

Isaiah Lesson 11

Isaiah Chapter 11

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Introduction: Last week we studied about the Day of Lord and of the Jewish remnant in the land during the Tribulation and closed with an itinerary of the invasion of Judah by the Assyrians.

The eleventh chapter of Isaiah details a brilliant fore view of the coming King in His kingdom. The chapter is one of the clearest and most detailed prophecies of the millennial reign of Christ in the Bible.

Several notable divisions are evident.

- (1) His lineage is rooted in David.
- (2) His kingdom will be characterized by righteousness.
- (3) His kingdom will be altogether different regarding nature.
- (4) His kingdom will be worldwide.
- (5) In His kingdom, the Jews dispersed throughout the world will return to their land.

I. Rod from the Stem of Jesse

Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isa 11:2 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 of the fear of the LORD;

Isa 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

The root of the coming kingdom of Christ is noted. A representative of the Davidic dynasty was still upon the throne of Judah, likely Hezekiah. Clearly implied is that the royal dynasty of David would be cut down. That is precisely what happened when Zedekiah was removed by Babylon from his throne in Jerusalem. He was the last king of the lineage of David to rule over Judah.

Here, a clear prophecy is made how that the stump of the lineage of Jesse (David's father) would again sprout and grow. Even as the stump of a tree cut down will often sprout again, the lineage of David would again spring up. Isaiah again refers to the coming Messiah as the Branch. This prophecy is found throughout the writing prophets. See Isaiah 4:2, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15, Zechariah 3:8, and 6:12.

Zec 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

The greater thought is that though the royal dynasty of David would be cut off; in the future, it would again sprout forth as the mighty Branch of Jehovah. The succeeding context will make clear that this is Jesus Christ and His kingdom will be described in detail.

In verse 2, Isaiah clearly describes both advents of Christ. When Jesus walked this earth during His public ministry, the characteristics recorded certainly were evident in all that He spoke and did. These same characteristics will be evident when He returns the second time to rule and reign with power and great glory. Notice that the millennial reign of the Messiah will be with the Spirit of the Lord resting upon Him.

Our Lord's ministry was and will be in the power of the Spirit of God. Moreover, the Holy Spirit will anoint Him with (1) wisdom (2) understanding, (3) counsel, (4) might, (5) knowledge, and (6) the fear of the Lord. Clearly presented is how the reign of the King will be with and by the power the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God will be in perfect accord with the King who sits upon His throne. In Jesus' first coming, the power of the Holy Spirit was evident and upon Him.

Luk 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

The Spirit of God will enlighten the King with perceptive understanding in the fear of the Lord. Furthermore, He will not judge according to outward appearance.

Isa 11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Isa 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The distinctive characteristic of the reign of Jesus Christ will be righteousness. Those who were poor and of humble estate were often ignored in judicial proceedings in Isaiah's day, when the King of Righteousness establishes His

throne, even those of the lowest estate will be dealt with righteously and justly. The word translated as equity (rwvym miyshor) essentially has the idea of 'fairness.' The rule of Christ will be in righteousness.

The thought shifts quite noticeably here. Whereas the preceding has dealt with the righteous rule of Christ, now the tenor is of His righteous judgment. The mention of Him smiting the earth and slaying the wicked more than likely refers to His vengeance against a wicked world at the end of the Tribulation. His slaying of the wicked "with the breath of his lips" very well may refer to how Jesus Christ deals with the forces of the antichrist at the battle of Armageddon. See also Revelation 19:11.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

It appears that it will be a very one-sided battle. In verse 5, the thought returns again to the righteous character of Christ's kingdom. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. In those days, a girdle was a belt, usually of cloth, worn around the outermost garment to snug it against the body. It was as common as a belt is for men today. .

Righteousness will be the predominant characteristic of the reign of Jesus Christ. Faithfulness will also be evident. What a wonderful description of the character of our Lord: righteousness and faithfulness. Truly in that day, righteousness will abound.

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

II. Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb in that Day

Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isa 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isa 11:8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

In the coming millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ, even the animal kingdom will be radically transformed. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling

together; and a little child shall lead them. Animals which we know as carnivores and predators will not be so then. Wolves, leopards, and lions will dwell among lambs, kid goats, and calves. These creatures which today are wild and predatory will be led around by small children.

Likewise, the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. Any farmer living in bear country knows that cows have an innate fear of bears. Moreover, lions in this age eat meat and not straw. In that day, not only will bears and cows feed from the same trough, the eating habits of all carnivorous animals will be altered.

Isa 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

A child still nursing shall play on the hole of the asp, and a weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. An asp is thought to be an eastern venomous snake such as a cobra. A cockatrice was another type of venomous snake, perhaps an adder. The greater thought is that the very character of the animal kingdom will be radically changed. Animals will no longer be predators and carnivores.

It seems that the curse upon the earth, resident since Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden, will be lifted. Life will be in a state that has been unknown since the Garden of Eden. Clearly implied is that there will be normal human procreation and child birth in the Millennium. Those nations surviving the Tribulation and allowed into the Millennium will have children.

Isa 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Isa 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

The holy mountain mentioned undoubtedly is Mount Zion upon which millennial Jerusalem will be built. Clearly stated is that the various creatures mentioned above will not be harmful on Mount Zion. It may well be inferred that this will be the case throughout the earth. Notice that the entire earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Ignorance will not be an issue.

Verse 10 begins with the phrase “And in that day” and refers to the Day of the Lord. The phrase appears more than ninety times and in most cases is eschatological in nature, referring to the Day of the Lord. Again, “in that day” mention is made of the root of Jesse. That of course refers to the lineage of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In that day, our Lord will be the ruler over all nations. Not only will Jews flock to His banner, but gentiles as well. The final phrase, “and his rest shall be glorious,” likely refers to the glorious peace which will prevail during the Day of the Lord. There will be no war internationally or even trouble domestically. Another defining characteristic of His kingdom will be peace.

Isa 11:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Isa 11:12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

The final regathering of Israel is foretold. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people. At the time of Isaiah’s writing, the northern kingdom had already been taken captive. Notice that the prophet refers to Israelites returning from all nations. Moreover, it is referred to as a second regathering.

Isaiah prophetically hints of the first return of Jews which would take place under Ezra and Nehemiah. However, reference here is made to a second return. The context is very clear that the final fulfillment of this return will be “in that day”—the day when the Messiah sits upon His throne. Jews have returned to their land in the twentieth century and continue to do so, the ultimate fulfillment thereof will not be until Christ has returned.

The dispersion of Israel is clearly implied. It exists to this day. Moreover, the complete return of Israel from the four corners of the earth is also plainly foretold. Again, it will be in that day. The ensign mentioned is not further but has the sense of a banner such as a national flag. The Lord Himself may be the ensign or perhaps, in that day, Jesus Christ will fly a flag representing His kingdom. In any event, it will appeal to Jews living around the world.

Isa 11:13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

Isa 11:14 But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

Ephraim evidently will not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. In that day, no longer will there be rivalry between the tribes of Israel. They no longer will be at each other's throats as they did on occasion throughout Old Testament history. Furthermore, Israel will be at peace with its immediate neighbors in that day. Of interest is that the word translated as Philistines is whence the modern term Palestinian derives.

Clearly implied is that in that day not only will the Jews get along with the Palestinians, but the Palestinians will carry the Jews upon their shoulders. In addition, Israel will have dominion over what is the modern state of Jordan. Edom, Moab, and Ammon were the ancient nations which comprise the modern state of Jordan. In that day, this region will be a part of Israel.

Isa 11:15 And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.

Isa 11:16 And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Further record is made of major topographical and geographical changes which will take place during the Millennium. The tongue of the Egyptian Sea likely refers to the uppermost portion of the Red Sea as it joins Egypt on one side and the Sinai Peninsula on the other side. The Nile River will apparently be diverted elsewhere. The "seven streams" probably refers to the delta region of the Nile where it meets the Mediterranean Sea. The greater thought is how that the topography and geography of the entire region will be radically altered when King Jesus sets up His throne at Jerusalem. It will be completely different from maps which we know today.

In that day, there will be a superhighway from the region of Assyria into Israel even as there was a major trade route from Egypt to Israel in ancient times. On that 'interstate' highway, Jews of the diaspora will have easy access for their return to their land.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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