

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.  
This morning - "I will praise you"

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

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

(Picture of Lion is by Kevin Pluck - Flickr: The King., CC BY 2.0,  
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# Death of Professor Stephen Hawking 1942-2018

Cambridge University website:

*Professor Stephen Toope, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, paid tribute, saying, "Professor Hawking was a unique individual who will be remembered with warmth and affection not only in Cambridge but all over the world. His exceptional contributions to scientific knowledge and the popularisation of science and mathematics have left an indelible legacy. His character was an inspiration to millions. He will be much missed."*

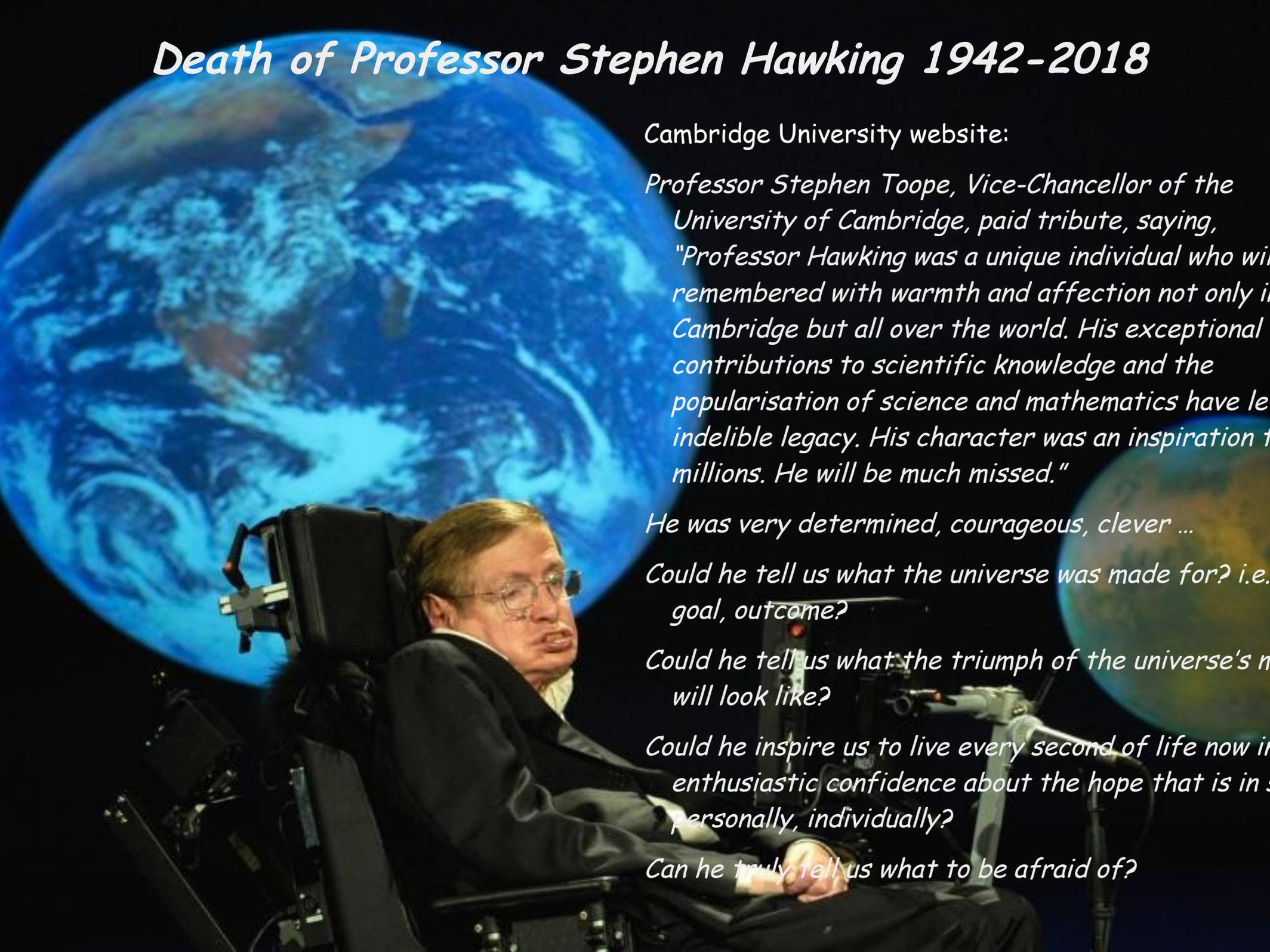
*He was very determined, courageous, clever ...*

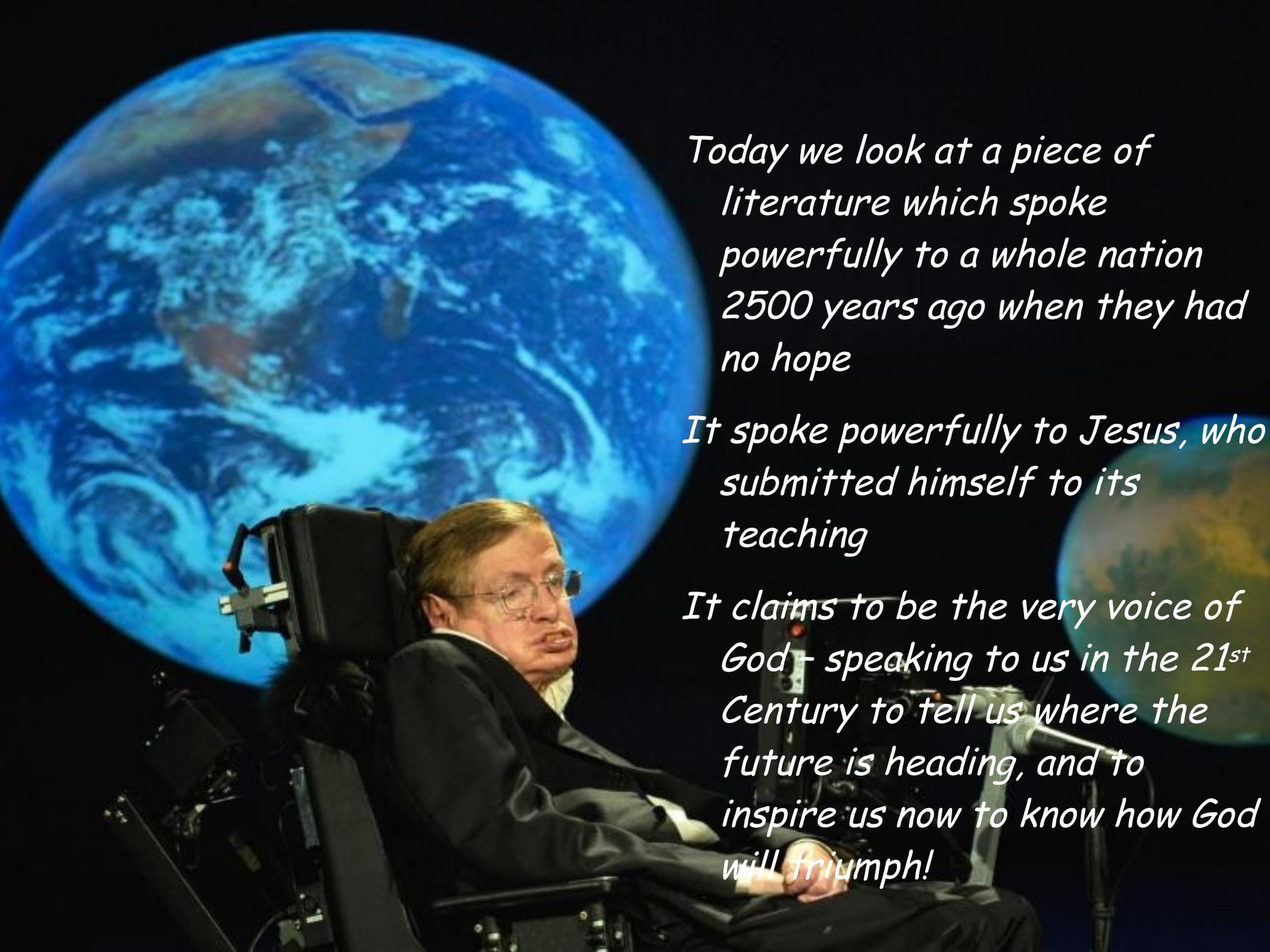
*Could he tell us what the universe was made for? i.e. goal, outcome?*

*Could he tell us what the triumph of the universe's mission will look like?*

*Could he inspire us to live every second of life now in enthusiastic confidence about the hope that is in science, personally, individually?*

*Can he truly tell us what to be afraid of?*





*Today we look at a piece of literature which spoke powerfully to a whole nation 2500 years ago when they had no hope*

*It spoke powerfully to Jesus, who submitted himself to its teaching*

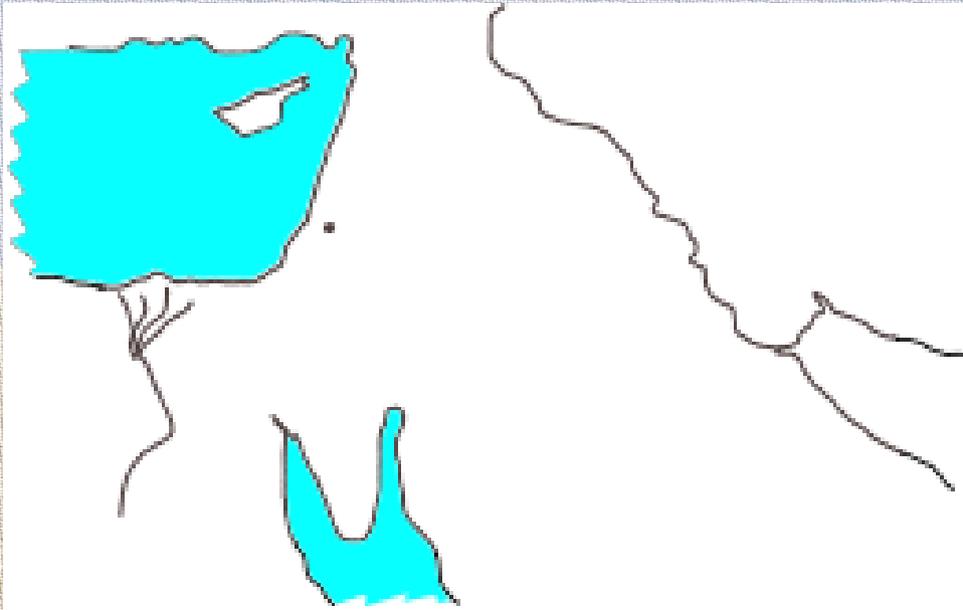
*It claims to be the very voice of God – speaking to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to tell us where the future is heading, and to inspire us now to know how God will triumph!*

*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 ... Hear O Israel, the LORD has spoken"*

Q: Why be concerned about the history and geography?

A: because it's true and real and relevant

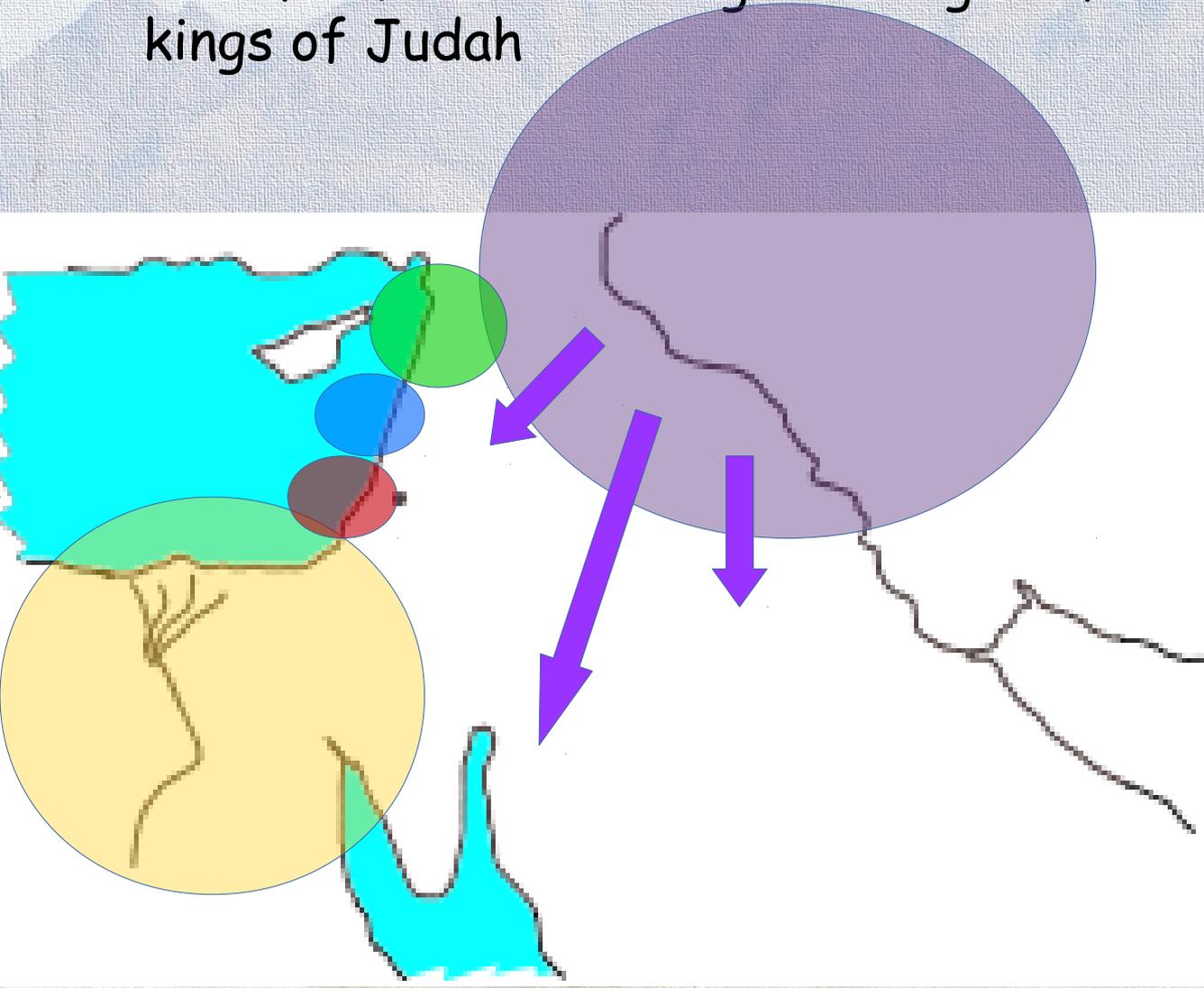
- "Once upon a time, an old woman lived in the woods..." = fairy story
- Many people believe that XYZ ... = populism
- All religions are [equal] = assertion
- This is how Israel's God spoke and reacted and promised and showed himself ... this God is the Lord of the whole universe!



So let's meet this God as we listen to the prophet Isaiah!

# 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 = Zion, God's HQ  
= Judah, royal family of King David

Egypt = Exodus rescued from slavery here, and tempting ally

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

Israel = Ephraim = Jacob: northern Kingdom

Aram/Syria

- this was the arena for God's people to show the nations how to live by faith in Israel's God

==> God's people today too!

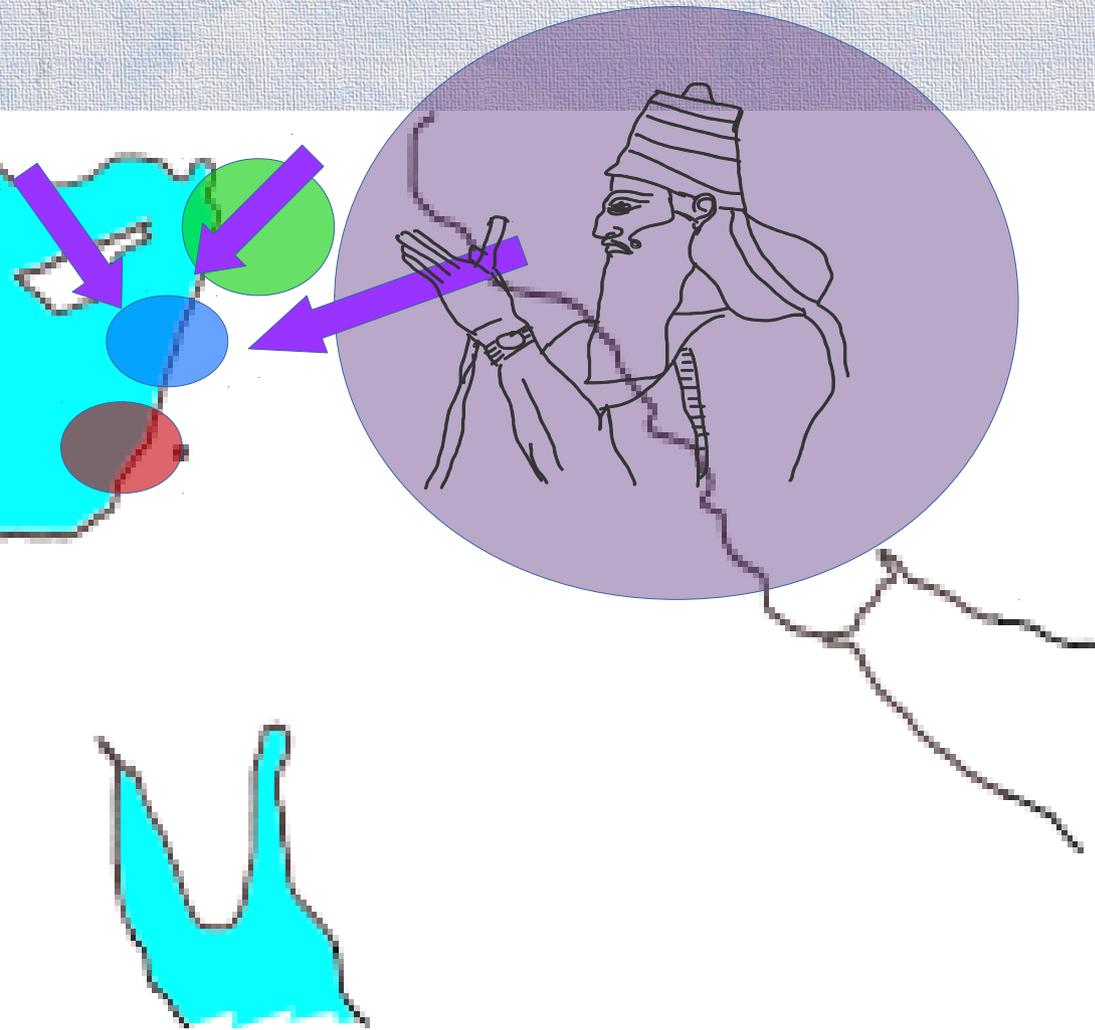
# Meet the enemy King: Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC) - British Museum



Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15378403>

# 9:8-10:4 Assyria demolishes the Northern Kingdom

## A missile-word against N. Kingdom (Jacob/ Israel)



*We will rebuild better! = pride v.9*

**Anger not turned away v.12**

They have not [re]turned to the one who struck them

*==> there is a reason! Repentance!*

**Anger not turned away v.17**

The result is fiery wrath, deprivation, mutual destruction

*==> God's wrath is still being revealed today! (Romans 1:18)*

**Anger not turned away**

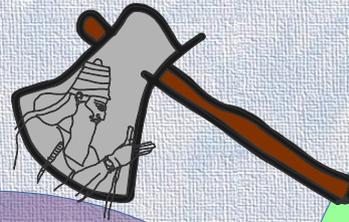
Woe to oppressive rich and powerful. What will you do on that day?

**Anger not turned away 10:4**

*==> "who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" still the uncomfortable, but truthful question.*

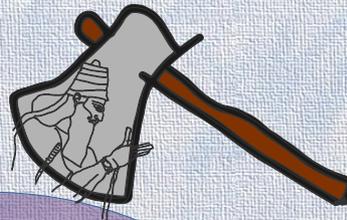
# 10:5-19 Proud, self assured Assyria is actually a tool in the hand of LORD

- "I am super-powerful
- Israel +her god are no different from nations +idols
- By my strength, wisdom, understanding ... like one stealing eggs from birds"



- LORD says:
- Woe to Assyria - the stick of my anger
- I send him against a godless nation
- He does my work
- I will punish his pride
- Is the axe above the user?
- Assyria will be destroyed v.18
- Become few v.19
- Israel will turn in part v.20
- A remnant will return v.21
- His anger against Israel will end, and turn against Assyria v.25

10:5-19 Proud, self assured Assyria is actually a tool in the hand of LORD



==> today's politics and nations are still tools in the LORD's hands  
==> God's sovereignty: does not make people puppets, but they themselves make real choices, taking real responsibility.  
BUT LORD has them all in his hand, for his purposes  
Even the day when 2 nations conspired together to kill the Lord of glory ... wicked hands  
set knowledge and purpose of God Acts 2:23

10:20-34 The LORD will cut down  
Assyria and the nations

Zion - do not fear  
the Assyrians v.24

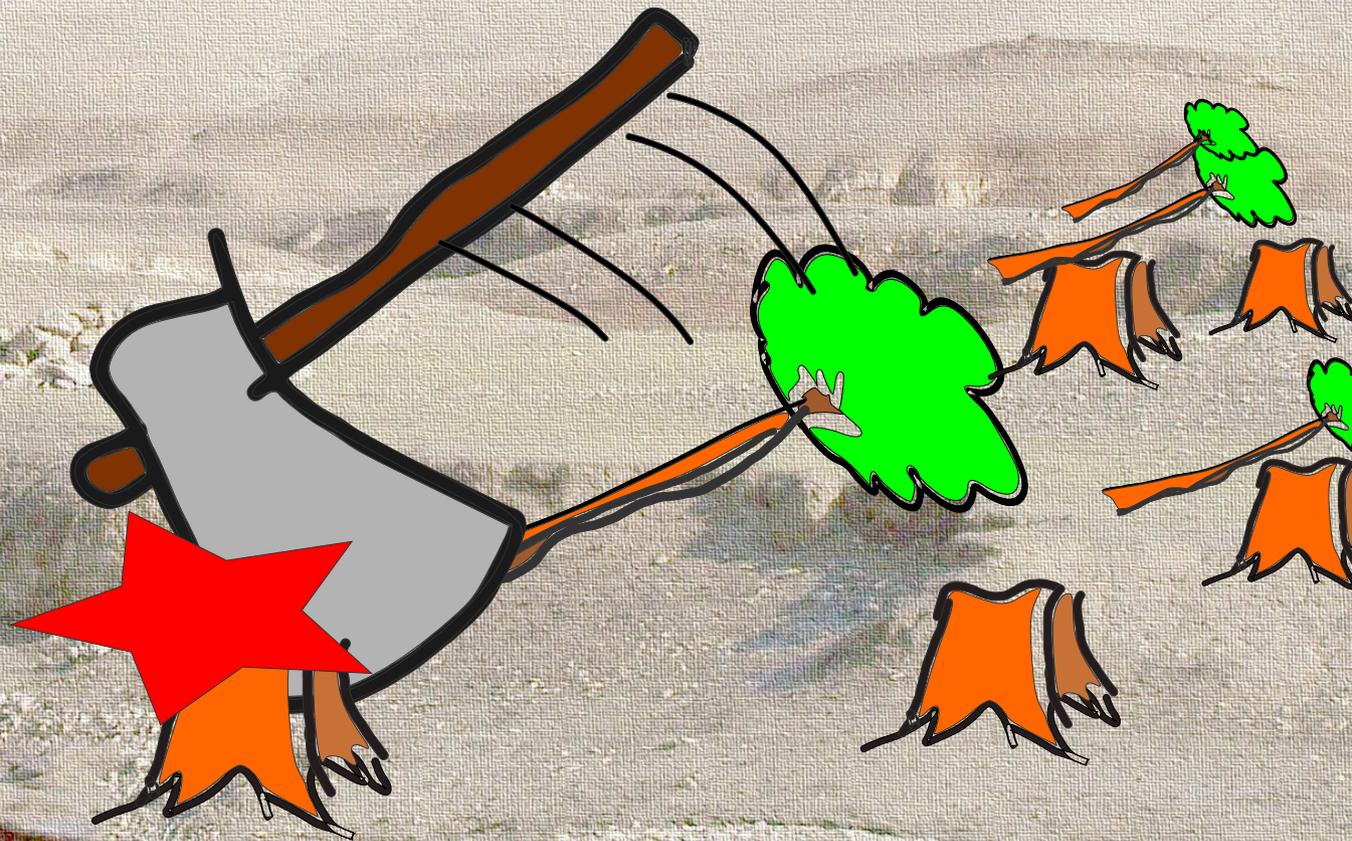
I will finish being  
angry with you, and  
turn on Assyria  
v.25

Like he turned back  
the Red Sea in  
Egypt v.26

I will remove their  
yoke/slavery v.27

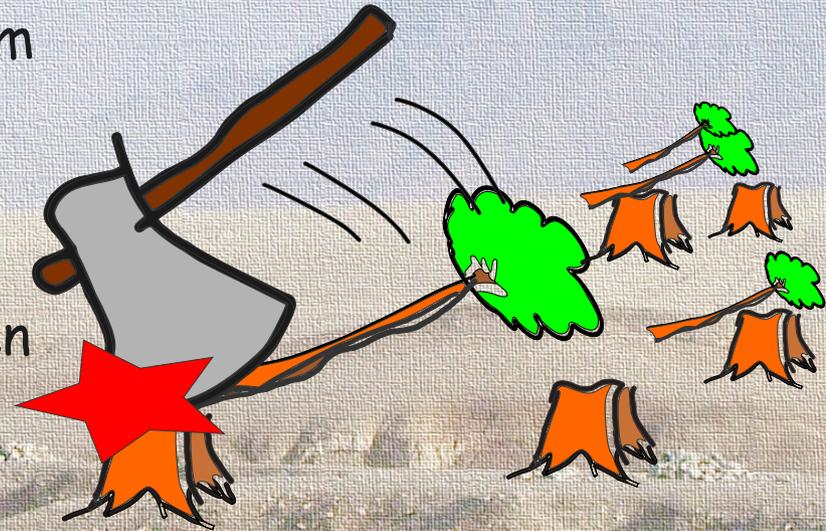
He will cut down the  
nations like trees  
v.33

==> LORD against  
arrogant pride



# 10:20-34 The LORD will cut down Assyria and the nations, and every high fruitless tree

- ==> it's a message to President Trump
- ==> it's a message to Comrade Putin
- ==> it's a message to State worshipping communism
- ==> it's a message to human-worshipping Western democracies
  - Who think they have the power to re-define God-given marriage, and God-given gender
- ==> its a message to each of us who puts ourselves on the throne of the universe rather than God



"the LORD will cut down ... with an axe"

- ==> John the Baptist: the axe is already at the root of the trees ... every tree that produces no fruit will be cut down (Matt 3:10)

# 11:1-5 The LORD will raise up the Branch for David from the stump

*A shoot/Branch/root Jesse= David v.1*

*Spirit of LORD rests on him*

- Wisdom, understanding (see 10:13,13)*
- Fear of LORD (see 8:13)*

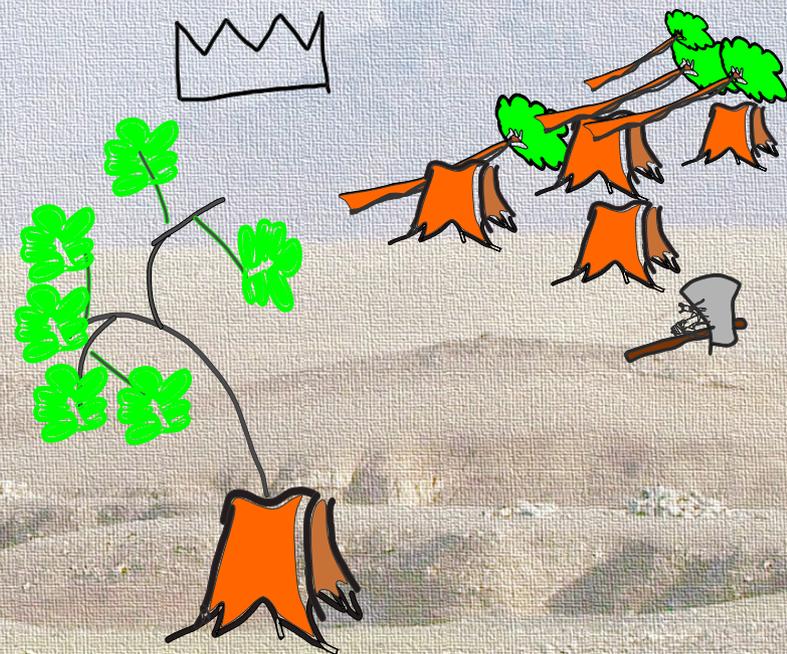
*Judge = bring order (shaphat)*

- With righteousness the poor/meek*
- Slay the wicked with stick of his mouth*

*Justice - righteousness, faithfulness will be his [clo]thing v.5*

*==> inspiring manifesto for task of Jesus - the son of David equipped with the Spirit of the LORD, whose job it is to make things RIGHT*

*==> [clo]thing for Christians - belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, in our mission (Ephesians 6:14)*



11:6-9 The LORD will raise up  
the Branch for David

*[when David's son reigns]*

*Conflict, killing, danger removed  
from eco-system*

*On holy mountain // the  
land/earth*

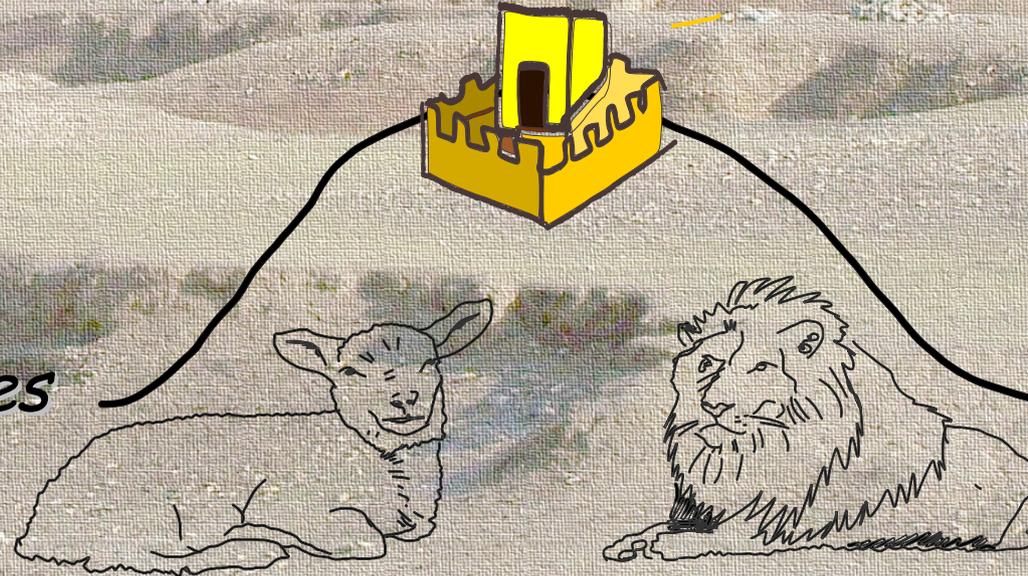
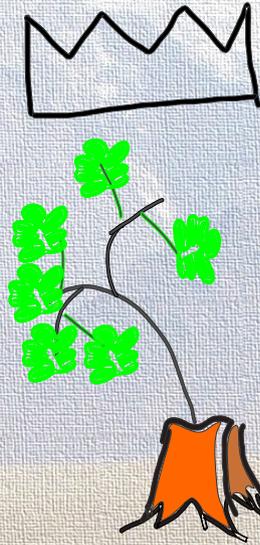
*Full of knowledge of the LORD*

*==> the Old Testament vision of  
the final coming of Jesus*

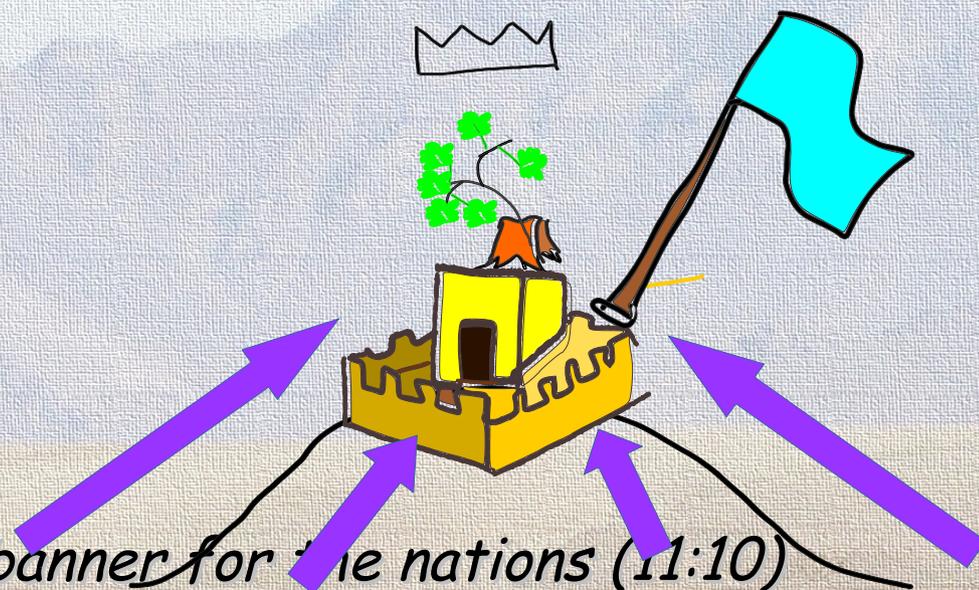
*NOT to make us into sub-human  
wafty spirits in heaven*

*BUT to give us resurrection bodies  
in a new eco-system ... a new  
heavens and earth*

*= HOPE*



# 11:1-16 The LORD will raise up the Branch for David



*Root of Jesse = banner for the nations (11:10)*

*LORD's hand will reclaim remnant*

- Assyria, Egypt, Babylon
- 4 corners
- Removing ancient disunity v.13
- Plundering enemies v.14
- New exodus ... from Assyria v.16

*==> the same vision as Jesus had:*

*"the Son of Man will send his angels to gather his elect from the 4 winds"  
Matthew 24:31*



# 11:1-16 The LORD will raise up the Branch for David

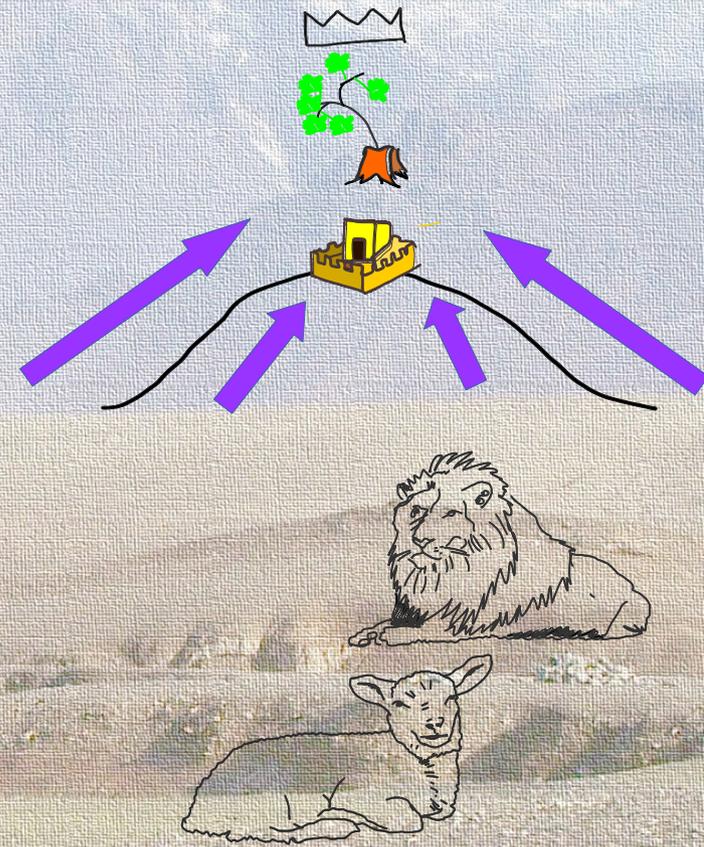
==> the revelation (apokalypsis)

==> "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away"

==> the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into the holy city (Rev 21:26)

==> Isaiah + family "we will wait for the LORD"

==> Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown, to him who overcomes ... Rev 3:11



# 12:1-6 In that day - you will praise

*Your anger turned away*

*You comforted me*

*See, God is my salvation*

*I will trust and not fear*

*He is my strength, song, salvation*

*- Like Moses said*

*Sing. Shout people of Zion*

*- -great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel*

*==> that's the song of the redeemed!*

*- - inspiring! Exalting!*

*==> please be one of the people singing it! (Ask the King to get you in!)*

