

Isaiah 11: Biblical Reading and Reflections

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[0 : 00] Isaiah chapter 11 Isaiah chapter 11 Isaiah chapter 11

Isaiah chapter 11 Isaiah chapter 11 Isaiah chapter 10 declares the Lord's coming judgment upon his people, describing the destruction brought by the Assyrians and later the Babylonians as if it were the great felling of a mighty forest, with Assyria and Babylonia being like great axes in the hands of the Lord.

Isaiah chapter 10 verses 15 to 19 reads,

The branch is a prophetic symbol. It refers to a messianic figure, one who will represent the Davidic kingdom and restore the temple and lead the people into a time beyond judgment. In Zechariah chapter 6 verses 9 to 15, the branch is seemingly Joshua the high priest.

Jeremiah also speaks of the branch in Jeremiah chapter 23 verses 5 to 6 and then later in chapter 3 verses 15 to 16. In chapter 23 verses 5 to 6 he writes, In Isaiah chapter 11, this Davidic branch is life from the dead.

[5 : 35] David died, David died, and then his dynasty seemingly died.

These are the virtues of the king, and the branch will be characterized by such just rule.

And the result of the rule of the branch will be the establishment of a new Eden, an Eden that exceeds even the original. The original Eden was a garden in an almost entirely untamed world, but this new Eden will have a peace that flows out into the wider world.

Predatory animals will have a peace that flows out into the world.

The Lord will have a peace that flows out into the world.

[7 : 51] It seems to be a much greater fulfillment to be seen in Christ, in whom we see the great realization of the promise of the Davidic branch. He is the one who rises up as the seed of David.

As a root out of Davidic kingdom will rise up with him and find a new life. He is the one who will pacify the nations, subduing them to the authority of his word, teaching them peace and taming the once wild beasts.

He is the one who has the Holy Spirit without measure, who gathers his people from all the corners and establishes a new exodus, forming a new people in security. At Pentecost, we celebrate the way in which Christ, the Spirit-anointed branch, the one who rose from the grave as the scion of the Davidic dynasty, brings justice to his people and overcomes the violence of the nations, teaching them his peace.

Nations that were once at war with each other are gathered to the mountain of the Lord to join in the praise of the Lord's people. They seek the branch there, committing themselves to his teachings and his judgment.

The knowledge of the Lord covers the earth, with people of all tribes, tongues and nations experiencing the salvation and the goodness of God. Old enmities are overcome, and where once all the trees were felled, a mighty forest of cedars rises, a temple of the Lord's dwelling by his Holy Spirit.

[9 : 14] A question to consider, what are some of the specific allusions to the story of the exodus that you can find in this passage?