

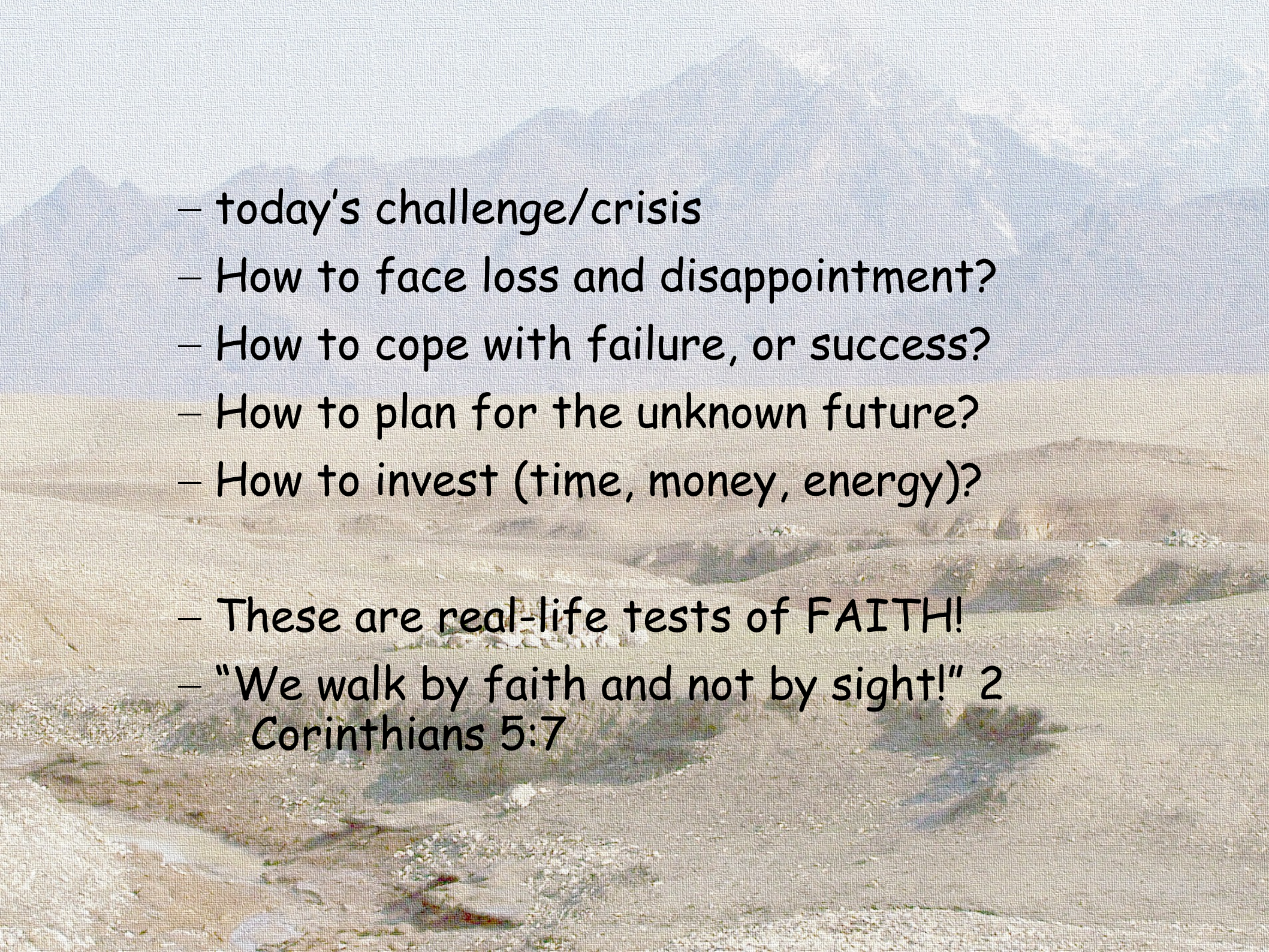
Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 11th March 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.
This morning - "the crisis of faith, aka 4 Kings, 3 Kids, 2
rivers"

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

Sermons and talks - calvary-brighton.sermon.net

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- today's challenge/crisis
 - How to face loss and disappointment?
 - How to cope with failure, or success?
 - How to plan for the unknown future?
 - How to invest (time, money, energy)?
 - These are real-life tests of FAITH!
 - "We walk by faith and not by sight!" 2
Corinthians 5:7

Isaiah Chapters 7-9

Previously about sin vs holiness

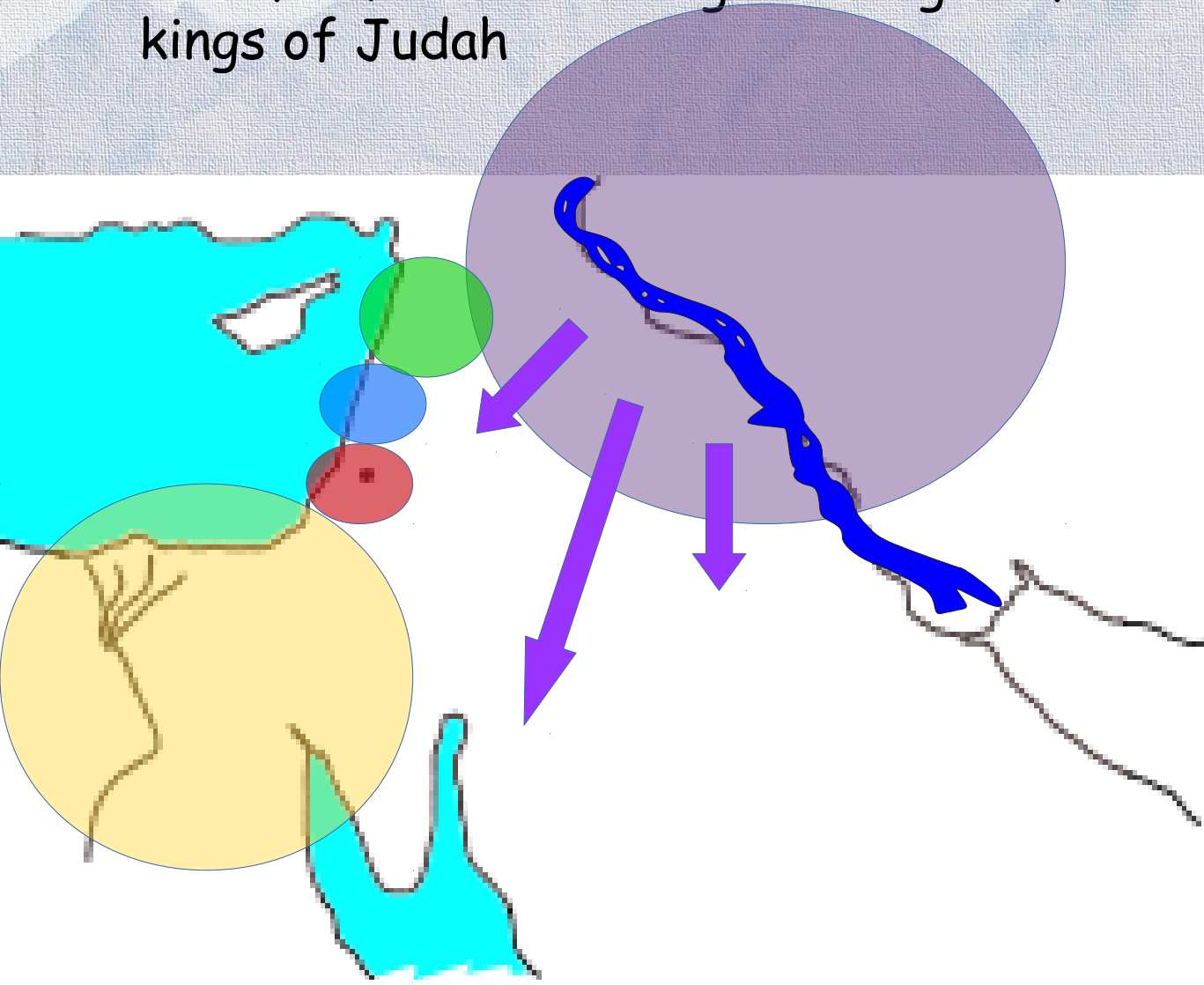
This is about Faith

In nitty-gritty situation

...spelled out in history and geography of Crisis,
4 Kings, 3 Kids, 2 Rivers

the 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
= Ahaz son of David

Egypt = Exodus
rescue from
slavery, and
possible current ally

Assyria = Rising
aggressive super
power - helper or
attacker? - Tiglath-
Pileser iii

N.B. River

Northern Kingdom -
Pekah son Remaliah

Aram/Syria - Rezin

Telling the story (1)

1:1,2 the crisis of Kings



Uzziah → Jotham →
Ahaz

Aram/Syria - Rezin

Northern Kingdom -
Pekah son
Remaliah

House of David
told:

Aram+Ephraim

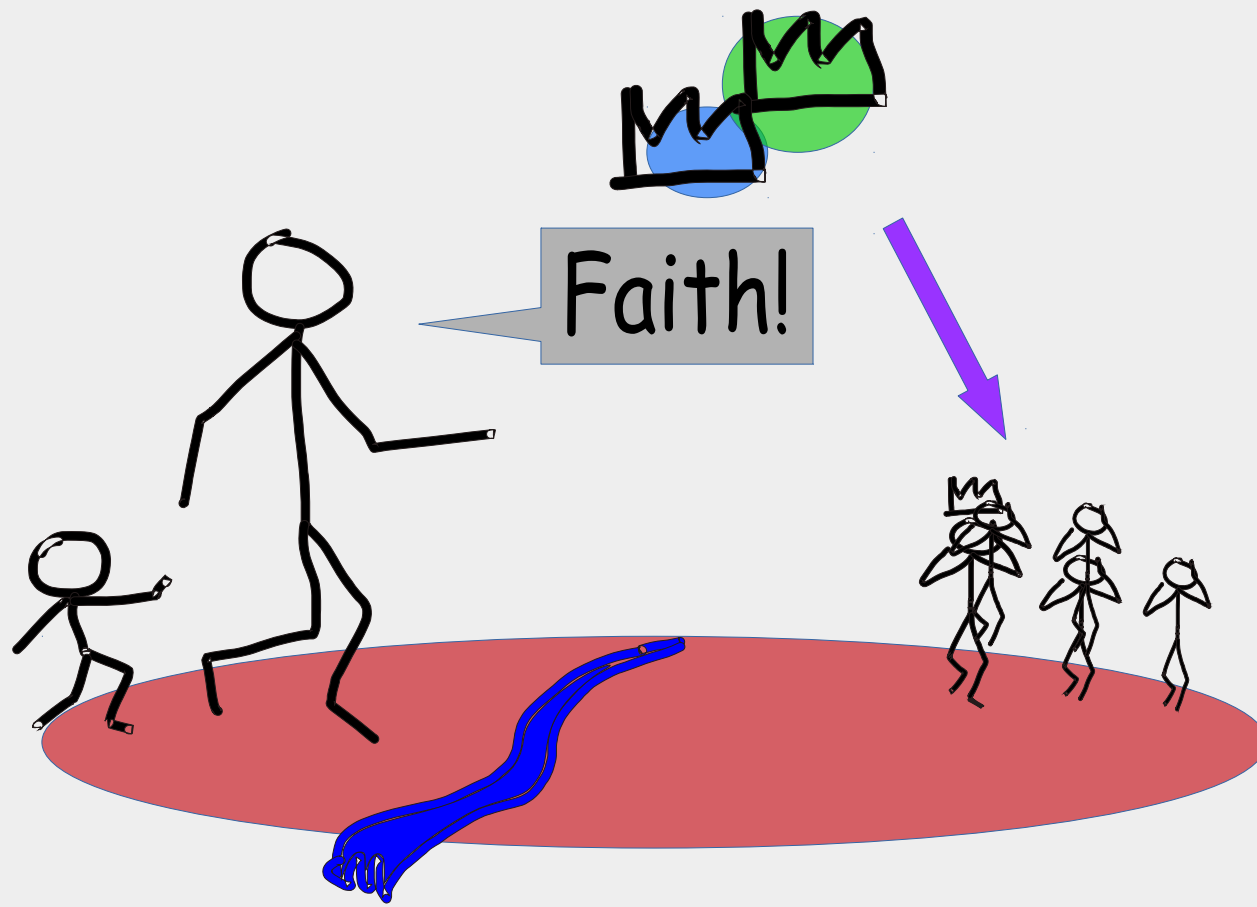
=> hearts of Ahaz
and people shaken

= deep dread fear

=>?? response

Telling the story (2)

1:3-7 Isaiah and kid#1 - Shear-Jashub



Isaiah+kid

=Shear-Jashub

= *a remnant will return*

"keep calm - don't be afraid"

→ 2 kings= 2 stubs of fire

→ their plan= tear, push son of David Tabeel

Telling the story (3)

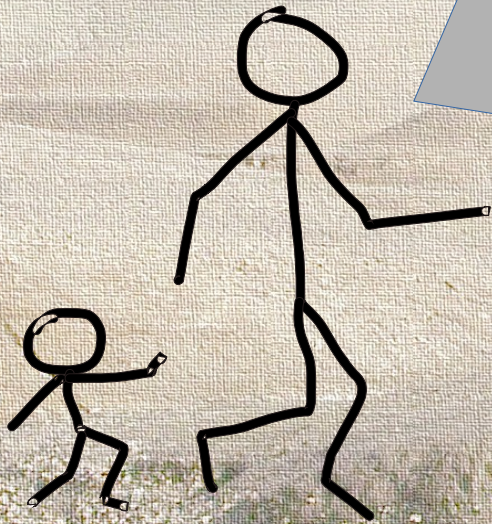
1:1,2 Isaiah and kid#1 - Shear-Jashub

LORD the Master says:

It will not stand up:

- Aram → Damascus → Rezin
- Ephraim → Samaria → Remeliah's son (upstart)
 - 65 years max
- [Judah → Jerusalem → David]

"If you are not amen/firm you will not be amened/confirmed"



Telling the story (4)

1:1,2 Isaiah and kid #2 Immanuel

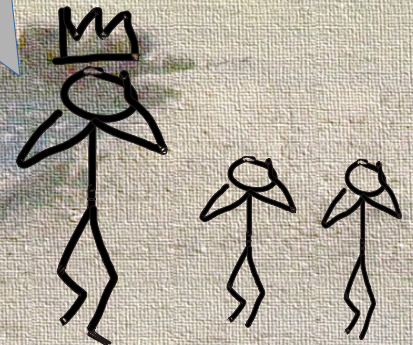
Ask for a SIGN

"God will move heaven
and earth ..."

"I will not put the LORD
to the test"

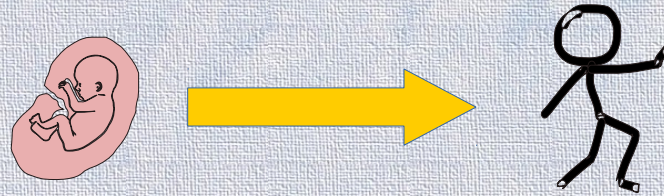
[went to Assyria for help
2 Kings 16:7]

House of David
- make men weary + God
LORD himself will
give you a SIGN
= kid "Immanuel"
= God with us



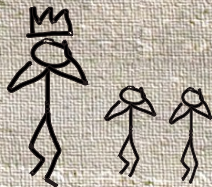
Telling the story (5)

1:1,2 Isaiah and kid #2 Immanuel



By the time he is old enough to ...

- X2 dreaded Kings gone
- LORD will bring King of Assyria
- = whistle for bees ... infestation
- Cutting off hair: trim → humiliation
- Fertile land → desolation

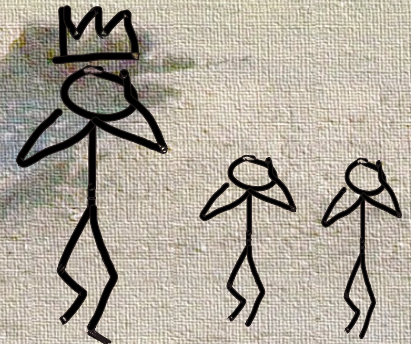
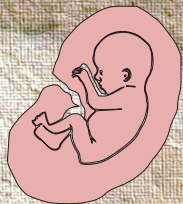
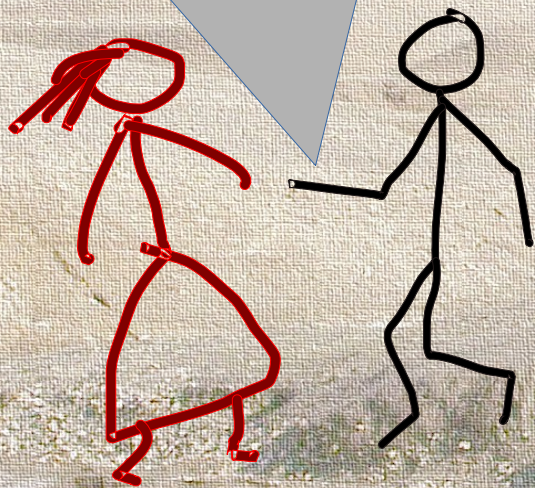


Telling the story (6)

1:1,2 Isaiah and kid#3 Maher

Maher-Shalal-Hashbaz
= quick to the plunder,
swift to the spoil

By the time he is old
enough to ...[say]
X2 dreaded Kings gone
...carried off by King of
Assyria



Telling the story (7)

1:1,2 Isaiah and kid #2 Immanuel

[Israel]

- *Rejects the gently flowing waters of Shiloh*
- *rejoices over Rezin son of Remaliah*
- *LORD brings Assyrian flood*
- *And on to your land Immanuel*



Telling the story (7)

1:1,2 Isaiah and 3 kids - the future

Testimony v.16:

I and the children the LORD has given me
we are signs and symbols ... from the LORD v.18
= the remnant/faith group

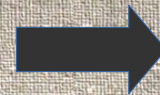


v.18



- 9:6 A son is born a child is given
- He will reign on David's throne for ever
- 9:7 The zeal of the LORD Almighty will make this

Darkness and distress 8:22



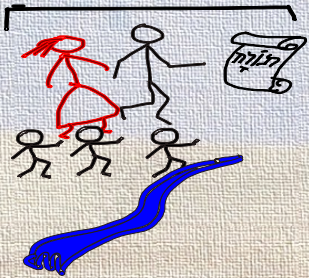
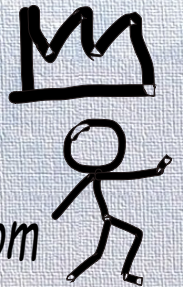
Bringing it home to us!

Isaiah 4 Kings, 3 kids, 2 rivers - now & the future

*I and the children
the LORD has given me -
Family of the "word"*



- Son of David
- Forever King
- Global, cosmic Kingdom



- Ahaz (house of David) was part of the big purpose for Immanuel = Jesus
- He had to trust LORD for the particular part of the purpose at that time
- He feared, he failed, planned in unbelief ... looked to World Power
= his enemy, his undoing. Plan B.
- We are part of Jesus' purpose.
- We have to trust the LORD for the particular part of the purpose NOW
- Are we planning in ... fear? In unbelief? In dependence on world power?
- Which community?
- Which river?
- If you will not stand in faith, you will not stand at all