16**)
 - Melchizedek is a different king (not one of the 9)



Why this story is special

- Hebrews 7: Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek.



Main characters

-  **Abram/Abraham**
 - Great-grandfather to the 12 tribes of Israel
 - Gives tithe to Melchizedek
 - Defeated 4 kings with a small army (318, **v. 14**) and maybe a force of allies (**v. 13**)
-  **Melchizedek**
 - King and priest of “God Most High” (**v. 18**)
-  **King of Sodom**
 - Lost a battle
 - Wants his people back
 - Concedes that Abram has the right to keep the spoils

Outline of *Genesis 14:17-24*

1. **V. 17:** The king of Sodom comes to grovel to Abram
2. **Vs. 18-20:** Melchizedek blesses Abram and God
3. **V. 20:** Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth of the **spoils*** of the battle(s)
4. **Vs. 21-24:** Abram refuses to keep the **spoils***
 - That is, the spoils that *remained* after giving 1/10 to Melchizedek and whatever his allies may have desired (**v. 24**)

***Spoils** = valuable things that used to belong to the enemy

In case you missed it

“God Most High”

- *El Elyon* (or “Most High God” in KJV)
- Melchizedek is priest of “God Most High” (v. 18) and blesses Abram by “God Most High” (v. 19) and blesses “God Most High” (v. 20)
- Abram vowed to “the LORD, God Most High” (v. 22)
- It implies Abram sees Melchizedek’s God as the same as his own
- *El Elyon* is fairly unique in the Bible; the exact phrase only occurs here and in **Psalms 78:35**

In case you missed it

Psalm 110

- The most quoted Psalm in the new Testament books
- Especially **verse 1**, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” (ESV)
- But **verse 4** is the only other mention of Melchizedek in the Old Testament – and Hebrews runs with it

Theology and doctrine

Hebrews 7: Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek

- “Melchizedek” means king of righteousness (**v. 2**)
- He was king of Salem; Salem means “peace” (*shalom*); he was the king of peace (**v. 2**)
- He pops up out of nowhere in Genesis, so we know nothing of his background or if he died. Jesus was born of the Spirit and has no end of days (**v. 3**).
- Likewise, Jesus is a priest forever like Melchizedek (**v. 17; Psalm 110:4**)
- Old Covenant priests came from the tribe of *Levi* (therefore definitely not *Judah*) but Melchizedek predates the Old Covenant and was a priest; Jesus also stands outside the restrictions of the Law of Moses and is a priest and king from *Judah*, not *Levi* (**vs. 13-17**)

Recap of Genesis 14:17-24

- **Summary**

- A king and priest blesses Abram, and Abram gives him a tithe

- **Why it is special**

- Hebrews 7: Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek

- **Main characters**

- Abram/Abraham
- Melchizedek
- King of Sodom

- **Outline**

1. **V. 17:** The king of Sodom comes to grovel to Abram
2. **Vs. 18-20:** Melchizedek blesses Abram and God
3. **V. 20:** Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth of the spoils of the battle(s)
4. **Vs. 21-24:** Abram refuses to keep the spoils

- **In case you missed it**

- “God Most High”
- Psalm 110

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Hebrews 7: Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek

Poem: Psalm 95

“Today, if
you hear
his voice”

The book of
Hebrews
repeatedly
quotes the
second half,
in **chapters**
3-4

Psalm 95, ESV

Praise the God of creation

- 1 Oh come, let **us** sing to the **LORD**; let **us** make a joyful noise to the rock of **our** salvation!
- 2 Let **us** come into **his** presence with thanksgiving; let **us** make a joyful noise to **him** with songs of praise!
- 3 For the **LORD** is a great **God**, and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In **his** hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are **his** also.
- 5 The sea is **his**, for **he** made it, and **his** hands formed the dry land.
- 6 Oh come, let **us** worship and bow down; let **us** kneel before the **LORD**, **our** Maker!
- 7 For **he** is **our** **God**, and **we** are the people of **his** pasture, and the sheep of **his** hand.

Do not rebel like the Israelites did

Today, if **you** hear **his** voice,

- 8 do not harden **your** hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
- 9 when **your** fathers put **me** to the test and put **me** to the proof, though **they** had seen **my** work.
- 10 For forty years **I** loathed that generation and said, “**They** are a people who go astray in **their** heart, and **they** have not known **my** ways.”
- 11 Therefore **I** swore in **my** wrath, “**They** shall not enter **my** rest.”