

God's Promises Birthed the Shoot from the Stump of Jesse

Isaiah 11:1-16 (Ruth 4:13-22; 2 Samuel 7:1-17)

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I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The story about God's people (the Israelites in the OT era and the Christians in the NT era) began with Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12:1-9). However, the enduring faith journey of the Believers was a *subset* of the **Divine Plan of Salvation** *initiated* by God after the Fall of Adam and Eve. In other words, both the *endurance and success* of the **Divine Plan of Salvation** were *absolutely dependent* upon God's Power and Promises! The Journey of Faith was **guaranteed by God's Promises** to the old couple based on their **faithfulness** and **obedience** to the LORD. Because of the Faithfulness of Abraham and Sarah, God planted *the seed* in the person of **Isaac** whom the LORD *multiplied* into the 12 Tribes of Israel. To fulfill His own Promises, God continued to multiply the Israelites into millions by the time they left Egypt under the leadership of Moses. **You know the story**. This Journey of Faith was *only sustained* by the Love, Grace, Mercy and Faithfulness of God generation after generation since God's chosen people were *often* unfaithful and *susceptible* to disobedience. The Biblical records clearly indicate that **the faithful few remnants** played *critical roles* in this Faith Journey which has lasted for many generations. Because of the unfaithfulness and disobedience of His people, **God's Judgement** *burned like wildfire* among them at different times *wiping out the majority of sinner!* God only spared **the few remnants** who refused to bow down to idols and kept their faith in Him. This truth was gloriously highlighted by Rev. Alice Tamrie last week. Praise God!

B. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The **Eternal Cords of God's Plan of Salvation** *run through* those **few faithful remnants** *unbroken* because of **God's Faithfulness and Promises!** Among the **Eternal Cords** of God's Plan of Salvation *exists* the **Lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ** which is recorded in Ruth 4:13-22 and Matthew 1:1-17. Hallelujah! In the **Lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ**, David is mentioned by name. As we read the names of the individuals in **the Lineage of Christ** as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, verses 1 through 17, we come across **men and women** who *could not qualify* to be **the links in the Eternal Cords!** I mean **Judah** was a terrible sinner who collaborated with his brothers in *selling Joseph* into slavery, *unfairly judged* and *impregnated Tamar*, his daughter-in-law under

embarrassing and messy situation! I mean, **Rahab** was a *prostitute* in the city of Jericho **but** saved by the Grace of God because of her *foresight, courage and faith* in the Lord whom she knew only by His Reputation! We can go down the line and find each of those listed in the **Lineage of Christ** have sinned which should have *disqualified* them **but** for **the Grace and Mercy of God!** Just like you and me, every one of them have “fallen short of the Glory of God” (Romans 3:21-23). **David** was no exception when it comes to sin. **But he was one of the most faithful and obedient servants of God!** His Spirit and Heart always *yearned* for God! His flesh has led him astray from time to time, but he was quick to repent of his sins and seek God for forgiveness! **David’s love for God was pure, earnest and full of passion!** The Psalms of David fully reveal his *sincere love, steadfast devotion and earnest reverence* for God! In addition, it was David who single handedly **reclaimed** all the territories of Canaan, which the Israelites had lost, and **established** Israel as a **sovereign nation!** The **Jerusalem Temple** came into existence *only because of David* whose heart was so moved to desire it which in turned led to **God’s Promises** that **his reign will be eternal** as recorded in 2 Samuel 7:1-17. Hallelujah!

II. THE LESSON: God’s Promises Birthed the Shoot from the Stump of Jesse

1. v. 1. From the Stump of Jesse a Shoot will Come Up.

The Bible declares in verse 1 that “A **shoot** will come up from the **stump of Jesse**; from his **roots a Branch** will bear fruit.” This verse is *pregnant* with **glorious matters of Eternity!** It is a **prophetic declaration** regarding the Glorious Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ *foretold while the Israelites were under God’s Judgement!* The **Prophecy of Hope** is *enshrined* in poetic language full of **symbols** and **metaphors**. It was a **prophetic declaration of hope** for the **few faithful remnants of Israel** who will *experience devastating consequences* as a people for the *pervasive Apostacy* that has *engulfed the whole nation!*

Let us now examine verse 1 in detail.

a) “A **Shoot** will come up from the **stump** of Jesse.”

To really understand and appreciate the full significance and magnitude of this portion of the verse, we need to spend some time studying Nature, namely **trees**. I researched various majestic and tall trees such as Coastal **Redwood** (116 meters/380 feet), Himalayan **Cypress** (102 m/336 ft) and Douglass **Fir** (75 m/246 ft). I read about their **resilience** under *tremendous pressures/stress* from *recurring violent storms, wildfires* and *senseless logging*. Under violent recurring storms, *they sway without breaking* firmly held down by their *deep and widely spread out roots*. Because of the storms, *they grow stronger and sturdier!* When *angry wildfires* rage through them,

those that survive the *ferocity of the wildfires* **develop** thicker and harder barks that protect them and make them resilient!

b) “From his **roots**, a **Branch** will **bear fruit**.”

Even those trees that have been **totally consumed by the wildfire**, they **regenerate and grow** from their **roots** that *remained protected* under the soil! *And those other trees that have been cut down by loggers, they **grow shoots** from their **stumps** and **regenerate** to produce the **new forest!** Hallelujah! **I tell you; God’s Ways are Glorious and Enduring!** The Bible says, from the **stump** of Jesse, “**a Branch will bear fruit.**” **That Branch is Jesus Christ!** Indeed, the **Branch** did bear much fruit! **We are the Fruit of The Branch from the stump of Jesse!** Hallelujah! **Because God kept His Promises, Jesus rose and bear fruit for God’s Kingdom!** All the churches that truly represent Him are His Fruit! **God’s Word is True and Eternal!***

2. **vv. 2-3 (a). The Spirit of God will Rest upon Him.**

This is also **the prophecy** that has been **fulfilled** already! When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Bible testifies that “... the Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighting upon Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘this is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased’” (Matt. 3:13-17). **From that moment on, Jesus advanced the Kingdom of God in the Power of the Holy Spirit!** It is both *enlightening* and *strengthening* to know that God sent the **Holy Spirit to rest upon David in power** when Samuel **anointed** him to be the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:13). It is also *affirming* to us that Jesus Christ sent the **Holy Spirit to empower His disciples** to become His Witnesses and advance God’s Kingdom (Acts 1:8). The Prophecy regarding the **Holy Spirit’s** roles concerning The Branch included resting upon Him with:

- a) the Spirit of **Wisdom** and **Understanding**;
- b) the Spirit of **Counsel** and **Power**;
- c) the Spirit of **Knowledge** and of the **Fear of the LORD**;
- d) And He will **delight in the Fear of the LORD**.

Now, we know that Jesus Christ is Fully God. To properly understand the *application* of the above 4 revelations, we must understand them *in the context* of Jesus *operating* during His 3 Years of Earthly Ministry **while clothed in the Flesh**. Notwithstanding the fact that Jesus never sinned, He nevertheless *experienced the burdens of the flesh!* Jesus was *tempted* as we experience temptations of the flesh. *Jesus lived among sinful people **without sinning** while fulfilling the Divine Purpose for which God the Father sent Him for!* However, in the **Flesh**, Jesus *felt* what we *feel* when **hungry, angry, disappointed, saddened** or **afflicted!** Jesus had to *press ahead* while those who claimed to know God **more than He did** *conspired* against Him, *opposed*

Him at every turn and *planned* to kill Him! Jesus proclaimed the Love, Mercy and Righteousness of God to the **hateful, merciless, evil** and **unjust** people who *abused, exploited* and *oppressed* the people! **That should make the Righteous God angry!** His Earthly Ministry was *filled* with throngs of sickly and chronically ill people, demon possessed people, poor people and hopeless people! It was **physically** challenging and **mentally draining** Ministry! *Jesus often slept in the open exposed to the elements. Jesus walked long distances and worked long hours day after day, week after week for 3 years!* **That must be physically exhausting!** Jesus had to heal the sick, cast out demons, feed thousands and resurrect the dead! **Power had to go out of Him in those moments!** The Bible gives us a *glimpse of that happening* in the case of the Woman with the issue of Blood in verse 46 (Luke 8:43-48). That must be **spiritually demanding** after long hours of teaching, preaching and healing to so many people no matter how large the crowd is! Jesus had to *persevere* even as many doubted His amazing miracles and spread lies about Him even as He proclaimed the Truth! *That must be mentally challenging!* Jesus needed the **Power of the Holy Spirit** to **strengthen his Flesh** during His Earthly Ministry! You know that we cannot make it in the flesh without the Grace of God and the Power of the Holy Spirit!

The Branch of Jesse will Act in Righteousness.

Isaiah 11 reveals *several themes* which, in part, capture the **Divine Quality of Christ's Acts of Righteousness carried out with Faithfulness** to bring about **Justice, Peace** and **Restoration**. The Branch of Jesse will achieve such **redemptive state** using "**the Rod of His Mouth.**" Pay attention to the *key words* -- "righteousness," "judge," "justice," and "faithfulness" associated with **His Faithful and Righteous Acts** in the following verses.

3. vv. 3(b)-9. The Branch of Jesse Will Judge in Righteousness.

The Righteousness of God *demands* Justice. Some people are going to be judged! God's Righteous Judgement *encompasses* individuals, groups, a particular people, a nation and nations! This applies to Israelites, Christians and Idols worshipping nation in general. To *dispense Justice*, He must **judge** in His **Truth** to *uphold* the **Law** and *reinforce* the **Covenant**. In this case, it is *especially applicable* to God's chosen people (the Israelites and Christians) because they are *recipients* of the Law and *party to* the Covenants. The Root of Jesse in the **Power of the Holy Spirit** will *administer Justice* using divine "counsel," "wisdom," and "knowledge" in His **Acts of Righteousness**.

- a) Verses 3-5. He will Judge Faithfully and in Righteousness. In these verses, the Bible indicates that His Judgements are *executed* by "the rod of His mouth." **He will pronounce judgement and it will come to**

pass! Understand that Jesus is “The Word of God.” Recall that spoke the Universe into Existence! Recall also that it is by His Word that the Earth took shape, the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and streams covered its surfaces, plants and animals came to be and populate it, etc. It is by the Power of His Word that we came into being and continue to exist! **His Word has the Power to give Life, heal the sick, cast out demons and resurrect the dead!** “He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, with the breath of His lips, he will slay **the wicked.**” Unfortunately, among “the wicked” there will be some of God’s people who went astray! **He will judge Faithfully and in Righteousness.**

- b) Verses 6-9. His Acts of Righteousness will bring Peace. In these verses, we get the picture that the Peace that God brings will dissolve hatred, vengeance, violence and conflict among people. In metaphoric language, the Peace that He will bring is such that the “wolf and lamb,” “leopard and goat,” “bear and cow” *will live together!* Even if a “child put his hand into the viper’s nest,” *he will not be harmed!* **How desperately our world needs such Peace!** Wars and conflicts will end! The warplanes, battle ships, tanks, and the bombs, guns, the bullets, etc. the world manufactures *will cease!* **No more senseless killing!** *The incessant bickering in Congress will stop!* The trillions of dollars that we spend yearly on war machines will be spent for the welfare and prosperity of the people! **No more refugees and immigration problems!** O Lord, let that day come sooner!

4. vv. 10-16. **The Root of Jesse will Stand as a Banner for the People!**

“**In That Day,**” the Bible says:

- The Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people; He will make room for the Gentiles.
- The Root of Jesse will *reclaim the remnants* that are left of His people from various nations where they were scattered as exiles.
- The Lord will reach out His Hand a **Second Time** to Reclaim the Remnants!
- People from all nations will rally to Him because He will hold the Banner of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Hope and Restoration!

III. CONCLUSION

- **Maintain Your Faith in Christ because God will keep His Promises!**
- **Hold on to the Truth because God’s Word is Eternal!**
- **The Remnants shall triumph because “That Day” will come when He will Acts in Faithfulness and Righteousness!**