

A King, A Kingdom, and a Nation like No Other

Text: Isaiah 11:1-16

Date: 12-13-20 @ 10:30 am

I. The hope for the House of David hinges on the Divine Branch (Isa. 11:1-5). Difference of this King

Although the House of David had fallen hard (Isa. 6:11-13), Isaiah now impresses on the hearers that there was a confident expectation yet to come.

The word *root* means *stump, shoot, or stem*. Instead of referring to the House of David, Isaiah calls the hope of the nation a lowly stump of Jesse. Thus, we have a contrast between the mighty Assyrian forest and the stump of Jesse.

The difference is markedly clear: the mighty tree will fall, but life is found in the small stem of Jesse. The word *rod* (means *branch, shoot, twig – hater*) and contrasts in a parallel way with the word *Branch* (meaning *sprout or shoot*). Both come forth from *root of Jesse*; therefore, “the prophet intends to refer to a key descendant of David who epitomizes all that the Lord has promised to David (II Sam 7:1ff.)”.¹ This Branch will prosper and bear fruit.

In contrast to King Uzziah’s material prosperity, this Branch would flourish spiritually, something much more important. From it will come the hope of the world.

In this Spirit we find 6 unique characteristics proving that this Branch is well-equipped to sit on David’s throne:

- **Spirit of wisdom and understanding** – The Messiah would embody wisdom equal to the wisdom of God.
- **Spirit of counsel and might** – The Messiah has already been called the Wonderful Counselor for He is the advisor to all of His followers and has the ability to perfectly teach them all His ways.
- **Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord** - True knowledge cannot be known unless one has the fear of the Lord. Therefore, knowledge comes from God.

Messiah will manifest Himself with a delight both in the fear of the Lord and those who fear God.

Isaiah is painting the beautiful photo of a Person so perfect and complete that no simple human fits the description. Compared to the kings of the past, the present day, and the future, this Branch supersedes all others.

The Branch doesn’t judge in the normal, fallible, physical way. Instead, as He delights in the fear of the Lord, He will judge with the perfection and precision of His absolute knowledge of all mankind (John 2:25).

Christ’s message will be so perfect, just, and right that no evil or sin will go unexposed. Every wicked deed will be condemned in the light of God’s Word (Buksbazen 181-182).

Righteousness is conformity to God’s standard of right.

Faithfulness is a firmness and stability from which Christ never wavers. Rev. 19:11. His faith in God gives Him the absolute certainty of His victory through His redemptive work on the cross.

II. The Branch will transform the natural world from meanness to kindness (Isa. 11:6-9). Difference of this Kingdom

¹ Kaiser, W. C. (1999). [1408 נֹצֵר](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 595). Chicago: Moody Press.

While human behavior will not completely change as sin will still be a part of the kingdom, the animals will be transformed as the curse is lifted. Peace and harmony will become the norm of the day. The wolf, leopard, lion, and bear are all mentioned as being tamed and like household pets. The wolf and lamb have long been enemies. Even a young child (nursing child) will be able to play with the dangerous animals including venomous snakes (v. 8). A young lad will lead them may be the most amazing part to this section. Peace will reign in the animal kingdom. The normal actions of the animal world will be completely changed. The lion and lamb will no longer be under the curse as we know today.

Never has there been a kingdom like this one! All men can see that this kingdom is opposite of what we find in human kingdoms. The description of the Messiah's power is beyond human comprehension.

The peace and justice brought about by the arrival of the Messiah will lead to knowledge of the Messiah, which in turn will bring knowledge of the Lord Himself.

- Knowing God begins with knowing about God – the Messiah will perfectly promote and develop that truth.
- Knowing God will reveal the truth that God truly exists.
- Knowing God will be demonstrated through love, obedience and dedication to God.
- Knowing God involves living according to the principles of the Word of God (John 1:1).
- Knowing God will be all-surpassing, as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14). See also Jer. 31:34.

III. In the future, the root of Jesse will sprout to be the trunk for the Jews (Isa. 11:10-16). Differences of the nation.

What unfolds in the coming future kingdom is the true sprouting of the root of Jesse.

The tree had been cut down (Isa. 6:11-13) and all that was left was the root. The Messiah would sprout from next to nothing. He would be the answer to all the covenant promises. New life would come from and through the Branch (4:2). **The Messiah will truly be the Restorer of the House of David.** The root had moved from under the ground to visible and being abundantly the source of life and righteousness.

This lifting up then is to benefit all people as the Gentiles will flow to Him.

What used to be hatred for each other will now be changed to peaceful resolution. **Rivalry and jealousy has continued to exist between Israel and Judah, but under the Messiah's rule peace will reign supreme.**

Israel will finally be united together in harmony, peace, and unity.

The secret for the Jewish victory is that the Lord fights for them.

How does Isaiah 11 apply to me?

1. A good time to begin to delight in the Branch of Jesse is now. Trusting in the Person of the Lord Jesus will bring peace and joy during the most difficult times of our lives. In the future we will then be a part of this kingdom where the Prince of Peace will rule in peace.
2. The goodness of God radiates through every facet of the future millennial kingdom. What man has so desired will come to fruition, but it will be on God's terms only. This will truly be a grand display of God's wonderful love for His people.
3. At this time where we remember Christ's birth and His first coming, the promise that the Messiah will one day rule gives us hope in the middle of even the darkest of nights.