

ANTICIPATING THE KING

Isaiah 11:1-10

We will look at one of the prophecies from Isaiah, written around seven hundred years before the time of Christ. Isaiah wrote to the Jewish people in Judah to inform them of a future King—an unlikely King from the line of David who would be filled with the Spirit and who would bring God’s justice and redemption to the world. In seeing Isaiah’s vision of the coming King, we understand our need for God’s salvation and the reason we are incorporated into God’s people, who exist for His mission.

I. ANTICIPATE AN UNLIKELY KING FROM THE LINE OF DAVID (vs. 1)

At the time this prophecy was written, many years before the Babylonian exile, the people of Judah and Israel knew what had been promised to David, but many of the people had given up hope. The nation did not resemble the mighty kingdom that David established. A terrible spiritual and political decision resulted in Israel being divided in two. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was beset with a slew of bad monarchs. The Southern Kingdom of Judah fared a little better, but they still had their share of kings who came up short of David’s example.

In this context, God’s message to Isaiah was one of hope. Though the nation would one day be cut down like a tree (note

the reference to a stump), God would bring a shoot from the line of David and his father, Jesse.

It is from this stump of Jesse that the shoot would spring—someone from the line of David. God was promising to bring about new life (a shoot) from something dead (a stump) in order to remain faithful to His promise to the son of Jesse, King David. No matter how hopeless the situation seemed, God promised to be faithful.

God's greatest gift to David would be given hundreds of years after Isaiah prophesied. God would send His own Son to be born into the line of David. This King would be a true shepherd who would guide, protect, and care for the people who followed Him. He would be the ultimate King by choosing to place the needs of His people above His own and through sacrificing Himself for the sins of the world.

II. ANTICIPATE A SPIRIT-FILLED KING WHO WILL BRING GOD'S JUSTICE (vss. 2-5)

The shoot from the stump of Jesse would have Spirit-filled wisdom beyond comprehension. Isaiah said that the Spirit of the Lord would rest upon this King. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding belong to Him. The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord belong to Him. These are the qualities that Solomon wrote about in Proverbs. They are necessary for the king who would possess true discernment to rule.

- *What is wisdom?* The practical application of knowledge, the ability to maneuver through life and difficult situations with success.
- *What is understanding?* Discernment, the ability to choose between the best of options and to see right from wrong.
- *What is counsel?* The ability to pass wisdom on to others.

The shoot from the stump of Jesse is wise, brave, and capable of guiding people through life. He is the king who can make the most difficult of decisions for the greater good of His people. The Spirit of the Lord rests on Him. He is different from all kings prior to Him, and no king will ever succeed Him.

Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophecy in every way. According to John 1:17, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. He is our perfect judge, full of both grace and truth.

When Christ died for us on the cross, it was the completion of the justice of God. He interceded on our behalf and experienced the full wrath of God on the cross. It was there that the justice of God was completely satisfied. Our sin needed to be punished, and it was. The death of Jesus on the cross was the ultimate demonstration of justice *and* mercy. By taking on our full penalty on the cross, those who put their trust in Christ are justified and therefore freed from sin.

III. ANTICIPATE A KING WHO WILL BRING REDEMPTION AND ESTABLISH A PEOPLE (vss. 6-10)

Nature can be brutal, but humans can act in savage ways also, just one of the unfortunate consequences of our world of sin. Thankfully, as noted in Isaiah's prophecy, humans will live in peace. Isaiah 11:9 says that no one will harm or destroy one another on God's holy mountain. What a beautiful picture of peace that is promised for the people of God!

God is establishing a people for Himself through Christ. Titus 2:14 tells us, "[Jesus] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." This means we have been purchased and set aside by Christ and for Him alone. We who are in Christ are His possession; we are His people.

Not only has He claimed us for His own, but He is coming back to establish a visible kingdom. The peaceful kingdom described in Isaiah 11 is a prophecy about Christ's future reign. Verse 10 reminds us that all nations will seek Him, and His resting place will be glorious.

Other passages describe the final state of humanity. In Revelation 22, we see the future kingdom where the tree of life resides. The leaves of this tree are "for the healing of the nations ... no longer will there be anything accursed (vv. 2-3). Christ will be seated on His throne in this kingdom, and everything will function as it was meant to when it was created. The world will be free from the effects of sin, and we who follow Christ will be there as well. It is a beautiful and glorious place that God has in store for us!

IV. JESUS IS MORE THAN A BABE IN A MANGER; IF HE IS KING IN OUR HEARTS WE CAN HAVE PEACE THROUGH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

The gift of Jesus in the manger means that all of us can experience His leadership if we are genuinely born again. We KNOW that as time winds down to the end of the age, there is coming a time where His absolute rule over mankind and His creation will be complete. In the midst of the worst of times, IF we know the truth about Jesus' rule we can get through this life. Now I say that not for us just to "consume that upon ourselves." This is not just about us and what we get or receive. But PRAISE THE LORD that the birth of Jesus means that we have a Lord Jesus tempted in every way just as we are and yet He is without sin! He is the Unique God-Man. And that means we can have HIS STRENGTH in all and through all things. Hallelujah WHAT A SAVIOR KING! Christmas means we are not alone. GLORY!

V. THERE CAN BE NO NEUTRAL GROUND ABOUT JESUS

The prophet Isaiah said he would be THE King who would reign. Folks, we cannot play with this Gift from God! I do not know about you, but I NEED HIS LEADERSHIP IN MY LIFE! I am thankful for the King who came as a baby so He could know me and my temptations and yet be from God so He could lead me in the way everlasting. The prophet Isaiah said this Jesus is THE KING of the ages. He now reigns in our hearts through the implanted Holy Spirit and His Word. Now hear this: if Jesus is not your King NOW, He will not be your King in the earthly kingdom to come. You see this simple

baby born on Christmas morn means that each of us has to decide! Each of us must make up our heart and minds what we are going to do with this baby/KING! And friends, there is no such thing as a halfway King! I do not know about you, but this Christmas morning I want to do the following:

1. THANK GOD FOR SENDING WHAT I NEEDED – A SAVIOR KING
2. OBEY MY SAVIOR KING JESUS THIS COMING YEAR AND MAKE A GENUINE DIFFERENCE FOR HIM
3. OPEN MY HEART TO CORRECTION, WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, AND COUNSEL FROM MY KING
4. HAVE MORE INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH MY SAVIOR KING
5. REST IN KNOWING THAT IF I (YOU) WERE THE ONLY PERSON TO LIVE ON PLANET EARTH THAT ALMIGHTY GOD WOULD HAVE SENT THIS SAVIOR KING FOR ME (YOU) – I WANT TO REST IN HIS LOVE FOR ME – and may that break me and continue to touch me daily
6. LEARN MORE FROM HIM ABOUT THE GOSPEL AND THE DEPTHS OF HIS WORD
7. TELL OTHERS WHAT THEY CAN EXPERIENCE IF THEY REPENT AND TRUST IN THIS SAVIOR KING
8. SOMETHING VERY PERSONAL: I WANT MY GRANDCHILDREN TO SEE JESUS IN ME – I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT JESUS IS REAL BECAUSE THEY SAW A REAL JESUS WORKING ON AND THROUGH THEIR PAW PAW – I WANT MY GRANDCHILDREN TO SEE ME GLAD FOR THE BIRTH OF A SAVIOR KING EACH AND EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE

Oh friend, we only have so much time left here. What are we going to do with it? I am grateful for this church. But, my

friends, CHRISTMAS OUGHT TO GIVE US AN URGENCY FOR JESUS! I pray that that Baby Jesus would crush our old way of life and bring new life to us. Oh, may the Lord use us this coming year. May we see the purity and holiness of the Savior King and allow Him to prune us for His Calling in our lives. And as a result of His Grace ... MAY THIS HIS CHURCH GROW FOR HIS GLORY.

CONCLUSION

God has been establishing a kingdom from the beginning, and His kingdom is fully realized through the gospel. We have been redeemed as the people of God through Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Now we are called to go and spread the news of our unlikely King and His kingdom.

Christmas is a time when we look at the coming of Christ. First, we look at Jesus' coming in the past, when the Son of God became man and offered Himself for our redemption. Second, we look forward to the future coming of Jesus, when He will return to our world as the King who brings God's redemptive justice.

In the meantime, we ought to tell the world the news of a Savior who, through the Spirit, comes into the hearts and lives of those who repent and believe in the gospel. In this time between Jesus' two comings, let's take the gospel to the people around us that Christ might come into their lives and bring salvation.

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