

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 3rd June 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.
This morning - "Trusting in the Lord"

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

Sermons and talks - calvary-brighton.sermon.net



Daddy Jamie throws baby Charlie up in the air

Baby Charlie squeals with delight ...

... he experiences the fact that his father is strong and loving

- he is able to catch him, and always will

- this is instinctive TRUST

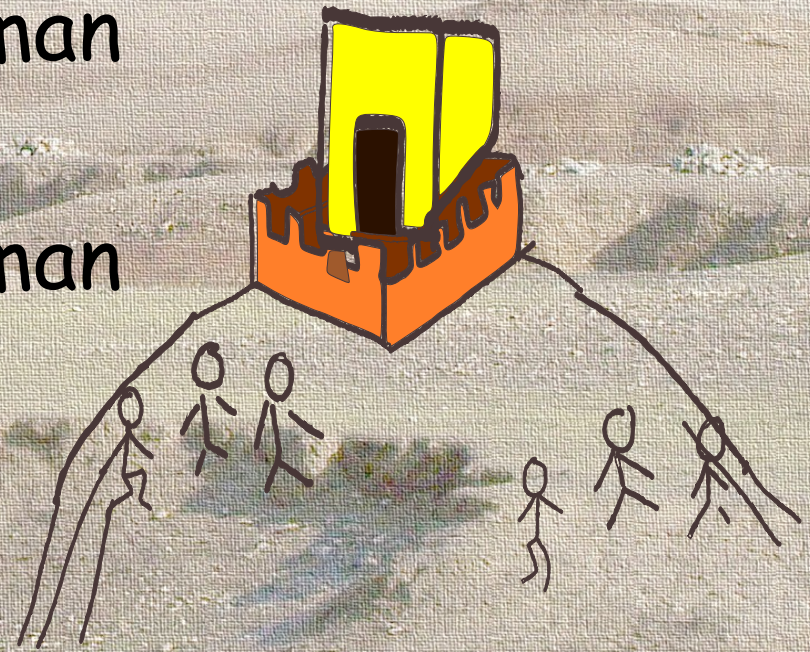
- how important God's children trust him

- but how much we have to learn, and how much help we need

A picture of the importance of living by faith

Isaiah Chapter 22 - Plan:

1. the valley of vision
2. what's the disaster?
3. what the response is and isn't
4. what the response is: human complacency
5. what the response is: human capacity



1. the valley of vision

(a) Its the name of a book

- a compendium of puritan prayers
- published by Banner of Truth

(b) BUT here

- it's Jerusalem = God's HQ in OT
- It is the opposite of the hill!
- And the vision is "dreamworld"
- i.e. this is not a picture of spiritual highs
- BUT spiritual rock bottom
- ==> like a lighthouse marking rocks, it's somewhere to avoid



2. what's the disaster?

- it's to do with the surrounding threatening nations in ~700BC

this is Isaiah's [bad] dream

- FULL of noise and commotion (v.2)

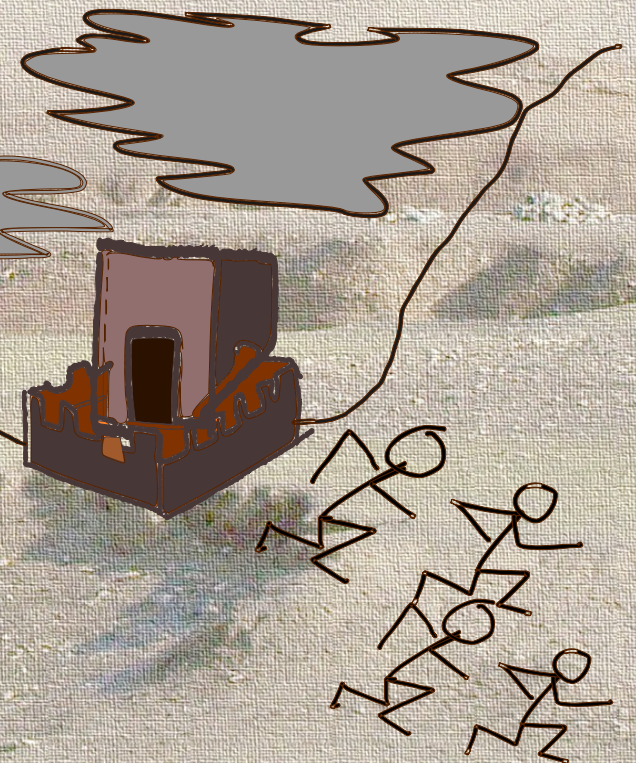
- they didn't stand and fight (v.2)

- they were taken captive (v.3,v.3)

- it's [certain] but heart-breaking (v.4)

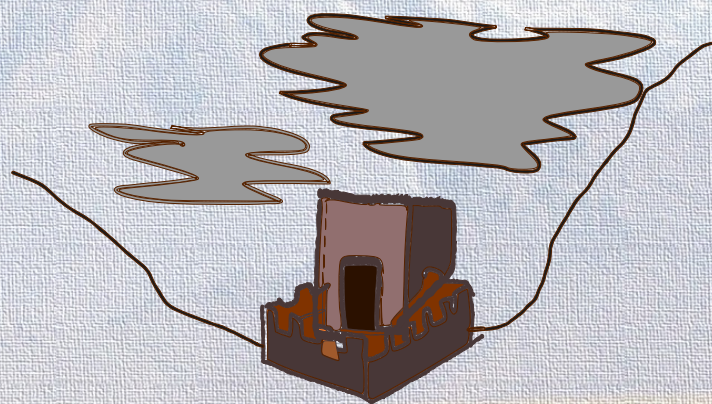
- Jesus wept over Jerusalem

- ==> God's compassionate warning today!



2. what's the disaster?

- v.5 FOR the LORD has a day
- noise and commotion (v.5)
- the trampled city
- enemy prepares (v.6)
- FULL of [enemy] chariots
- covering of Judah removed



=> prophetic certainty of the connection
between sin, unbelief and God's judgment.

It's just a matter of time.

That's why you should become a Christian ...

If you are a Christian be thankful!

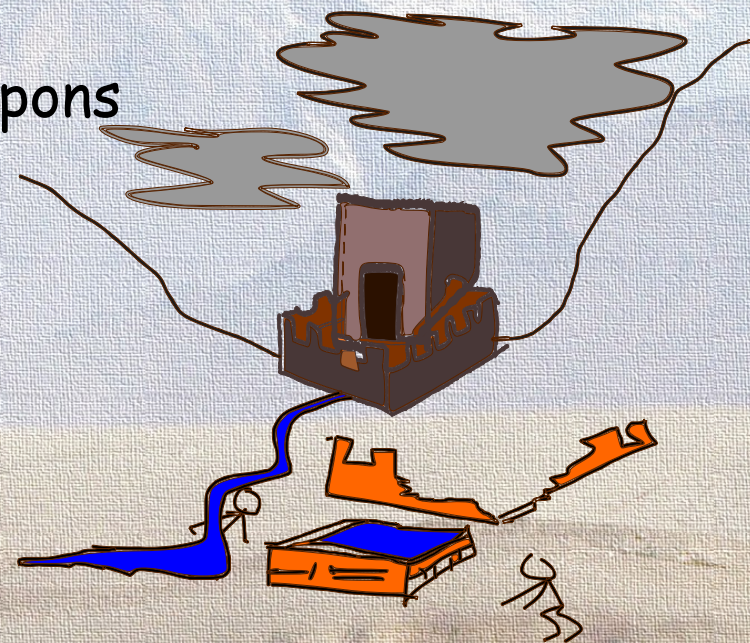
3. what the response is and isn't

They decide to:

- place **reliance** on the store of human weapons
 - see the gaps in the walls (**thoughtful**)
 - **prepare** the emergency water supply
 - **sacrifice** housing for defence
 - make clever **plans**
- = "activism"

BUT WITHOUT AND NOT

- look to the Maker
 - look to the One
 - who formed it long ago
- => human resources vs divine resources
- => human making vs God's making
- => creature rather than the Creator



3. what the response is and isn't

NOT - turn in sorry repentance

==>

INSTEAD - DENIAL

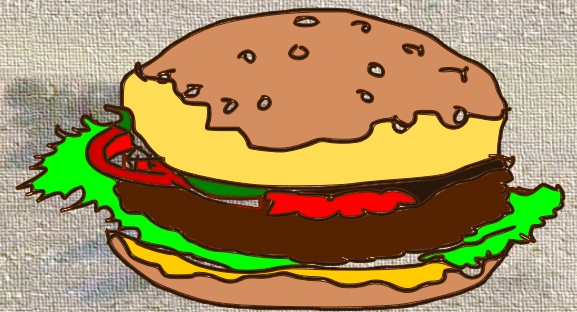
- "get as much of this world as we can, because that's all there is!"

==> if we don't have a perspective beyond death then this is all that's left!

==> *N.B. Christian's have a beyond-death perspective which changes everything! (1 Cor 15: "bad company corrupts good character")*

- there is no atonement available if you carry on this road! (v.14)

- No angel with burning coal ...



4. what the response is: human complacency

Meet Shebna (Mr self-reliant):

- making a grand grave (I'll be remembered!)
- splendid transport (chariots)
- BUT NO splendid funeral (v.17)
- "chucked out" (v.18,19)
- disgrace (v.18)

=> so proud, so strong, so spiritually insensitive

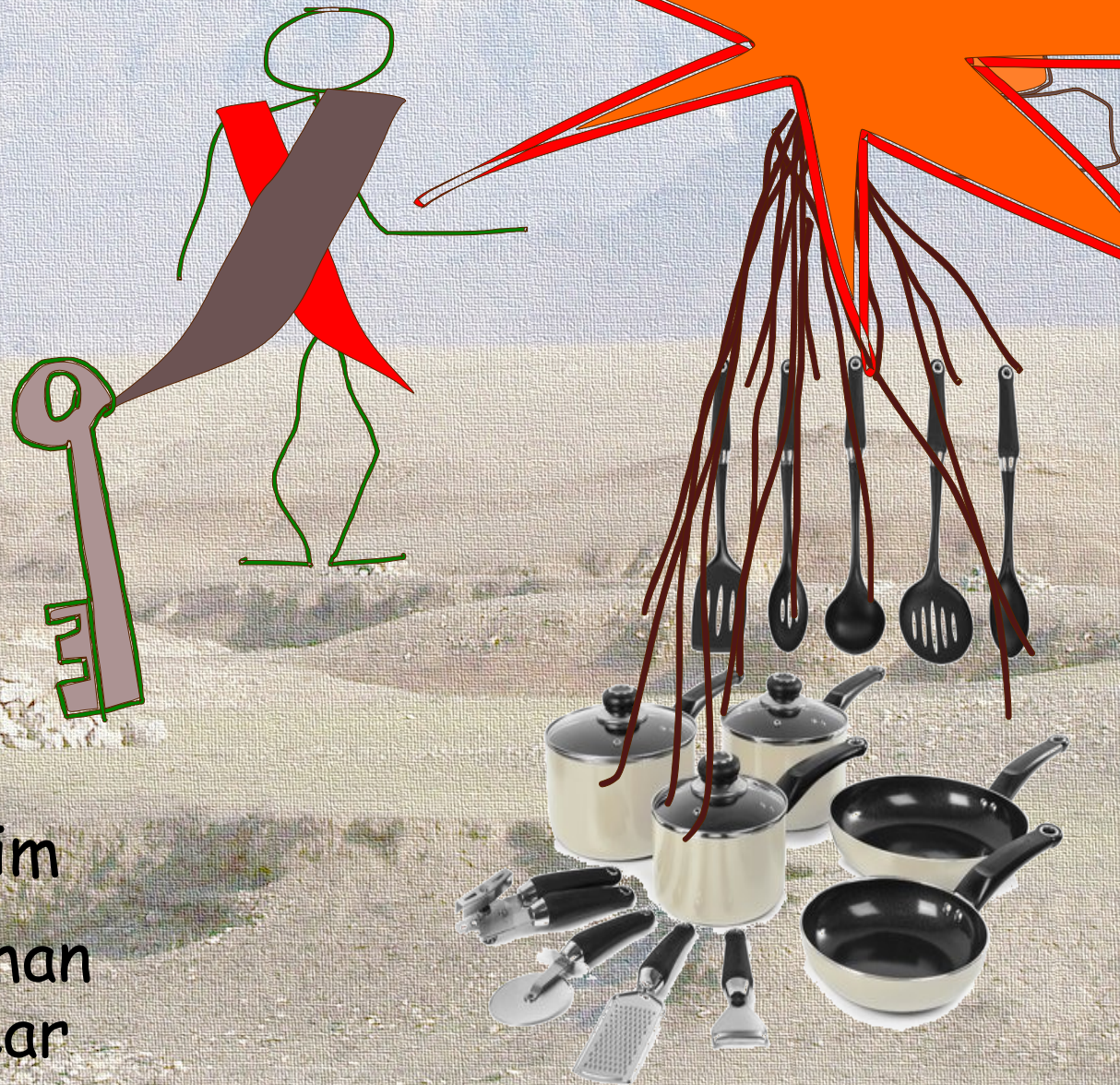
=> many Shebna's still today, though not without hope.



5. what the response of: human capacity

Meet Eliakim - the capable servant

- my servant (v.20)
- put in office (v.21)
- like a father (v.21)
- with power to unlock (v.22)
- firm (Amen)
- throne of honour
- everyone depends on him
- BUT even he is just a man (i.e. has limits, cannot bear everything for everyone)



5. what the response of: human capacity

The "Amen" peg

=> don't even put ultimate faith even in good servants
... only in the LORD

=> Jesus is the sure peg to hang life on: "hear my words and put them into practice wise ... on rock"

e.g. pastors ... serve the church, but not save the church.

e.g. wives lean ultimately on Lord, rather than husband

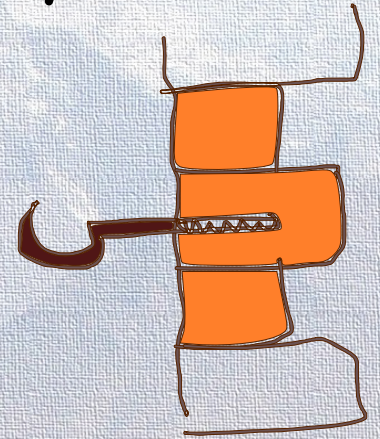
- the keyholder -the great unlocker

Rev 3:7 "him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no-one can open ... an open door..."

=> if the Lord locks ... you can't open it

=> Lord can you unlock??? if he unlocks, no one can shut

=> what open doors ??



A picture of the importance of living by faith

1. the valley of vision

- - the low point to avoid

2. what's the disaster?

- - the connection between sin/unbelief
consequence of judgment

3. what the response is and isn't

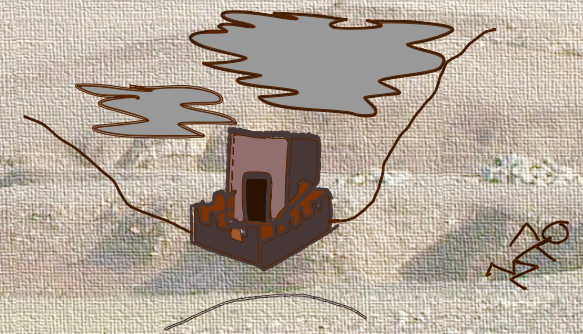
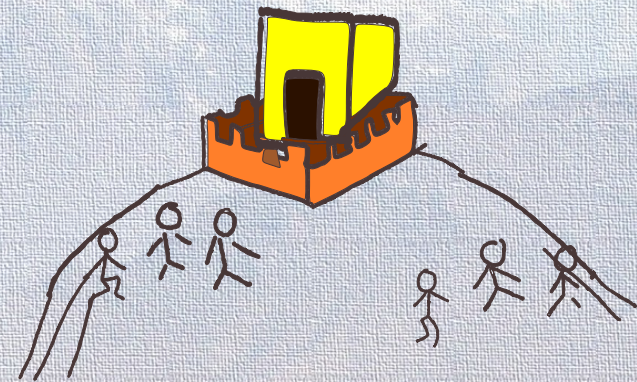
- - made things minus Maker

4. what the response is: human complacency ...

- rich Shebna

5. what the response is: human capacity -

- capable Eliakim



Jesus:

- your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask
- trust in God, trust also in me!