

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



*"All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet" -
Matthew 1:22*

*This morning's speaker is Philip Wells -
Christmas Eve 2017*

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

calvary-brighton.sermon.net



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:18-25

This "most wonderful" time of the year

... this time each year

... as each year passes

... but where are we going to?

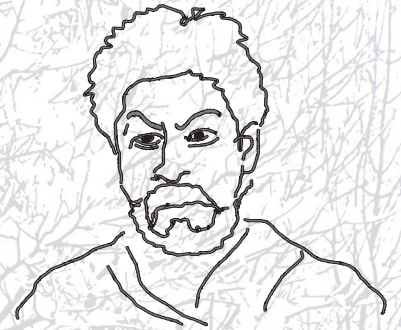
... each milepost along the journey, but is it a journey from somewhere to somewhere?

... human-wide journey to ... where?

... personal journey to where?

... if history is a river flowing, where is the flow meant to take us?

... is there a destination, or a fulfilment?



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

Matthew writes the story of Jesus as a story of **fulfilment**

"All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means "God with us"

Matthew's gospel 1:22,23



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:18-25

Think about **fulfilment** ..

English Oxford Living Dictionary

1. The achievement of something **desired, promised, or predicted**.

e.g. 'winning the championship was the fulfilment of a childhood dream'

1.1 Satisfaction or happiness as a result of fully developing **one's potential**.

e.g. 'she did not believe that marriage was the key to happiness and fulfilment'

2. The meeting of a requirement, condition, or need.

e.g. 'the fulfilment of statutory requirements'



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:18-25

Greek: (pleroo) =to fill, to fill up, thus to fulfil

- fill full :

e.g. an empty glass turned into a full glass

e.g. a light floppy balloon filled → a heavy rounded water bomb

- fulfil ~ give full development to

e.g. a toddler good at egg and spoon race → Usain Bolt

e.g. a little girl who loved dolls and teddies → mother of 10 children

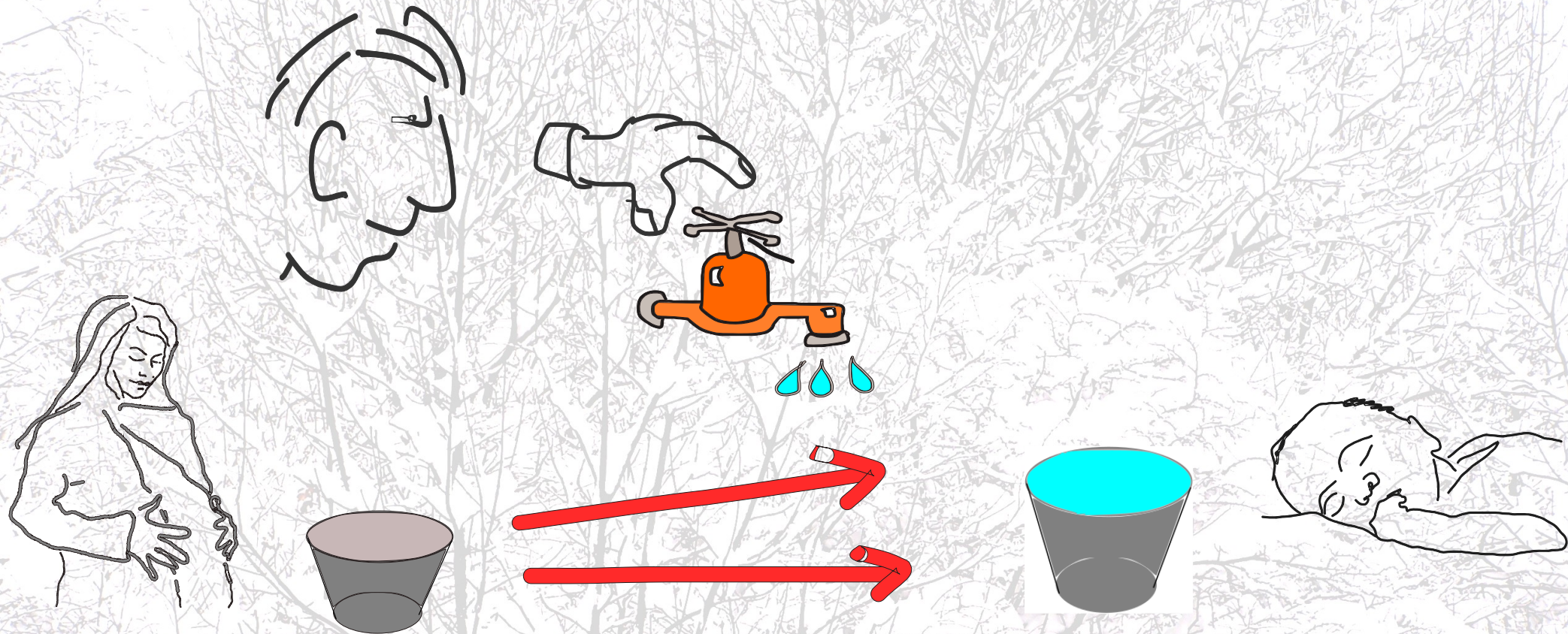
e.g. someone who played with trains and meccano → civil engineer

e.g. "Log College" Bucks County, Pennsylvania → Princeton College of New Jersey

e.g. screechy child violinist → famous concert virtuoso



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22



Matthew writes the story of Jesus as a story of fulfilment
Matthew specifically states:

v.22 fulfilment / filling up of words of Lord through Isaiah

2:15 fulfilment / filling up of words of Lord through prophet [Hosea]

2:17 fulfilment / filling up of words of Jeremiah

2:23 fulfilment / filling up of words of prophets

"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

1. This fulfilment is not the product of chance

NOT a purely evolutionary universe ruled by chance, competition for resources and survival of the fittest

- in this such a universe **CHANGE** is does not explain **PROGRESS** (in a positive direction)

- e.g. the Darwinian world of high street trading ... where independent traders get squeezed out by Tesco, small shops get obliterated by on-line giants.

= **CHANGE** ... (more profitable) **PROGRESS??**



The Bible says we live in a different world i.e. one in which things can start and move toward fulfilment. "your kingdom come!"



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

2. This fulfilment needs external Director

So - Matthew speaks of Lord's prophecies being fulfilled

i.e. predictions, plans, as part of a personal overall plan

=> *someone* with a plan has a purpose

=> someone with power to make their plans happen

=> supreme being with an intention + power to overrule in human affairs to make it happen

- The Bible asserts and assumes that this is the world that we live in.

- God of Bible is one who "works out everything in accordance with the purpose of his will" Eph 1:11

=> scary ... or very comforting



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

3. This is fulfilment of words

i.e. what the Lord said.

i.e. there is a word-based rationale behind it

- not just that we can use words to talk about it afterwards
- but that the thing that entered the past and shapes the future is "word spoken by the LORD"

- Q: what sort of words? What sort of plans? What sort of purposes?

- A: a very rich tapestry of words and plans leading from past to present to future

"God's people in God's place under God's word and blessing"

i.e. community, environment, person-person relationship (spoken), human flourishing

=> I need to know those words!



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

4 This fulfilment involves a young mother and a baby - he quotes Isaiah 7:14-15 (look in detail tonight)

- **young mother**

Q: can she possibly produce offspring?

= barren (culturally shameful and sad)?

or fertile (culturally blessed and productive)?

e.g. Isaiah 26: "as a woman with child and about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, O Lord. We were with child, we writhed in pain, but we gave birth to wind. We have not brought salvation to the earth, we have not given birth to people of the world"

e.g. Eve, Abraham's wife Sarah, Sampson's mother, Samuel's mother Hannah ... all had children by God's power

=> God who is able to bring fruitfulness out of dryness, bless old age, turn around human limitations for his own purposes.

=> "I want that God in my life!?"



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"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

5. This is fulfilment of "God with us"

- he quotes Isaiah 7:14-15 (look in detail tonight)

"God with us"

i.e. opposite is **God NIT with us**

= life without God on our side

= life without God's supportive presence

= life without God's help and assistance

=> not a good place to be. Please don't choose that!

i.e. how fully is God with us??

- "thoughts and prayers" -vs- hands on action

Matthew - "fill up this idea" ... how full can it get?

- it will become extremely clear that God has come
"hands on"



"Jesus - the fulfilment" - Matthew 1:22

6. This fulfilment focuses on Jesus himself

This particular quote is put there to explain the nature of Jesus, Person.

Q: No human father (v.18), is he from the human race?
Does he have a human nature?

A: Yes - he is in the belly of Mary

Q: Is this the only thing which describes his being? NO

A: he is born "out of the Holy Spirit" (v.18, v.20)

- it is also true that he has the nature of God
==> the magi "worship". Do we fully do so?



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Let's finish:

- this is fulfilment: a filling up (of many things)
- 1. Purpose, not chance
- 2. a hand controlling
- 3. particular words of the Lord
- 4. the miracle of birth of the child
 - in the full extreme miracle!
- 5. in Jesus there is a full extreme of "God with us"

*since there is this purpose of history focused in Jesus
Are you in or out? Do the years take you along with
this movement or are you outside the stream.*

He is the fulfilment of Lord's words, he is also the one who alone can be the fulfilment of our lives.

