

Who Is This Slender Stem of Jesse?

Isa 11:1-10 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 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. 3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist. 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's 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, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."

This is a most glorious prophesy of the coming Messiah. For it speaks of one who would come in great humility, a slender branch, yet rightly be a Ruler of great wisdom, counsel, knowledge and might whose kingdom shall cover the entire earth. This one of such humble origin will be a most glorious King who will rule over the whole of all mankind whose Kingdom shall be established forever. Who, with great wisdom and counsel, shall bring a peace with justice such as man has never known. In the previous chapter, chapter 10, Isaiah has described the Assyrian monarch and his army under the image of a dense and flourishing forest, with all its glory and grandeur. In contrast, he depicts the illustrious personage who is the subject of this chapter, under the image of a very small twig or shoot, sprouting up from the root of a decayed and fallen tree. We find then a most striking and wonderful contrast between the Assyrian and the one who is the subject of this chapter.

Who is this slender shoot that comes forth from this decayed and fallen tree? What is His character and what are His qualifications to be Ruler over all mankind? What shall His Kingdom be like?

A. Who is this slender shoot that comes forth from this decayed and fallen tree? - *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*

1. First we must ask, who is the stump, what is its significance?
 - a. It is wonderfully applied to an ancient family that is fallen into decay.
 - b. It is the lineage of Jesse, from whom came David, King of Israel.
 - c. He speaks of Jesse not David, for the whole image here is a picture of one of great humility.
 - d. For in time this prophecy will be fulfilled in a simple young girl of Jesse's lineage,
 - e. Betrothed to a man of same lineage who no longer thinks of himself as royalty but is a humble carpenter in Nazareth.
 - f. All the glory of David's Kingdom will be far removed.
 - (1) Today they want to talk about the "Star of David" but this promise is not about David.
 - (2) It is about a promised seed of Woman, of Abraham, through Judah's lineage.
 - (3) For it is not about David and an earthly kingdom, but it's all about grace, and mercy and righteousness and a most glorious salvation.
 - g. For at the birth of this far removed stem of Jesse, a Idumean, one who is of Esau's lineage sits upon the throne as ruler in Israel.
 - h. David's kingdom of glory has fallen into dreadful decay.
 - i. Isaiah has warned that Israel's glorious kingdom that once flourished as a mighty forest, will soon be cut down, and will fall into decay.
 - j. And indeed it came to pass, for since Zedekiah's rule and Judah's captivity, a king had not sat upon the throne in Israel.
 - k. But in this prophecy we learn that the promised scepter of Judah's lineage will be restored in great humility and yet with eternal glory for Shiloh is yet to come.
2. Who then is this slender branch?

- a. From this stump, this fallen tree, this nation that God has brought down, from this condition in which there seems to be no hope, comes this tiny, slender shoot.
- b. It is proper to speak of Him as a "slender branch" for this is that One who humbled Himself and took upon Himself the form of a servant, a slave, and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
- c. Yet one who is at the same time called "Emanuel" God with us.
- d. That this is Jesus can be firmly stated for the Apostle Paul reveals to us His identity.

Rom 15:12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope."

- e. Indeed of Jesse comes one who has restored the family to more than its ancient glory, for he has added the luster of an eternal kingdom.
 - f. The Messiah is indeed a most excellent unique Son of Jesse, Truly God and Truly Man
- B. What is His character and what are His qualifications to be Ruler over all mankind? - *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.*
1. First He will have the fullness of the Spirit of God.
 - a. As man He is endowed by the Holy Spirit in a manner no other man has known.

John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

- b. In OT Spirit of God would come upon individuals for particular purposes or message
 - c. Whereas the Spirit of God shall rest upon Him - The Messiah was continually filled with the Spirit.
 - d. Why is this necessary if He is God?
 - (1) The answer is simple, He became man.
 - (2) As man He humbled Himself.
 - (3) He set aside all the glory that was His with the Father
 - (4) As a child He grew in wisdom. - *Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*
 - e. May not understand the mystery here - but we acknowledge that New Testament Scriptures teach us that he was thus under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
2. Being constantly filled above measure with the Holy Spirit, what gifts did He receive and why?
 3. It is outlined for us - *the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord*
 4. That we might rightly know God.
 5. That we might be recipients of so great a salvation.

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

CONCLUSION: What shall His Kingdom be like?

Find here the same as we found in Isa. 2 last week.
 A place of "peace on earth good will toward man
 In the one born in Bethlehem of Jesse's trunk - we have received:
 A glorious and eternal peace
 This one in Judgment will remove all ungodliness from His Kingdom.
 A complete removal of the curse
 Forgiveness of sins
 A restored relationship with God
 A full deliverance from our captivity of sin and judgment.
 Recovery of sight from the blindness inflicted upon by Satan
 And liberty from all of sins' deadly oppression.