

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 3:37 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Isaiah 11-12

"And 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 the fear of the Lord!" (Isaiah 11:2)

Remember our lesson (two weeks ago) on Isaiah 10, where Isaiah noted, for the fourth time, that the anger of the Lord would "still" not turn away from Israel--this time because of the way their leaders were "perverting the justice that was in place in the Mosaic legal system"! And failed to repent! And so, Isaiah said that God was "commissioning" the Assyrians to become "the rod of His anger," and "the staff of His indignation" against a "godless nation" and the "people of His fury"! And that would be Israel! But he added that when God had completed His work with them, He would punish the arrogant heart of the Assyrian king (King Sennacherib) for his haughtiness and mistaken belief that he could do to "Jerusalem and her images" just as he had done to "Samaria and her idols," and to other nations, "by the power of his hand"! And so, the Lord, speaking through Isaiah, assured His people that they didn't have to fear the Assyrians (though they still did!) who were coming with fierce forces from the north, conquering city after city, but would be halted by God at a place called Nob (a place about a mile or so from the city of Jerusalem)! God would send "a wasting disease among their stout warriors" and their army would be "whittled down to a small number and be cut down like the thickets of a forest," (and become a "dead stump"!) by Israel's Mighty God! And a remnant of Israel and of those of the house of Jacob who escaped "would (one day!) never rely on the one who struck them, but on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel"!

In Isaiah 11 we see Isaiah again looking beyond the dark days of the divided kingdom of Israel, beyond the threat of the Assyrians and coming Babylonian captivity, and beyond all the grief and hardships that would follow to "a day" in the future when "a shoot would spring forth from the stem (or "stump") of Jesse" and "a branch from his roots would bear fruit"!

The Hebrew word for "root" implies a root that remains over time, that springs up (eventually!) and produces a "shoot" or a "branch"--in this case a descendant of Jesse who would assume the throne of David, in accordance with God's covenant with David in II Samuel 7:12-16 (that "God would raise up a descendant after him who would establish throne of his kingdom forever")!

But at the time Isaiah was writing this, God's judgment was heavy on Israel (with the coming Babylonian captivity, among other things), and the "Davidic covenant" seemed decimated, with nothing left but a seemingly lifeless "stump"! And yet Isaiah prophesies that this dead, decaying stump would one day bring forth new life--in the birth of the Messiah!

Constable notes that the reference to the "humble" Jesse, rather than to the "glorious" David, stresses God's grace in providing a Deliverer from a lowly family! As a shepherd from Bethlehem, Jesse occupied a relatively humble station in life! (Interestingly, Saul often used the phrase "the son of Jesse) to refer to David in a derogatory way!)

Isaiah would later (in Isaiah 53) identify this descendant of Jesse's as One who would "grow up before Him (God the Father) as a tender shoot...like a root out of parched ground...with no stately

form or majesty...despised and forsaken of men...smitten of God and afflicted...as a lamb that is led to the slaughter..." Who we now recognize (and Scripture would authenticate) as Jesus Christ, our Savior, who came in His first advent to suffer and die on the cross for our sin!

This is not the Jesus Isaiah "saw" and prophesied about in Isaiah 11!

Isaiah looked beyond the first advent of Christ in Isaiah 11 to His second advent when He would come to judge the world and set up an earthly kingdom--when "the government would be on His shoulders" and the "Spirit of the Lord would rest upon Him," and He would rule in righteousness and justice! And Isaiah goes on to prophecy that "the earth would be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" and "in that day the nations would resort to the root of Jesse"! (The Messiah Israel was still looking for during Christ's earthly ministry!)

The prophet Ezekiel picks up this same theme (in Ezekiel 37:24-27) --"My servant David will be king over them, and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them...and they will be My people, and the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, and My sanctuary is in their midst forever!"

Jeremiah writes (in Jeremiah 33:14-16): "Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness'!"

Isaiah proceeds (in verses 6-16) to describe what the world will be like in that day, which matches with other prophecies in the Bible concerning a glorious "millennial kingdom" to come! (All of which would be impossible to achieve without the first advent of Christ, which Isaiah at this point doesn't address!)

- How, in that day, "the wolf and the lamb...and the leopard and the young goat...and the calf and the young lion will dwell together"--securely! (Signifying a return to "paradise" on earth as it was in the garden before sin entered!)
- How, "in that day, the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord; and the nations will resort to the root of Jesse"!
- How Judah and Ephraim will be reunited, and "a remnant" will be restored, and "the dispersed of Judah will be re-gathered from the four corners of the earth"!
- How waterways will be reconfigured and a "highway from Assyria" established (removing any physical barriers that might hinder the return of His people)!

All of which sets up the "song of the redeemed" in Isaiah 12--with the focus of the song centered on God Himself! (Like the songs the children of Israel sang in Exodus 15 after their deliverance from Egypt! Or, as MacArthur notes, the earthly counterpart to the still-to-come heavenly doxology in Revelation 1:6-7--"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns!")

Isaiah 12:2 says it best: "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation!"

Don't miss the seven imperatives of verses 4-6 which, while featured for "in that day," apply just as much for us today, including the admonitions to "give thanks to the Lord...to call upon His name...and make known His deeds among the peoples...and to shout for joy"!

And Isaiah's closing affirmation! "Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel!"

How great is His salvation!

Lowell