

THE ROOT OF JESSE: ISAIAH 11

I. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF ISAIAH 11

- A. Judah (lower half of Israel) had weak Davidic kings and were under constant threats from Assyria and nations. Judah would be mostly destroyed and taken captive 100 years after Isaiah's lifetime. Israel (the northern half) was completely destroyed and taken captive by Assyria in Isaiah's lifetime.
- B. Isaiah's central theme is the restoration of David's throne in Jerusalem as the light of salvation/discipleship to the nations after Jesus' 2nd coming (Isaiah 2:1-4; Isaiah 60-62). The prophecy of Jesus' birth in Isaiah 9:6-7 and 11:1 are to be understood in light of Isaiah's overall theme. All of Israel's promises depended on a son of David becoming King over the world.
- C. Isaiah prophesied both destruction/judgment and restoration. God has redemptive purposes in His discipline.
- D. In Jesus' day, there hadn't been a true king from David's line for 600 years, no true prophet for 400 years, and Rome was heavily oppressing them.
- E. How do you know if a Biblical prophecy has been fulfilled or is yet to be fulfilled? If the promises of the prophecy have not come to pass literally and in fullness, they have a future fulfillment. Jesus is King of Kings in heaven with the full of the Spirit upon Him, but the fullness of Isaiah 11 is Jesus ruling on the earth with Eden-like conditions and global peace.

II. THE STEM FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE (11:1)

- A. ***Rod from the stem of Jesse*** - Rod means stem or green shoot, and stem means stump. Israel and the Davidic line were being cut down by God's judgments through foreign armies like a giant tree cut down to the stump. This is a statement of hope when everything seems gone.
- B. Jesus is more than the son of David; He comes directly from Jesse like a second David. When all seems gone, and the hopes of the Messianic promises seem impossible, a little stem will grow out of Jesse's line. That little stem popped out of the dead stump when Jesus was born, and it will happen in fullness to all of Israel at Jesus' return (Isaiah 6:11-13).
- C. This is also a statement of Jesus' humanity. He had to become human to be a son of David and fulfill all God's promises to David. David's family line continued the promise of the human "seed" that God promised Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15).

- D. ***A Branch shall grow out of his (Jesse's) roots*** - Roots are hidden underground are not seen. In Isaiah 11:10, Jesus is called the root of Jesse. The Messiah is called the "Branch of the LORD" several times in the OT. This refers to His ever-increasing influence and fruitfulness in the earth at His return.

In that day, the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped (end-time judgments). (Isaiah 11:2)

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise up to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

"Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD; Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." (Zechariah 6:12-13)

III. JESUS' LEADERSHIP DURING HIS 1,000 YEAR EARTHLY REIGN (11:2-5)

- A. Jesus currently rules as King from heaven as a Man with the fullness of the Holy Spirit upon Him. John saw Jesus as the Lamb/Man on the throne with the 7-Fold Spirit on Him. Jesus is anointed in every way to lead every nation into the fullness of God's purposes. His anointing is contrasted with the weakness and inability of the kings of Israel in Isaiah's day.
- B. Overall, these anointings are for the purpose of governing nations.
- a. Wisdom/understanding - Governmental and judicial giftings.

Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours? 1 Kings 3:9)

- b. Counsel/might - In Isaiah 36:5 they are translated as plans/strategies and power for war.
- c. Knowledge of God and Fear of the LORD - Jesus has insight into the Father's beauty and will rule the earth from the overflow of love and reverence to His Father. He knows that the Father sees and cares about every little detail.
- C. ***But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth*** - He will have perfect insight into judicial decisions on the earth. He will give

time and attention to the poor and oppressed. Jesus said that the meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5).

D. *He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth* - Jesus releases supernatural power and judgment to the earth through His intercession and decrees. Worship and prayer release governmental power in the Spiritual realm. His rod shatters oppressive humanistic systems and holds the line on righteousness so that truth, humility, and righteousness can be established.

You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalm 2:9)

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. (Revelation 19:15)

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. (Psalm 110:2)

E. *With the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked* - Jesus will remove everything and everyone who resists His kingdom of love filling the earth. He will easily destroy the Antichrist with a little breath from his mouth.

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

F. *Righteousness and Faithfulness* - The clothing represents His characteristics as King, and His belt refers to His readiness to lead and judge. He will be faithful to every promise He's made, and He will faithfully walk out His leadership calling over the earth.

IV. EDEN CONDITIONS RESTORED (11:6-9)

A. His leadership will result in the garden of Eden being restored. This will happen first in Jerusalem, then Israel, then the nations of the earth (Isaiah 65:20-25).

B. God will renew His covenant between humans and animals.

In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely. (Hosea 2:18)

C. Creation is broken and groaning because of the sin of humanity. Creation is waiting for the resurrection of the dead and Jesus' 1,000-year reign.

Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together till now....waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (Romans 8:21-23)

V. JESUS' MILLENNIAL TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM (11:10)

- A. **Root of Jesse** - Jesus is human and of Jesse's family line, but He's also fully God and He is the root or source of Jesse's family line. Jesus is also called the Root of David.

“Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” (Revelation 5:5)

“I am the Root and offspring of David.” (Revelation 22:16)

- B. **Who shall stand as a banner** - He will arise and call the nations to Himself.
- C. **The Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious** - When the Throne of David and Jerusalem are restored, the nations will seek out Jesus. He will build a glorious temple in Jerusalem that will connect to the New Jerusalem.
- D. The Hope of Romans 15 - Paul wrote Romans to a divided Messianic Jewish/Gentile community. Romans 15 quotes 3 Old Testament prophecies about the Gentiles inclusion in the Gospel. Isaiah 11 is the last quote. The hope of 15:13 is in believing in the gospel and in the fullness of Jew/Gentile worship in Jesus' 1,000-year earthly reign.

VI. ISRAEL'S REGATHERING AFTER JESUS' RETURN (11:11-16)

- A. Many Jews will be taken captive into Middle-eastern nations during the Great Tribulation. At His return, Jesus will anoint the Israeli army to war against surrounding armies and bring Jewish captives back to Israel. Jesus will make a way through river sources like He did for Moses and the Exodus.

VII. ISRAEL'S SONG OF DELIVERANCE AFTER REGATHERING (12:1-6)

- A. This is a prophecy about the songs and declarations of the ingathered Jews after Jesus' return.