

Isaiah 11:1-16

"The World Under Righteous Rule"

The curtain closes in Ch 10 w/devastation & decimation. The lopping of the boughs, arrogant hearts being brought low. The picture was of a mighty forest being leveled to the ground. Be it Judah, be it Assyria, God says in Vs 33 of Ch 10, "The haughty will be humbled." Judgment was coming. Assyria would be essentially reduced to nothing as far as the world stage was concerned & the Davidic dynasty was ready to end...

But there's a reason, should you go to a jeweler & want to look at a diamond, they display it against black velvet. It's because it's against the black background it shines the brightest, that's where the radiant contrast is most clearly seen. So, it's against the blackness of the destruction & judgment of Ch 10 that the radiance of this prophecy shines forth in Ch 11. Out of the ashes, Hope arises for the nation of Israel (& ultimately for all mankind) in the coming of the Messiah. – So out of the barren wastelands of what was once a vast & expansive forest we read...

Vs 1

How many of you realize that God is in the business of bringing hope into/out of otherwise hopeless situations? He speaks light into darkness, brings life out of what was once dead... Even so, God says, "Out the Davidic dynasty that will be brought to nothing, reduced to peasantry, a Rod will come forth from the stem of Jesse, & a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

Couple of things I want to speak to here. #1 I want you to see God will always keep His word. I find myself on repeat as of late, but I'll say it again. Heaven & earth will pass away, people's perspectives will come & go, but God's word remains forever. We read in Numbers Ch 23, "*God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*"¹ They're rhetorical questions! The answer is implied in the phrasing of the question itself. Of course He'll do it! If He speaks it, He'll make it good! He'll keep His word!

It's in 2nd Sam Ch 7. There he is, king David. God has given him rest from his enemies all around, & so he finds it in his heart to build God a house (a permanent dwelling). He says, "Here I am in this wonderful house & the ark of God dwells in that ratty 'ol tent out there, I want to build God a glorious house!" It's a beautiful story that you'd do well to read. The short of it is that God tells him, "No."

¹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Nu 23:19] Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

David was a man of war, he had blood on his hands. & God didn't want His Temple associated w/war but w/peace. So God told him he couldn't build the house. But God said, "I'll tell you what David, I'll build *you* a house." (How many of you understand that you can't out give God, & you can't find it in your heart to bless God but that He won't bless you above anything you could ask or even think in return?) God told David, **"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."**²

In other words, "David, I'm going to bring forth the Messiah, the One to rule/reign forever from you." Wow... Perhaps you're thinking, "That's neat & all pastor but what's that have to do w/this? The name in focus for us is "Jesse" not "David." Exactly; Jesse was David's father. From Jesse came David, from David would come the Messiah... God is assuring His people of the fact that He keeps His word... That regardless of the devastation, of the decimation, the fact that the Davidic dynasty will be brought essentially to nothing, that life & fruitfulness, hope would come forth from that place of humility.

Listen, as you know, by the time Jesus was born, there wasn't a man from the line of David on the throne in Israel. The Davidic dynasty had been reduced to peasantry. They were about as far from royalty (seemingly) as you could get.

But that's the 2nd thing I want you to see here. Not only that God keeps His word to you & me, but He calls forth His people from a place of humility. It's the exception when God *doesn't* raise a person up from that place. Remember what Paul wrote to the Corinthians? Keep your finger here & turn quickly to **1 Corinthians 1 (Vs 26-31).**

God will not share His glory w/another. & So that He might sympathize & identify w/us fully, Jesus didn't come to this earth in a royal procession w/pomp/pageantry & regalia, angelic escorts & all the rest. He came from a place of simplicity & humility... Even here, had the Holy Spirit inspired Isaiah to refer to David, it would've been completely appropriate & true. But in identifying w/Jesse, He doesn't claim the place of the "Who's who" but identifies in humility w/the "who's he?"

So the 1st thing Isaiah reveals of the coming Messiah (in Ch 11) is that He will come from a place of *humility*. However, He reveals that He will also be empowered *supernaturally*. Notice.

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [2 Sa 7:12-13]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 2

The idea being that the Holy Spirit will guide Him mentally, intellectually, that He will contain the moral ability to make right decisions judicially.

And you might pick up on the fact that there are 7 characteristics listed here. That doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit has only 7 attributes or characteristics as it were. What we're seeing here is that (7 being the # of completion in scripture) the Holy Spirit will be given to Him in fullness. You & me we're given the Spirit "in measure". Meaning that none of us will operate in every gift of the Spirit w/out limit. Jesus (on the other hand) was given the Spirit "w/out measure". Meaning that Jesus operated in the fullness of the power of Holy Spirit.

J.B. (in speaking of Jesus) said, *"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand."*³ So, the fullness of the Holy Spirit would be in & upon the life of Jesus.

(Btw, this is probably the reference in Rev 4:5 as well. When John saw before the throne of God 7 lamps of fire burning before the throne [which if you recall, a menorah is 7 lamps of fire, a single post w/3 branches coming off each side] which are the 7 Spirits of God. The idea again being the fullness of the presence/power of the Holy Spirit.

& As we look at these things, we should realize that not only are they attributes (or characteristics) evident in J.C. but if Jesus dwells in us, they should be evident in us as well. Granted, we won't display them perfectly as did Jesus. But His light/life should be seen in us.

The 1st thing that Isaiah draws attention to is that the Spirit *of the Lord* shall rest upon Him. It won't be a deceptive spirit, or the spirit of man that leads/rules & rests upon Him. It'll be the Spirit of the Lord.

Somehow & in some way when Jesus came into this world, He voluntarily laid aside *not His Deity* but the *prerogatives* of Deity. Again, He would sympathize & identify w/you & me entirely. He chose to subject Himself completely to the leading of the Holy Spirit in His life. Perhaps you recall, after He was baptized, we read, *"Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"*⁴

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Jn 3:34-35). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 3:16-17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The Spirit was already dwelling *w/in* Him, now the Spirit had come *upon* Him, empowering Him for service. (& Isaiah is pointing out here that when He comes again, He will rule the earth in the power of the Spirit). As for you & me, we need to seek the Lord (on the daily) to empower us by His Spirit to serve Him & lead lives well pleasing to Him.

“The Spirit of wisdom & understanding.” When you study the life of Jesus, you see the Spirit of wisdom always operating in His life. The religious leaders were constantly trying to entrap Him, or hang Him on the horns of a dilemma, a “no win” situation. But their schemes & efforts of entrapment were never a match for the wisdom of Jesus. In fact, one day Jesus *rebuked* the Scribes & the Pharisees for always trying to outwit Him rather than submit to Him. He said, “*The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.*”⁵ Paul told the Corinthians (1 Cor 1:30) that Jesus became *for us wisdom from God*. He doesn’t just *have* wisdom. Ladies & gentlemen; Jesus *is* wisdom. He’s the embodiment of wisdom.

The Spirit of wisdom is upon Him, the Spirit of *understanding* is upon Him. Jesus has more than an academic kind of knowledge of all things. He understands all things. He understands *you perfectly*. & He’s perfectly suited to be our great High Priest, representing *the Father to us & representing us before the Father*. –

But this is something that I find myself praying for on the regular. I *need* understanding. On multiple levels, (be it having a clear sense of motive or appropriate compassion in a given situation) but in particular; concerning God’s word. That I handle it appropriately, expound & explain it accurately... *It’s in Luke 24 when He’s speaking to His disciples concerning the things that had to happen to Him. How He had to suffer & rise again that He might fulfill the scriptures, paying the price for our sin.* Then we read, “*And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*”⁶ – & That’s what I pray & would encourage you to pray regularly. “Lord, open my understanding that I might comprehend Your word. That I might perceive it accurately & respond to it appropriately.”

“The Spirit of counsel & might”. Jesus has the wisdom/understanding to be perfect in counsel. & Not only can He counsel you in what to do, He can empower you to do it. He’s perfect in might. Some *want* to help you, they just don’t have the power to do so. Others may have the *power*, they just don’t care or understand. Jesus has it all.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 12:42). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 24:45). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

He *loves* you, *understands* you, & has the *power* to help you.

“The Spirit of knowledge.” Jesus knows everything. He knows your heart (that can be good for you or bad for you depending upon where your heart’s at ☺). He knows the facts... Sometimes I may make a decision that seems strange to others because I may *know* something that they don’t (or vice versa). **There’s an element of trust that needs to be extended when we’re in that place. So to w/the Lord. He knows things we don’t! He has all the facts! So, we shouldn’t be surprised when He sometimes moves in a way that seems strange or counterintuitive to us.**

Finally, “...the fear of the Lord” would be upon the Messiah. Meaning there would be a reverential awe & respect *for* God that would keep Him submitted *to* God. Jesus (*being* God) was perfectly equal in every way w/God. Yet He willingly kept Himself in that place of submission. He said, **“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”**⁷ He said, **“I always do those things that please Him.”**⁸ What an incredible thing to be able to say, “I always (not generally, not mostly) do those things that please the Father.” He was never about His own will, His own thing, His heart was to please the Father.

These are the things that would characterize the life of Jesus. & God’s goal for you & me (write it down, Rom 8:29) is to make us *like* Jesus.

That we would lead our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. Walking in wisdom, having understanding, encouraging others through His word, growing in our knowledge of Him, leading lives well pleasing *to* Him...

I should also say this. These things being the characteristics that describe the nature of the Spirit of the Lord, being the nature of Jesus should tell us something. When the Spirit of God is at work, it should look like the nature & ministry of Jesus.

So, the Messiah would come from a place of humility, He would be gifted/empowered supernaturally. 3rd we see... He will judge equitably, impartially, righteously.

Vs 3-5

I love that phrase back in Vs 3, “His delight is in the fear of the Lord”. This word, “delight” is actually related to a sharp sense of smell bringing quick understanding. Think of walking in the house & your favorite dessert is baking in the oven.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 6:38]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁸ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 8:29]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Or you walk outside & someone has just fired up the grill & you understand instantly that something incredible is in the works ☺. It joys you, it delights you. You know what delighted Jesus? The fear of the Lord.

It brought Him great joy knowing that He was leading His life w/in the boundaries of the Father's will for His life. Ladies & gentlemen, there is great peace in the fear of the Lord. When you're doing those things that are pleasing to God it will delight your soul & shroud your heart w/peace. – One day Jesus told His disciples, *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."*⁹ You know how you enjoy a good meal? It not only supplies *life* to you, it's a *delight* to you. Jesus is saying, "That's how God's will is for Me. It's life to Me, it's a delight to Me. I love being about My Father's business."

Don't miss the next line, *"& He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes."* This is where we tend to fail *often*. We make snap decisions based upon what little we've seen or heard. I was speaking w/someone last week about the phrase in a court of law, "The truth, the *whole* truth & nothing but the truth." It's common for people to offer up a *bit* of truth, but they'll leave out details that can sway a decision in a direction that's not beneficial to them. They don't share the "whole" truth. So that we don't "see" things properly... But things aren't always what they appear to be are they? Jesus doesn't judge on the basis of how things look. "Nor decide by the hearing of His ears... but w/righteousness He shall judge..."

This takes us back to the fact that the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, knowledge & the fear of the Lord rests upon Him. He searches the heart & will always to the right thing.

& The idea here is that if the poor/meek are treated fairly (those most generally taken advantage of in Isaiah's day) then everyone will be judged righteously.

& We note that when it comes to dealing w/the wicked, Jesus won't engage in some long drawn out battle. He'll just speak the word & the wicked will be slain. The One who Author's life, who gives life, can just as easily take it... When Jesus returns to the earth, the battle of Armageddon will be over in however long it takes Jesus to speak the word. No epic fight scene, He'll speak the word, it'll be over. (You might write it down & look it up later 2 Thess 2:8).

Everything Jesus does will be touched, motivated, influenced & impacted by righteousness & faithfulness (He's consistent, non-wavering in His standard of judgment).

Vs 6-9

⁹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [In 4:34]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Many people speak of the lion dwelling w/the lamb, that's not actually what the bible says. It says the wolf will dwell w/the lamb. But the idea is that when Jesus rules the earth, the curse of sin will be essentially removed. **Not completely in that death will still occur & won't be removed until the end of the millennial reign (Rev. 20:14).** But there will be peace/tranquility unmatched in human history outside of the time prior to the fall of man in the garden of Eden. But there won't be the tension of predator/prey in the animal kingdom, nor between man & animals.

The Bible tells us in Rom Ch 8 that nature is actually longing, eagerly awaiting this deliverance from the bondage of corruption. This transformation that will come when the Messiah reigns... After the flood, we learn that God placed the dread of man in the heart of the animals. Under the reign of the Messiah that will be reversed. People won't have to worry about their children straying too far. They won't have to worry about venomous reptiles or even people preying on them... How will this be possible?

"The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Completely, entirely, not just intellectually, relationally. The knowledge of J.C. will cover the earth & everyone will live according to the principles of His word. (U might write down/look up Jer 31:33-34). There won't be a need for evangelism, the world will know J.C.

& Let me just say, that's what it's all about, *knowing* J.C. If (to you) God is just some kind of cosmic force, some equal opposite (perhaps in your mind) to the devil. Then you don't *know* J.C. Jesus said there will be many people who want in when they stand before Him, boasting of all the things they did. **But He will say, "Depart from Me you worker of iniquity, I never *knew* you."** What's between you & Jesus? It's called sin. We need forgiveness, to be washed clean by the blood of J.C. He's the way the truth & the life, no one comes to the Father except through Him.

Vs 10-12

Here we notice that the glory of the reign of the Messiah isn't only for the Jew, but for the Gentile as well. He will draw *all* peoples to Himself & His resting place shall be glorious.

In Vs 11-12, we see the final gathering of the dispersed. A time when all the land that God has promised to Israel will be fully occupied. Jesus will set up a "super highway" of sorts & make a way for *all* of Israel to obtain their inheritance. A 2nd Exodus (if you will).

Vs 13-16 Close

Couple quick things & we're done. At the time Isaiah is writing this, let's recall that Israel had been divided into 2 kingdoms (Israel/Ephraim & Judah). But when the Messiah reigns there will be restoration, reconciliation, great harmony, unity & ultimate victory over their enemies.

& Don't be confused thinking that this section regarding the conquering of their enemies is contradictory *to* peace, it's the prerequisite *for* peace. Christ will deal w/His enemies as He establishes His rule over the earth.

Finally, we note that Jesus will remove any obstacle that would prevent His people from coming home. He makes a way where there is no way. Anything standing in between Jesus & His own will be removed.

What's the take home for us? If you want to "come home", you want to find your way to the table, God has removed every obstacle in Christ. It's in Him that we have direct unobstructed access to the Father. God has made a way (through J.C.) where there was no way. Trust in the Lord w/all your heart & lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him & He will direct your path...

Prayer Points:

Father as we consider Your word today, & look at the world around us our heart cries out, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." We want to see Your kingdom come, Your will being done on earth as it is in heaven. May it start in us...

Jesus delighted in the fear of God, lived His life in the will of God. It's God's will that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. Maybe that's where you need to start right here, right now. Turn from your sin, trust in J.C. & be saved.

Some had horrible experiences w/their father or father figure growing up & so when you hear about "fear" it carries unhealthy connotations. Afraid of what dad might do to you if you stepped out of line or let him down. Others had a wonderful relationship & weren't afraid of how their failure might come back to you so much as how it would disappoint & impact him. You didn't want to let dad down... You respected him, you wanted to honor him, didn't want to step outside of his boundaries. That's what the fear of the Lord looks like.