

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.  
This morning - "God and Egypt"

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

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



# What does your life rely on?

- *People of "all faiths and none"*
- *Every one lives by faith*
  - *Sitting on a chair ... is an act of faith*
  - *Letting people give you pieces of coloured paper called "currency" is an act of faith*
- *To save us in life and from life*
- *So that we are not constantly dissolving into sheer panic and terror*
- *"We trust in thee our shield and our defender"*
  - *"thee" is what we rely on = ? good luck ? Power? Youth? Good looks? Hard work? Wealth? Cleverness? Talent? Politics? Education?*



# Isaiah 18-20 - the text

*Message - don't trust Egypt, trust the Lord,*

Isaiah 17:12 **Poem #1** woe to the raging nations

- 18:1 woe to the land of Cush
- Sending envoys while the LORD has his own plans

Isaiah 19 - **Poem #2** an oracle concerning Egypt

- 1:15 A poem about Egypt's complete weakness against the LORD when he comes

Isaiah 19:16-25 **List** "in that day" x5

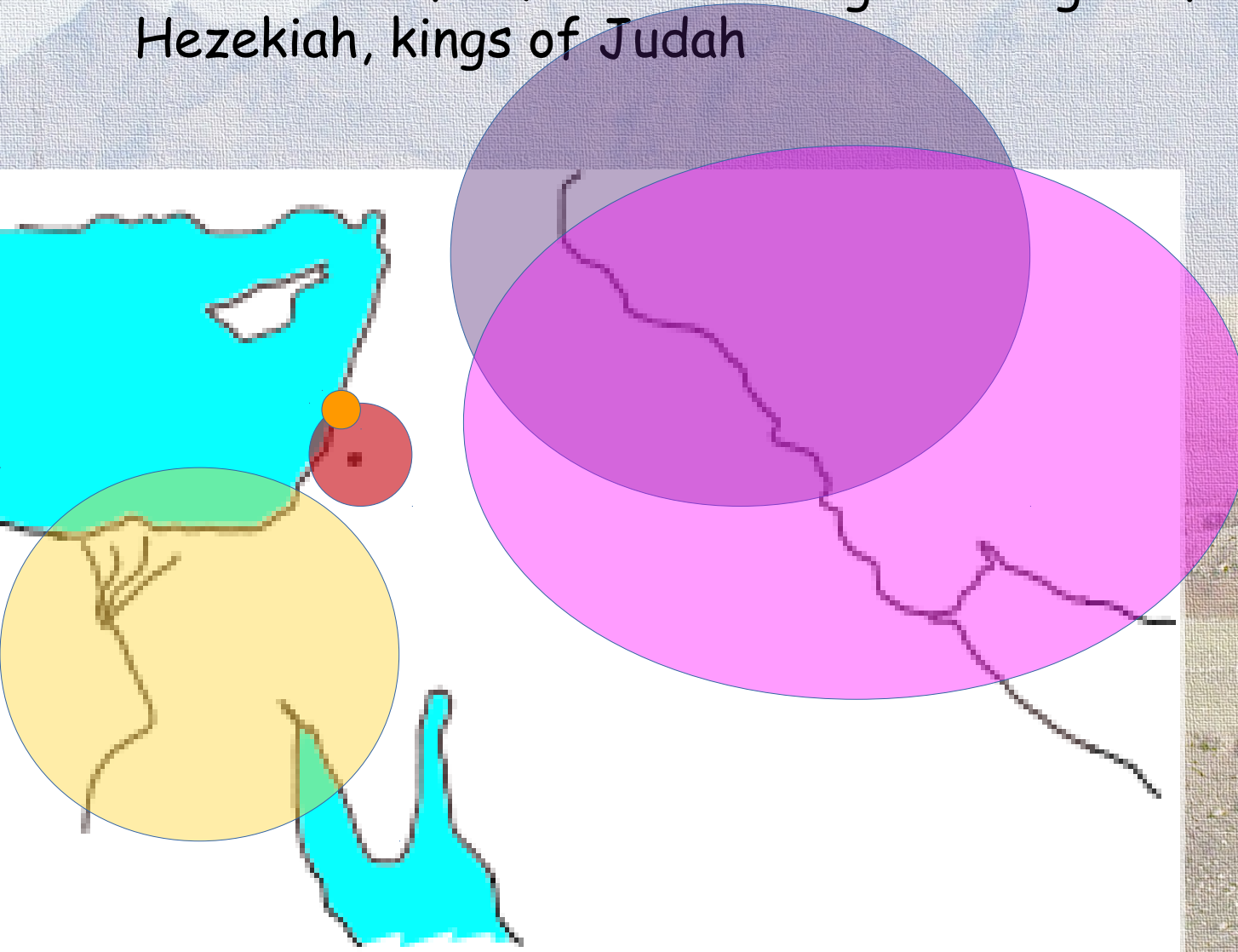
Isaiah 20:1-6 **History:**

- Isaiah's naked protest against Egypt's help and the time that Philistine cities were captured by Assyria



# The nations - 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 = God's HQ

Egypt = Exodus rescue from slavery, and possible persuasive current ally

Assyria = Rising aggressive super power - attacker - who himself is destroyed

Babylon = Future enemy, who will take ALL people into exile

Philistines = Ashdod- who trusted Egypt to save them from Assyria





Ashdod was one of the five great Philistine cities.

It was the place where (300 years before Isaiah) the temple of the god Dagon has stood.

It was a Philistine city which resisted capture by the Israelites. It was influenced by Egypt in the south, and was threatened by Assyria in the North.

For three years (713-711) Ashdod revolted against the Assyrians, at the encouragement of Egypt.

But Sargon of Assyria in 711 attacked Ashdod and destroyed it. King Yamani fled to Egypt. But the Egyptians were intimidated by Sargon's military might - and handed Yamani over to the Assyrians ...

... so much for a city which listened to Egypt, and relied on Egypt, trusting Egypt's support

***DO NOT RELY ON "EGYPT" - PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE LORD***



# Meet the Egyptian messenger



- You can absolutely rely on us
- It's time to get organised
- We are getting our act together
- We are ready for action.
- We have powerful gods
- We have a strong economy
- We have a strong society
- We have a track record of expertise
- ==>We can see you through life's storms
- (and the Philistines are on board already)
- N.B. We Christians face the same temptation not to rely on the LORD



# Poem #1 (17:12-18:7) Travelling to make alliances

## Messengers:

- Going near (v.2b)
  - To Ethiopia
- Going far
  - to an(y) aggressive nations of strange speech (?)

=> the action of human alliances

- source of power and security
- the LORD is against human beings relying on their power and security instead of him

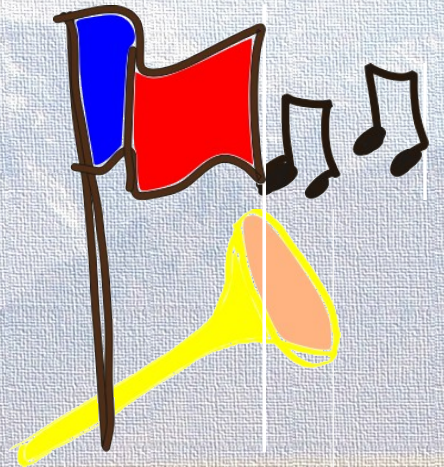




# Poem #1 (17:12-18:7) Travelling to make alliances

## v.12 Time and place (banner+trumpet)

- You will see it/hear it
- ?? human crisis, human response
- Success seen in speed of response??



## LORD's time and place are different

- He quietly watches matters mature (v.4)
- He suddenly intervenes to frustrate political plans, and confiscate gains (v.5)
- Left (?like corpses after a battle?) v.6
- ==> LORD's plans are sovereign - whether fast or slow





# Poem #1 (17:12-18:7) Travelling to make alliances

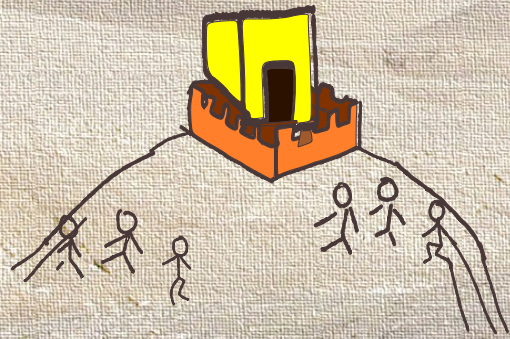
LORD will have gifts  
from an(y) aggressive  
nation of strange speech

- To the place of the  
Name of the LORD  
Almighty

- ==> LORD's  
[messengers] cause  
tribute gifts to the  
place of his NAME

- Q: who has the Name  
that is above every  
name??

- A: Jesus of Nazareth,  
the Christ





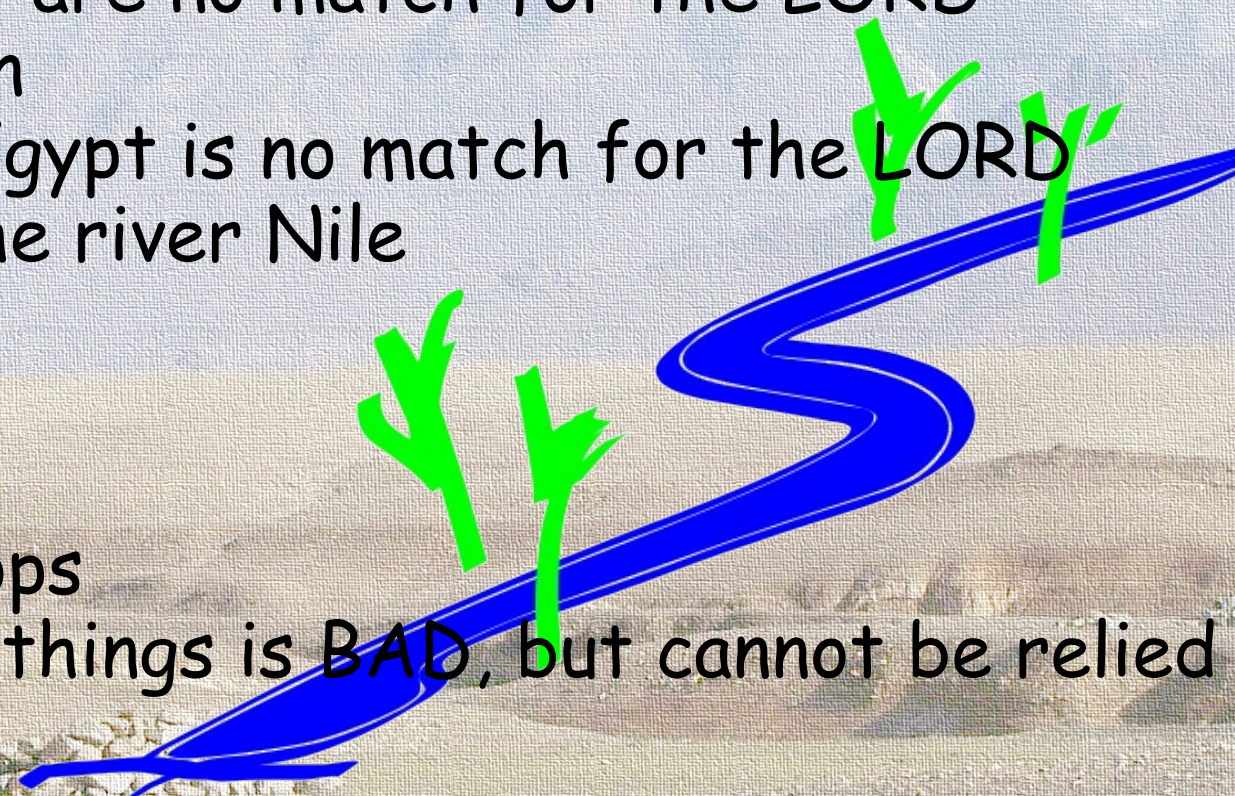
# Poem #2 Egypt exposed as powerless against the LORD - their flaws and favours

- The LORD is coming to Egypt on a swift cloud
- It is not the first nor the last time he comes with clouds
  - Ps 18:6 ... in my distress I cry to God for help v.9 he parted the heavens and came down dark clouds were under his feet he mounted the cherubim and flew he soared on the wings of the wind ...
- Jesus - *"But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*
- ==> when he comes, who or what shall stand?





# Poem #2 Egypt exposed as powerless against the LORD

- the idols of Egypt are no match for the LORD
    - internal division
  - The economy of Egypt is no match for the LORD
    - If he touches the river Nile
      - Dried up
      - Plant life
      - Fishing stops
      - Agriculture stops
      - (none of these things is BAD, but cannot be relied on!)
  - The wisdom of Egypt is no match for the LORD
    - They claim deep ancient wisdom
      - But they have no idea of the LORD's plans
      - They are like stupid drunkards
    - => who would totally rely on in such a flimsy fraud?*
- 



# List: "in that day" Egypt blessed as God's own chosen people

- **In that day #1**
  - they will fear the LORD and his people
  - ==> a good step!
- **In that day #2**
  - the city that [was] destruction will belong to the LORD
- **In that day #3**
  - the Egyptians will have the same experience as Israel
  - presence of God with them
  - God will hear their prayers
  - they will know the LORD
  - they will sacrifice acceptably
  - they will be disciplined as sons
- **In that day #4**
  - Even the worst of LORD's enemies will become worshippers
  - they will be accepted alongside Israel
- **In that day #5**
  - they will share in the blessing



History: the people who trust in Egypt find  
that they are useless

See what happened to those we relied on 20:6

It all came true - as predicted!







So: Don't rely on Egypt - trust in the LORD

Don't turn to Egypt

- Egypt will actually turn to you
- ==> christians solve problems God's way
- ==> don't learn non-believing world's way

In Christ

- it's no different, we live by faith in God through Jesus Christ
- We are tempted to place ultimate faith in limited created things/people
- Don't rely on Egypt, trust in the LORD