

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.  
This morning - "God and the Nations"

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

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

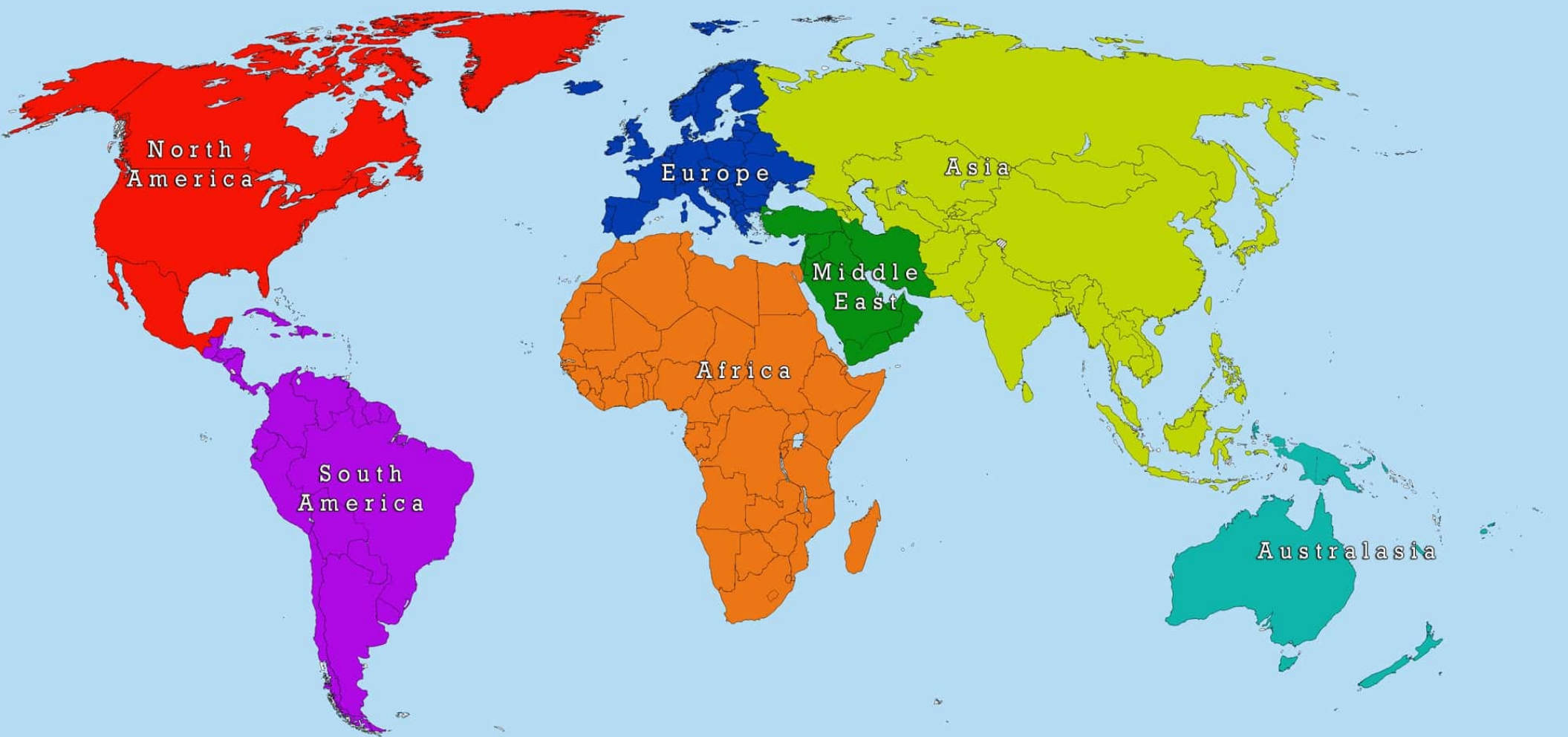


# God and the nations

Photos of 3 riches men in the world  
Hollywood stars  
Royal wedding  
Dubai architecture  
Donald Trump  
Leaders of north and south Korea  
Bejing skyline  
Cast of "suits"

- all removed in case of inadvertend copyright infringement

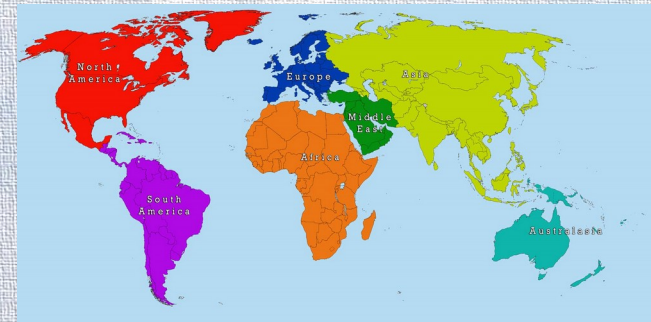






# We live in an international world

- it is a world of many people(s)
- it is a world of power and powers  
="the kings of the earth"
- it is a world of glamour and beauty
- a world of disproportionate wealth and poverty
- a world of great beauty and ugliness
- a world with much we should give thanks for
- a world of much suffering





We live in an international world

- a world which as a matter of principle does not currently yield to its Creator and Maker



BUT - one day it will!

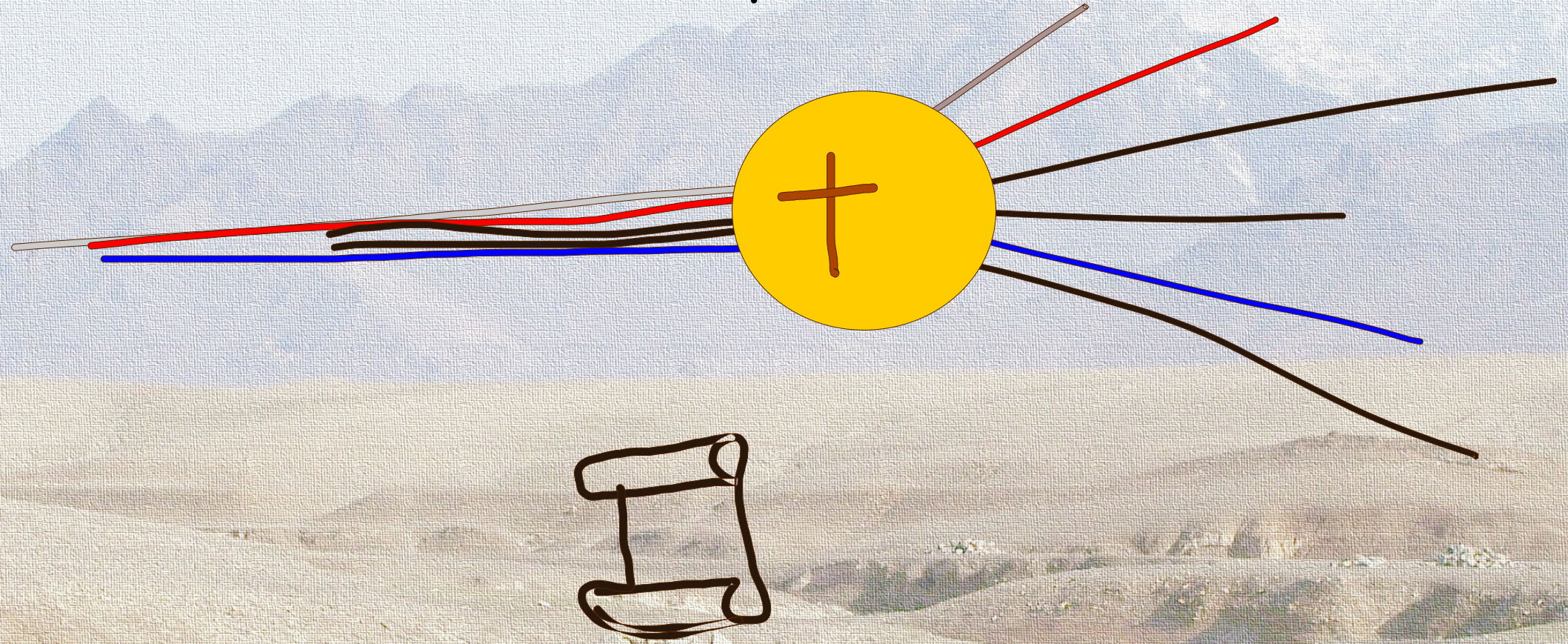
BUT - there is a Kingdom that will overwhelm all other kingdoms

AND - the King has already set that in motion

... when he died on the cross and rose from the dead



# Time line of explosive fulfilment



The book of Isaiah sets the scene for the Christian Age, Christian Church, the future Kingdom

We'll look at the nations

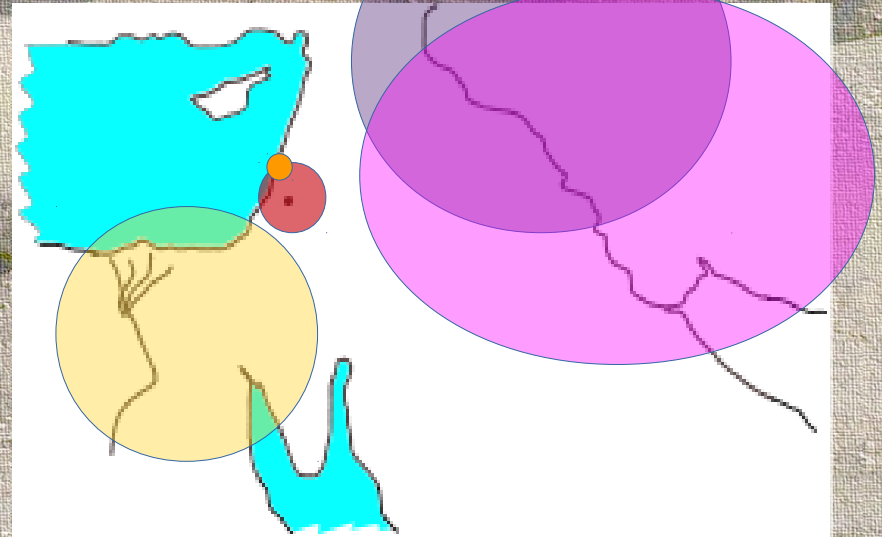
1. in Isaiah
2. as seen by Jesus
3. as seen by the apostle Paul



# The vision of Isaiah of/for the nations - a brief over view

## 1. he says a lot about the nations!

- Chapter  
13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21...39 =  
27
- He seems to think this is important
- N.B. when the Bible seems boring  
please take extra notice. God is  
emphasising something

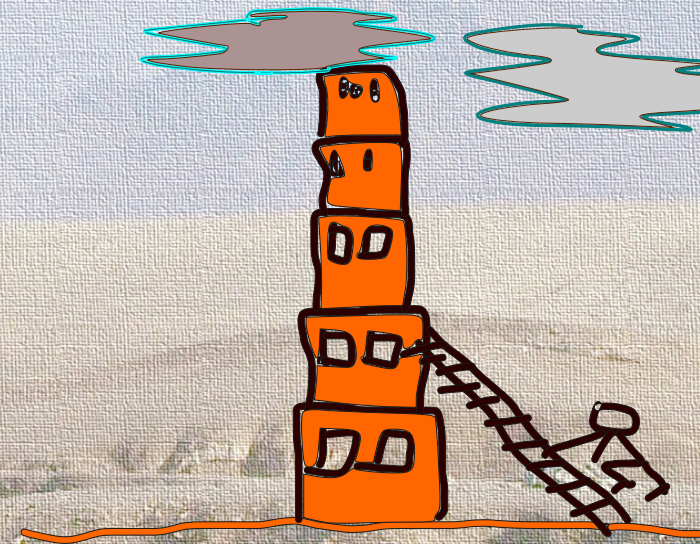




# The vision of Isaiah of/for the nations - a brief over view

## 2. The nations will be judged by Israel's God for their idolatry, pride, and irreverent rebellion

- They are left to themselves
  - Acts 17:30 -
- They make up idols
  - "they consult the idols and the spirits of the dead" 19:3
- They think they are god
  - "I will make myself like the Most High" 14:14
- They mock the LORD, and attack his people
  - 37:23 who have you insulted and blasphemed?

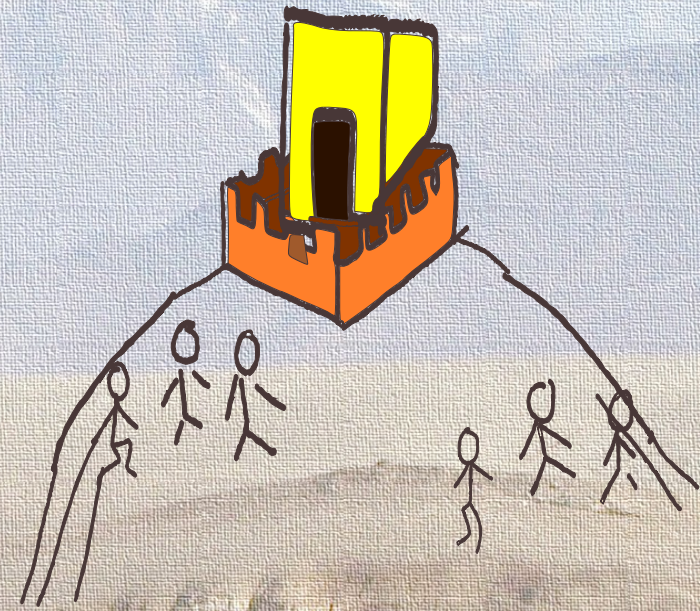




The vision of Isaiah of/for the nations - a brief over view

### 3. God has an amazing plan for these scruffy/arrogant/losers

- Like me and you!
- "the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians and they will know him"
- All nations shall flow to it [= the mountain of the house of the LORD]
- How do we deserve that??!!
- It's grace = undeserved kindness!



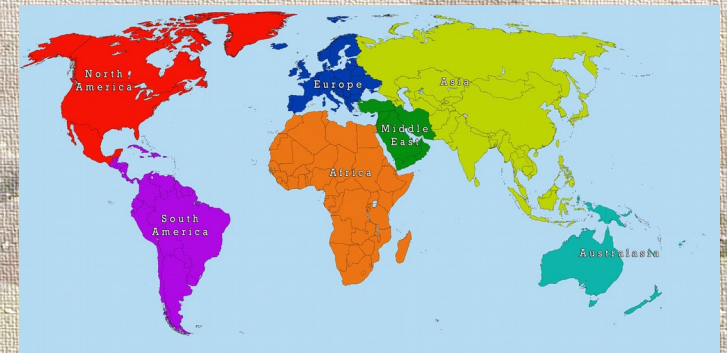
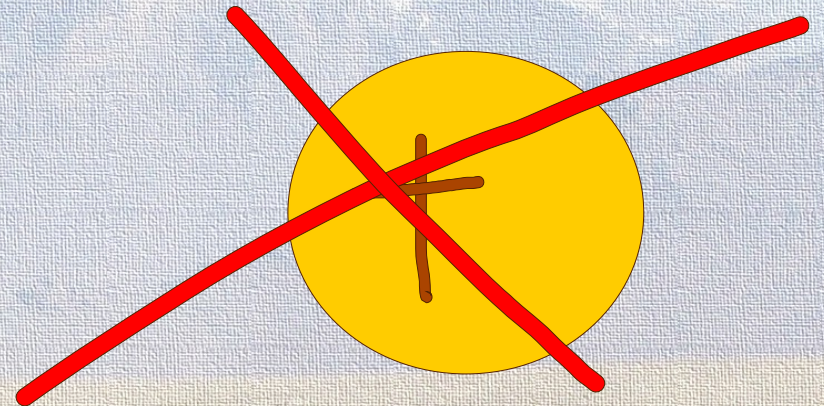


# The vision of Jesus of/for the nations - a brief over-view

Please note the huge significance of the Jesus' cross and resurrection

1. Instead of the cross Jesus was offered all the kingdoms of the world by Satan

- *Matthew 4:8 the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me"*
- *On condition: NO CROSS, but NOT worship LORD*



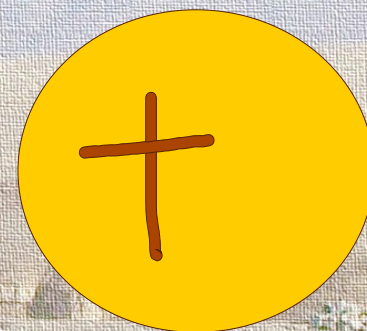


The vision of Jesus of/for the nations - a brief over-view

**Please note the huge significance of the Jesus' cross and resurrection**

2. Weighing up his cross - Jesus believed that nothing that this whole world has to offer is worth losing your soul

- Matthew 16:26 "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world yet forfeits his soul? ... he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me (v.24)
- We are to weigh up the same options!



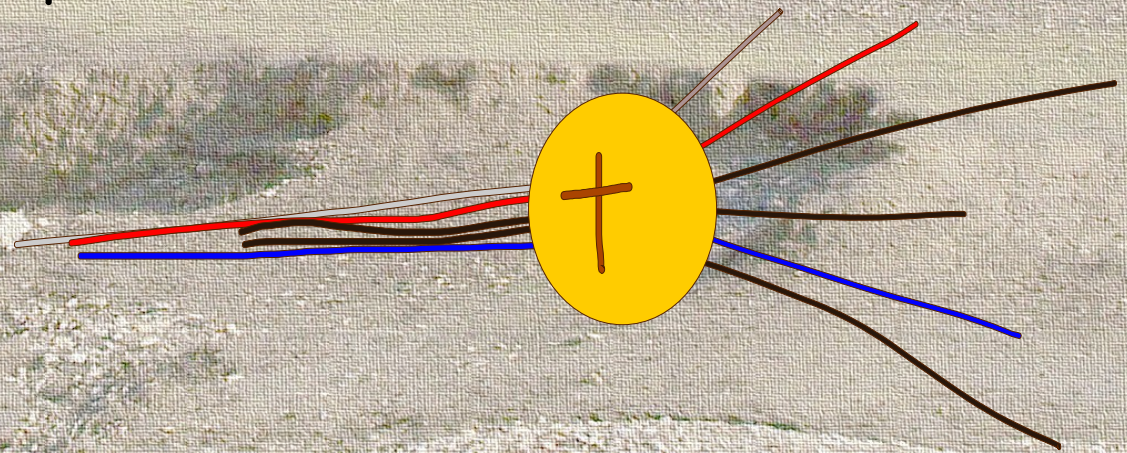


# The vision of Jesus of/for the nations - a brief over-view

Please note the huge significance of the Jesus' cross and resurrection

## 3. After his cross and resurrection - Go to the nations!

- Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been give to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them ..." Matthew 28:18
- This is the time of explosive fulfilment
- It is our time!





The vision of the apostle Paul of/for the nations - a brief over view

1. Philippians 3:4-8 Paul originally believed himself superior to the nations, proud of:

Jewish culture and heritage

– his moral attainments

BUT

– Discarding all to have Christ instead

– He repented of his self-righteousness

2. Paul saw the nations as in irreverence, idolatry, spiritual stupidity, moral ignorance, teleological futility, ethical impurity

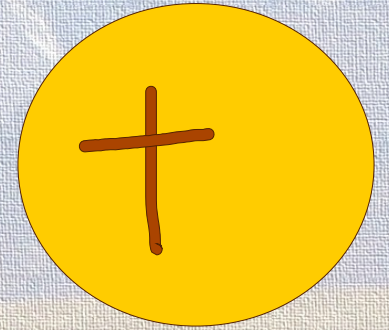
– Ephesians 4:17-19



The vision of the apostle Paul of/for the nations - a brief over view

3. Paul was amazed at God's plan to include the nations in the promises in Christ

- Ephesians 3:6
- (and wants us to be amazed too 3:2)



4. Paul served the good news (by warning, proclaiming and inviting the nations) i.e. the unsearchable riches of Christ

- Ephesians 3:7





# The vision of the God of/for the nations - a brief over view

## 1. Sanctification - "the nations" live in ignorance and uncleanness

- ==> in Christ don't follow them
- ==> be light and fruit as God's holy people

## 2. Evangelism

- We make it our business to be totally on board with bringing the nations to "the obedience of faith"

## 3. Good news

- The Christian message is not "western" "European" "American"
- It is for you ... in your own nationality
- Jesus calls you to turn from your national sins to him, the King of kings with the kingdom that will outlast and overshadow all other kingdoms



Without you Lord  
Jesus I am nothing, I  
confess my sin, I turn  
to you, the life I live I  
live by faith in the Son  
of God who loved me  
and died for me. His  
Kingdom come!