

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today's speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.

Overview of Isaiah : the big picture

[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)

*Sermons and talks - [calvary-brighton.sermon.net](http://calvary-brighton.sermon.net)*





The big picture of God - from an ancient prophet

## Introduction

You need a big God when ...

Crisis and threat!

- King of a precarious and declining Kingdom, cruel and uncompromising enemy outside the very gates ...
- the sudden onslaught of circumstances, life, Satan
- you have to go to A&E
- the washing machine breaks down



# The big picture of God - from an ancient prophet

The book of Isaiah is like a tiny mouse trying to eat a huge but nourishing cheese! (Motyer)

- N.B. we need an overall plan
- (sadly) overviews can leave us weightless and impactless

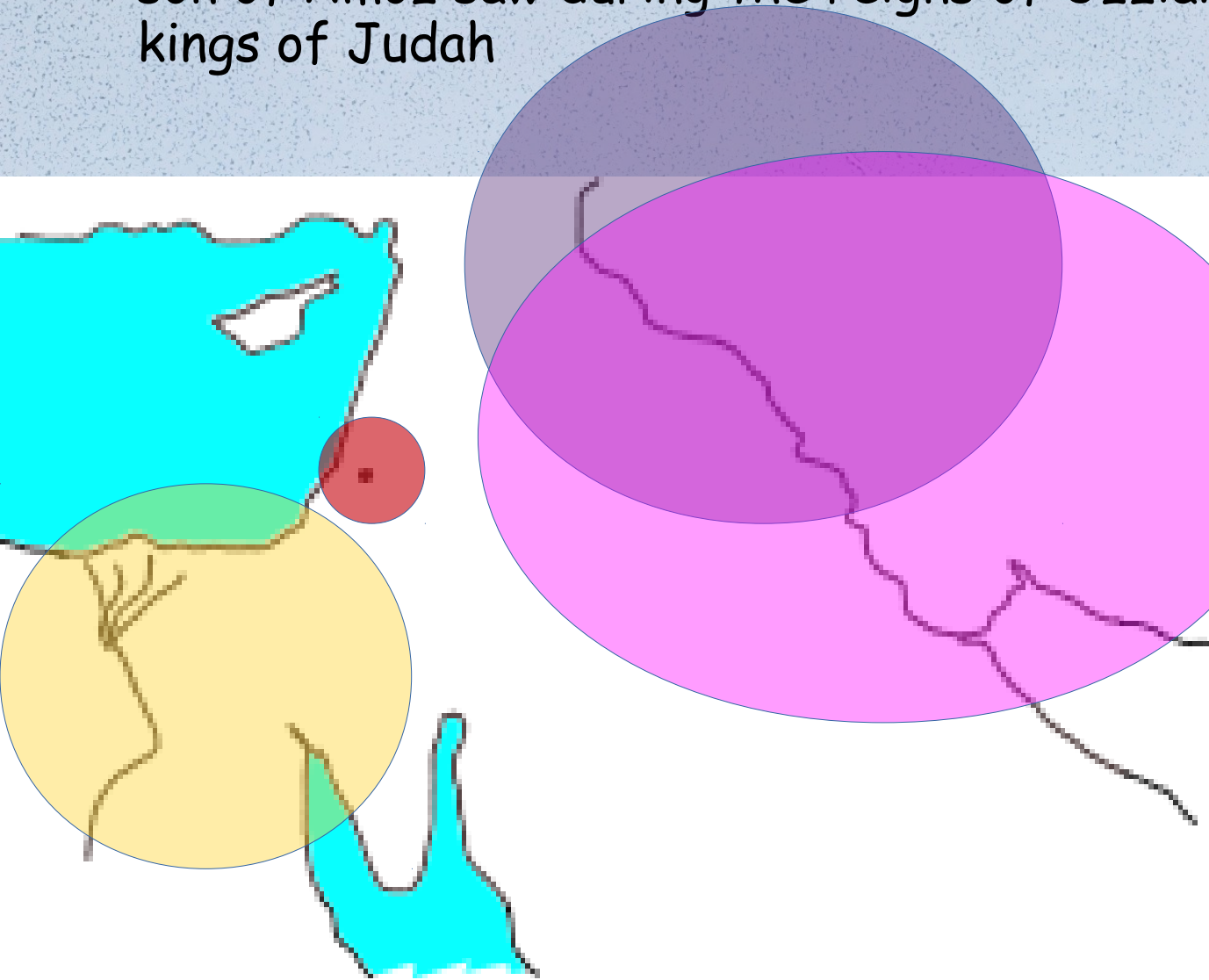
1. the big history
2. the big project
3. the big Saviour(s)
4. the big God





# the big history (and geography)

Isaiah 1:1 "the vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, kings of Judah



Jerusalem = God's  
HQ

Egypt = Exodus  
rescue from  
slavery, and  
possible current  
ally

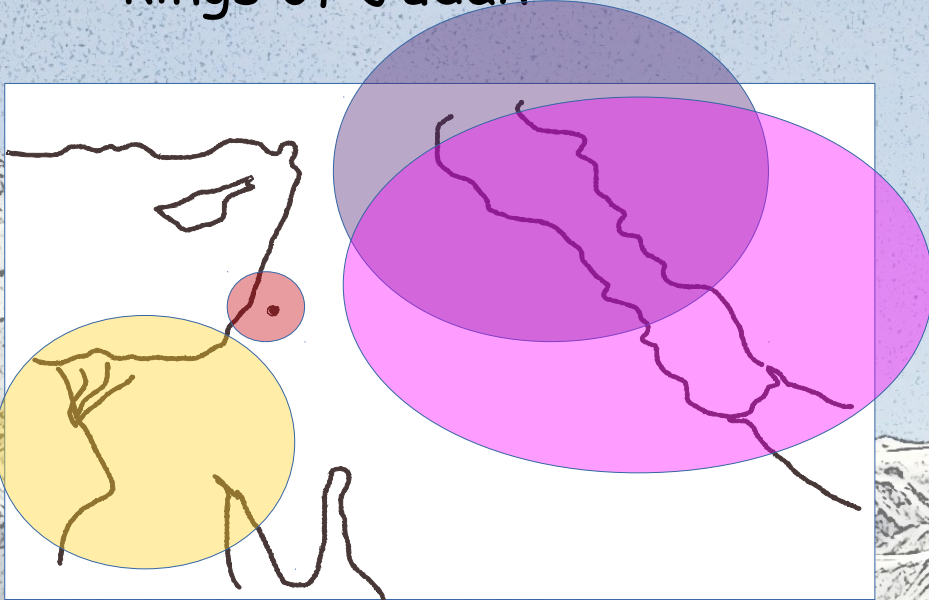
Assyria = Rising  
aggressive super  
power - attacker

Babylon = Future  
enemy, who will  
take ALL people  
into exile



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Jerusalem = God's HQ

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50 years of ministry 1:1 with many crises

References right back to Abraham (51:2) and Exodus (51:9,10)

Prophecies forward to the defeat of death and removal of all tears (25:8)

=> let's have a big view of history! Our human view is partial and can be ridiculously unrealistic



# the big project

Isaiah 2:1 - concerning the city of Jerusalem ...in the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains and it will be raised above all the hills and all the nations will stream to it ...



Sets it in the context of threat, attack, exile

The city = the community of God's people

The temple (where God meets people)

The environment itself

International reach of this Kingdom

=> in the last days ... where we live!



# the big project

Isaiah 2:1

the city = community of people

The house = God with us

The mountain hints at the renewed cosmos

The nations: speaks of global reach

Justice/peace: speaks of final rightness





# the big project

Isaiah 2:1

And we are part of that same  
massive project!

Jesus said "I will build my church ..."

Paul said "the Jerusalem that is  
above is free, and she is our  
mother" Gal 4:26

John said: "I will write on him ... the  
name of the City of my God ..."  
(Rev 3:12)

=> only by setting our minds on  
heaven and future can we live here  
on earth





# the big Saviour(s)

Isaiah 4:1 "in that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious and the fruit of the land will be the ... glory of the survivors in Israel"

who is this Branch?? (11:1ff)

- + the child who will be King (9:6)
  - + the Servant of the LORD (53)
  - + the Anointed Conqueror (63:3)
- => Jesus says it's all fulfilled in him





the big God

Isaiah 6:1 "in the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple ..."

"holy holy holy is the LORD Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (v.3)

LORD God totally in a league of his own

- "To whom will you compare me, or who is my equal? Says the Holy One" (40:25)
- N.B. not too big to care
- BUT too big to fail!



# the big God

Somewhere around 701 BC

- The King of a puny Kingdom (Judah)
- A threatened city (Jerusalem)
- overshadowed by hostile powers (Assyria)
- With the enemy at the gates

Prays to the **big God**, with a **big history**, planning a big project who references a **big Saviour**

*"I will defend this city and save it for my sake and for the sake of David my servant" (37:35)*

- he is still as big a God today
- and is he your God?

