A wide, ancient stone-paved street in Ephesus, Turkey, stretching into the distance. The street is made of large, rectangular stone blocks. On the left, there are ruins of ancient buildings, including a large archway. A person in a dark jacket and red shoes is taking a photo on the left. On the right, a person in a white shirt and dark pants is standing. In the distance, several other people are walking along the street. The scene is brightly lit, with shadows cast across the pavement.

“Not by Might, nor by Power,
but by my Spirit”
Acts 19:8-20

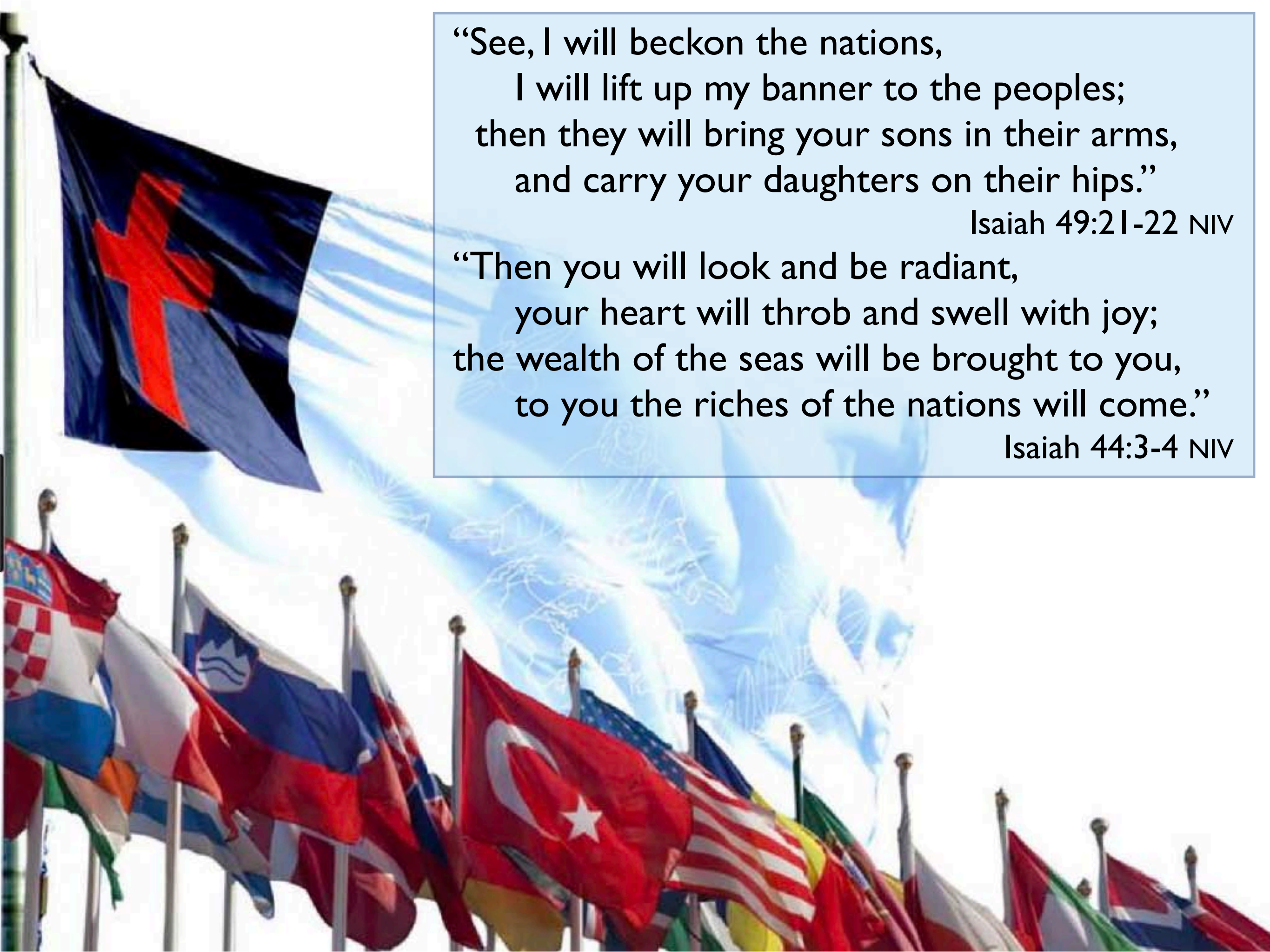
Ancient Ephesus
Photos by Mick & Michelle Burke

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.
They will spring up like grass in a meadow,
like poplar trees by flowing streams.

Isa 44:3-4 NIV



Chagall ~ Isaiah



“See, I will beckon the nations,
I will lift up my banner to the peoples;
then they will bring your sons in their arms,
and carry your daughters on their hips.”

Isaiah 49:21-22 NIV

“Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth of the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.”

Isaiah 44:3-4 NIV



Rejection Creates an Open Door

8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.
9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.

Acts 19:8-9 ESV



Ephesus

This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. Acts 19:10

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, jagged rocks into a pool of water. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a sense of movement and power. The surrounding rocks are dark and textured, with some small green plants growing in the crevices. The overall scene is natural and serene.

Outpouring of Life

11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Acts 19:11-12

Vocabulary for Miracles

“Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with **mighty works** and **wonders** and **signs** that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.” (Acts 2:22)

“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with **signs** and **wonders** and **mighty works**.” (2 Cor 12:12)

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1. **Act of Power** (*dunamis*) - confronting world forces of chaos and darkness
2. **Wonder** - evoking awe by the eyewitnesses
3. **Sign** - pointing to a greater spiritual reality that is permanent and available to all

Counterfeit Imitation

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” **14** Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.



The Bomb Goes Off

15 But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” **16** And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Acts 19:15-16



Jesus Glorified, Believers Purified

17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. **18** Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. **19** And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Acts 19:17-20



Basilica Cistern, Istanbul

The Inescapable Conclusion

So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

or

In this manner, according to the Lord's power, the word was growing and prevailing.

Acts 19:20

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, jagged rocks. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a misty spray at the bottom. The surrounding rocks are dark and textured, with some small green plants growing in the crevices. The overall scene is natural and serene.

Spirit Unleashed in a Community

- 1. Relentless teaching of God's word**
- 2. Spirit gives signs of authentic life**
- 3. The enemy exposes its imposters**
- 4. Spirit convicts believers to repentance**

Camille Dabaghian