

## ISAIAH: JUDGMENT AND HOPE

### 12. Isaiah 11:1-12:6

#### The Messiah and His Kingdom

##### Isaiah 11:1–16

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The first 39 chapters of the book of Isaiah contain **three large sections** in which Isaiah speaks of impending **JUDGMENT** that would culminate in the fall of Jerusalem and their exile into Babylon. But in those first 39 chapters there's also a message of **HOPE** — the hope that **even Judah's collapse wouldn't thwart** the redeeming plans and purposes of God — that the covenant promises of God would be fulfilled.

In our past two Monday nights we've seen made our way through **Isaiah 9:8** through the end of **Chapter 10**. Though Isaiah was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah and to the city of Jerusalem the Lord moved Isaiah to speak prophetically about the Northern Kingdom and its capital city, Samaria. From **Chapter 9 verse 8** through **Chapter 10 verse 4** Isaiah brought four searing indictments against the Northern Kingdom and pronounced certain judgment at hands of the brutal Assyrians.

Isaiah said all of those things about the Northern Kingdom to the rulers and people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and its capital city Jerusalem. As they listened they were no doubt thinking, *“King Ahaz was pretty smart in paying the Assyrians to save us from our enemies to the north! Our mighty mercenaries are going to crush them.”*

But Isaiah’s prophecy of judgment didn’t stop with the judgment of God on the Northern Kingdom

**Isaiah 10:4 ....For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.**

The hand of God was still stretched out in judgment — against Assyria **and** Judah.

The Assyrians were nothing more than God’s instrument of judgment and justice. But now God’s instrument of judgment was going to be judged because they didn’t care at all about God’s will, God’s justice or God’s glory. All they wanted to do was to destroy and cut off as many nations so they could satisfy their lust for power and their love of brutality. God would judge the king of Assyria and his empire because of pride.

But God wasn’t going to judge the Assyrians until He used them to judge the southern kingdom. By way of Isaiah the LORD told the Southern Kingdom that judgment and correction was coming, and it was going to hurt! In **Chapter 10 verse 24** God said the Assyrians would *strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did.*

Starting from the northern boundary of Judah at Aiath (another name for Ai), the Assyrians laid waste to 12 towns. But Assyria would not succeed in its plan to wipe out the Southern Kingdom — and most importantly the descendants of David.

**Isaiah 10:33-34 Behold, the Lord God of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low.**  
<sup>34</sup>**He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.**

**Assyria was doomed, but Judah had a future — which means that you and I and our broken world has a future — a GLORIOUS future**

**Isaiah 11** picks up the theme of *Immanuel* — God with us.

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

It picks up the theme of the child born, and the son given in **Isaiah 9**

*Isaiah 9:6–7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, **on the throne of David and over his kingdom**, to establish it and to uphold it **with justice and with righteousness** from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

In **Chapter 11** Isaiah gives us a description of the Messiah, a description of His kingdom. The chapter begins with **the way** the Messiah would appear to His people Israel.

**Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

**the stump of Jesse** — **In contrast to** the proud trees that God cuts down (10:33–34) Isaiah describes for us a tender shoot from the seemingly dead stump of Israel. When the Child of **Isaiah 9:6** was born the royal authority of the house of David had lain dormant for 600 years. In the eyes of the world the house of David son of Jesse was reduced to nothing more than a stump in a forest.

**a shoot from the stump of Jesse** — shows us even more of the humility of the true and forever King!

**QUOTE: Harry Bultema** — *“We see a bare, withered tree stump, robbed of its trunk and top, and it looks as though the stump will never bear any fruit any more. But, a small shoot sprouts from the root of this dry stump which is the*

*Davidic dynasty. Because of its unsightliness and misery, it is not named after David but after his father. When Christ was born, there was nothing royal about that dynasty. But a new shoot sprang from this old stem.”*

The true and forever King and His Kingdom will be humble in their origin. Humility is the very essence of the world everyone is longing for. We who know the Messiah and belong to the Messiah now should be salt provoking thirst for such a King and such a world!

### **<sup>1</sup> ....and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

The Messiah will come directly from the line of David and will fulfill the Covenant God made to David and Abraham.

***2 Samuel 7:16** And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’*

***Isaiah 9:6–7** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and **the government shall be upon his shoulder....** <sup>7</sup>**Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness***

***Matthew 1:1** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the son of David**, the son of Abraham.*

***Revelation 5:5** And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, **the Root of David**, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

### **a branch from his roots shall bear fruit**

***Jeremiah 23:5 (NIV)** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will **raise up for David a righteous Branch**, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.*

In **verses 2-3** the Lord describes the character and work of the “Branch”

**<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,**

Like so many Messianic prophecies, this one **blends** a description of the Messiah in His **first coming** and the description of the Messiah in His Millennial Kingdom. For sure this speaks to us about the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the first coming of Jesus. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus when He was baptized by John in the Judean wilderness.

*Matthew 3:16–17* And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

*Luke 4:14 (NLT)* Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region.

**But it also reveals** to us the nature of the relationship of between the Holy Spirit and the Messiah in His millennial rule

**the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

Both The New Bible Commentary and the Old Testament Survey Series make the observation that these gifts are threefold rather than sevenfold: wisdom and understanding for governing, counsel and might power ruling and knowledge and the fear of the LORD for spiritual leadership (cf. 2 Sa. 23:2).

Let's walk through them individually

### **Wisdom and Understanding —**

The Messiah is perfectly wise in all things. He showed it among us during his earthly ministry — He shows it now in His ministry towards us in heaven. 1 Corinthians 1:30 says that Jesus *became for us wisdom from God*. It isn't just that Jesus *has* wisdom; He *is* wisdom!

The Messiah will rule us perfectly because He understands all things — He understands us perfectly. The word *understanding* has the idea of a sharp sense of smell.

**QUOTE: John Trapp** — “Sharpness of judgment in smelling out a hypocrite ... His sharp nose easily discerneth and is offended with the stinking breath of the hypocrite’s rotten lungs, though his words be never so scented and perfumed with shows of holiness.”

There are a lot of really smart people who can’t sniff out the fraudulent — the wrong because it smells too much like themselves. Jesus sniffs out the fake and the false because He is perfectly TRUE and perfectly RIGHGT

### **Counsel and Might**

Counsel has to do with decision making. Possessing perfect wisdom and the understanding, and operating in perfect harmony with the Holy Spirit, the Messiah will make perfect decisions concerning the way He will exercise His might and power in the affairs of the world!

In our broken world there are many would help us if they could, but are powerless. Others may have the power to help us, but don’t care about us. Jesus has both the love and the **might** to help us.

The Messiah will always exercise His power from decisions born from perfect wisdom and understanding. But this word might has to do not merely with power — but with strength and courage. Unlike earthly rulers — Jesus has the strength of courage to DO what is right.

### **knowledge and the fear of the Lord**

Knowledge — The rule of the Messiah won’t be hit and miss! Everything about His kingdom is designed and executed from perfect knowledge.

Have you ever made a decision that seemed strange or wrong to others because they didn’t have the knowledge you had? Jesus has **knowledge** that we don’t have, so it shouldn’t surprise us that sometimes His decisions seem strange or wrong to others.

The fear of the Lord — The Messiah will rule His Kingdom in The Fear of the Lord — To fear God is to respond to Him in awe, trust, obedience, and worship. In His first coming nothing pleased Jesus more than doing the will of His Father. *My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.* (John 4:34) This contrasted with the religious leaders in Isaiah’s day who were unconcerned about following God’s Word.

In His millennial Kingdom He will constantly operate from perfect knowledge that is carried out in the shared awe and trust within the Trinity. The Messiah will long to see this same humble reverence in the hearts of those He rules.

TODAY we have a living relationship with this Messiah.

**<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;**

The Messiah will **judge** the world. But He won't be like an ordinary judge. He will judge with complete impartiality. He will judge in perfect righteousness. In the Kingdom of the Messiah the needy and the poor will never be oppressed because He will NEVER let them be oppressed like they are in the kingdoms of man. The needy and the poor will never be deprived of justice — Instead they will be the beneficiaries of His justice.

So many leaders promise that — but none are able to deliver. In the Messiah's Kingdom EVERYONE will be the beneficiaries of His justice.

**and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

We see this image in the New testament. He destroys the anti-Christ with the brightness of his coming with a two-edged sword that proceeds out of his mouth.

*Revelation 19:15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.*

*Revelation 19:21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

**<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.**

Righteousness and justice are so close to Jesus they are like belts around His waist. Everything He does is touched by His righteousness and justice.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

### **The Messiah's Kingdom will involve the Redemption of Creation —**

We find a similar description of one in [Isaiah 65:25](#) of God's creatures living in harmony on earth during the Millennial reign of the Messiah.

*Isaiah 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.*

When the Messiah reigns, nature will be transformed. Nature is waiting for the transformation that will come when the Messiah reigns.

*Romans 8:19–22 NKJV The earnest expectation of the creation **eagerly waits** for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 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 until now.*

**eagerly awaits** = the sense of the word is that creation has its neck stretched, looking around the corner in looking and waiting for the day when it will be set free from the present state it's been subjected to because of Adam's sin! The environment everyone is longing for is the one that will be redeemed when Jesus returns!

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together

There will no longer be predators among the animals, and seemingly all animals will be only herbivores



**<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox**

**And a little child shall lead them** — Not only will the way animals relate to each other be changed, but the way they relate to humans will be changed.

Imagine you go to the zoo and throw your kid in the lion cage! Then your little toddler grabs the lion by its beard and says, “Come on!”

This **is not** natural change. It is so beyond what we can imagine that people ask: *You don't really believe that do you?* Here's the deal — If I believe that Jesus can save me, I can believe all the rest of it.

This is really interesting — How or why will nature behave like that?

**for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

The **knowledge of the LORD** — this is not merely an intellectual knowledge — it is a **relational** knowledge. This means more than people knowing intellectually about the Lord.

The idea is that people everywhere will live according to God's principles and Word. Nature itself will be affected in the Millennium when the Messiah will be reigning.

**HERE'S THE DEAL** — THIS is what we're praying for every time we've prayed, *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* We're praying for the time when Jesus the Messiah will return from heaven and sit on the throne of David

**QUOTE: Martyn Lloyd-Jones** — *the Church is an expression of the kingdom but is not to be equated with it.*

In other words — we should live and move in the world in a way that looks like the heart of the Messiah. We should be informed and shaped, not by our opinions or political views — but by the *the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

We should be champion the things the Messiah will champion. Justice. Care for the environment.

