

## Isaiah 11

*Chris Harrod*

***“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” Isaiah 11:1***

Things don't seem to be going according to plan. In fact, it seems like maybe there isn't a plan after all! As we turn to this passage, we see that Israel is at a low point. What once was a great and mighty kingdom under David the son of Jesse is now described merely as a stump. This is not a thriving tree, planted by water and bearing fruit, but it's a tree that has been cut down and seemingly dead. God's promise to David that his kingdom would last forever seems so far away.

At this point in time, most of Israel and their kings have rejected and turned away from God to worship and serve other gods. Because of this, God is sending an army against Israel to carry out His judgment for their wickedness, and this army is now marching towards them. But as we begin to question, God makes a promise. From the stump, the stump that seemed so lifeless, God promises that one day a branch will come shooting up.

In verse 2, Isaiah describes this branch as one who is full of the Spirit. Unlike the evil kings of Israel, this descendant of Jesse will be one who fears the Lord and delights in Him (v. 3). He will be a good king, who judges fairly and rightly (v. 4-5). And when he comes, there will be peace. Peace that seems almost too good to be true! Wolves and lambs will sit together, lions will sit with their prey, and children will play by the holes with snakes without harm (v. 6-9)!

And just when we think it couldn't get any better, we get to the climax of God's promise. Isaiah says there will be peace because “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (v. 9). What a thought! In that day, Israel and all the nations of the earth will come to Him and know Him. They will come to Him because He is glorious. After all, He is not just the branch of Jesse, but Isaiah says that He is also the root (v. 10)! What God promises is not just a deliverer from the armies coming towards Israel, but God is promising a king who will be ruler over everything.

We have seen and know that this promised branch and root of Jesse is our King Jesus. Jesus came among us as a child, lived a sinless life and was filled with the Spirit, died on the cross to pay for our wickedness, rose from the dead in power, and reigns in glory. He is our King, and He is worthy of all our praise! He is the one in whom all peoples can be saved.

As you reflect during this Advent season, take some time to rejoice and praise God for sending his promised son Jesus to save us. Even in hardship, when things aren't going as planned, you can trust that God has made a promise to make all things right. One day He will return, and we will live in perfect peace. One day we will join all the other tribes, tongues, and languages of the earth before the Root and Branch and worship Him. Until that day comes, let's be a people that are trusting in His promises and proclaiming His name to the ends of the earth.