

Such a Cloud of Witnesses

*“Stories of Great
Christians”*

Temple Baptist Church
September 17, 2023



Matthew 22:36-39

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

Charles Haden Spurgeon

C. H. Spurgeon



A landscape photograph showing a dirt road winding through a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, there are rolling hills and a bright sunset sky with a lens flare. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing white text. Below the box, there is a smaller, reddish-brown rectangular box containing the author's name in white text.

If Christ be anything,
He must be everything.

Charles H. Spurgeon



The Early Years

The Full Harvest
&
Epilogue



The Early Years

The Full Harvest
&
Epilogue

June 19, 1834



- Charles Spurgeon was born northeast of London, England in a small village called Kelvedon. He was the eldest of seventeen children.
- Charles's father was a pastor of a small decenter church in Kelvedon. At 18 months of age was taken to live with his grandparents and aunt in Stambourne.



Birth Home of Charles Spurgeon

Kelvedon,
England





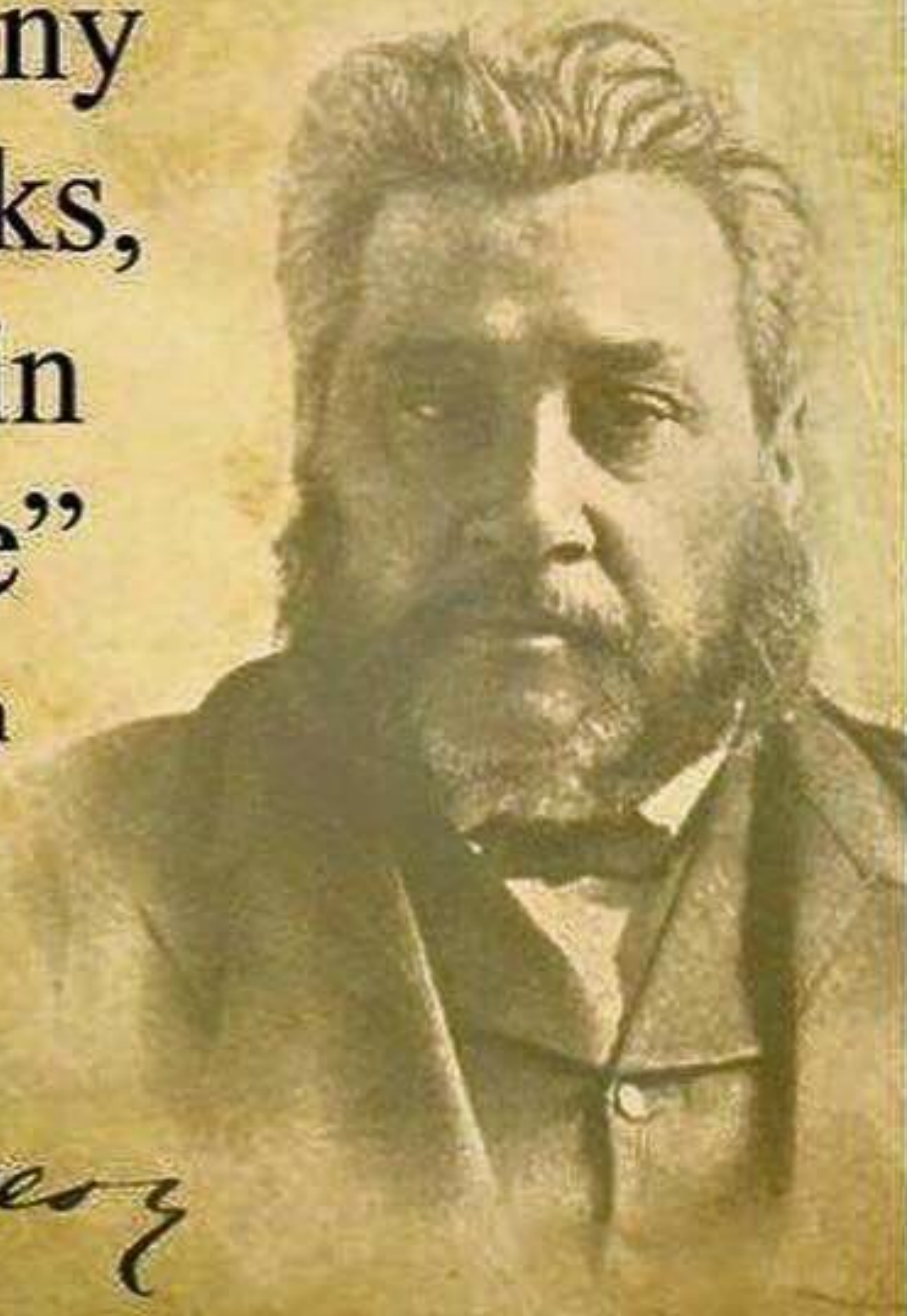
1835-1841

- Charles would fondly remember the years he spent with his grandparents and extended family in Stambourne for the rest of his life. It was in Stambourne that his aunt taught him to read and established in him a life-long love of books. His brother James described his elder brother as, “he used to read everything, he had a memory as tenacious as a vice and as copious as a barn.” At age six he first read “Pilgrim’s Progress”, by John Bunyan. He would read it a hundred times more before the Lord took him home to Glory. He also loved “Foxe’s Book of Martyrs.”

“Visit many
good books,
but live in
the Bible”

C.H. Spurgeon
1834 - 1892

C.H. Spurgeon





20 Family portraits

Rev James Spurgeon of Stambourne
 Mrs C. H. Spurgeon
 Rev John Spurgeon
 Mrs John Spurgeon
 Rev J. A. Spurgeon

Stambourne, England



Acts 16:29-32

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

32 And they **spake** unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.



1841-1849

- Charles rejoins his family when his father became the pastor at a larger church in Colchester.
- Looking at the outside, you would think Charles was a model Christian child. At age 16 he submitted his first book into a writing contest. It was a 295-page theological book titled “Popery Unmasked.” Though he believed **in the Lord Jesus**, he had not really believed **on the Lord Jesus** for his own personal salvation. This was to soon change!

Colchester, England



The Roman City Wall

Colchester, England



The Roman City Wall

Colchester, England



Colchester Castle

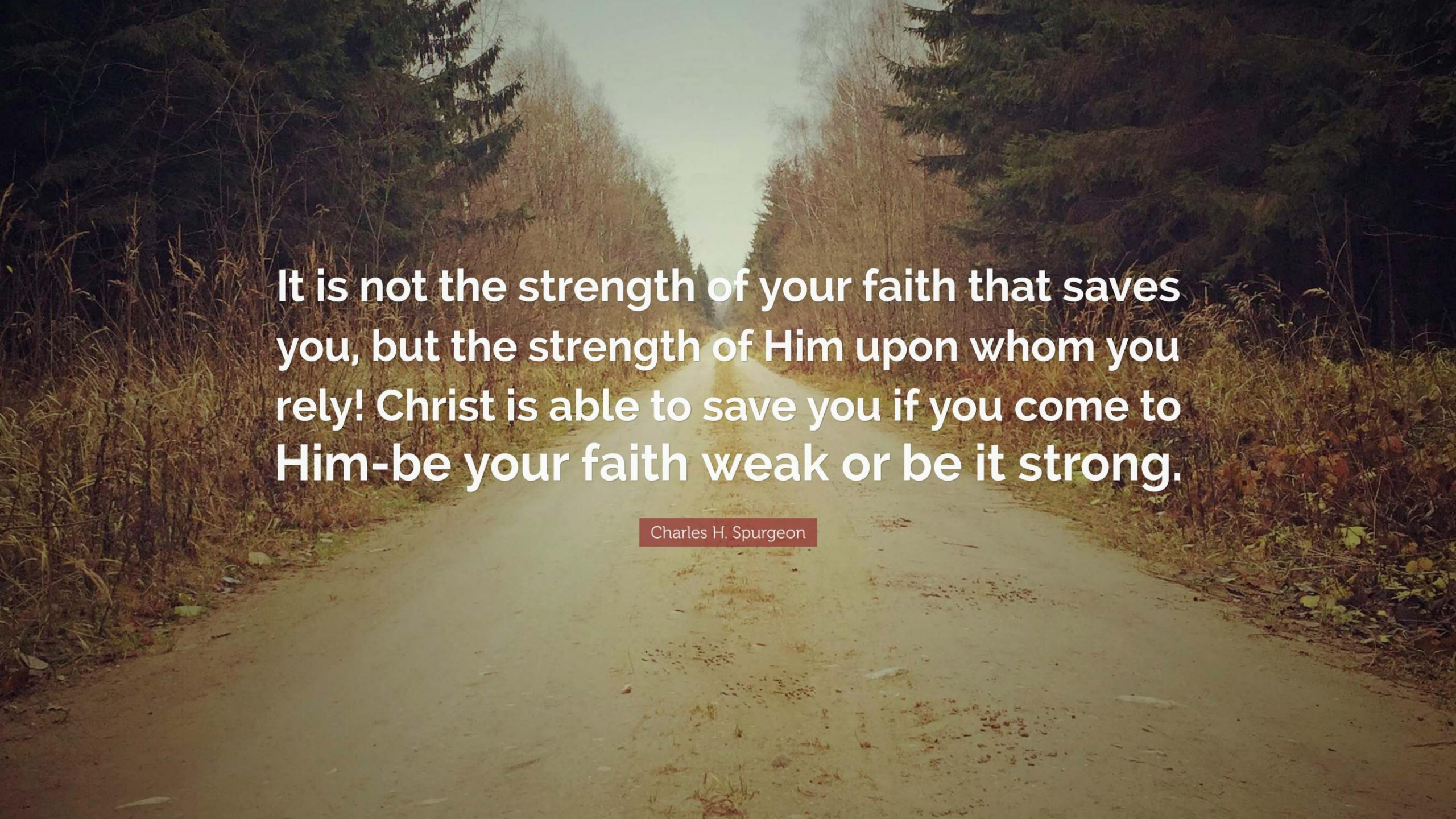
Colchester, England



George Lislie



Sir Charles Lucas



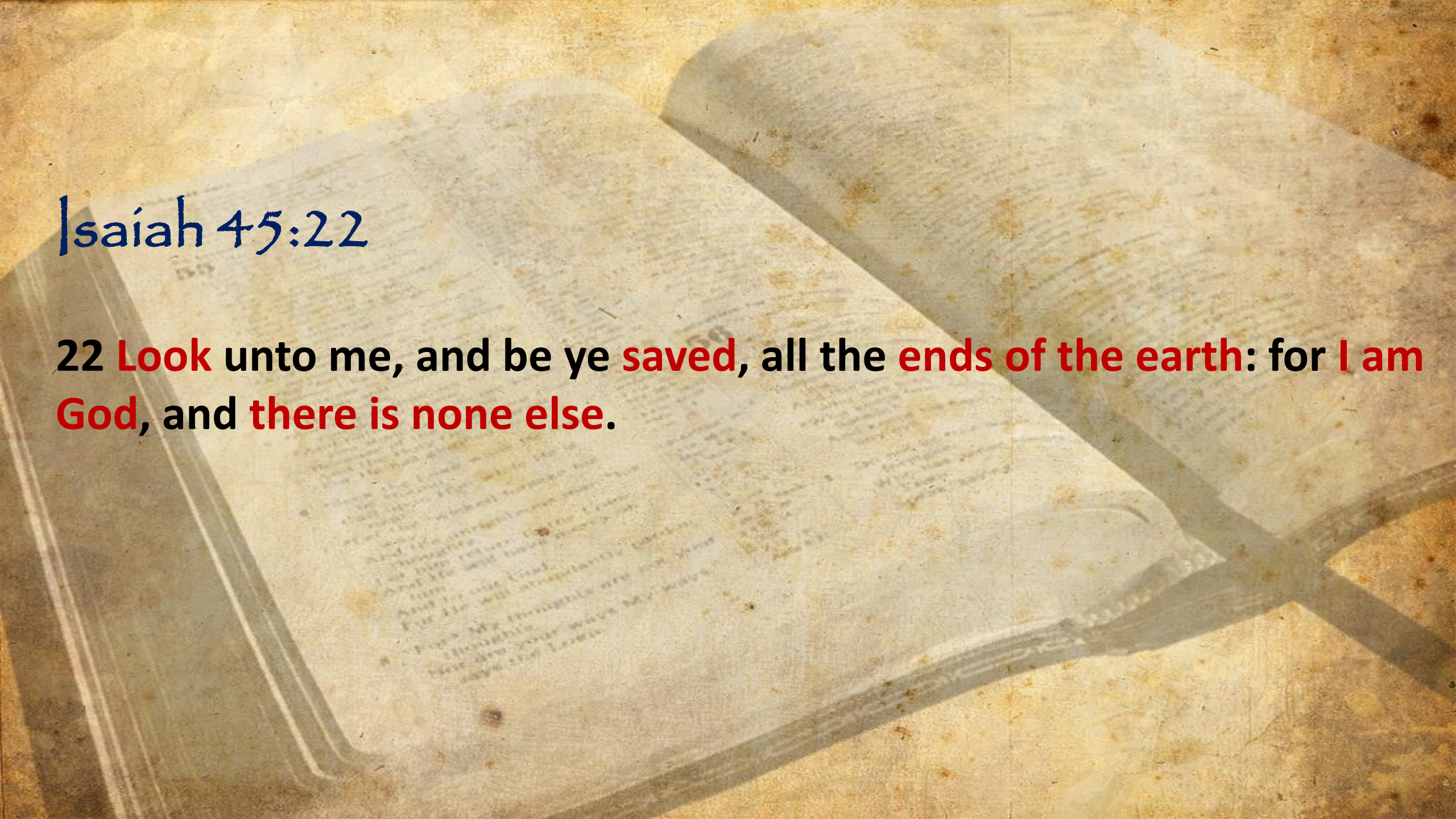
It is not the strength of your faith that saves you, but the strength of Him upon whom you rely! Christ is able to save you if you come to Him-be your faith weak or be it strong.

Charles H. Spurgeon

1849-1850



- Charles at age 16 takes a position as a schoolteacher in Newmarket some 57 miles away.
- In January 1850, While visiting back family back at Colchester, an event of God's divine appointment was to happen. By the importunity of a snowstorm and the faithfulness of a poor old man, Charles would actually HEAR the gospel for the first time and make its truth his very own.



Isaiah 45:22

22 **Look** unto me, and be ye **saved**, all the **ends of the earth**: for **I am God**, and **there is none else**.



1850-1851

- Upon returning to Newmarket for a short while, he moves to Cambridge and joins a Baptist Church there. Here he is baptized and immediately begins to serve. He taught Sunday School and adults started to come and listen to biblically sound, challenging, and enjoyable lessons. His skill was recognized by the assistant pastor in charge of pulpit supply to other churches and gives Charles the opportunity to preach his first sermon in the small hamlet of Taverham at age 17!

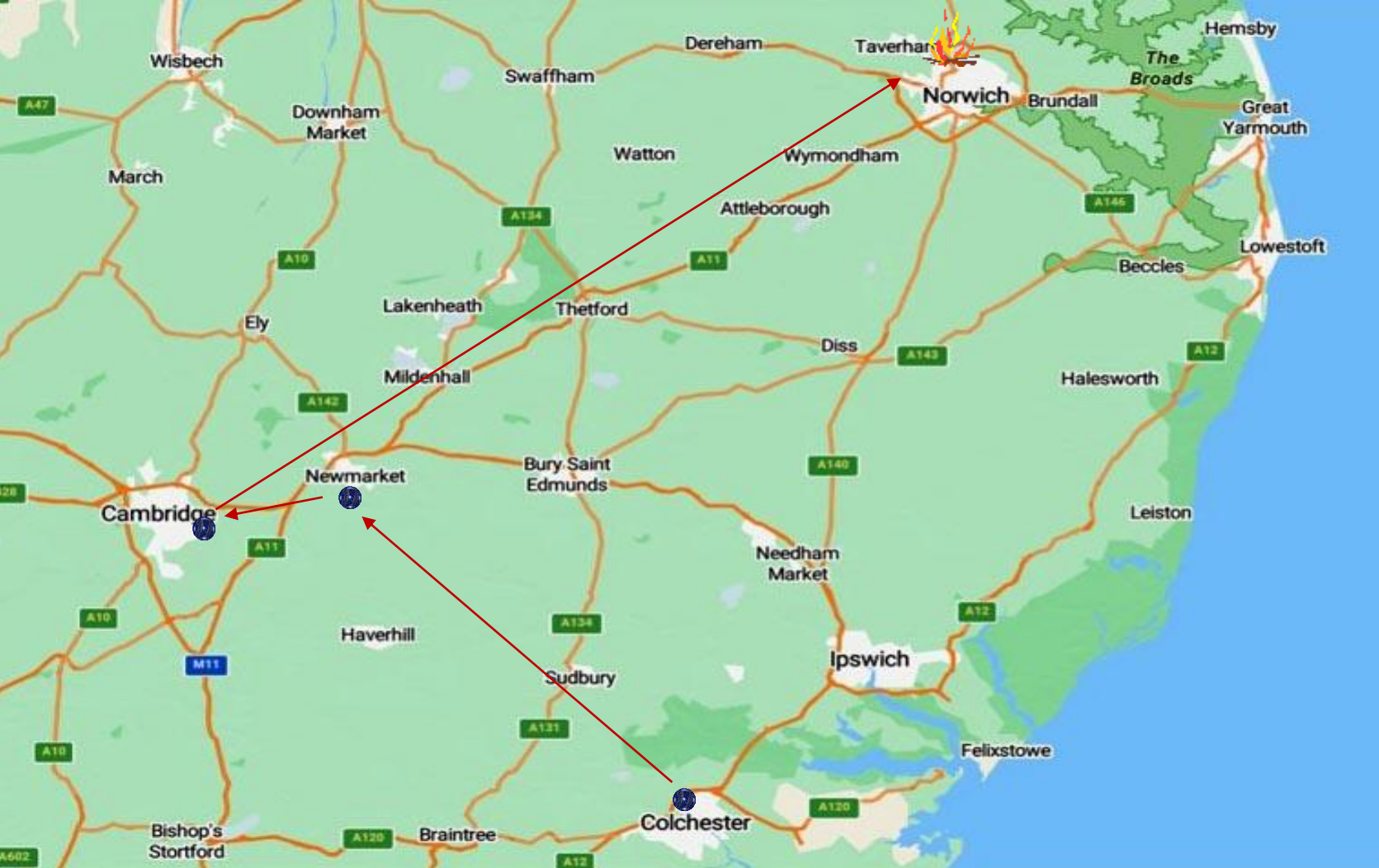
Isleham Ferry, England



1 Timothy 4:12-13

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, **give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**

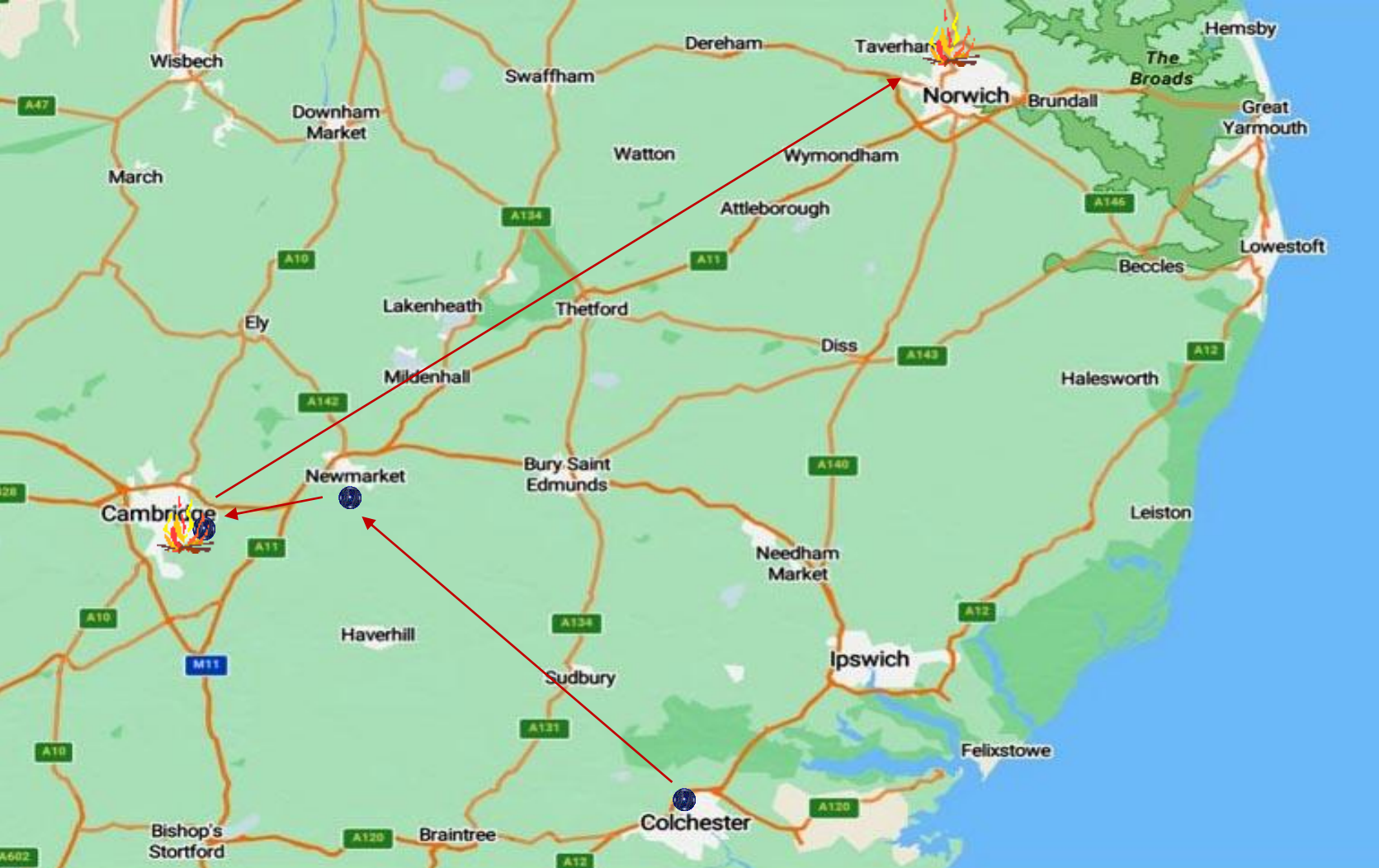


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Taversham
(Faversham),
England

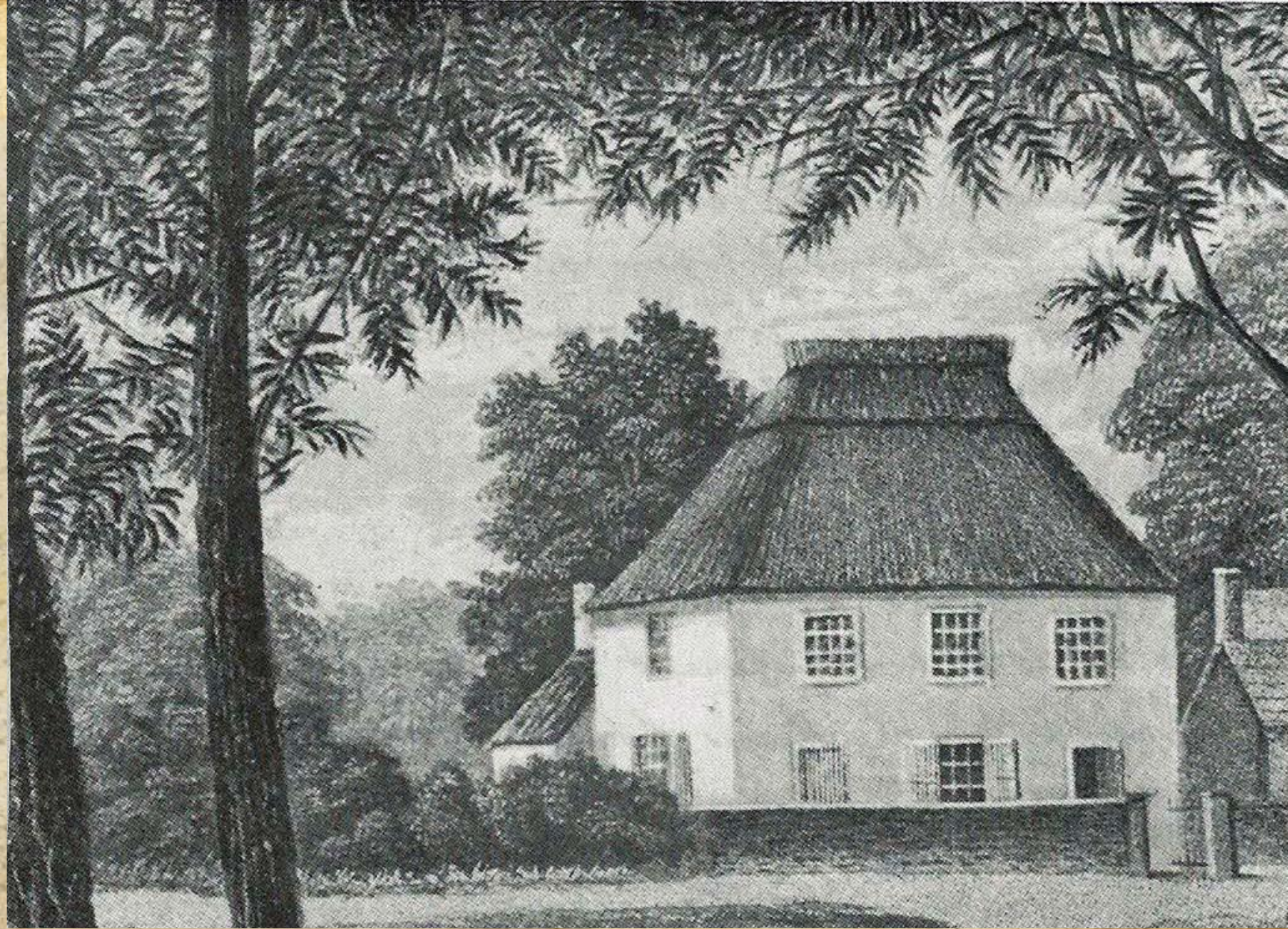




1851-1854

- The 17-year-old “Boy Preacher” spoke at many churches around Cambridge. He was also asked to hold special evening and Saturday meetings. The small Waterbeach Chapel asked him to come three Sundays in a row and then called him to be their Pastor.
- His pay was only 40 pounds per year. He would happily serve the Lord here for two years.

Waterbeach
Chapel



Waterbeach Chapel (~1900)



Waterbeach Chapel (Today)





1854-1856

- Spurgeon's reputation had reached all the way to London. At the age of 20, Charles was called by the congregation of New Park Street Chapel in London to be their new Pastor. The position had been held by two of the greatest names in English Baptist history, Dr. John Gill & Dr. John Rippon.
- At the time of his arrival, the church only had 200 members in a facility that could hold over 1200. Charles was shocked by the environment in London.
- In 1854 begins a ministry to develop new pastors. This effort will ultimately become Pastors College in 1857. Later called Spurgeon's College.
- In 1855 his sermons begin to be published in newspapers weekly. The church has simply outgrown their current capacity and need to do something.
- 1855 Church first meets in Exeter Hall. Exeter Hall is the third largest facility in London, but it soon becomes too small.

New Park Street Chapel - 1854



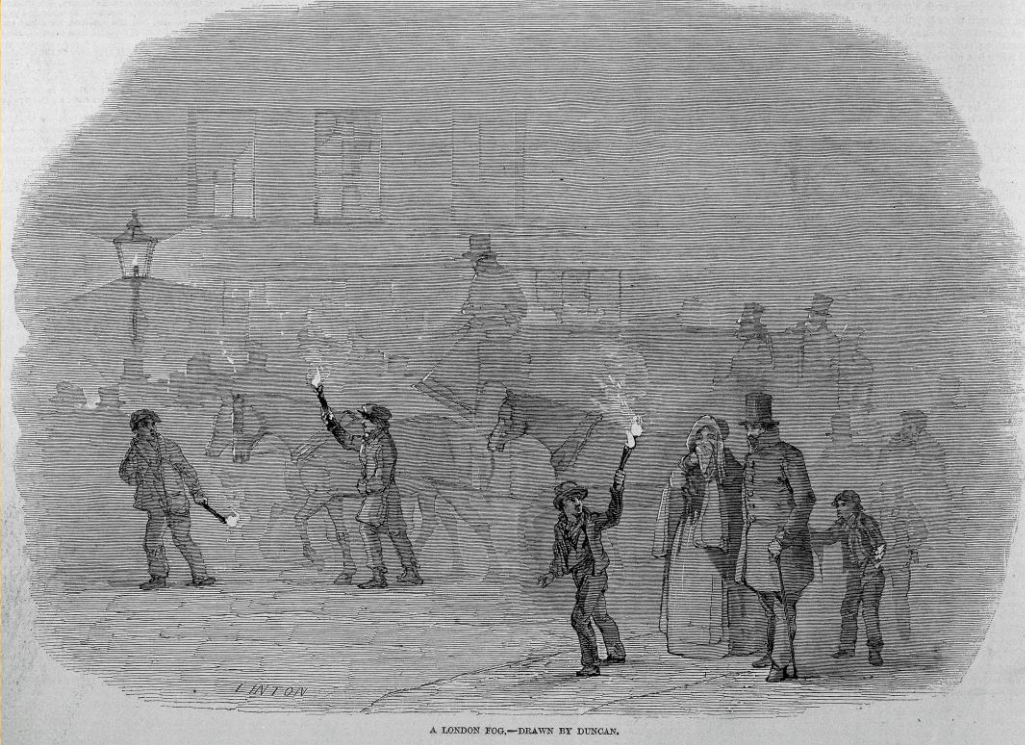


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London's - Size





A LONDON FOG,—DRAWN BY DUNCAN.



Brown Coal - Lignite

London's
- Filth




London's - Pride



London's - Pride





Obedience to the will of God
is the pathway to perpetual
honor and everlasting joy.

Charles H. Spurgeon



Proverbs 29:18

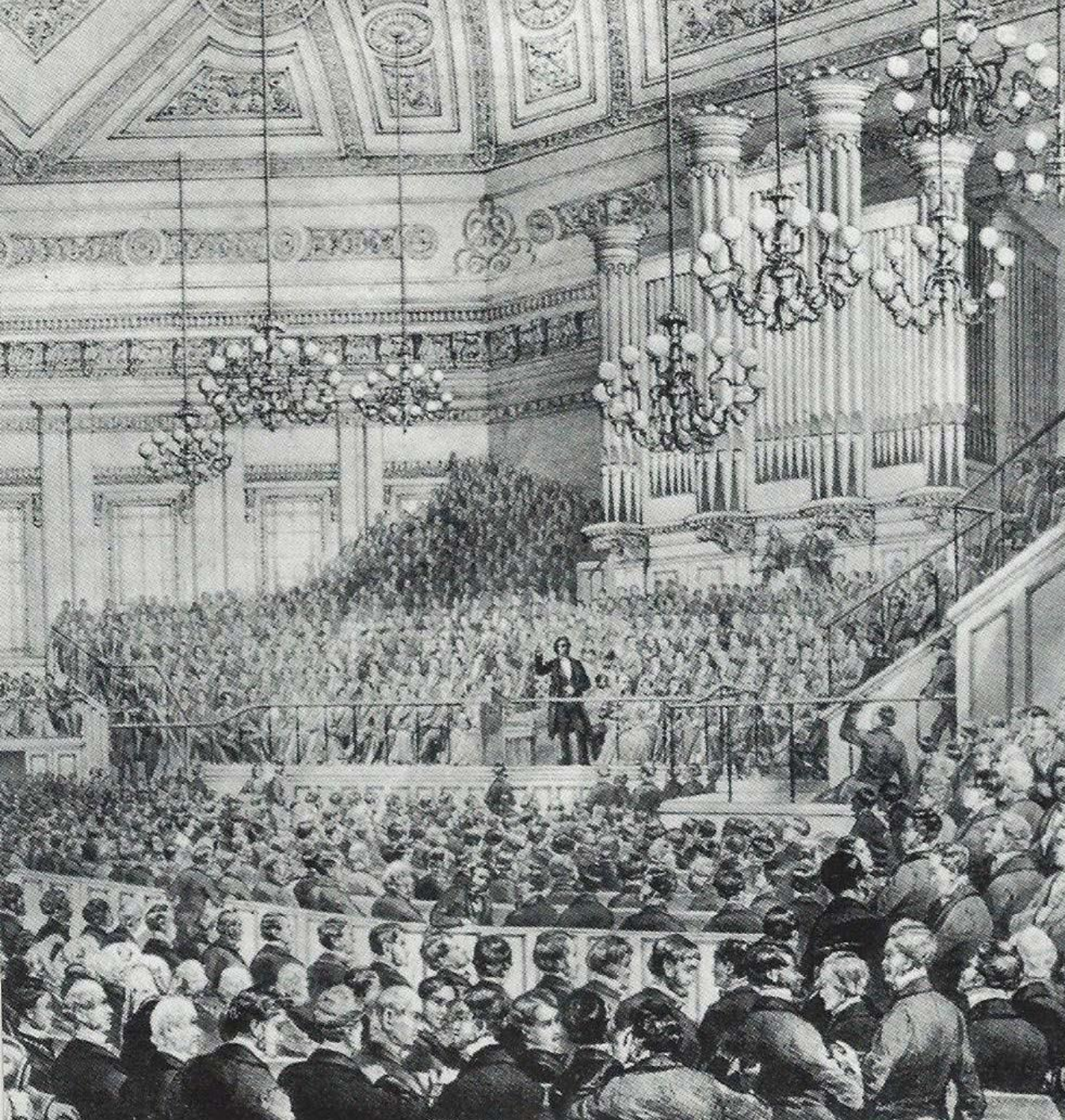
18 Where there is **no vision**, the **people perish**: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.



1854-1856

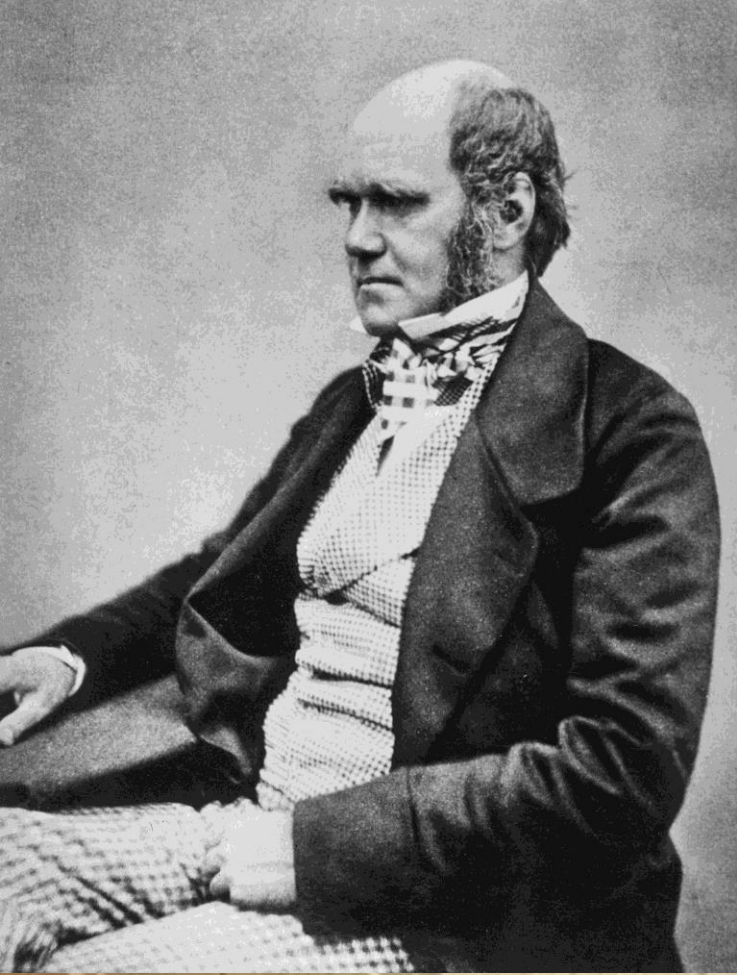
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Exeter Hall - 1855-1856

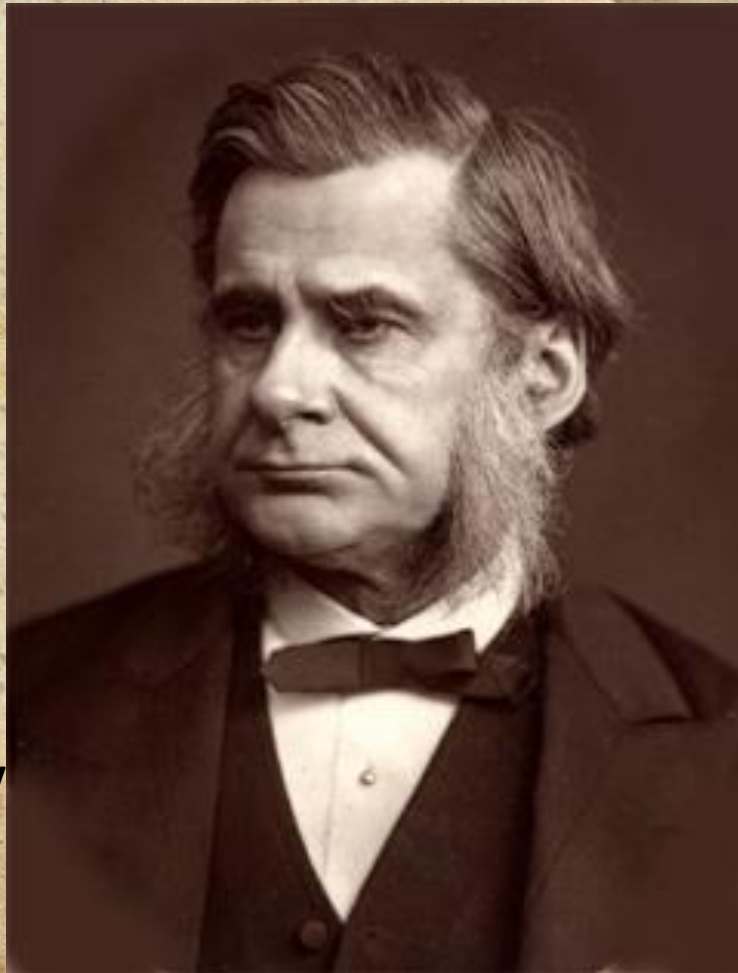


Seating Capacity in
the main hall - 4000

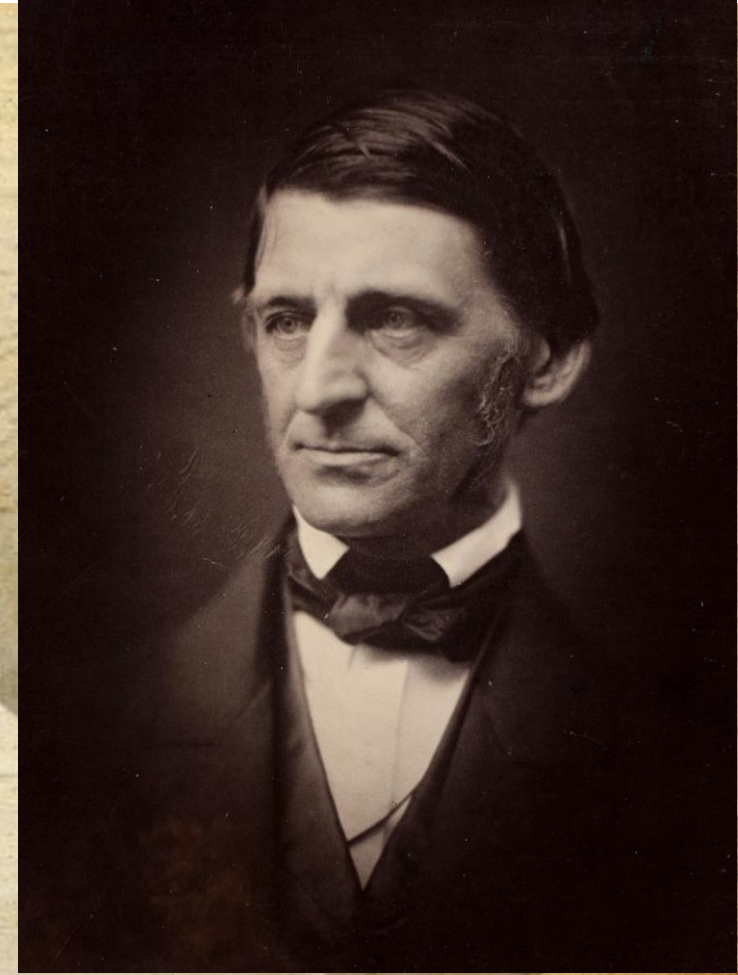
Exeter Hall hosted others...



Charles Darwin



Thomas Huxley



Ralph Waldo Emerson



New Park Street Chapel - 1856

Seating Capacity -
~1500



1856-1859

- In 1856 Charles (Charlie) meets and marries Susannah (Susie) Thompson. Twin sons are born Charles and Thomas.
- On Sunday October 19, 1856, Spurgeon preaches at the 2nd largest venue in London, the Surry Gardens Music Hall. The hall had a seating capacity of 10,000. Sadly, in the middle of Charles sermon disaster strikes... a number of hecklers yell "FIRE" in the fully packed facility. There was no fire, but the deed was done. In the rush to get out of the building, seven individuals are trampled and killed and more than 20 more are injured. Charles is devastated.
- The papers reporting was without mercy and with little to know truth. Charles suffers from a form of PTSD and takes a number of weeks off but returns in November 1856 through December of 1859.
- 1857 Pastor's College Founded
- On "Fast" Sunday October 7, 1857, Spurgeon preaches at the largest venue in London, the Crystal Palace. That day he spoke to 23,654 individuals. The largest crowd he ever had opportunity to address.



Married ~ January 8, 1956

Twins Born - September 20, 1856



Age 4

Age 7

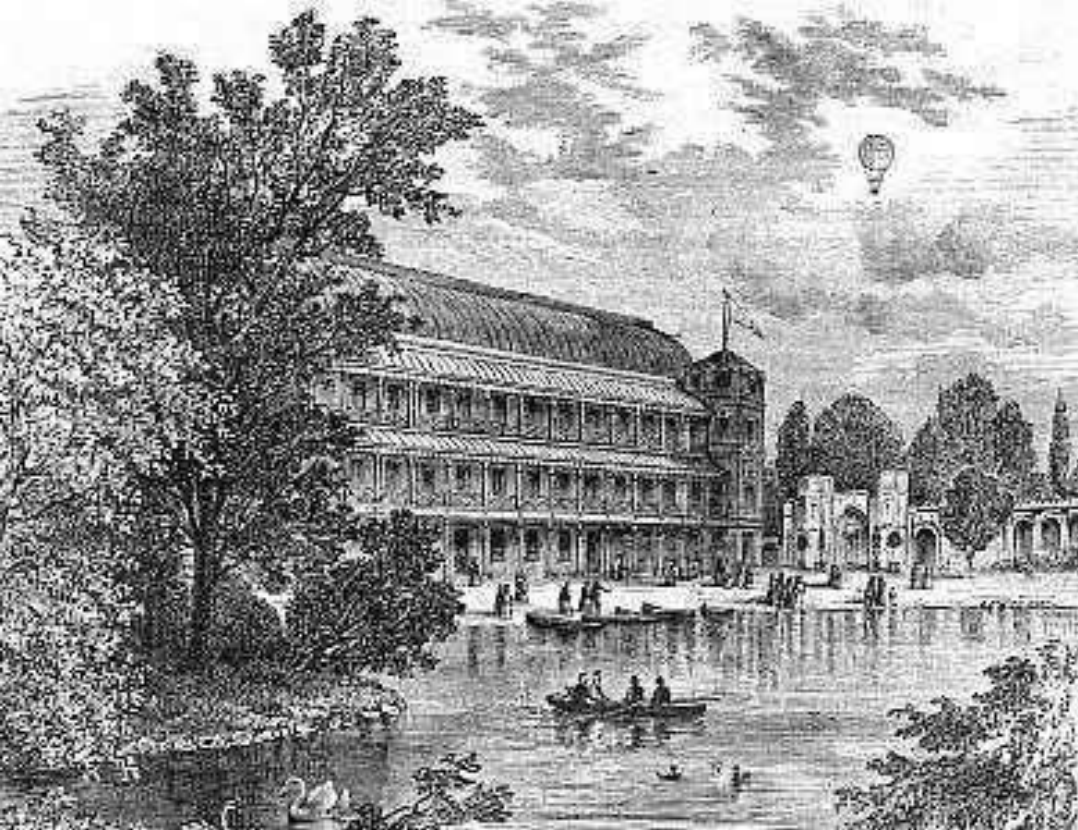


Age 21



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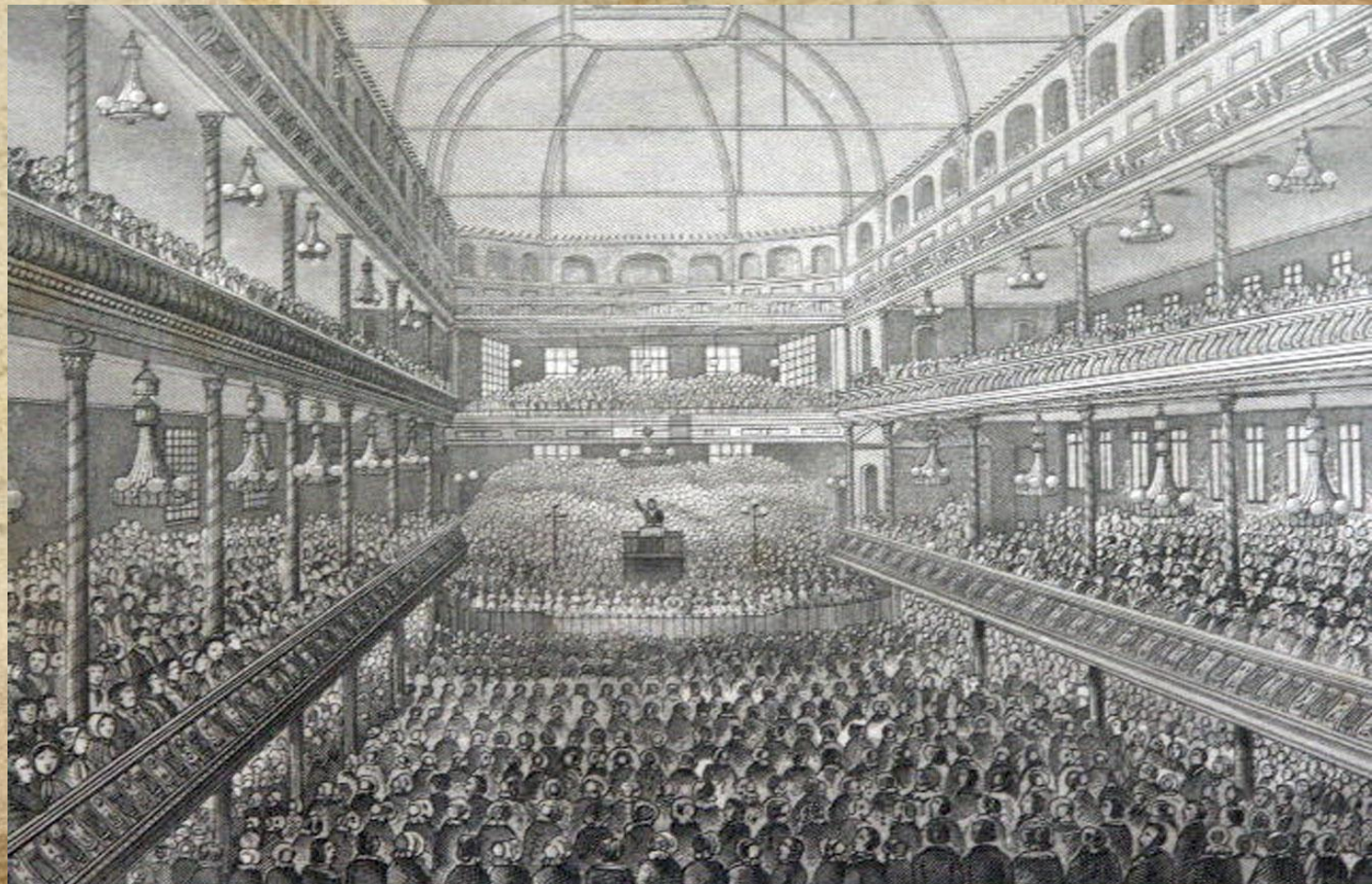


Royal Surrey Gardens Music Hall ~1856

Seating Capacity -
~10,000



Sunday October 19,
1856, ~7000 in
attendance



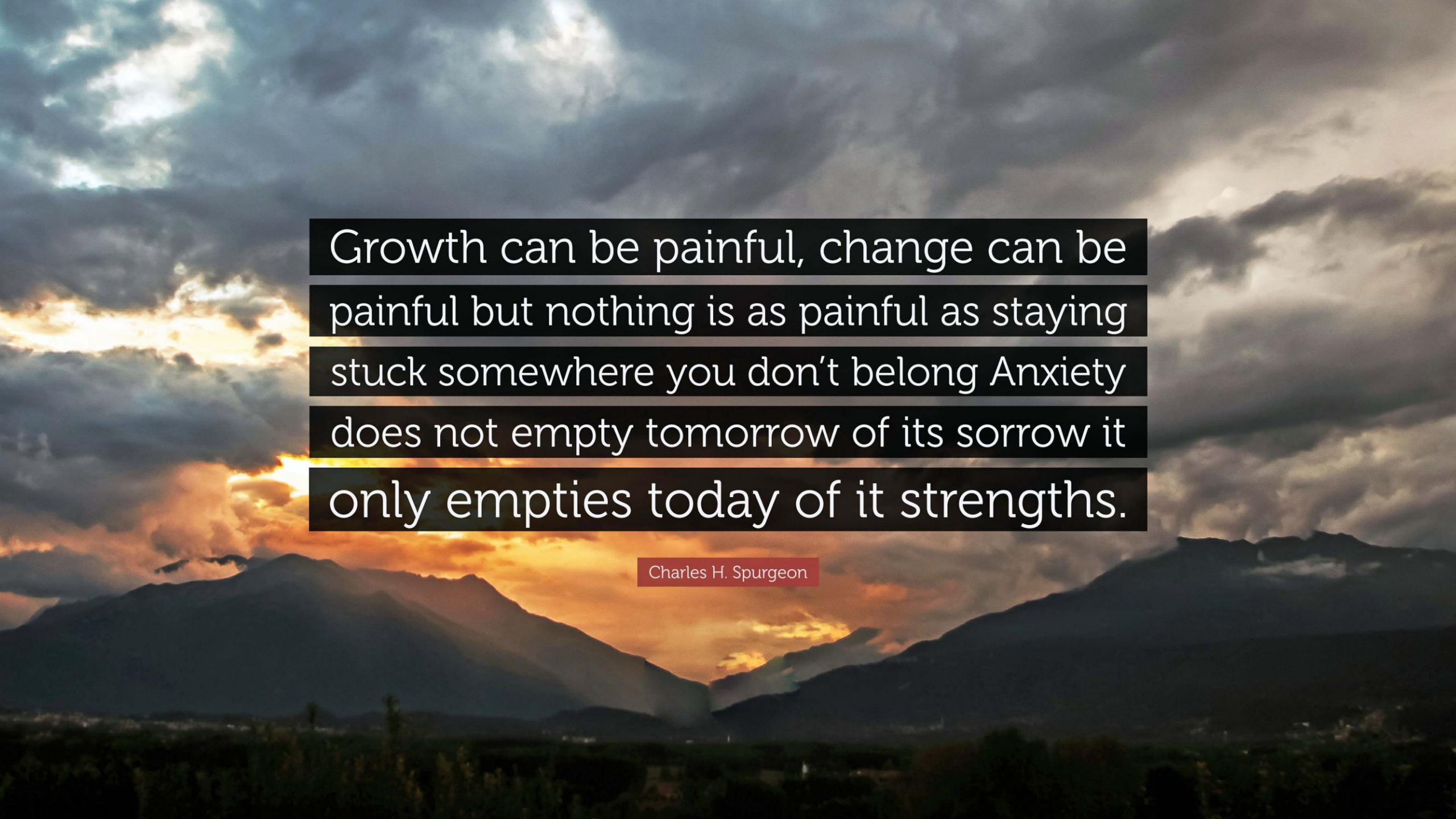


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1856-1859

The Merciless Press



A dramatic landscape featuring a range of dark, silhouetted mountains under a vast, cloudy sky. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, but a bright, golden light from the setting or rising sun breaks through the clouds on the left side, creating a strong contrast and illuminating the scene. The foreground is dark and appears to be a field of low-lying vegetation.

Growth can be painful, change can be
painful but nothing is as painful as staying
stuck somewhere you don't belong Anxiety
does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow it
only empties today of its strengths.

Charles H. Spurgeon

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a forest. The road is light-colored and appears to be made of dirt or gravel. On either side of the road, there are tall, dry grasses and some evergreen trees. The background shows a dense forest of trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is overcast and grey.

**A Bible that's falling apart
usually belongs to
someone who isn't.**

Charles H. Spurgeon



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1856-1859



Pastors
College
(1857)



Pastors
College
(Today)



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Seating Capacity -
~25,000

Crystal Palace ~1857



Crystal Palace - 1857



**Sunday October 7,
1857, ~24,000 in
attendance**

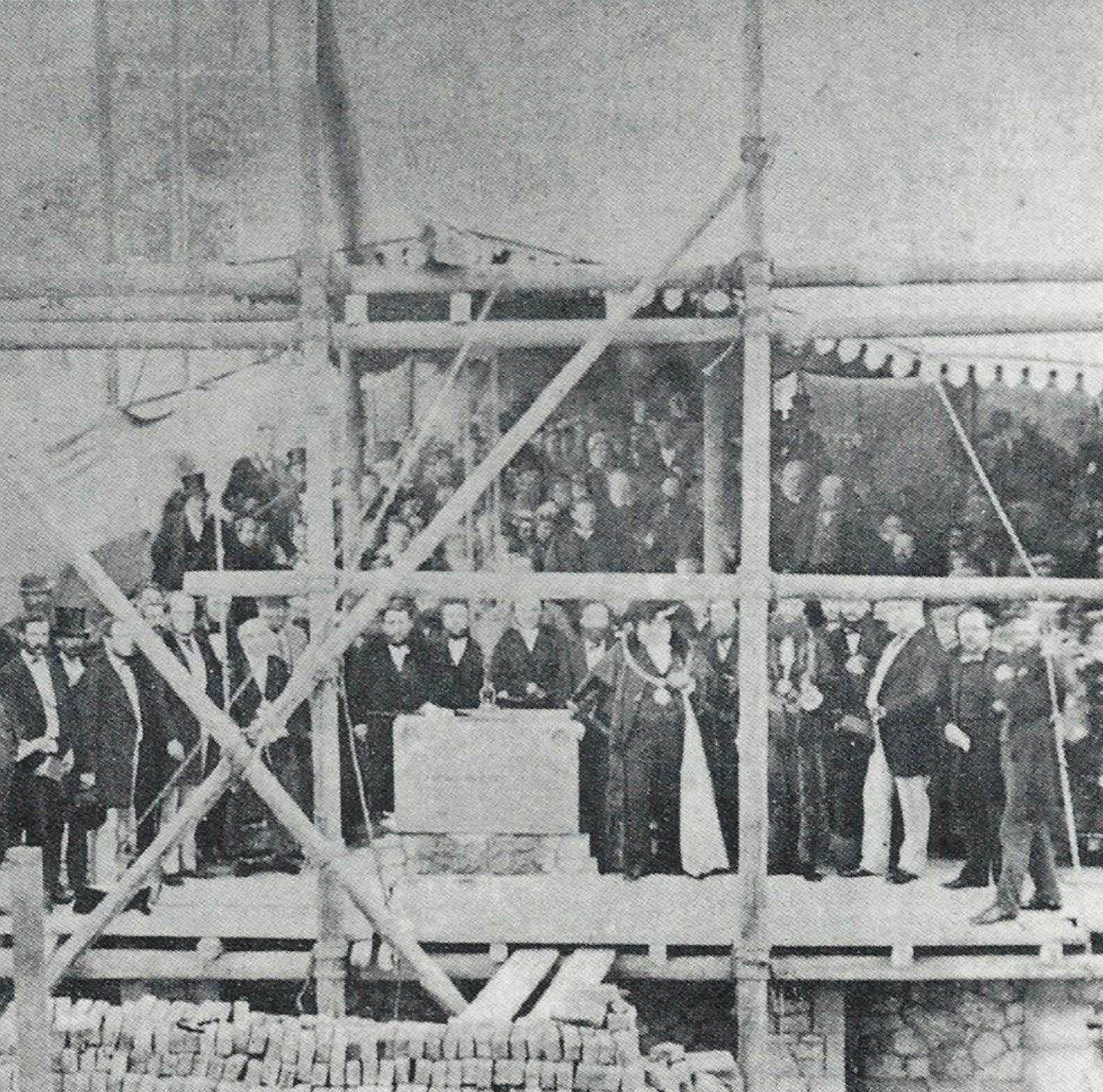
Crystal Palace - Gardens



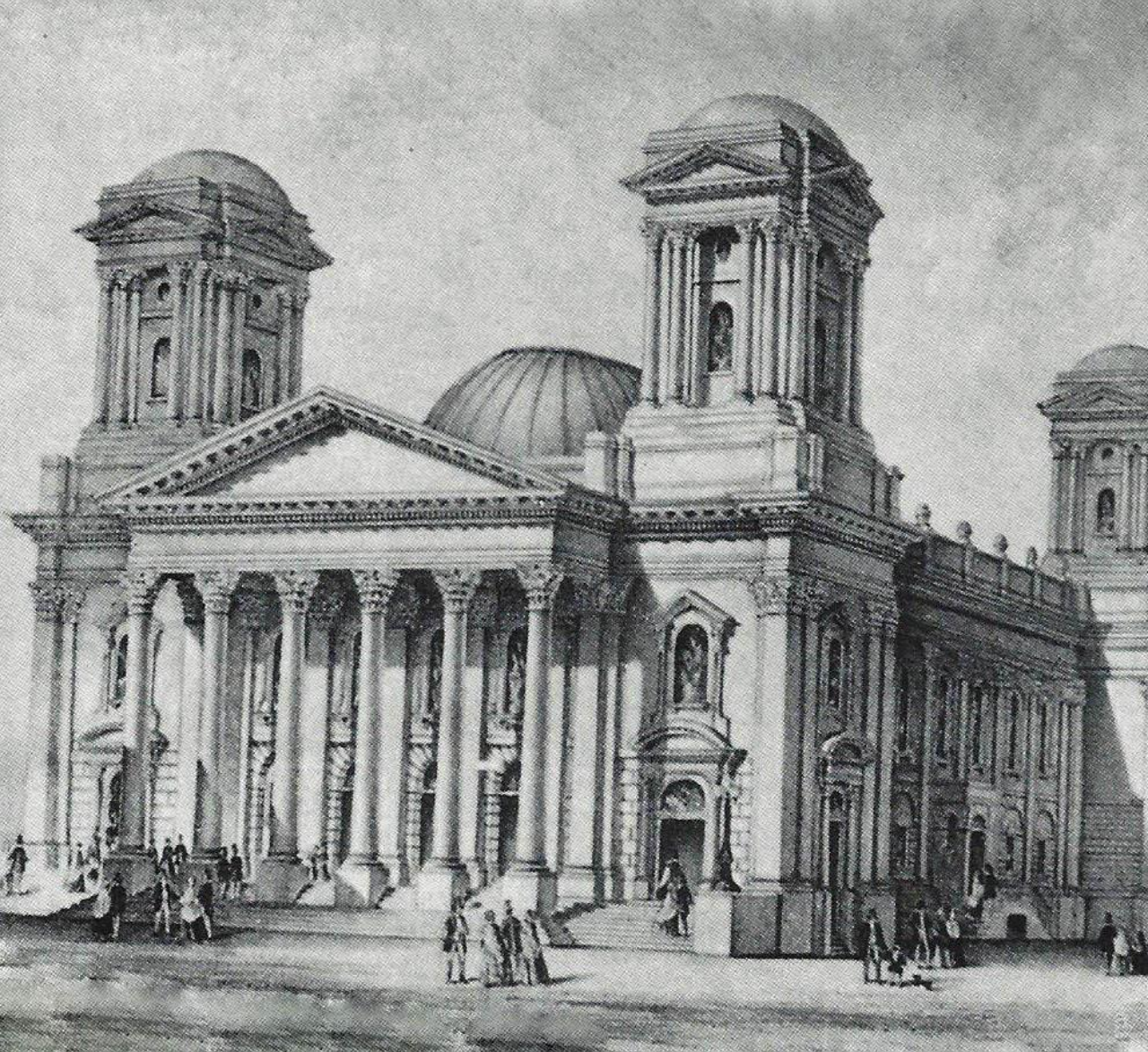


- Tuesday, August 16, 1859, the first stone of the Metropolitan Tabernacle was laid.
- First service held in the new building was a Monday morning on the 15th of March 1861. These Monday meetings continued until the building was finally completed in April when the normal Sunday services commenced. The 6000 seats never went wanting. The building could also hold another 1000 individuals standing.
- The Tabernacle cost 31,332 pounds, 4 shillings, and 10 pence. Half of which was raised by Charles himself alone by holding special speaking meetings throughout England. The Tabernacle opened with not debt.

1859-1861



Metropolitan
Tabernacle
Corner Stone
Laid.
(1859)



Metropolitan Tabernacle

Metropolitan Tabernacle (Today)



Pastor Peter Masters



The Early Years

The Full Harvest
&
Epilogue

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a forest. The road is light-colored and leads towards a bright, hazy horizon. Tall evergreen trees line both sides of the road, their branches reaching over the path. The ground is covered with dry leaves and some green grass.

**Every Christian is either a
missionary or an imposter.**

Charles H. Spurgeon

"It is well to preach as I do,
with my lips. But you can all
preach with your feet and by
your lives, and that is the
most effective preaching."

~ Charles H. Spurgeon

