

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 11th February 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.

This morning - "the clashing story of God's City"

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

Sermons and talks - calvary-brighton.sermon.net



Question: what is God saying today to ...

Let's see what the God of the bible says ...

To Ally (not real name)

- On the edgy side of Brighton
- Who is interested in finding out about the Christian god
- "Does this God love me or hate me?"

To Bertie (not real name)

- Occasional church goer
- doesn't quite see why it should be any more real than it is now
- "Is there anything I'm missing?"

To Carlita (not real name)

- A steady ups-and-downs Christian
- Who needs help to live the Christian life
- "How shall I live this week?"

Question: what is God saying today to ...

Plan

Remind us of the context

Show there is a clashing nature of the chapters -

Q: why?

Q: Glaring omission how is the clash resolved??

1. Show the judgment part

2. Show the promises part

3. Ask how this applies to A.B.C

The original audience

"Judah and Jerusalem in time of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah" 1:1

N.B. PLACE = God's chosen (by grace) nation, redeemed from slavery in Egypt, given the laws of God, the city of the great King

= time of ease and prosperity

– Uzziah, Jotham

= time of fear and threat

– Ahaz (from N), Hezekiah (from Assyrian army)

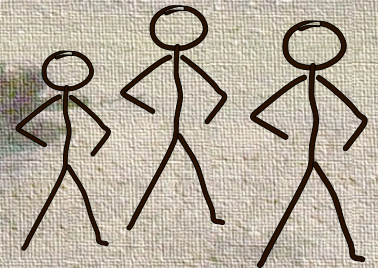
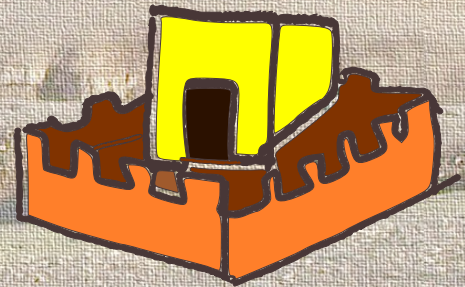
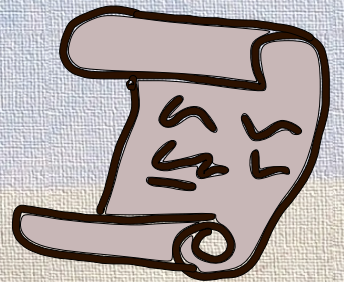
= times of unbelief

– Ahaz

= times of faith

– Hezekiah

= City with its best and most glorious days still in the future



Map of these clashing chapters (1-6)

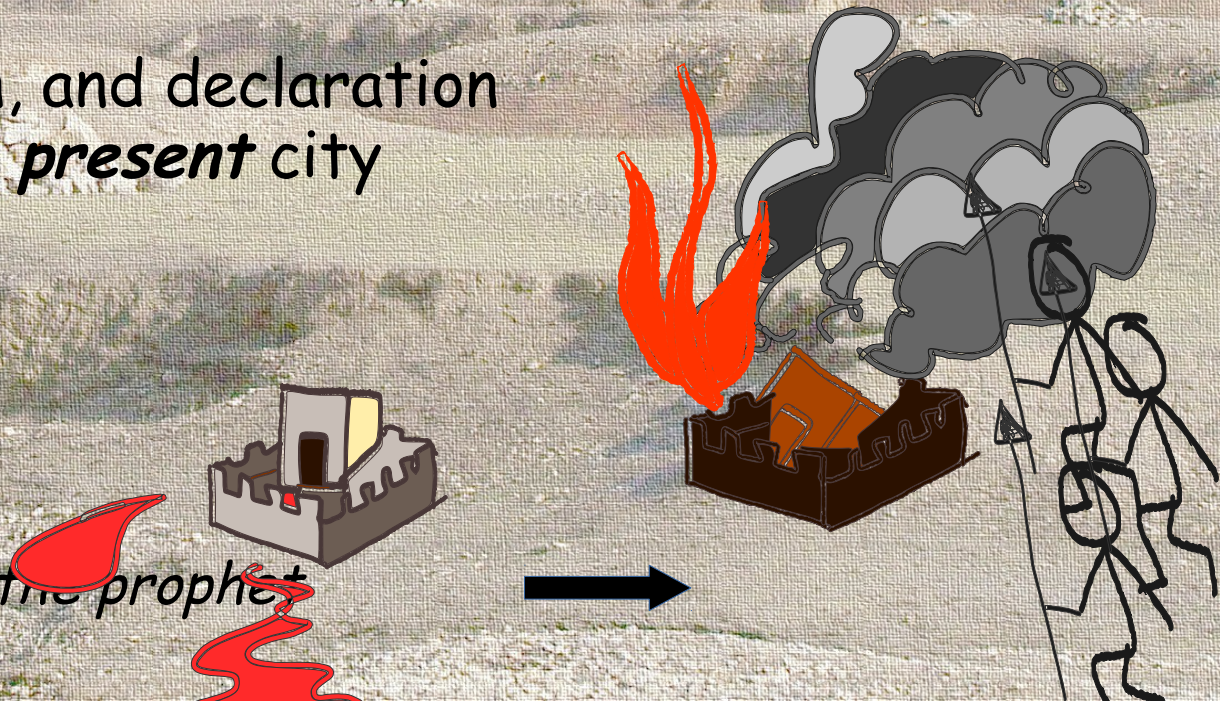
1. There are extravagant, unreasonable, determined promises about the **future** city

- 1:25-27
- 2:1-5
- 4:2-6
- *Up to chapter 6 - Isaiah the prophet*



2. There is fierce accusation, and declaration of **future** judgment on the **present** city

- 1:1-24, 28-31
- 2:6-22
- 3:1-4:1
- 5
- *Up to chapter 6 - Isaiah the prophet*



1a. Accusation(s) against the present city (2:6-22)

Date and situation?

- prosperous time with Kings Uzziah, Jotham?
- Pro-Assyria time of King Ahaz
- Pro-Egypt time of King Hezekiah?

v.6 full... from the East

- Empty(?) Israel ... filled from East ... polytheism, empty meditation? (*what they do in India!*)

v.6 divination like Philistines

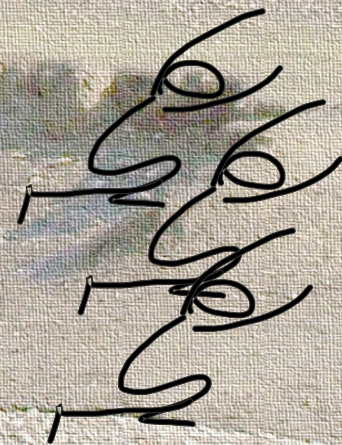
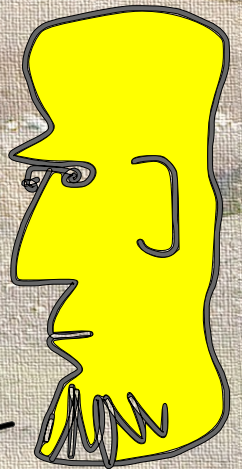
- Directionless (?) Israel ... reading entrails ... horoscopes, wordless guidance
- (*what the Philistines do!*)

v.7 wealth ... horses and chariots

- Spiritless(?) Israel ... An Egyptian speciality - human military power
- (*what Egyptians do*)

v.8 idolatry - bow down to work of own hands

- *Godless (?) Israel- idolatry the typical sin of the Gentiles*
- ==> forsaken city 2:6



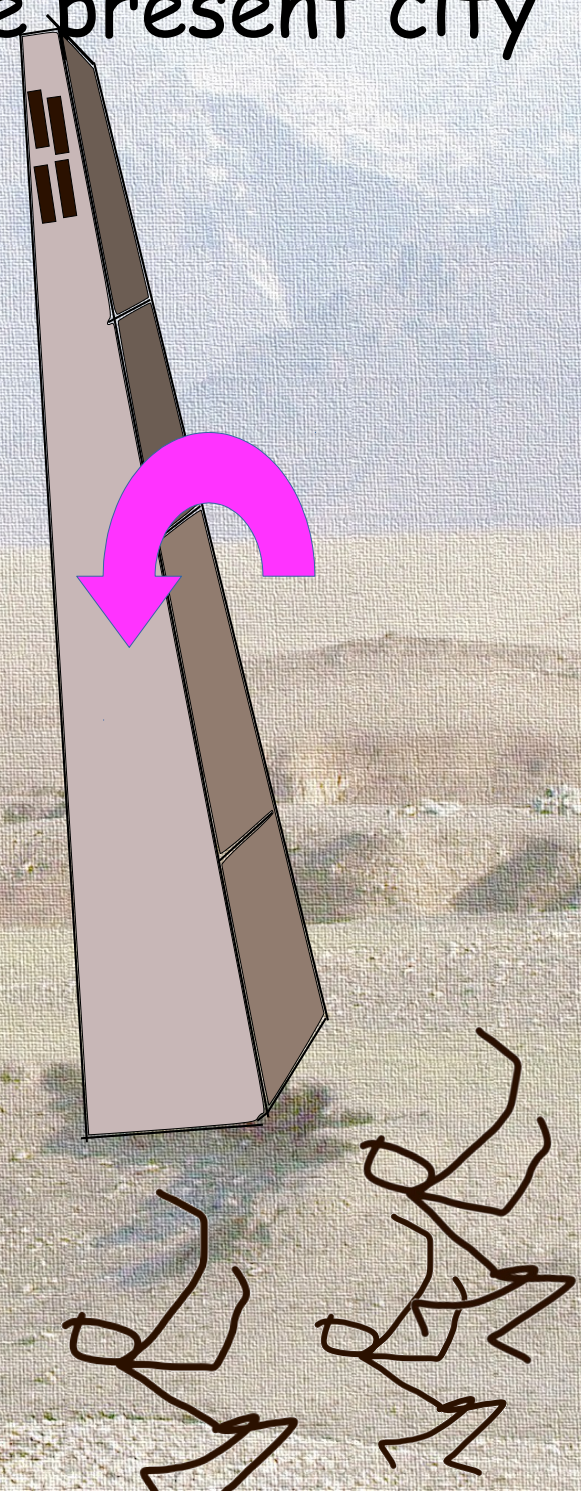
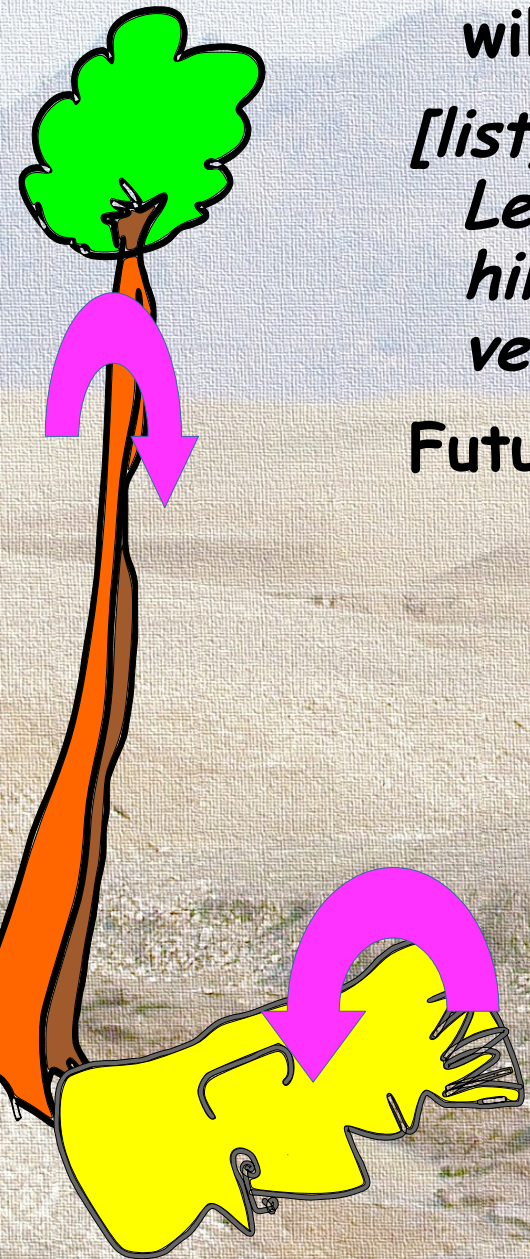
1b. Future judgment against the present city

"all that is high and arrogant
will be humbled"

*[list] v.12 Cedars of
Lebanon, oaks, mountains,
hills, towers, walls, ships,
vessels*

Future day

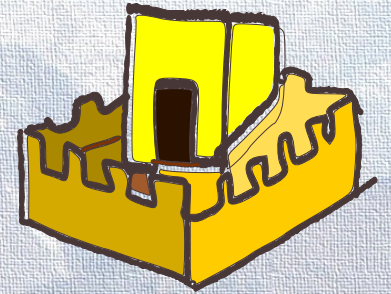
- v.11 Arrogance of Adam brought down
- v. 12 LORD exalted
- v.19 -21 A day of fear, undeception, disappointment, desperation
- ==> Why? Because sin matters so much that there is no escape from judgment



2. Unreasonably generous determination for future city

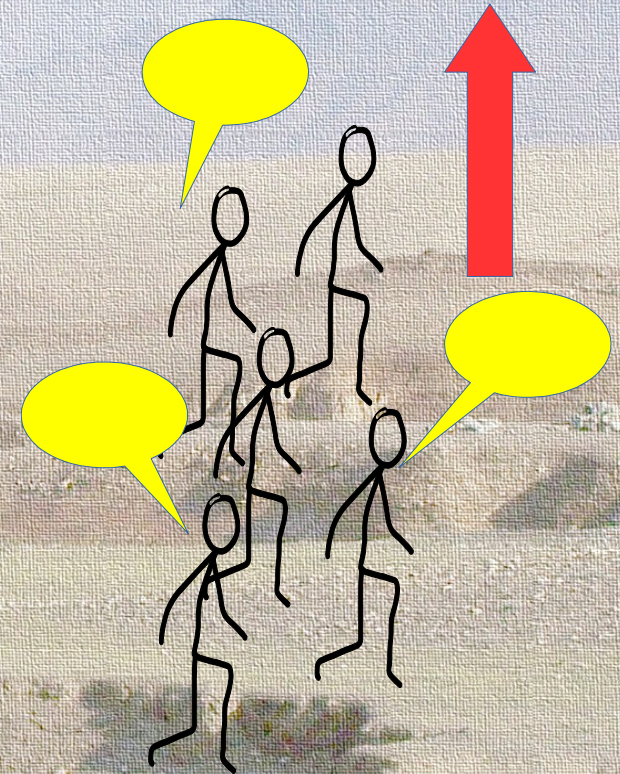
The highest mountain (v.2)

- Figurative (rather than topography)
N.B. Real <> earthly



The nations come to it to learn LORD's ways

- Encouraging each other (v.3)
- To learn his ways (v.3)
- To walk his paths (v.3)
- By the proclaimed word (torah//dabar)
- In cross-cultural peace rather than conflict

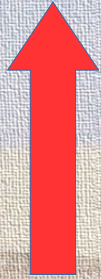
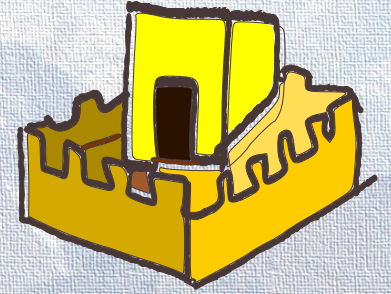


Why?

- *To show that God's plans are so very good and definite!*

2. Unreasonably generous determination for future city

"Come, O house of Jacob, let us
walk in the light of the LORD"



2. Unreasonably generous determination for future city

The genius point of the NT is that Jesus himself is the place where the clashes meet up.

- Where the day of judgment falls ahead of time (cross)
- At whose word the earthly city is finally destroyed and the foundations of the future city are laid (resurrection)
- At whose coming everything will be made new (consummation)



3A. So what is being said to people?

To Ally (not real name)

- *On the edgy side of Brighton*
- *Who is interested in finding out about the Christian god*
- *"Does this God love me or hate me?"*

1. There is one God, one way to God

- i.e. one mountain, city ... all nations flow to it

2. Your problem is God

- Although you may be desensitised to it, your whole life is built on a huge insult to the glory of God
 - "idolatry" - making up a god who suits you, rather than submitting to the God who is Himself
 - Guidance, meaning, treasure, power, exalting self ("I demand freedom to live as I choose" e.g. sexuality)
 - The measure of the wrongness of this will only be fully shown on the last day

3. Your remedy is God

- He wants you to come to him (= stream to his house)
- N.T. the master of the house is Jesus the son

3B. So what is being said to people

To Bertie (not real name)

- Occasional church goer
- doesn't quite see why it should be any more real than it is now
- "Is there anything I'm missing?"
-

Answer: *the chapters are binary*

- = clashing opposites
-
- Heading up to City, or hiding head from the dread of the LORD
- Please don't be satisfied with a make-believe middle way!!

3C. So what is being said to people

To Carlita (not real name)

- A steady ups-and-downs Christian
 - Who needs help to live the Christian life
 - "How shall I live this week?"
1. Assure you that you are heading in the right direction
 - To be saying "We=I want to hear the word of the LORD"
 - "We=I want to walk in his paths"
 2. There may well be conflicts and hardships to work through
 - Streaming from XYZ to Zion may be a long testing journey
 - "He will judge between the nations"
 - ==> we don't start off in harmony ... he has to produce this (by his word)
 3. Learning/ unlearning
 - i.e. unlearn the ways of the nations (arrogance, divination, idols)
 - Learn the words of the LORD ... and do them
 - e.g. crisis ... the only way I can solve it is to ... steal
 - e.g. pressure ... the only way I can deal with it is by disobedience
 -
- » "Come ... let us walk in the light of the LORD"