

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

December 1, 2021

Isaiah 11:1-10

Glorious Rest

Commentaries are all over the map (literally) on this chapter. The blame for the felling of the forest in chapter ten is predominantly given to the Assyrian axe. Israel is held accountable as well for deserving God's punishment. Some writers go beyond, to the captivity in Babylon and the problems brought about through David's dynasty and even Jesse's role within Judah. Jews for Judaism claim this cannot speak of Jesus because He failed to fulfill all the prophecies found in this chapter. Isaiah 53 though does present a bit of a problem for them. Many of them believe the subject of these chapters is the Nation of Israel personified. They refuse to concede to a first and a second coming of Christ. They still await their Messiah. This is the reason for their initial rejection of Him as reported in the New Testament. All this being said, there is a view with which any Christian can identify. What can we discern by looking into the details of this relieving and joyful passage?

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

Simple enough. Jesse, illustrated by a dead stump, and his early descendants represent the end of the line of Judah, at least as pertaining to any powerful entity. It seemed as though the promise to David had been broken. Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:7. We've all walked in the woods and have seen a tiny sprig shoot up, green and alive. How could this happen? God alone brings life from death. 1 Corinthians 15:21-23. That means you! This prophetic branch is fulfilled in our Great Savior! Luke 1:32-33, Hebrews 1:8. Many obscure people traced their lineage back to Judah. Their lines can be found both in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. The great family tree had downsized but still produced this Priestly King

*[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;*

Jesus willingly set aside His Divine status so He could receive the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16) thereby modeling such a miraculous incarnation for us. (Romans 8:9) Tonight we will focus as well on His example in that the Holy Spirit moves in with Full Baggage. As He makes Himself comfortable within our humble abode (ie. Our soul and newborn human spirit) He unpacks for us new characteristics that He trains into our lives and blends into our character. Jesus in verse 2 displays wonderful traits but He instills them in us. While we can never achieve His perfect life, we can grow and change to be more like Him. If you've belonged to Christ for any considerable time you can look back and recognize this growth in your own history. Wisdom and understanding become a hallmark of Christian life. We see things from a new spirit filled perspective able to discern good and evil and are able to make Godly choices. We can truly care for others and adjust to their needs. Counsel and might are now within us. Sharing thoughts and guidance with others become our standard and we find Holy Power to have faith through prayer, now able to believe and see miraculous work in peoples lives. The knowledge and fear of the Lord are now the center of our souls causing us to see others through His eyes and to share His Glory for their salvation.

*[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:*

Now that we have a new spirit and share our dwelling with His Holy Spirit we, like Christ our Perfect Example, can learn of Him and show Him to the world. This quick understanding in the fear of the Lord will supernaturally see the potential for life where there exists only death. He speaks life to us so we can speak life to those who are destined for destruction. We recognize their condition and fear their fate. We learn not to judge them as the world does but to judge righteously. Not by sight or sound or human senses but by the Spirit within us. We can now lovingly and tenderly guide them to the very same Savior Who first found and saved us.

*[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.*

We now remember the Words of Jesus in Matthew 5:3-5 and let Them speak to us.

*[5] And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.* Matthew 5:6-9 guides us in our new quest to please God by serving others and glorifying Christ.

Is there a disconnect between the first and second coming of the King of Righteousness? He has come to call out His lambs from the world and when His number is full He will deliver us into the fantastic Kingdom described following;

*[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. [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. [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. [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. [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.*

Glorious Rest. Sound good?