

As the Waters Cover the Earth

Isa 11:9-16 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, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious." ¹¹ 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 who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. ¹² He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. ¹³ Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. ¹⁴ But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them. ¹⁵ The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dryshod. ¹⁶ There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

*For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious." What glorious words of comfort for us Gentiles. The knowledge of God you have this morning is as the Apostle Paul says flows from this covenant promise to the house of Israel, in the book of Hebrews, chapter 8, verses 10 thru 12 where he quotes from the prophet Jeremiah, "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

Throughout the world today, the Gospel is proclaimed and goes forth "as waters cover the earth". I think that one of the marvels of Holy Scripture is that by succinct and simple words the great and glorious eternal purpose of God is revealed to mankind. With picturesque words that carry a certain beauty God conveys to us His promises. This morning the passage before us, Isaiah returns to the person of Christ, the twig of the fallen tree, then tells of the Messiah's Banner over us, and finally will speak of the Gentiles finding rest in the Christ.

A. He again returns to the person of Christ

1. Repeating the same introductory statements from the beginning of the chapter,
2. Here again we read that from the *root* a *branch* shall spring forth from a decayed trunk
3. From the formerly great Davidic Kingdom, now in total disrepair a twig shall come forth
4. The promised King shall appear in great humility
5. A kingdom that in the eyes of the world shall always be as nothing
6. Yet, the Gentiles, who formerly abhorred the Jews, will henceforth bow before their King with lowly homage.
7. A branch that shall rise to such heights that it shall stand as a banner over all the kingdoms of the earth
8. Lifted up upon a cruel cross, that He might become the Savior, the Redeemer of His people

John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

B. That banner is over us this morning - *Which shall stand for an ensign of the peoples*

1. The Banner speaks of His means of provision and actual provision (Two things I want to note here in particular)
2. Banner of love - speaks of the basis of His provision

Song 2:4 He brought me to the banqueting house and his banner over me was love.

3. Banner of Righteousness which would speak of what He has provided His people

Jer 23:6 Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

*Phil 3:9-10 Being found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, **the righteousness which is from God** by faith;*

*Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved**.*

C. In Him shall the gentiles rest

1. But more than that, the nations that once were the enemies of Israel and her God shall now become the Israel of God
2. The Apostle Paul explains it in these words speaking of the Gentiles that were now trusting in this stem of Jesse

For you were once "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." Eph 2:12-13

3. From all the nations of the earth the Church will come forth and find rest, that is, peace with God in the Lord Jesus Christ

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation

4. We the church made up mostly of Gentiles are no longer strangers but fellow citizens and members of the ancient household of God

Eph 2:19-20 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

5. God shall be sought by the Gentiles of the world
 - a. The beginning of the seeking took place when the representatives of the **Gentile world, the Magi from the East**, came to Jerusalem, saying; "Where is He that is born King of the Jews
 - b. This does not speak of us seeking Him in order to find Him
 - c. Rather it speaks of searching out His greatness, His love, and His salvation

6. We shall delight in Him as our God and our Redeemer

- a. We shall exchange our poverty for His riches
- d. Our darkness for His light
- e. Our loneliness for the warmth of His presence
- f. Our ways of death for His way of life
- g. Our lost wanderings for delight in walking in His paths

7. From the four corners of the earth, the believing Gentiles with the believing Jews will find the Lord's Christ as; "the way, the truth and the life". *There will be a highway for the remnant of His people*

8. And let us hope that even yet, some of the brethren of Paul will yet receive the Lord as their Messiah, Shepherd and King

CONCLUSION: I trust that from this time forth Isaiah chapter eleven will have a deep and glorious meaning and depth for you.

For it truly speaks of Christ, the seed of David

Of God's inclusion of the Gentiles into the called out ones from all eternity past

May you truly find rest for your souls in this great truth for His banner is over you now and forever