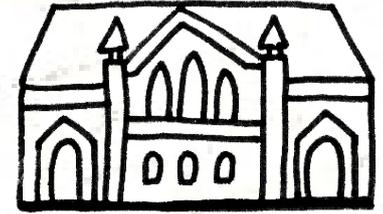


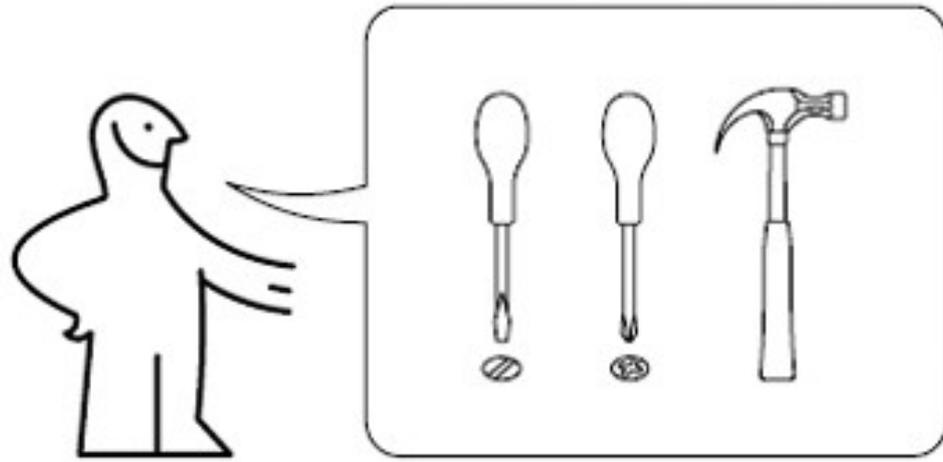
Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 5th May 2019 speaker Philip Wells, Minister.
This morning - the book of Revelation

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

calvary-brighton.sermon.net



Ikea home-building instructions

You get in a right pickle if you don't have the big picture, the right instructions, and the correct tools

It's the same with life ... in God's world

That's where the book of Revelation comes in!

- What is being built, the tools needed, how to be properly involved

Lessons from the book of Revelation

- 1. What is the "book of Revelation"?*
- 2. What does it say to people who are not interested today?*
- 3. What does it say to interested people today?*
- 4. What does it say to Christians today?*
- 5. By the way - how does it say what it says?*

1. What is the "book of Revelation"

1. It is the last book in the Christian Bible

2. It is famous for its weirdness

– It has visions

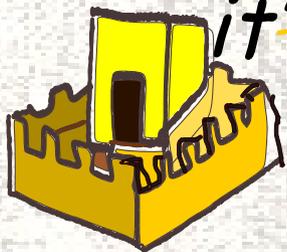
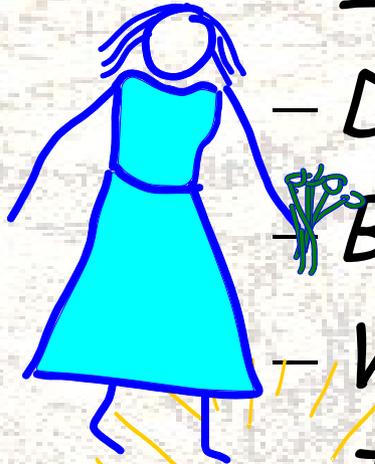
– Dragons and beasts and lake of fire

– Battles

– Women - a prostitute and a bride

– The city of God and Babylon

it's about a cosmic spiritual conflict



1. What is the "book of Revelation"

3. It is famous for its weird interpretations

- Prophecy of the 10 nations of the common market*
- Russian tanks invading Europe (Western Interpreter)*
- Last days are here!*
 - e.g. in time of Martin Luther*
- Theories of*
 - "the millennium" = 1000 years (chapter 21)*
 - "the anti-christ" = (chapter 0)*
 - "the rapture" = (chapter 0) supposed miraculous removal of believers from the earth while history goes on without them*
 - Can get unbelievably complicated, and off-putting*

1. What is the "book of Revelation"

4. It actually says of itself:

– It is an "unveiling"

602 ἀποκάλυψις *apokalupsis* = *apo* (from) + *kalypto* (to veil)

- shows the true reality behind the surface appearance

– It is a **circular letter** to specific churches

- "John" ... "to" ... "grace and peace"

- i.e. currently relevant to each and also to all

- e.g. Roman Empire etc

- ==> "repent"

– It is a **prophecy** v.3

- In fact the climax of all prophecies

- Projects forward into God's future, with action points for NOW

- "blessed ... to read ... to keep" v.3

5. By the way - how does it say what it says?

*i.e. what is the writers
"accent"*

- *e.g. "feeath"*
- *e.g. What conventions
does he use? (car horn)*

*(i) he uses symbols -
symbolic names*

- *i.e. like in cartoons or
posters e.g. 1917
recruiting poster*
- *e.g. Jezebel 2:20*
- *Pagan wife of King*

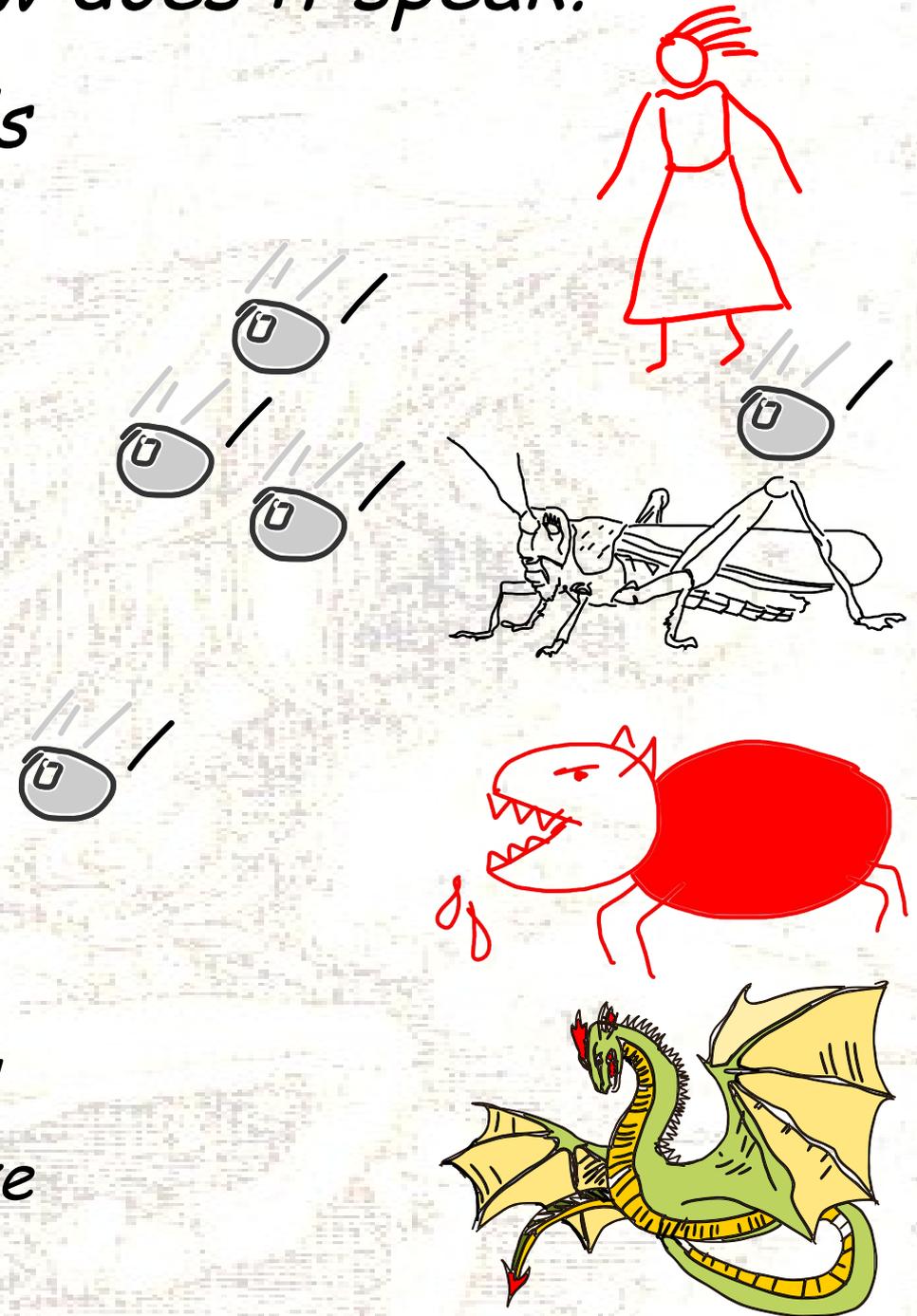


**"Uncle Sam"
Stands for USA**

5. By the way - how does it speak?

(ii) he uses symbolic visuals

- Drawn from his culture
 - e.g. Roma - "goddess"
- Drawn from the Bible (Hebrew Scriptures)
- e.g. locusts
 - The plagues on Egypt - Exodus 7-12
- e.g. hail
 - The plagues on Egypt
- e.g. beast(s)
 - The prophecy of Daniel
- e.g. serpent/dragon/snake
 - The book of Genesis



5. By the way - how does it speak?

(ii) he uses symbolic numbers

- 12

- = number of tribes of Israel

- = number of apostles in New Testament

- 7

- = number of completeness e.g. 7 days make a complete week

- 24

• = $12+12$

- 144

• = $12*12$

- 1000

• = a big number

- $144000 = 12*12*1000$

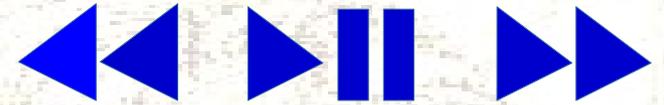
5. By the way - how does it speak?

(iii) further on in the book does not mean further on in time

- e.g. gets to end 6:17*
- Followed by "rewind"*
- e.g. gets to the end 8:1*
- Followed by "rewind"*
- e.g. gets to the end 11:15*
- Followed by "rewind"*

Complete sections:

7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 signs, 7 bowls



2. What does it say to people who are not interested today?

- see surface, but no "unveiling"*
- they are missing out on what is actually going on*
 - ==> see more deeply*
- see the troubles, but don't hear the message*
 - Message = REPENT*
 - Turn round from ignorance and irreverence*
- in the fight ... but on the wrong side*
 - Swim with the tide, go with the flow*
 - BUT God is calling against the tide!*
 - Message of strong warning!*

3. What does it say to interested people today?

- there is a message to be heard*
 - The world is not simply confused and incoherent*
 - There is an explanatory word that makes sense of it all*
 - Blessed is the one who hears and keeps what is written ... 1:3*
 - There is a centre of authority that rules it all*
 - "a throne in heaven and one sitting on it" 4:2*
 - There is a Lamb that was slain to provide forgiveness to all who will come*
 - "the Lamb, as it had been slain, in the centre of the throne" 5:6*
 - Message of earnest invitation! "Come!"*

4. *What does it say to Christians today?*

There is a loving Risen Saviour who I seated on the throne, and who walks among the seven golden lamp stands, and knows our deeds ...

There is a Spirit who speaks to the churches

- He lovingly says "repent" (to most cases)*

There is a battle, the outcome of which is certain

- To the one who overcomes!*
- Rev 12:11 "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death"*
- ==> fight by the blood of the Lamb*
- ==> fight by the word of testimony/witness (martyr)*
- ==> fight by loving the Lord most of all each day*