

Early Missionary Endeavour in New Zealand 1814-1850

CORNELL VAN KRALINGEN

2025 YOUTH CONFERENCE, BAY OF ISLANDS

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Maori fleet arrival in 750AD



Captain James Cook

Abel Tasman

Themes:

- Scriptural sanction for missionary work
- Spiritual state of the Maori in 1814
- Slow beginnings 1814 to 1828
- Success, conversions and spiritual growth between 1829 and 1850
- Sinful example of European settlers and success in temporal affairs
- Six questions for review

Matthew 28 v 19

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Mark 16 v 15

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

North Island of New Zealand showing location of Bay of Islands

Bay Of Islands, Northland, New Zealand

Hauraki Gulf

Auckland

Bay Of Plenty

Waikato

North Island

Hawke's Bay

South Taranaki Bight

276 km

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Image Landsat

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Wellington

Google earth

38°02'52.72" S, 174°30'41.13" E, elev. -34 m, eye alt 1106.47 km

Bay of Islands showing Waitangi and Paihia

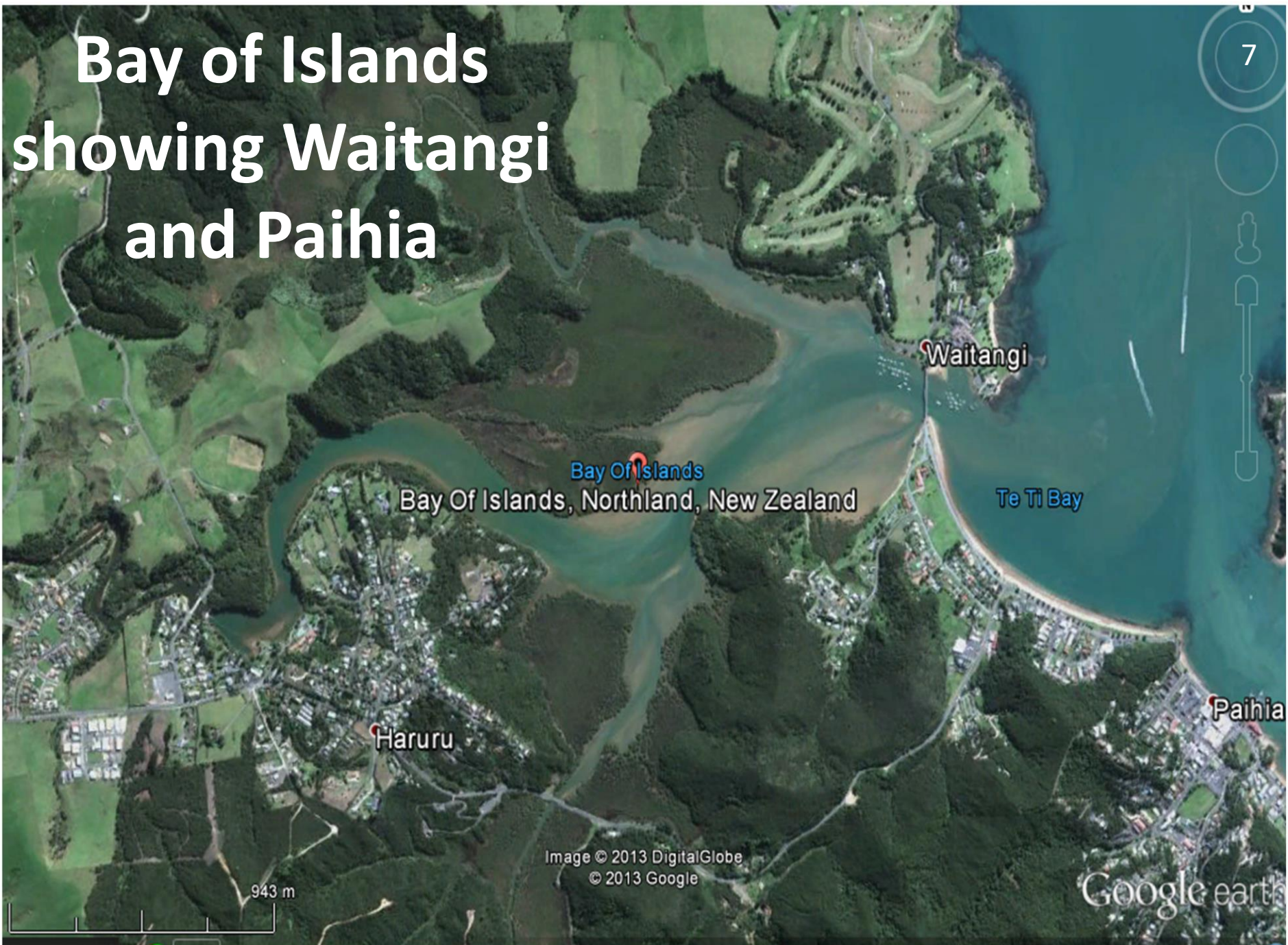


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Google earth



Muskets, Murder and Moko



A NEW ZEALAND WAR CANOE RACE.



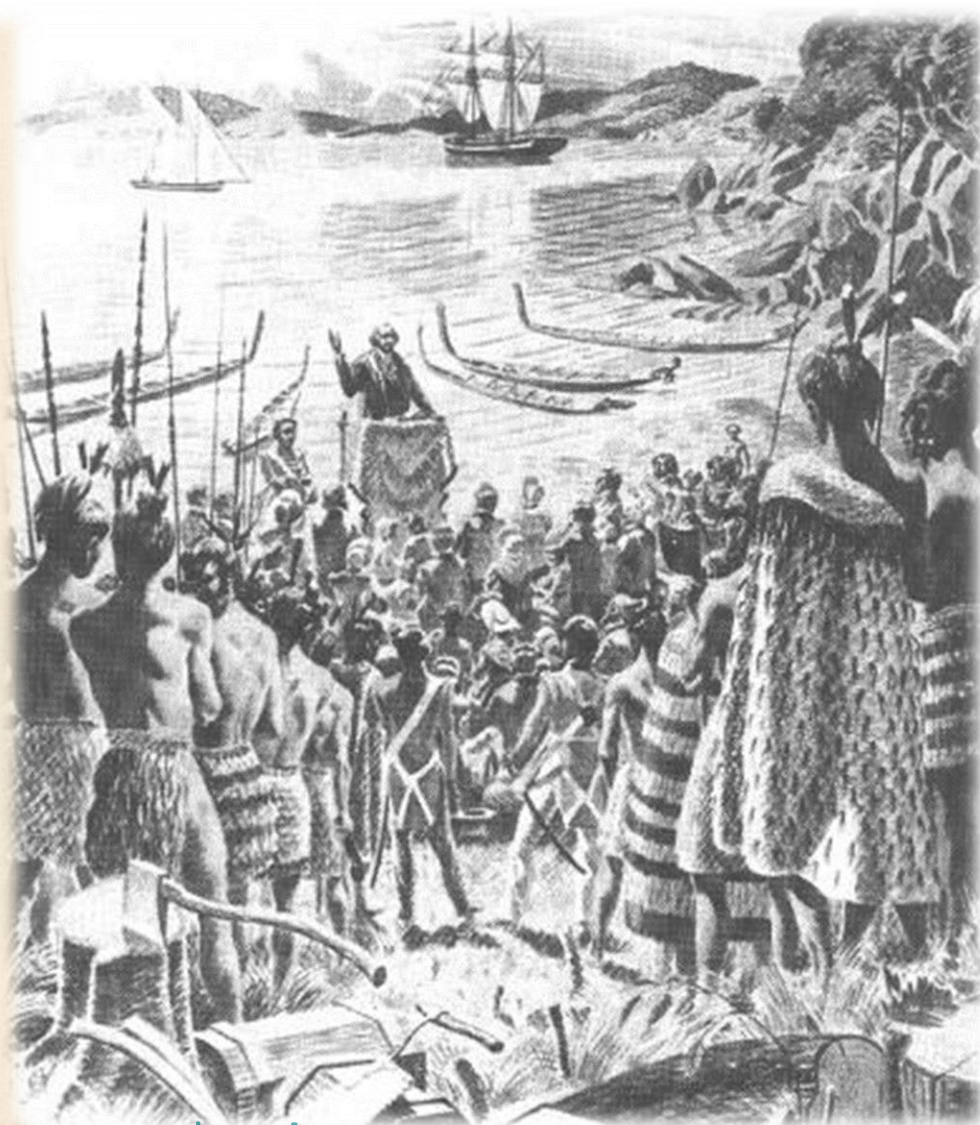
MAORI “HAKA” OR WAR DANCE



WHALING IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC OCEAN



The Rev. Samuel Marsden



1st Christian service in
NZ - Dec. 25th 1814



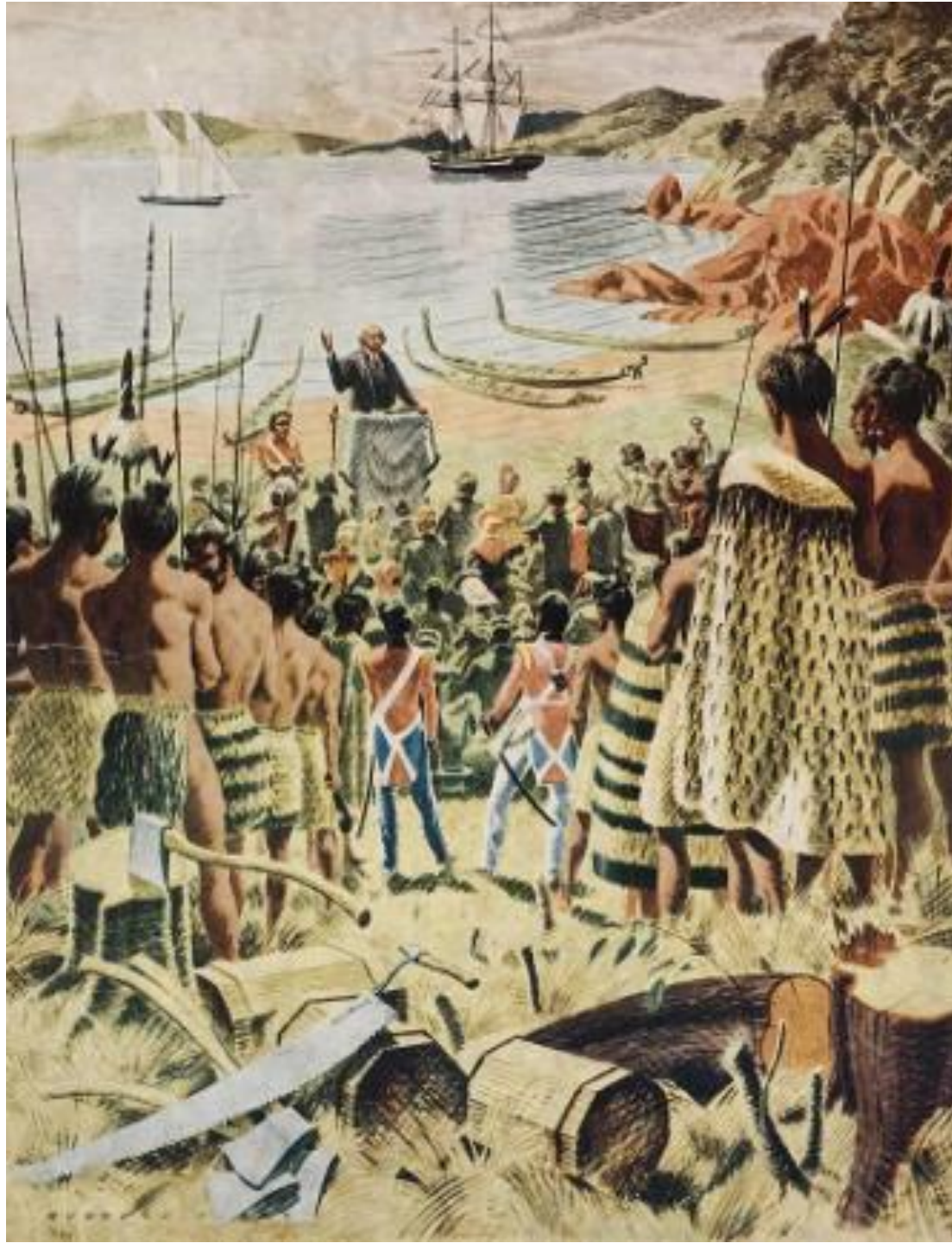
Chief Ruatara



Landing of Samuel Marsden at Bay of Islands, Dec 19th, 1814



FIRST SERMON PREACHED IN NEW ZEALAND BY
SAMUEL MARSDEN – DECEMBER 25, 1814



First Anglican mission at Rangihoua





Samuel Marsden meeting with northern chiefs

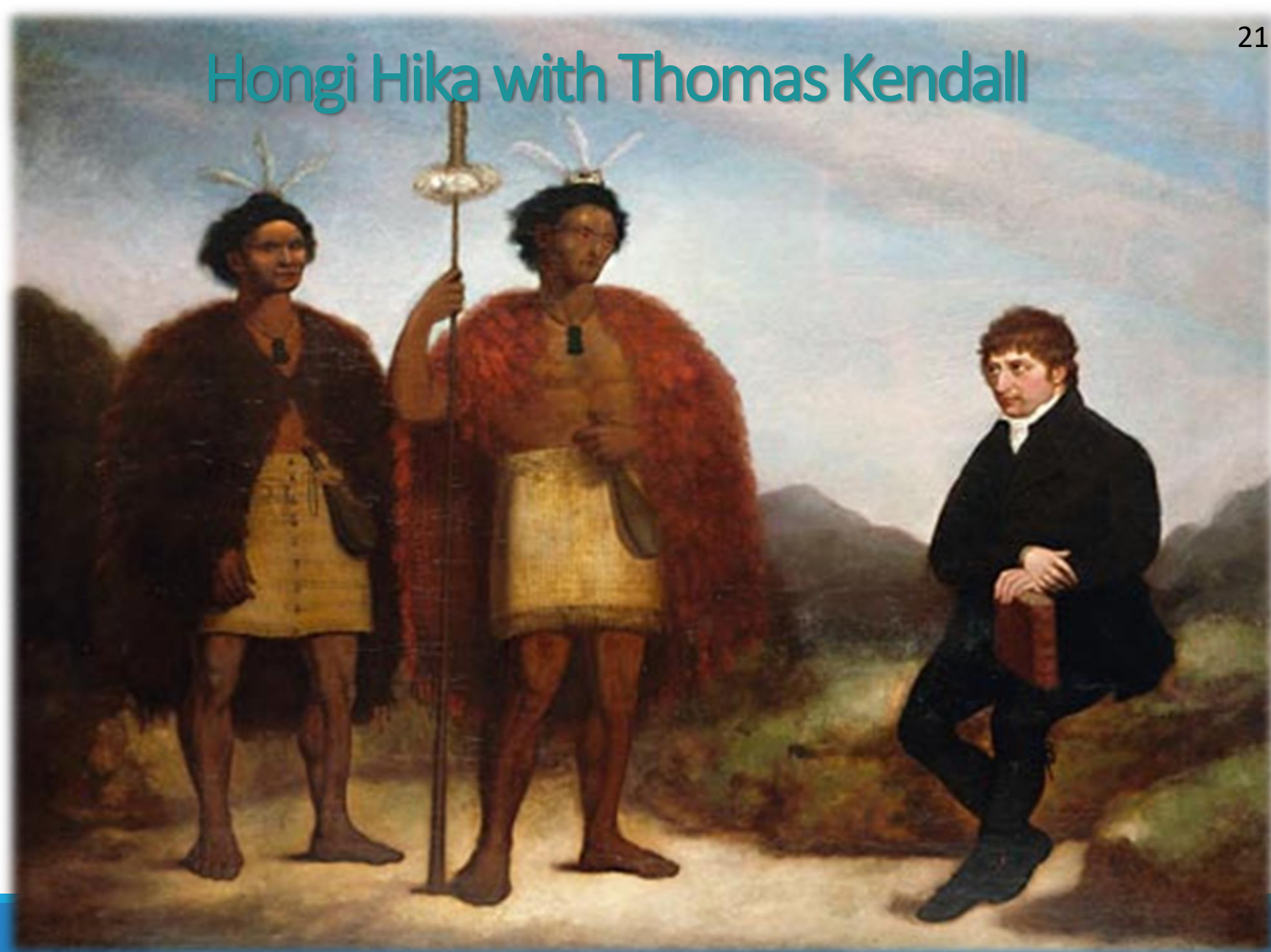
Hongi Hika preparing for conflict





Missionaries
trying to stop
Māori warriors
from
destroying
their gardens

Hongi Hika with Thomas Kendall

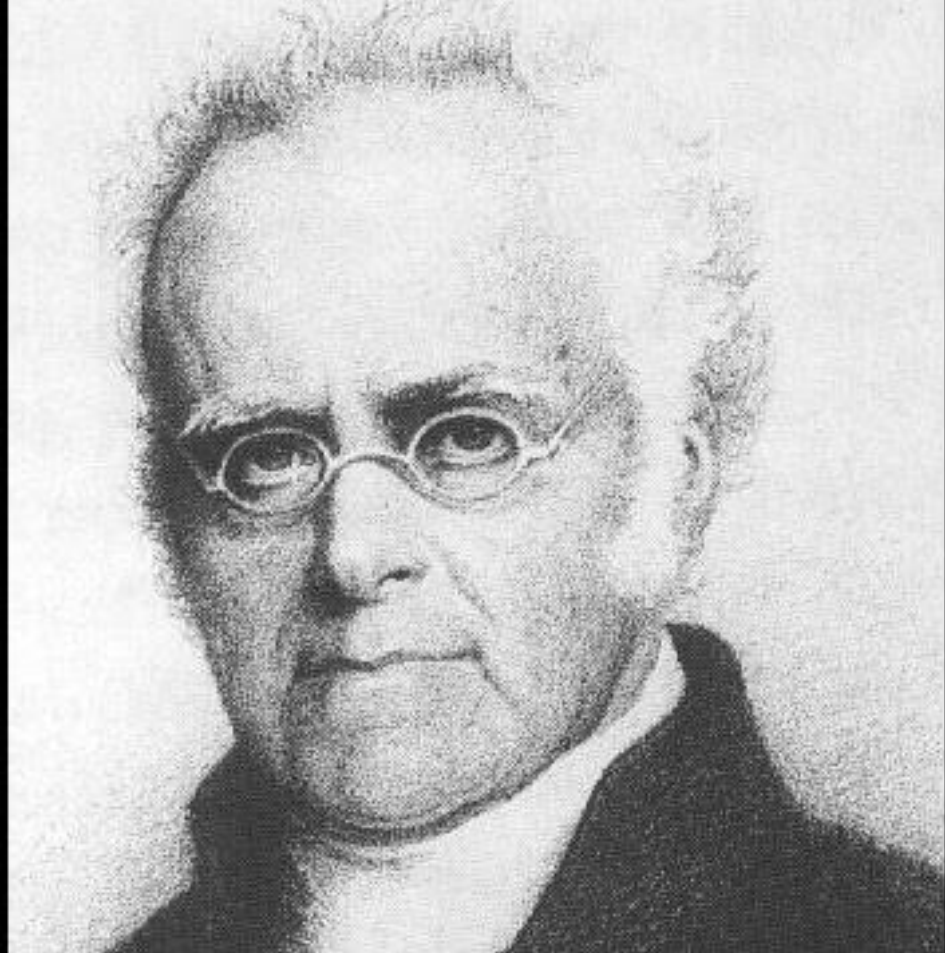


Maori Baptism



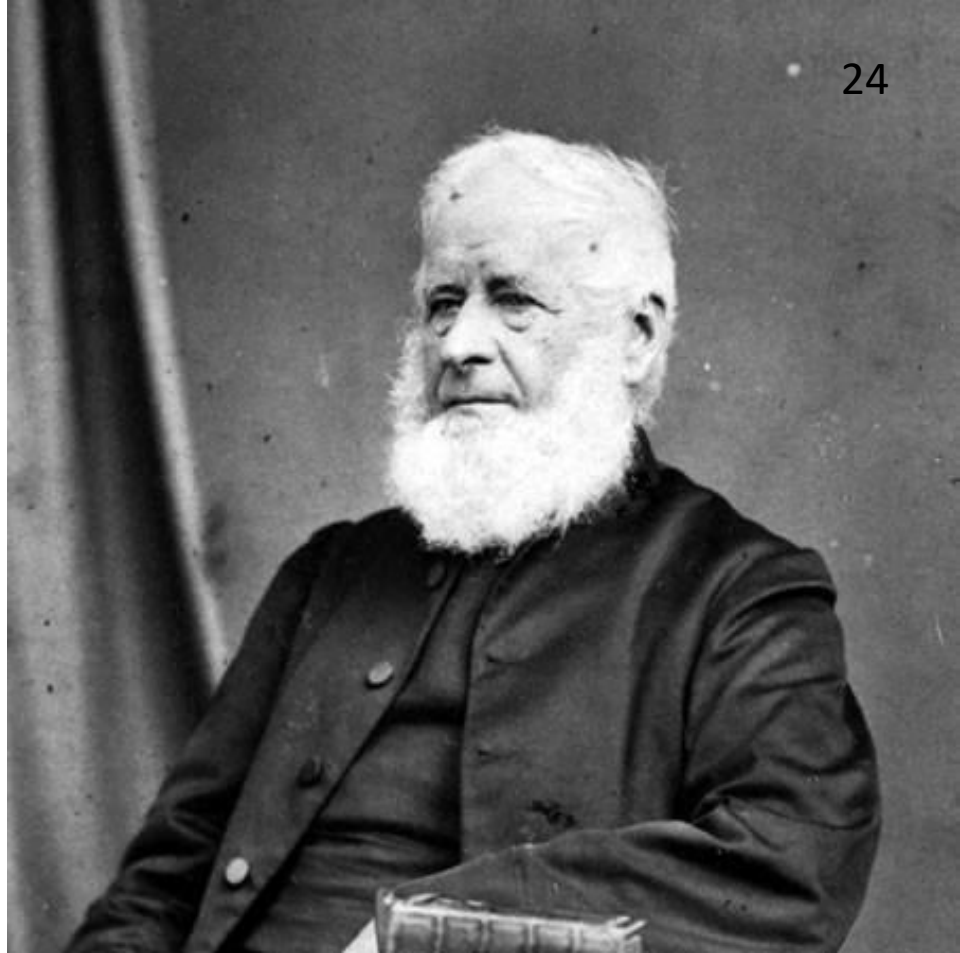


Hongi Hika



Henry Williams

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William Williams

William Colenso



24b

Printing press used to print
the Maori New Testament



Chief Taiwhanga Baptised in February 1830





Missionary School

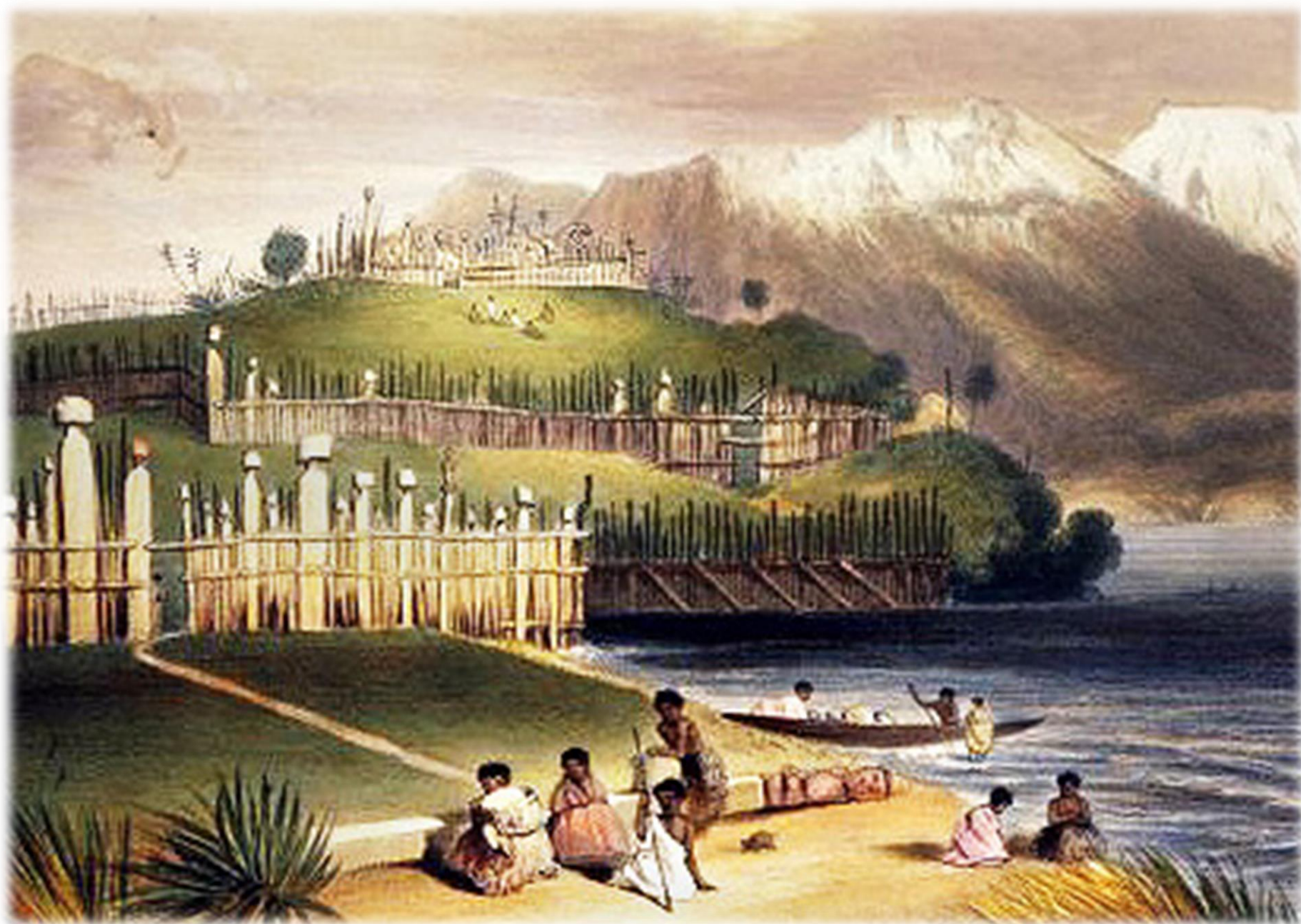
Waimate Mission Station, 1840

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Rev. Richard Davis —
missionary to
Waimate and
Kaikohe

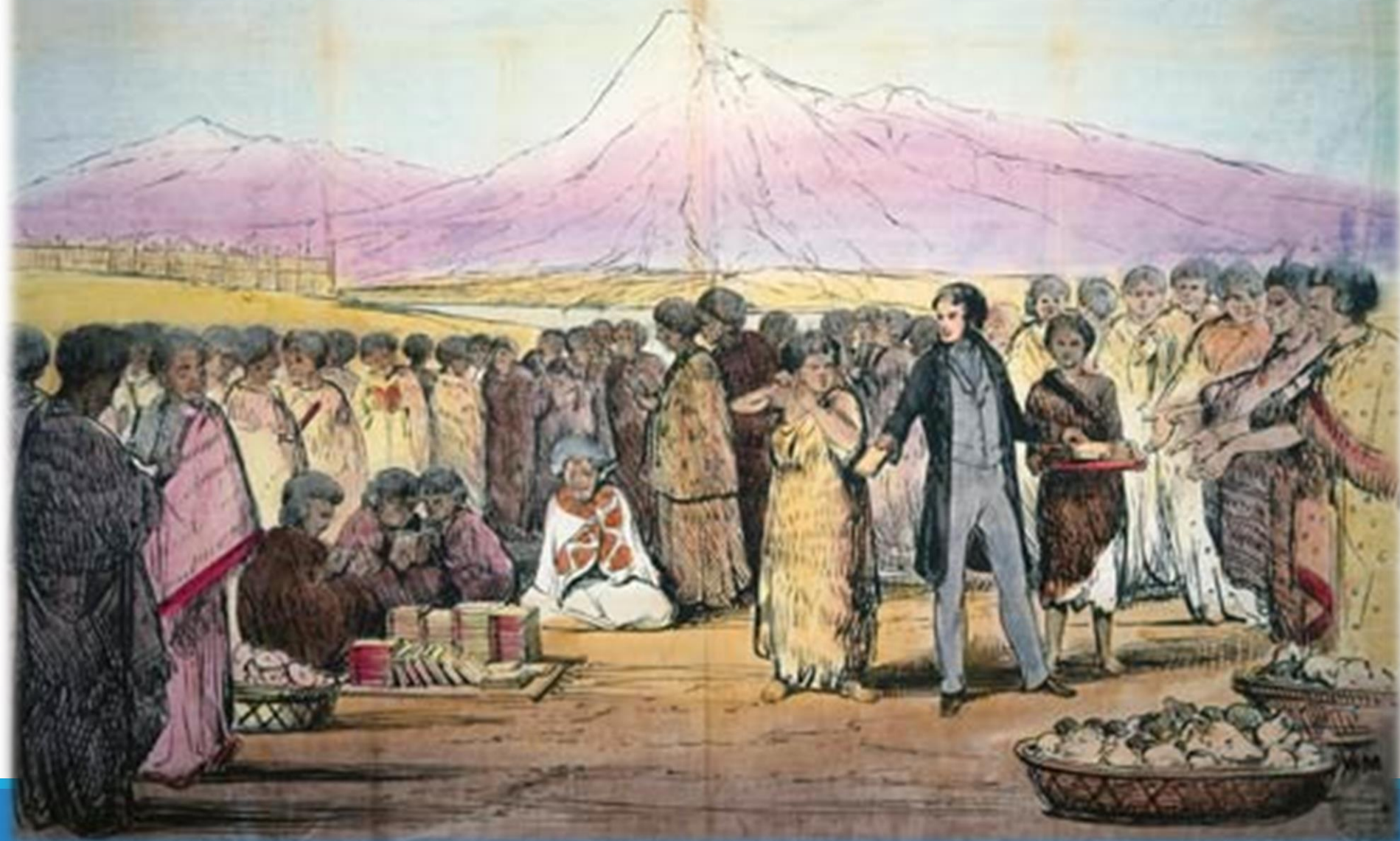


Te Totara Pa

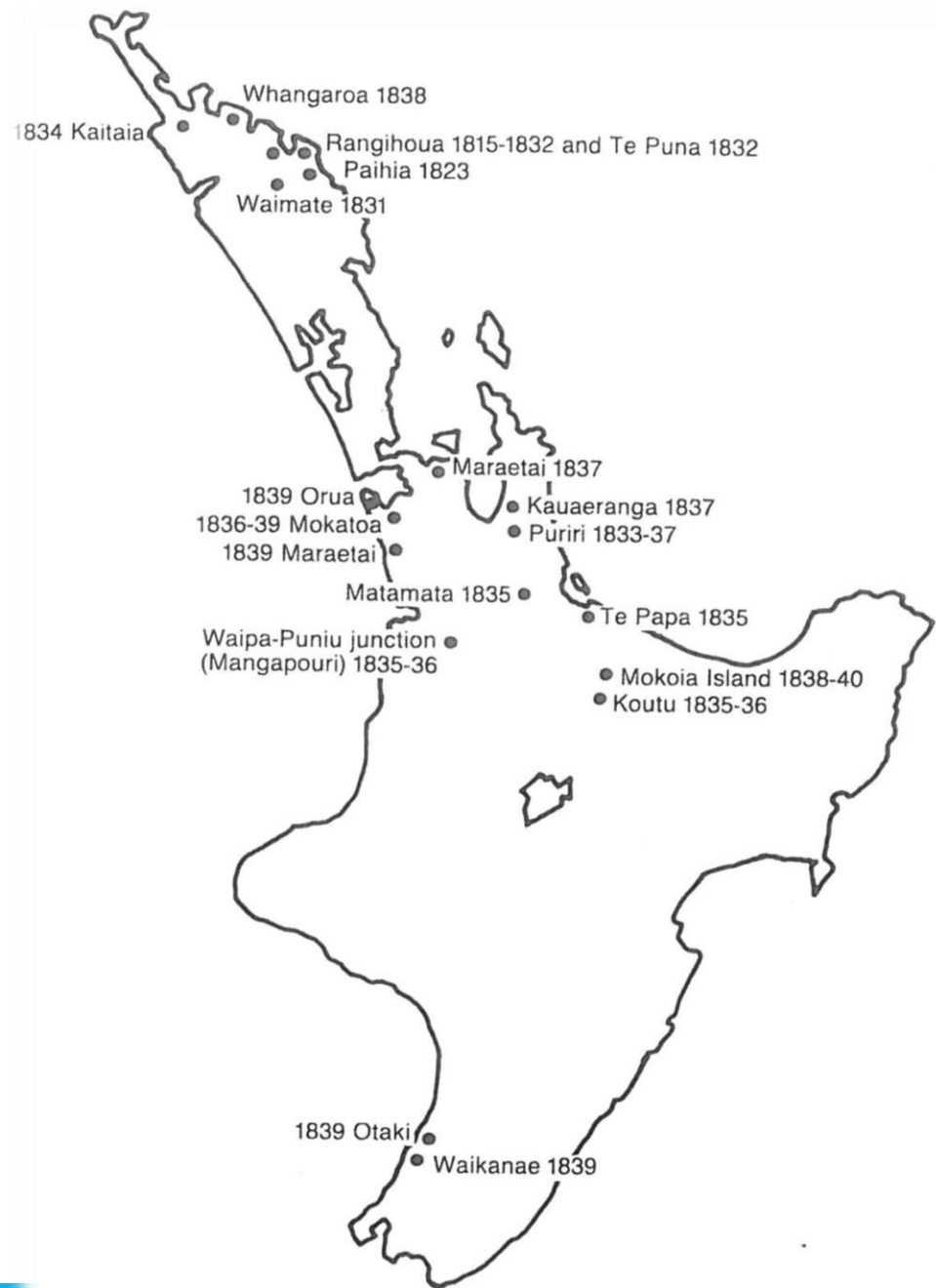


Missionary station at Kerikeri

Distribution of bibles in the Taranaki region



Mission stations before 1840



Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi – Feb 6, 1840



First Presbyterian church in Wellington, 1844



Growth in European Population

* Indicates estimated population

1821	500*
1831	1,000*
1841	5,000*
1851	26,000
1861	99,000
1871	256,000
1881	534,000
1891	669,651

Maori Land Ownership

1840	66, 400, 000 acres
1852	34, 000, 000 acres
1860	21, 400, 000 acres
1891	11, 079, 486 acres
1911	7, 137, 205 acres
1920	4, 787, 686 acres
1939	4, 028, 903 acres
1975	3, 000, 000 acres

Causes of Spiritual Decline

- Rapid colonisation after 1840
- Growing prosperity in worldly goods
- Loss of large areas of land
- The New Zealand Wars 1860's – 1870's
- The introduction of alcohol
- Poor example by many European settlers

Religious affiliation of Maori - 1841

	1841	
C.M.S. communicants:		584
Methodist members:		1,565

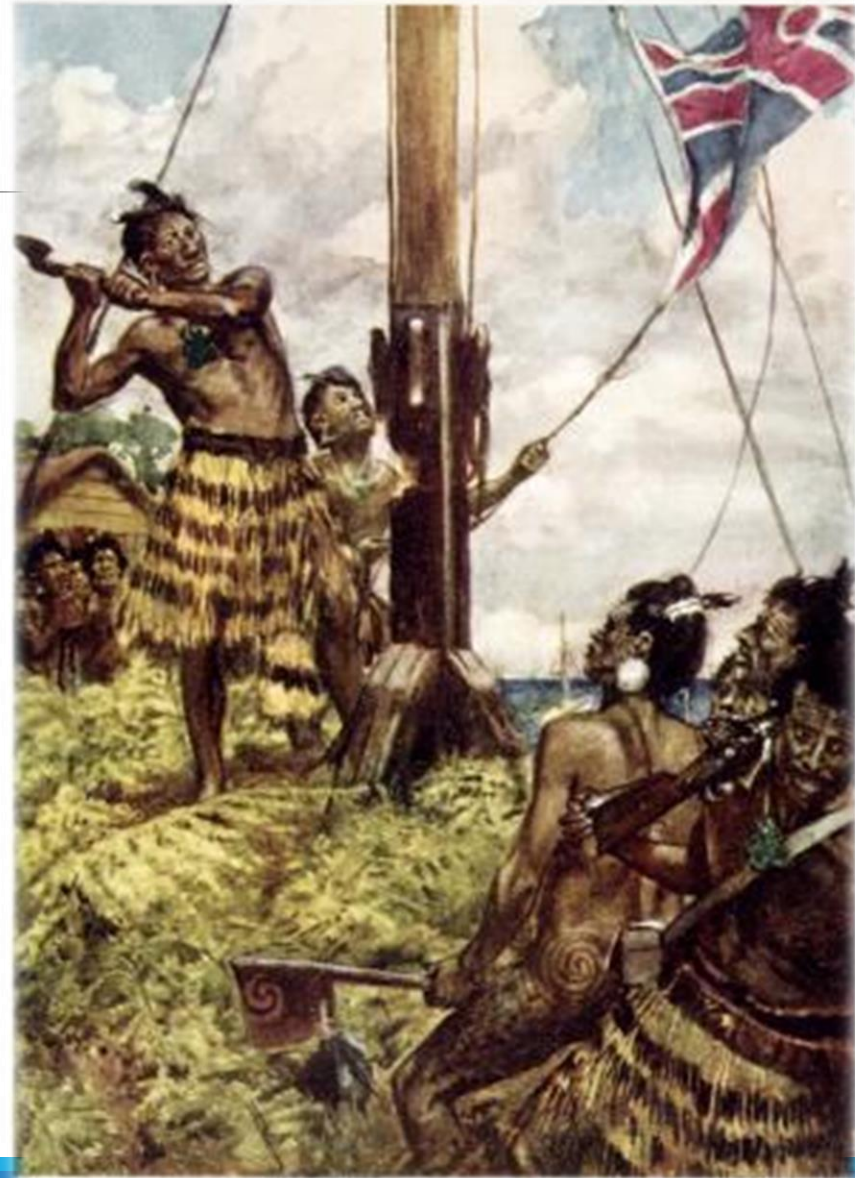
Source: J. M. R. Owens, Christianity and the Maoris to 1840, *The New Zealand Journal of History* 2 (1): 18–40.

1847	1960 CMS communicants
1849	2893 CMS communicants

Source: W. Williams, *Christianity Among the New Zealanders*, page 345.

Hone Heke and the cutting of the flagpole

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British troops storming Maori positions



*“For the earth shall be
filled with the
knowledge of the glory
of the Lord as the
waters cover the sea.”*

Habbakuk 2:14

Questions for group review

1. What are the key marks or evidences that show that the new birth has taken place?
2. How important is a Christian example? What things can undermine our Christian witness?
3. How should Christians evangelize Māori in 2025?
4. What were the key factors that accounted for the change in Maori attitude to the Gospel after 1828?
5. What lessons can be learned from the New Zealand missionary experience for our own mission endeavours in Africa in 2025?
6. Suggest ways in which the great commission to take the Gospel to all people should be carried out in our day. To what degree should Christian missionaries be taken up with secular pursuits e.g. education, healthcare, trade etc.

