

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 18th March 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.
This morning – “I will praise you”

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

Sermons and talks – 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."

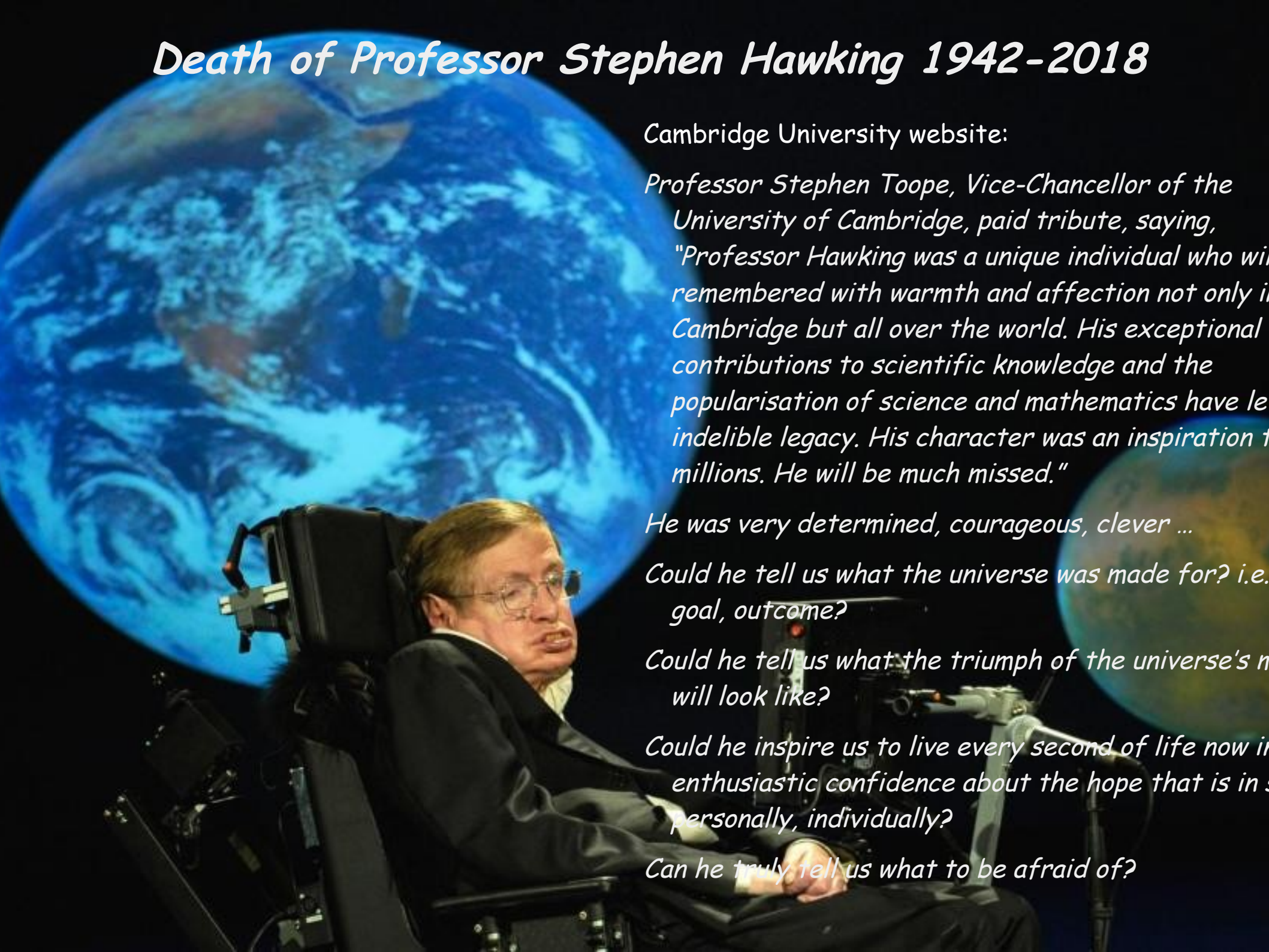
He was very determined, courageous, clever ...

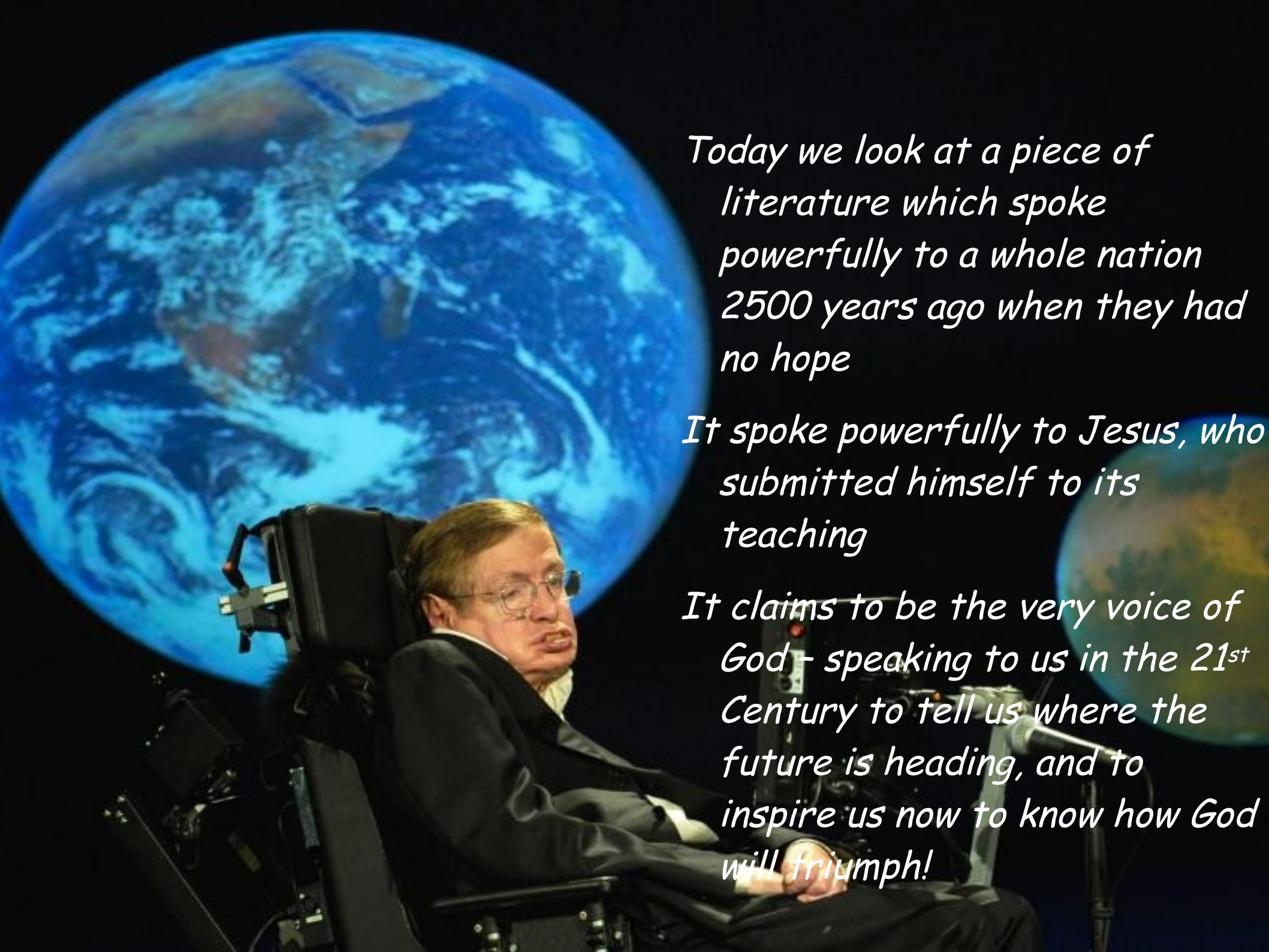
Could he tell us what the universe was made for? i.e. what was the goal, outcome?

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 the 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 21st
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?

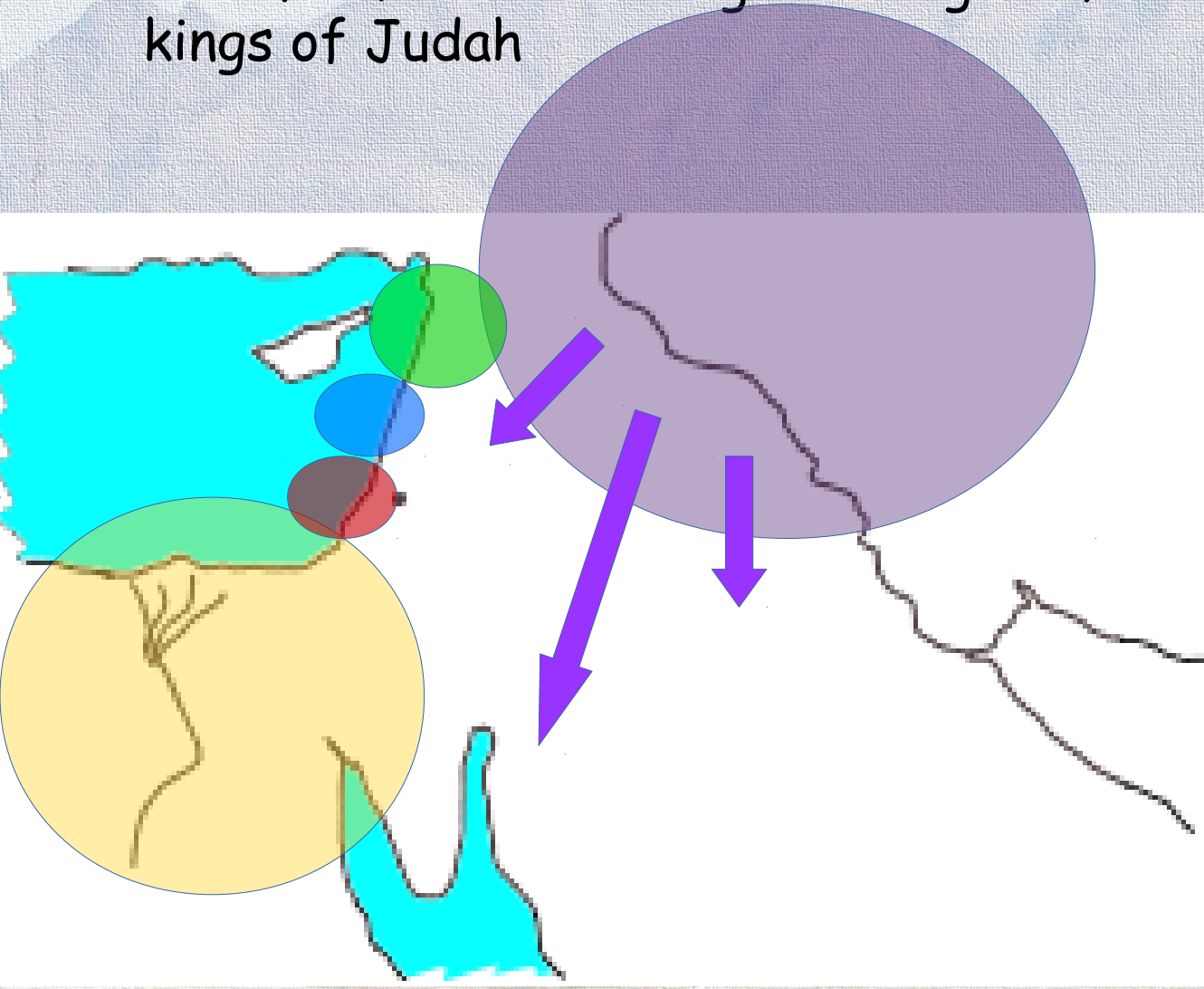
A: because it's true and real and relevant

- "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!

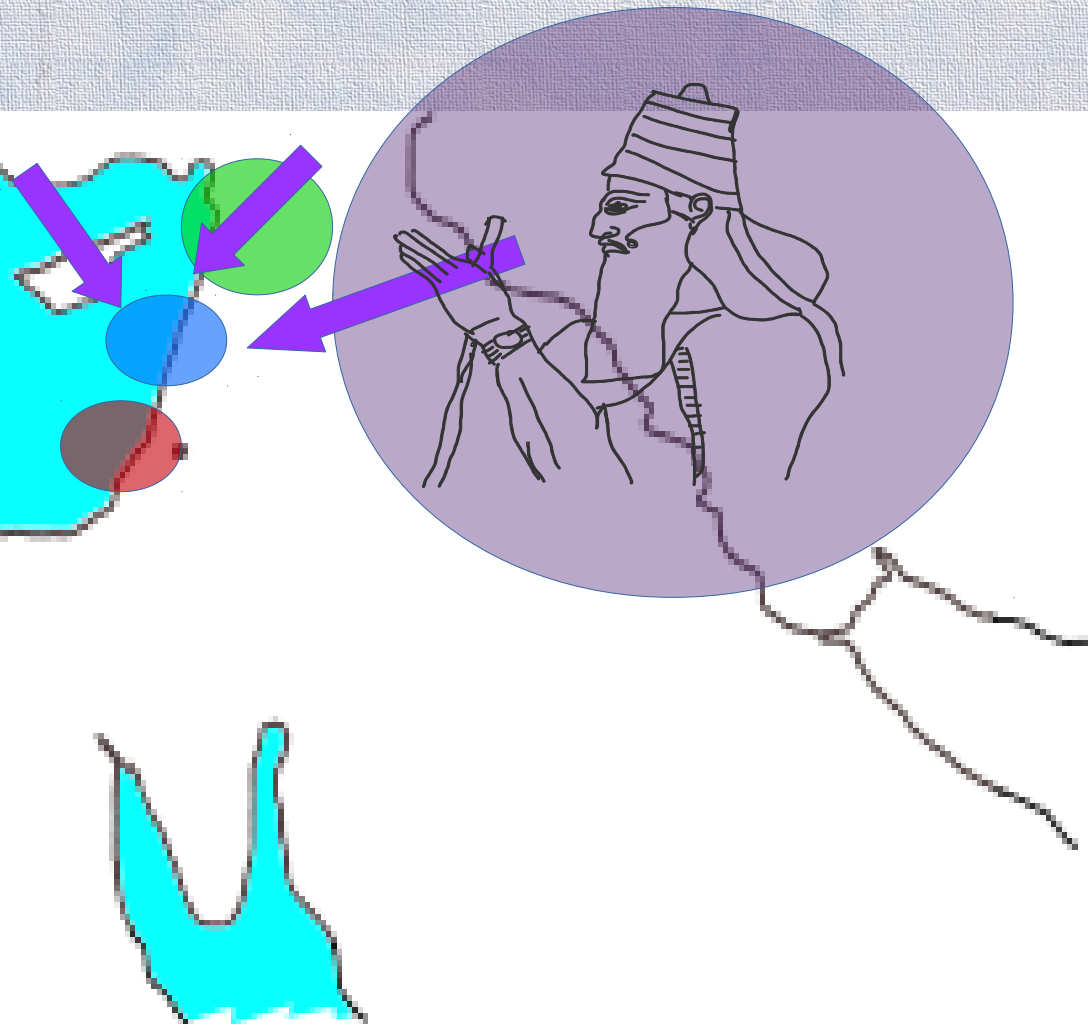
Meet the enemy King: Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC) - British Museum



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

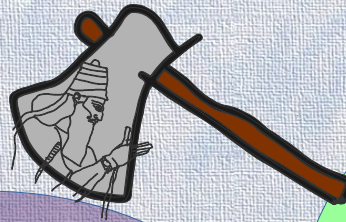
Woe to oppressive rich and powerful. What will you do on that day?

Anger not turned away 10:4

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

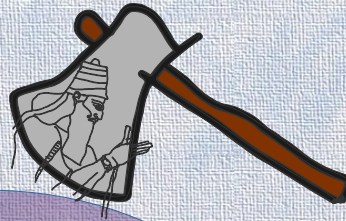
10:5-19 Proud, self assured Assyria is actually a tool in the hand of LORD

- "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

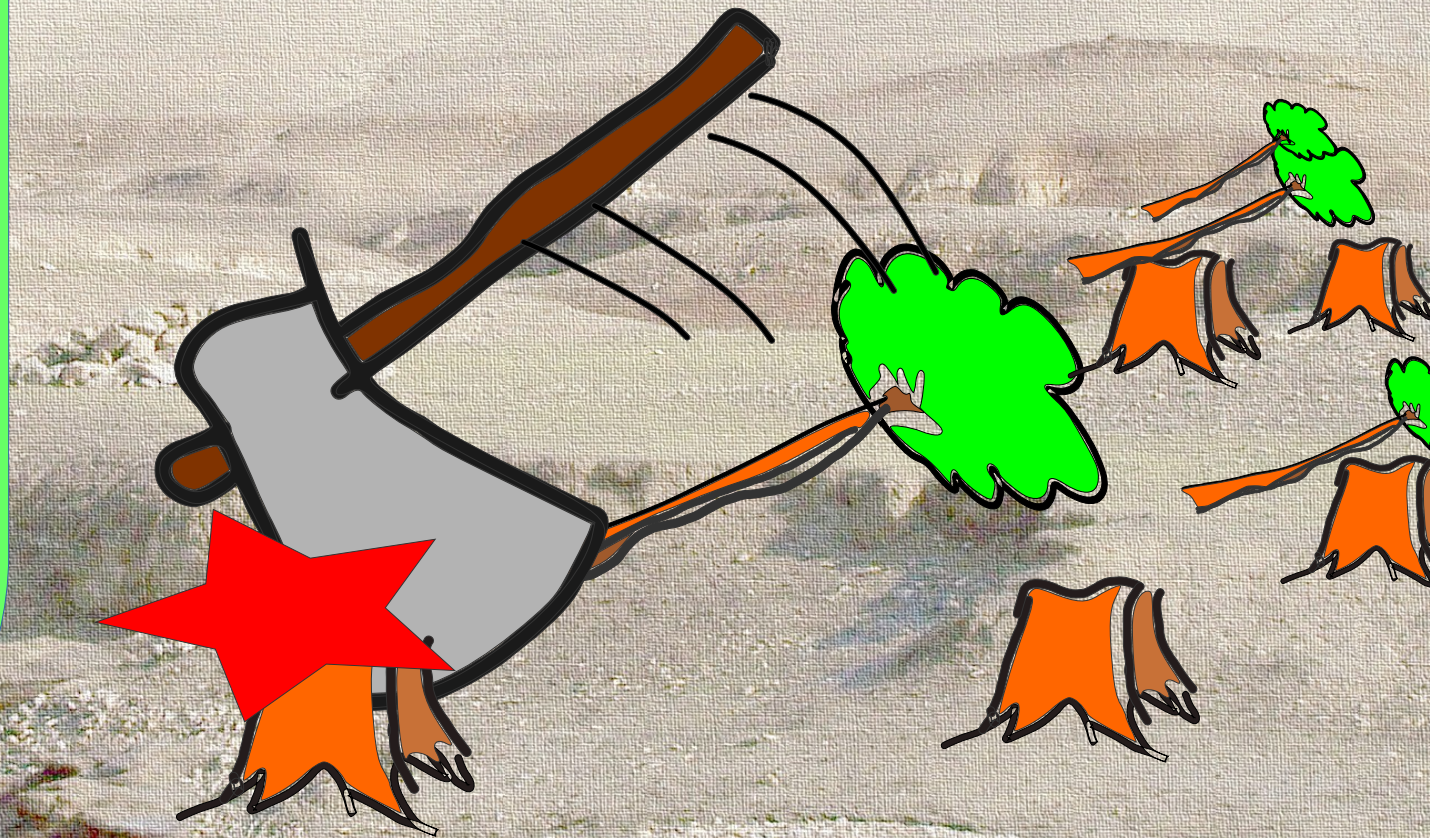
I will finish being
angry with you, and
turn on Assyria
v.25

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

I will remove their
yoke/slavery v.27

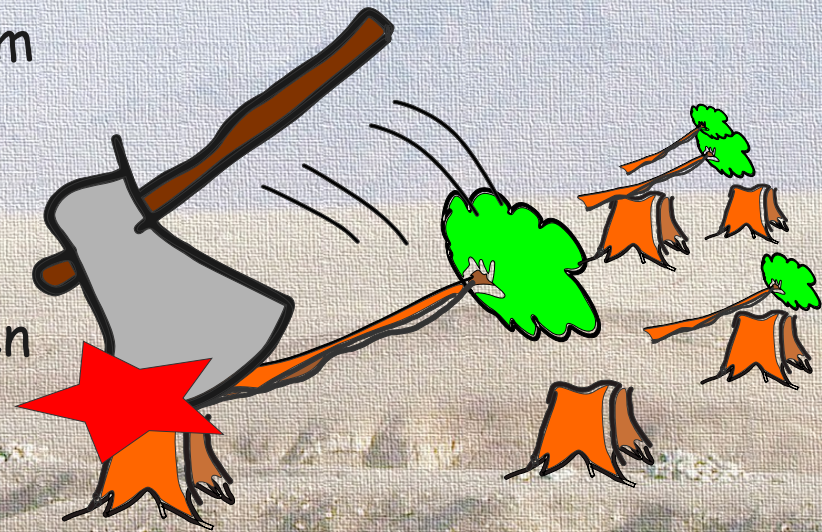
He will cut down the
nations like trees
v.33

==> 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)*

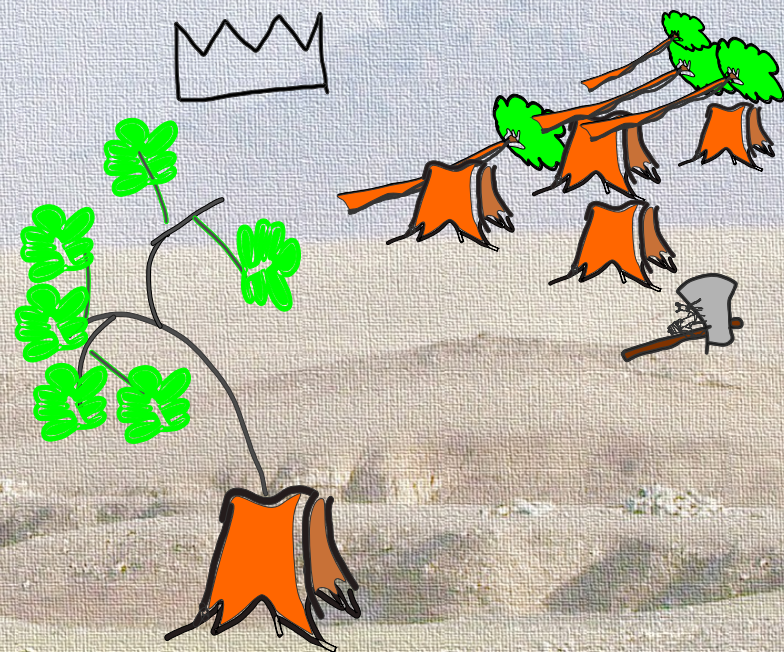
Judge = bring order (shaphat)

- *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*

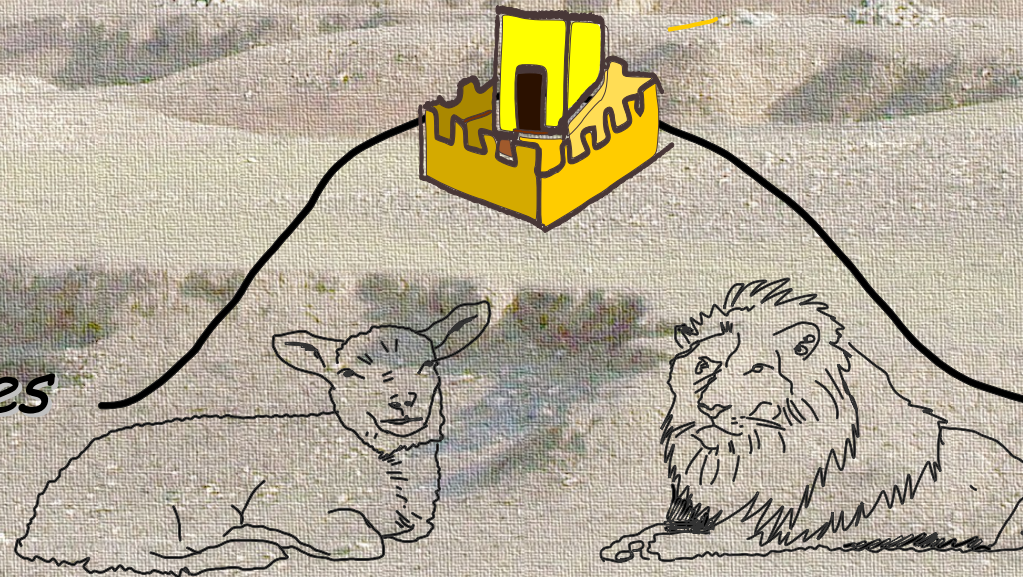
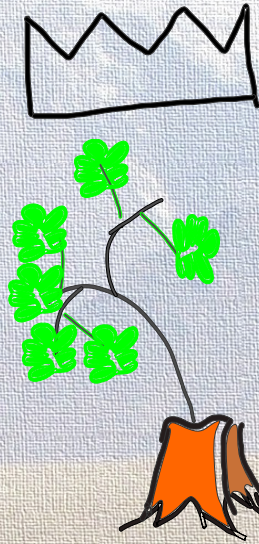
Full of knowledge of the LORD

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

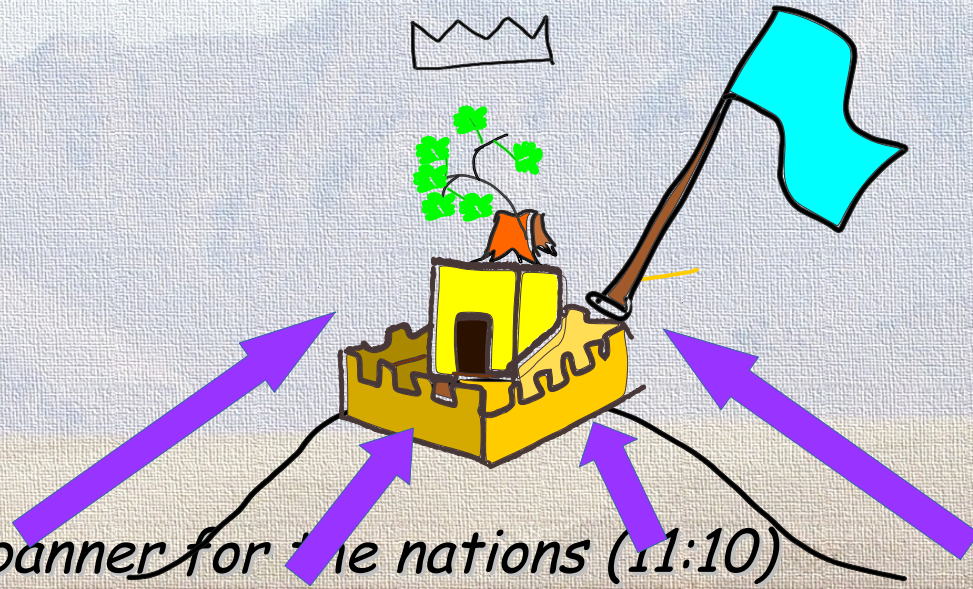
*NOT to make us into sub-human
wafty spirits in heaven*

*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

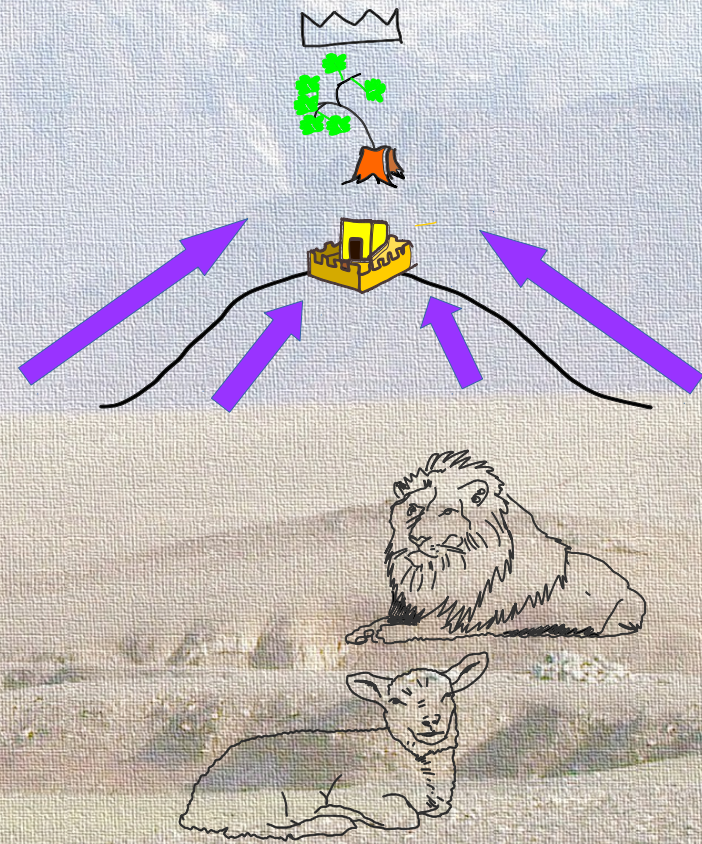
=> the revelation (apokalypsis)

=> "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!)

