

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today's speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.

This address - overview of Isaiah chapters 1-12

This morning - "Two futures"

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

Sermons and talks - calvary-brighton.sermon.net

Introduction - expecting

Probably not everyone here is thinking about being pregnant!
But if you were - your life would take on a whole new meaning

- Think about the future ... joy & love & possibilities
- Thinking about diet - vitamins
- Thinking about avoiding ... alcohol, smoking
- Training classes
- How you live depends very much on your expectancy of the future

People of God are expectant of ... a holy city, a the hope of glory of God, the renewal of all things, a coming Saviour Jesus

- and we are to live in the light of that future destiny

The book of the prophet Isaiah takes this view!

Today's nibble(!) at the book.



Approaching the big book of Isaiah

The book of Isaiah is like a tiny mouse trying to eat a huge but nourishing cheese! [Motyer]

- N.B. next stage of plan is to break the cheese into 3 pieces

1. the end (56-66 = "Anointed Conqueror" [Motyer])
2. the middle (40-55 = "book of Servant" [Motyer])
3. the beginning (1-39 = "book of the King" [Motyer])
4. the first part of the beginning (1-12)

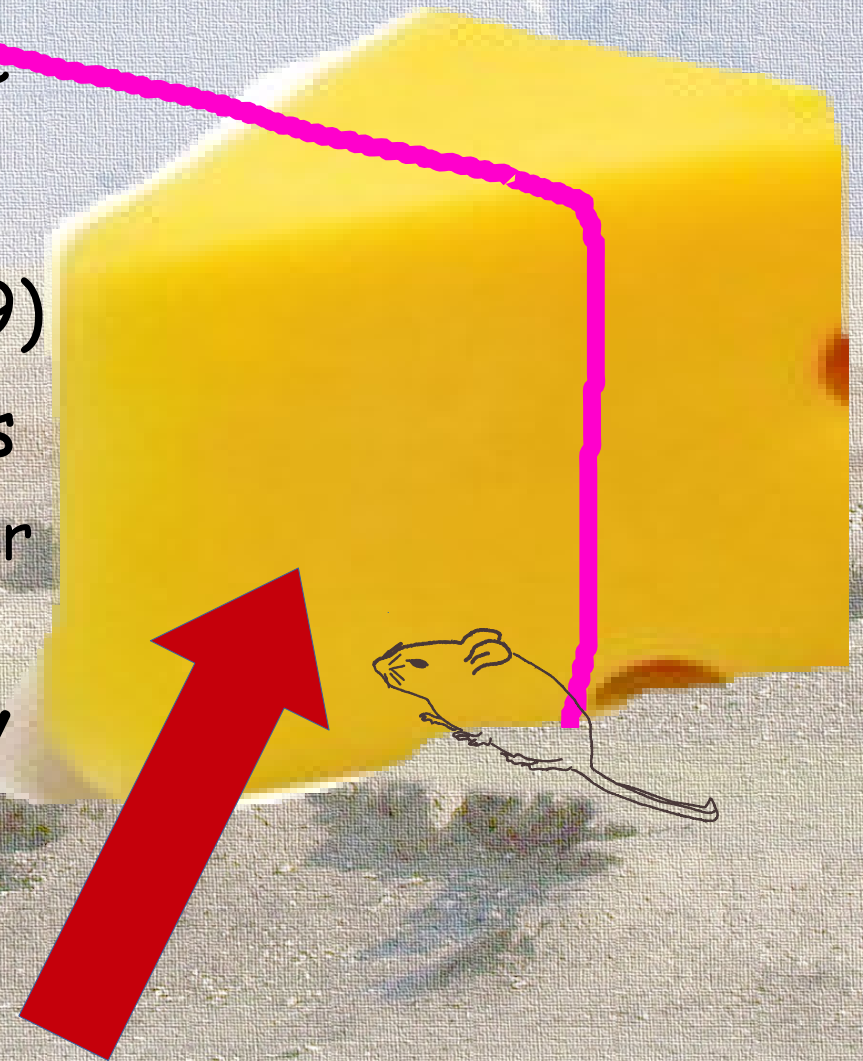
Today we are nibbling #4



Nibbling at Isaiah 1-12

This bit of Isaiah contains:

0. ongoing theme of God's plan/project of God's people in God's City which is the headquarters of the new cosmos (1:21,26,2:1,65:17-19)
1. Impact on real people's lives
 - Call of Isaiah (6:1), disaster of King Ahaz (7:2)
2. Many threat(s) from Holy God of future judgment
3. Several promise(s) from the Redeeming God of future blessings



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 futures

#1: **BIG** Threat, Warnings ~~criticisms~~ Indictments
from Holy God of near & future judgment (1:1-31 2:6-
4:1, 58-30 9:8-10:34 etc)

indictment=a formal charge or accusation of a serious crime

- ungrateful and perverse children (1:2-4)
- -->national damage (5), desolation (7), abandonment (8)
- religion disconnected from reverence for LORD and community care (10-17)
- -->breakage, perishing, shame,un-checked fire (28,29,31)

=> God is not inhibited about threatening his people (1:2)

=> Please take note!

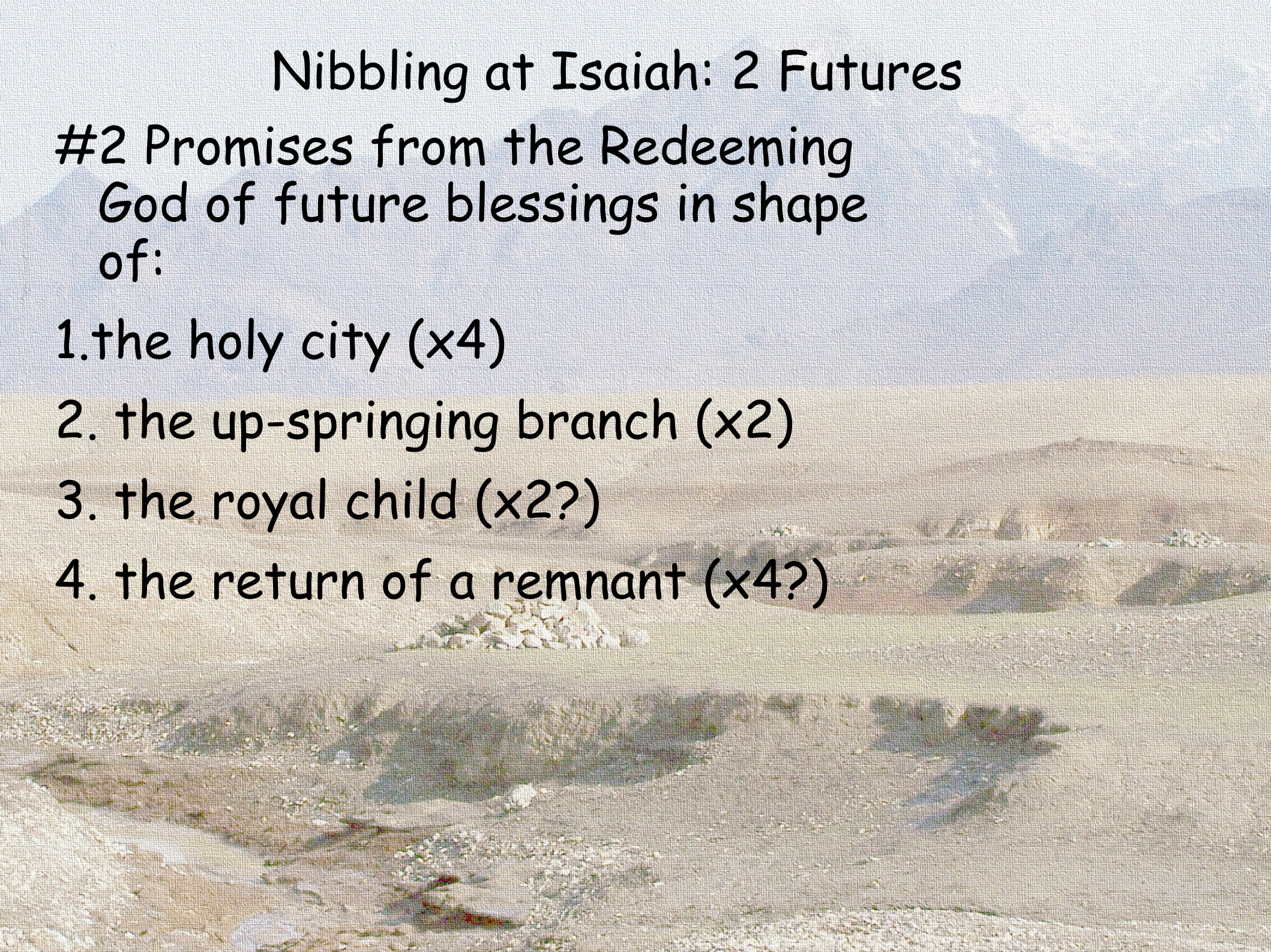
=> the warnings of Jesus Christ are even more fearsome so get in line with God



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 Futures

#2 Promises from the Redeeming
God of future blessings in shape
of:

1. the holy city (x4)
2. the up-springing branch (x2)
3. the royal child (x2?)
4. the return of a remnant (x4?)



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 futures

Promises from the Redeeming God of future blessings in shape of:

1. the holy city (1:25, 2:1)

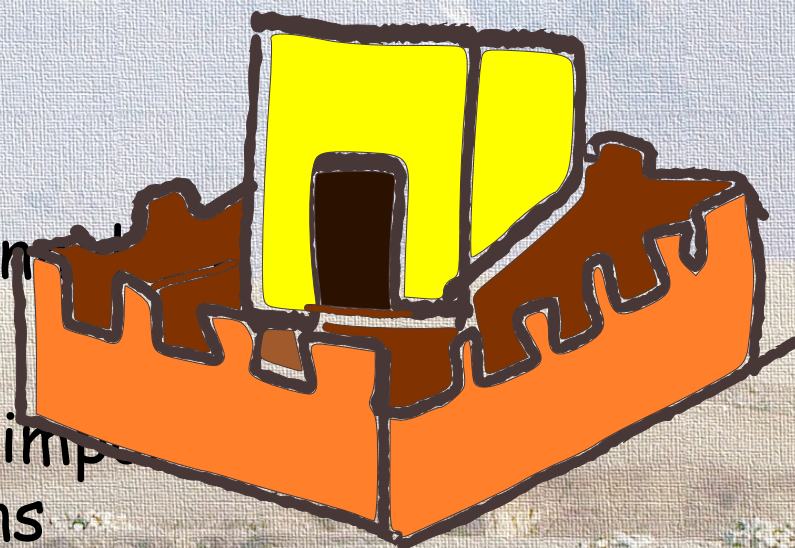
– *yes it's also a vineyard (5:1)*

"Build a new life in the country" Chan
getting away from it all!

- the city is the place where all the important
people are, and where it all happens

=> Christians - our citizenship is in heaven
and we eagerly await a Saviour from there,
the Lord Jesus Christ

=> "But you have come to mount Zion, to the
heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living
God ... so let us be thankful and worship God
with reverence and awe ..." Hebrews 12:22



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 Futures

Promises from the Redeeming God of
future blessings in shape of:

1. the holy city

2. the up-springing Branch 10:33 →
11:1ff

- He will bear fruit
- The Spirit of the LORD will rest upon him (11:2)
- He will savour the fear of the LORD (3)
- The wolf will lie down with the Lamb
-



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 Futures

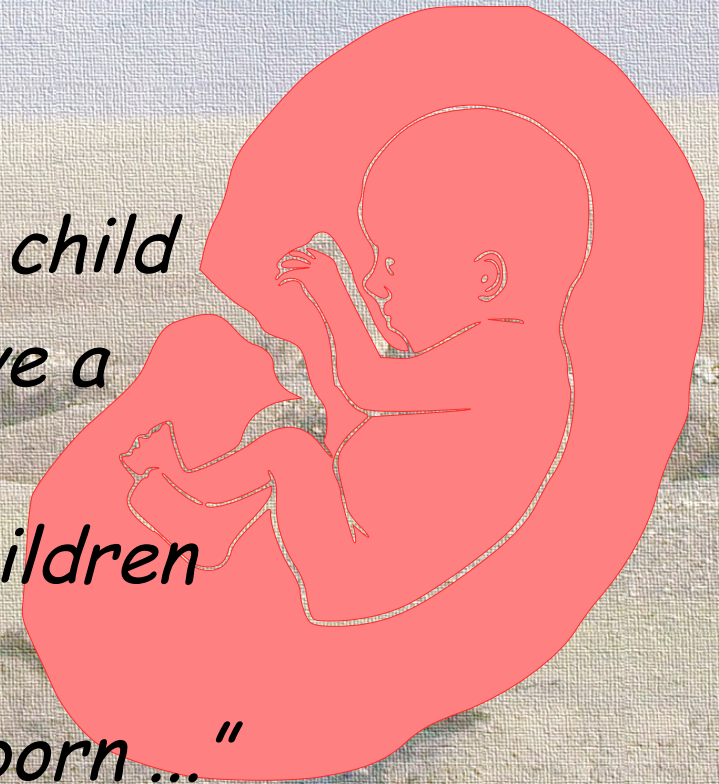
Promises from the Redeeming God of
future blessings in terms of:

1. the holy city

2. the upspringing branch

3. the royal child

- *7:14 the virgin will be with child*
- *8:3 the prophetess will have a child*
- *8:18 "here I am and the children you have given me"*
- *9:6 "for unto us a child is born ..."*



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 Futures

Promises from the Redeeming God of future blessings in terms of:

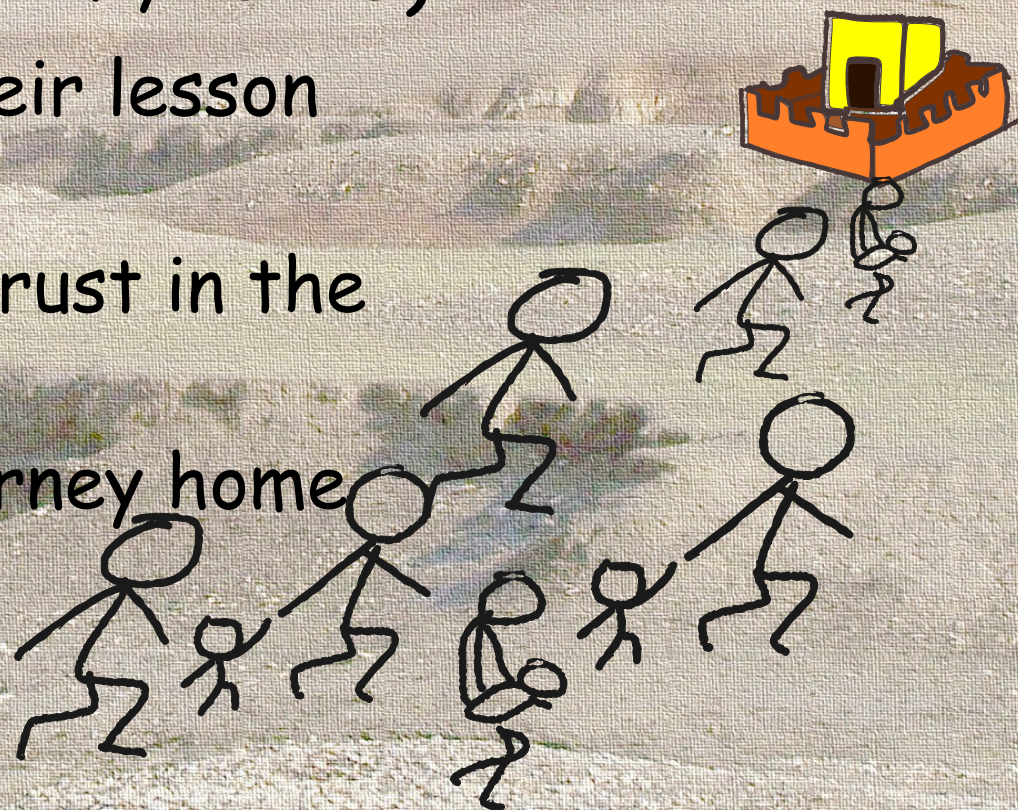
1.the holy city

2.the upspringing branch

3.the royal child

4. a remnant will return(1:27, 10:20)

- They have learned their lesson (10:20)
- They have put their trust in the right place (10:20)
- They sing as they journey home
- ==> that's us!



Nibbling at Isaiah: 2 Futures

1. Threats and indictments for a future of destruction
2. Promises from the Redeeming God of future blessings in terms of: city, up-springing Branch, child, return home



This are the futures - not just for them, but for all humanity.

Every day takes us one step further along the path.
Which future are you walking heading to?

