

From the Root of Jesse Will Flow Righteousness and Justice!

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-16 (vv. 2-5)

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I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

A. Historical Background: Historical Circumstances

In Isaiah 9-10 we read that the anger of the Lord will still stretch out against Israel and Judah for their various sins. Assyria, in whom they put their trust, would be their demise and God would use them as an instrument of his judgment against them. Assyria would be like a tree cut down at the height of its power (10:33, 34), never to rise again. Judah (the Royal line of David) would be like a tree chopped down to a stump. **But from the stump a new shoot would grow (verse 1) – the Messiah. He would be greater than the original tree and would bear much fruit. The Messiah is the fulfillment of God’s promise that a descendant of David would rule forever (2 Samuel 7:16).** Assyria will become prideful and go too far by **thinking that their power resides in themselves rather than seeing themselves as instruments in the hand of God.** Therefore, God will judge Assyria as well.

B. Biblical Context

As God promised David, “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” (2 Samuel 7:16) **Jesus is the one who has fulfilled this promise.**

In 1 Samuel 16 God tells Samuel, “I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” David was that son.

Chapter 11 seems to have four parts. First, verses 1–5 give a description of the Son of David and the way he rules his kingdom. Second, verses 6–9 gives a description of the peace of that global kingdom where the knowledge of God fills the earth, and the wolf lies down with the lamb (v. 9). Third, verse 10 says that the nations of the world come to the Messiah and find rest in his glory. And fourth,

verses 11–16 show the gathering of the remnant of Israel “from the four corners of the earth” (v. 12).

So, this morning, we are going to concentrate on verses 2-5.

II. Lesson: From the Root of Jesse Will Flow Righteousness and Justice!

Verses 2-5 talk about the Character of the Shoot of Jesse and how he will rule.

1. **v. 2.** “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

“The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” **Wisdom and understanding are the foundation for being able to give good counsel and rule well with might.** And the aim of all counsel and power is to **know the Lord and to fear the Lord, and to fill the earth with the knowledge and the fear of the Lord.** So the shoot of Jesse has everything he needs to bring God’s world back from its rebellion to the knowledge of God and the fear of the Lord. As the Spirit of the Lord came upon David when he was anointed king so He will rest upon David’s descendant, **Christ, who will rule the world.** This verse refers to the three persons of the Holy Trinity (see 6:3). **wisdom and understanding . . . counsel and might . . . knowledge and . . . fear of the Lord.** These are Spirit-imparted qualifications that will enable the Messiah to rule justly and effectively.

2. **v. 3.** “And he will delight in the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears.”

Question: What contributes to making bad decisions?

Your Physical Eyesight verses Your Spiritual Eyesight:

Physical Eyesight:

As powerful as your Physical Eyesight’s are, they have one significant limitation.

Every eye in this room is:

1. Limited to seeing physical reality
2. Physical things – cars, people, buildings, books, etc. (materialistic things)
3. Your Physical Eyes cannot perceive or discern spiritual things

(1 Corinthians 2:14) KJV

The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- a. You must have the Holy Ghost to discern the things of God.

Spiritual Eyesight:

The Holy Spirit is the one that gives sight to see spiritual things. When you look through the lens of your Spiritual Eyes:

1. You see the ways of God.
2. You see the truth of God
3. You see the life of God

(2 Corinthians 4:18) KJV

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The Spiritual Eyes is what allows you to live a life that finds its satisfaction in God.

The shoot of Jesse judges with truth and calls his people to be a people of righteousness and truth.

Isaiah 11:3 says that the shoot of Jesse “shall not judge by what his eyes see,” but with righteousness he shall judge. Jesus uses these words in John 7:24: “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

In other words, Jesus takes a prophecy spoken about the kind of person He would be and applies it to the kind of persons *we* should be.

God is calling us, by the shoot of Jesse, to be people of radical truthfulness and righteousness. We do not judge by appearances. Racial differences do not make a person guilty or innocent. High standing in the corporate world or wearing a police uniform does not privilege a person before the law. “His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.” What a statement! It’s so contrary to the emotions of the world. His joy is to stand in awe of God. His joy is to tremble at the terrible prospect of displeasing God. This makes Him utterly reliable in His judgments among men. “He shall not judge by what His eyes see or decide disputes by what His ears hear.

3. vv. 4-5. “But with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.”

His judgments are not based on the appearance or the opinions of others. His joy is in the fear of the Lord, not the fear of man. So, his rule will be just. The righteous oppressed will be vindicated, and the wicked will be killed. Paul uses these final words of verse 4 (“with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked”) in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, where he says, “Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth.” That’s a reference to the second coming of Christ. Which means that Isaiah 11:1-5 includes descriptions of Jesus in his first coming and his second coming with no hint of any time lapse. Only subsequent events and further revelation reveal how it works out.

III. CONCLUSION

God will judge with righteousness and justice. How we long for fair treatment from others, but do we give it? We hate those who base their judgements on appearance, false evidence, or hearsay, but are we quick to judge others using those standards? Only Christ can be the perfectly fair judge. Only as he governs our hearts can we learn to be as fair in our treatment of others as we expect others to be toward us.

The truthfulness of the nation’s faith will be demonstrated by their action of choosing to trust the Holy One of Israel, the Mighty God, rather than someone else

or something else. So, Isaiah states an important truth: the Abrahamic promises are not an absolute guarantee of blessing for people who fail to trust God.

Not all “Christians” are Christians. Just because you were baptized does not mean that you are part of God’s faithful remnant. Just because you accepted Jesus and confessed him as the Son of God does not mean you are part of his glorious kingdom. The remnant is those who go past the external acts of obedience (while obeying those commands, of course) and faithfully put their hope and reliance on God. The remnant is a group of people who obey the Lord because they are faithfully relying on God, not by merely accomplishing some list of acts.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.” (Proverbs 3:5 & 6)

“For we walk by faith, not by sight:” (2 Corinthians 5:7) KJV