

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.

This morning and this evening will be hearing what God says through the book of the prophet Isaiah.

This morning - "Isaiah and the servant"

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

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



# Introduction

Do you have servants?

Hungry:

- Cook for yourself?
- Or eat out with a chef and waiter to serve you "come and serve me" "I'll pay!"

Dirty:

- Clean up your self
- Or get a cleaner to deal with the mess?
- "come and clean up - I'll pay"

On a journey?

- Walk home
- Or get someone to drive you home in a taxi?
- "come and take me home - I'll pay"

Servants do hard work for their employer

- Cooking, cleaning, bringing from afar

God employs servants too!



# Approaching the big book of Isaiah

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

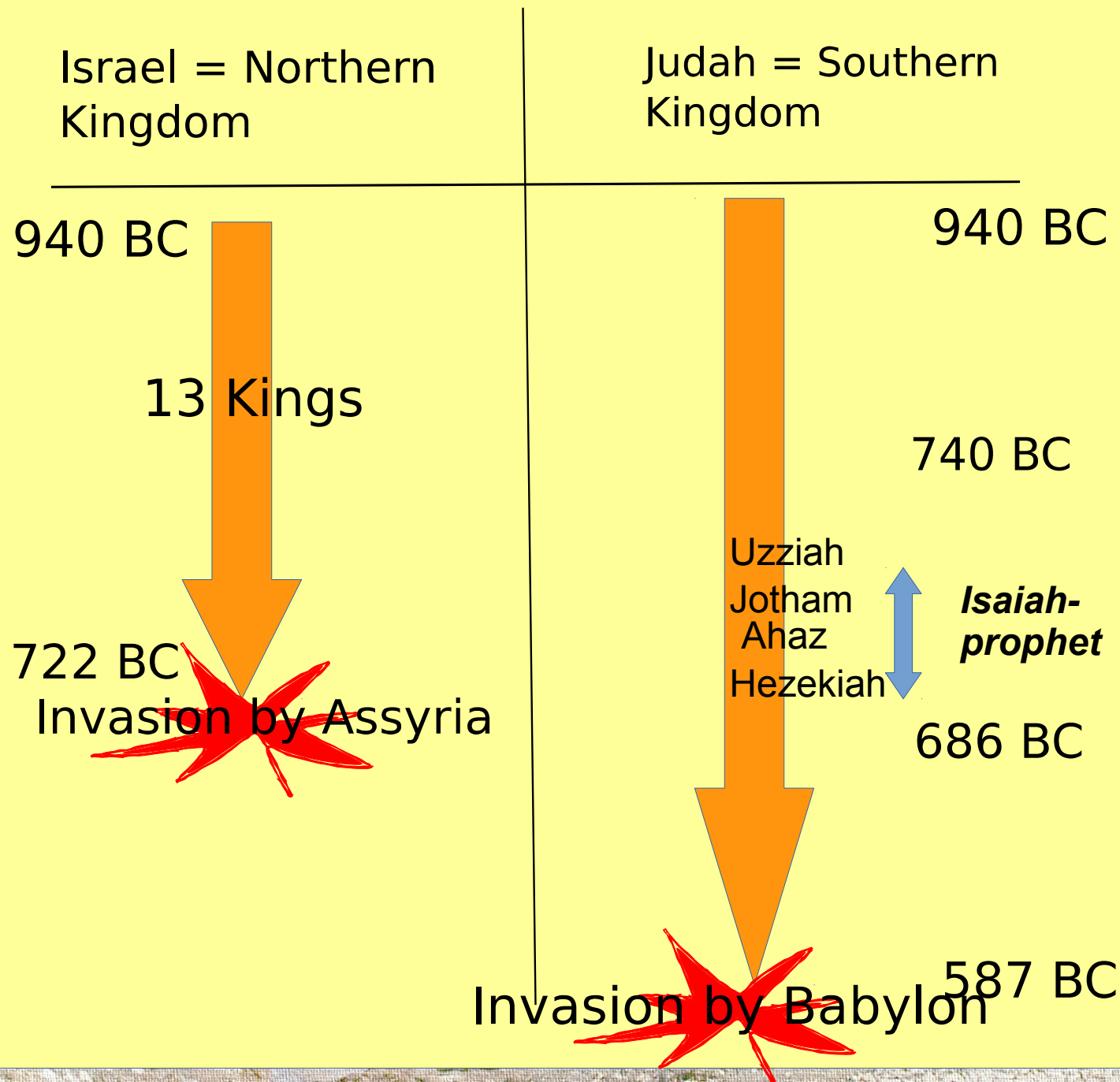
1. the end (56-66 = "Anointed Conqueror" [Motyer])
2. the middle (40-55 = "book of Servant" [Motyer])
3. the beginning (1-39 = "book of the King" [Motyer])
4. the second part of the beginning (12-39)

Today we are nibbling #2





# A. Context 1. the big history



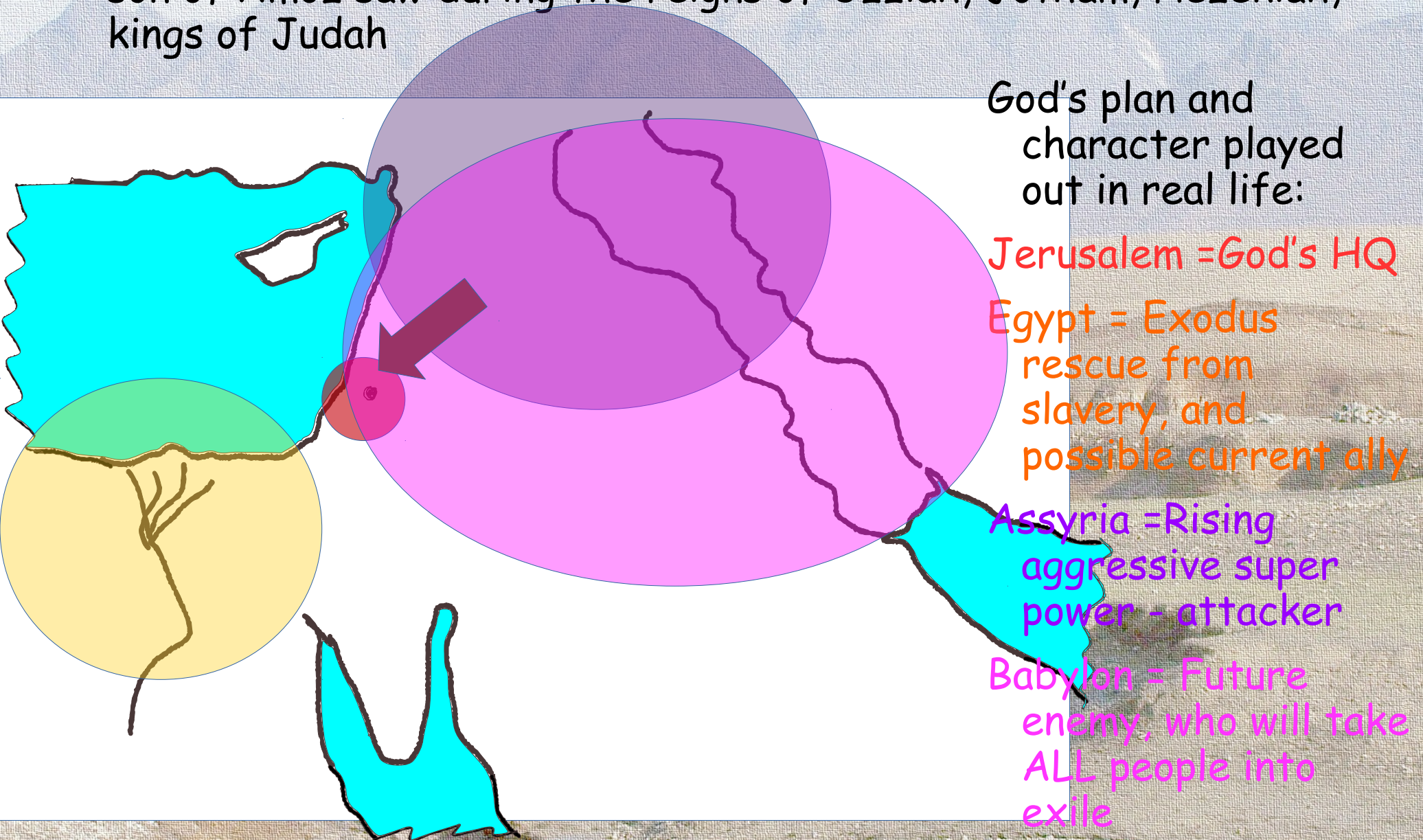
Isaiah 1:1 "the vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, kings of Judah"

- the North and South kingdoms were split  
the dates are approximate!



# A. Context 2: geography - zoomed in

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"





# Previously

## 1a. the city of God and the two futures

- Indictment and Judgment
  - The city of destruction
- Zion and her King
  - The eternal city

## 1b the pregnant people and the child who will be King

- (the virgin will give birth ... Immanuel)

## 2. the nations and their Creator (13-39)

- Assyria : the repulsed threat
  - Who is actually in LORD's hands
- Babylon and her gods: the future triumphant threat
  - Who is actually going to be defeated by the LORD
- Israel: whom the LORD will not abandon
- Sandwiched between Ahaz ... who would not trust
- Hezekiah ... who did trust, but imperfectly

## 4. today the book of the servant (4 servants intertwined)



# 40-55 the servants of the LORD

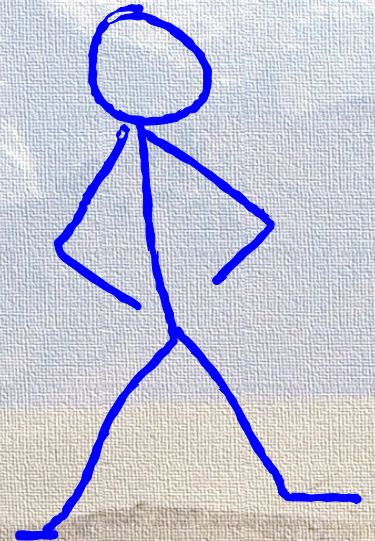
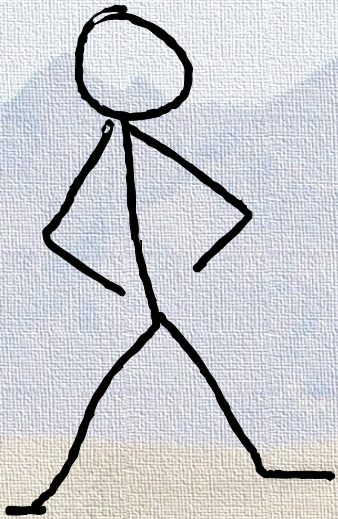
## The two-fold problem

- the nations: proud, idolatrous, pretending to be god, but limited
- their idols - are bits of tree
- Israel: un-trusting in God, trusting the plans of the politicians, disobedient, following the idols of the nations.
- her God is the Creator of all things

HOW to bless Israel

HOW to bless the nations?

Answer lies in service/servants





# #1. Isaiah his servant (20:1-6)

- (Isaiah himself is a sort of figure-head for Israel)
- under the word of the LORD (v.2)
- obeying the word of the LORD (v.2)
- to appear in shame (v.3)
- to be a sign (v.3)
- to show the shame of nations (Cush & Egypt)
- ... that those who trust in them will also be shamed (v.5)

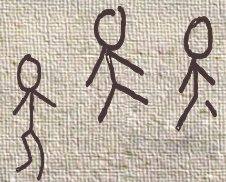
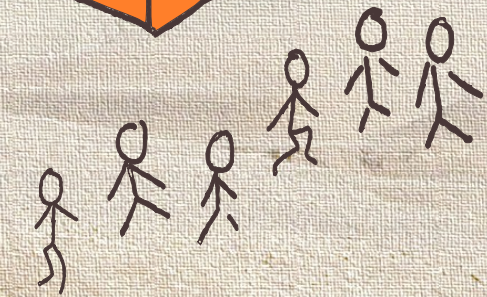
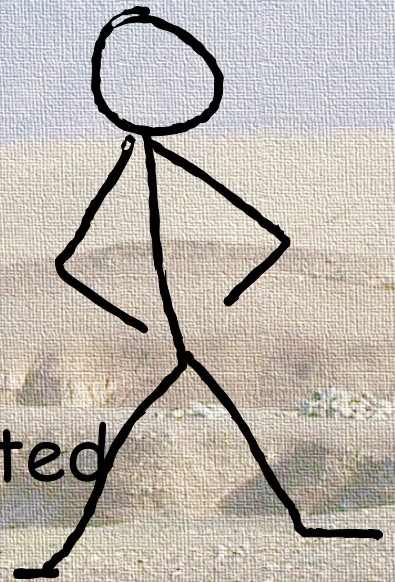
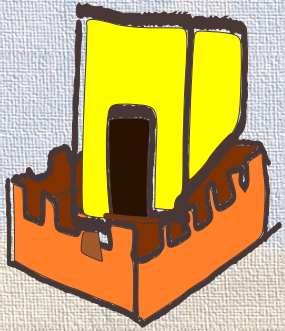




## #2. David, my servant David the King (37:35)

- =anointed = Messiah = Christ

- (His job is to rule and bring justice = mishpat)
- He is linked to the city - Jerusalem
- He is linked to the LORD
- He serves God, God is committed to him
- Because of him LORD saves the City
- ==> the King is a great Saviour





# #3. Israel is intended to be his servant

Deuteronomy 4:5-8

- to be put in a geographical place
  - to be under LORD's word
  - to obey the LORD's word
  - to be the envy of the nations (God hears prayer)
  - to be envy of the nations (their way of life has such quality)
    - Righteous
    - Decrees (wise ways)
    - Laws (mishpat)
- = to be a light to the nations!





# #3b. Israel (like us) fails to be his servant

Isaiah 42:18ff

- deaf - cannot hear
- blind - cannot see
- impoverished (v.22)
- imprisoned (v.22)
- far away [in Babylon] (v.22)
- disobedient (v.24)
- wrapped in the flames of judgment

=> picture of human condition in  
deepest spiritual need

=> would you agree?

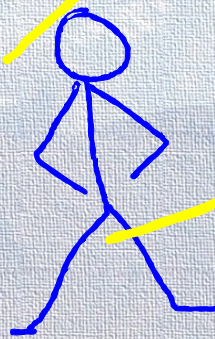
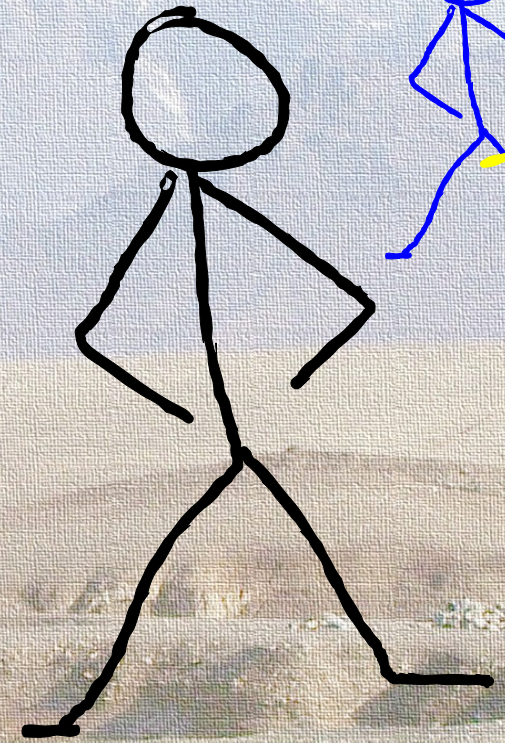
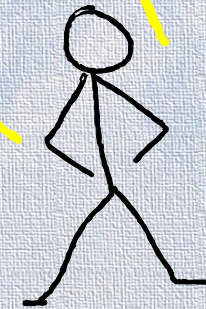




## #4. the mystery servant

Isaiah 42:1

- God delights in him (v.1)
- the Spirit of LORD is on him (v.1)
- he will bring justice (=mishpat) to the nations
- he will be gentle and self-effacing (v.2-3)
- he will be a covenant for the people = Israel (v.6)
- a light to the Gentiles/nations (v.6)
- to open eyes of blind, free captives, remove darkness
- he does what Israel was supposed to do
- but is Israel's rescuer





#4 and #3 God redeems his failed servant  
Isaiah 42:18ff

= was deaf, blind, imprisoned, far  
away

=> picture of human condition

BUT GOD will not let his people  
stay there (43:14)

He will REDEEM (43:1, 14)

He will bring them home (43:19)

He will remember their sins no  
more (43:25)





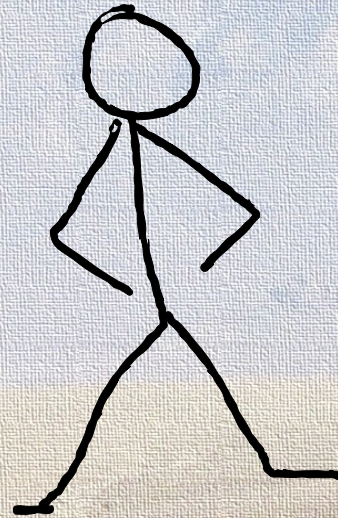
BUT HOW!!??

How can God make his  
failed, rebellious  
servant into his  
favoured obedient  
servant?

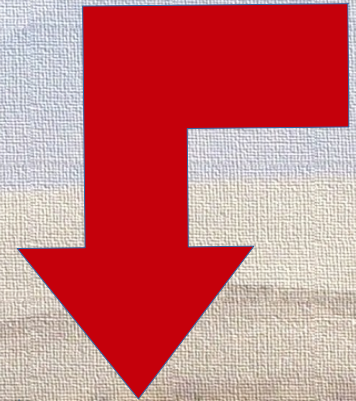
Answer: through the  
suffering servant

53:6 "We like sheep have  
gone astray ... and the  
LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all"

53:5 "by his wounds we  
are healed"



Our iniquity ... on him





# And who is this mystery servant?

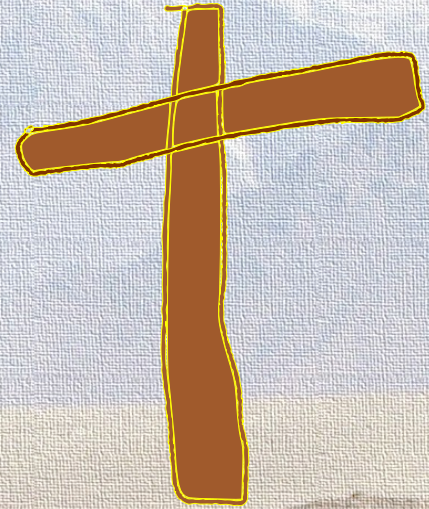
1 Peter 2:24

"He himself (= Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah) bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness, by his wounds you have been healed ..."

The story of Israel is fulfilled in Jesus

The plight of the nations is solved in Jesus

He is the servant who cleans up the mess

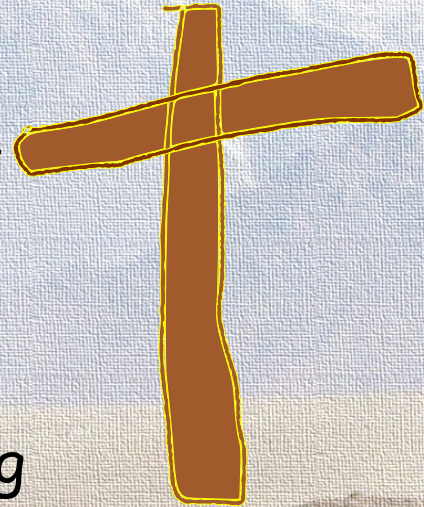




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Like the waiter, the cleaner, the taxi-driver

Jesus is prepared to serve us, to clean us, to bring us home.

But - he says - you can't pay - I'll do the hard work & I'll pay ... in blood

Do you need his service?

Do you need what only he can do?

Are you humble enough to let him pay?

Are you at the point where you are asking him to do that? So do so this minute.