

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #19

Isaiah 11:1-16

During World War II, a plant near Des Moines, Iowa was built to manufacture machine gun bullets for the war. If you visit that same plant today, you will discover that it became the John Deere factory that produces John Deere tractors. Here is one literal illustration of “swords” becoming “ploughshares.” In almost every circus that has ever existed, there has always been an attempt to produce a big happy family of lions and tigers and elephants. Animal trainers spend lifetimes trying to get dangerous animals to not be so dangerous. This idea of “swords becoming ploughshares” or “dangerous animals becoming one big happy family” comes from the Bible and it specifically comes from a Latin noun we call the Millennium. And the Millennium is what Isaiah was permitted to see in **Isaiah 11**.

Isaiah 11 is one of those unique chapters in the Bible that has caught the attention of every serious Bible student who has ever studied the Scriptures. What is actually described in this chapter is prophetically amazing.

There is certainly no place in history, with the exception of the Garden of Eden before the fall, where anything like what is written in this prophecy has ever been in existence, neither in the world and especially in Israel’s land. The things described here did not happen in Israel’s land when Isaiah was on earth, nor when Jesus was on earth, nor when Paul was on earth and they certainly haven’t happened in our lifetime since we have been on earth.

What is actually described in these verses is like reading about an Israeli fairytale. What is described here is a universal utopia, a universal “shalom.” For Israel, **Isaiah 11** is an amazing dream come true. What is described here is a time when **the worldly earth is transformed into a heavenly earth**. Israel is in her land and it is glorious. What is described here is what Israel has always wanted. It is what she has looked for and longed for and in this portion of Isaiah’s prophecy she gets a glimpse of what life for her as a nation will one day be.

In the previous chapters in Isaiah, we have been given several glimpses of what will happen on earth pertaining to Israel during the Great Tribulation . It is overwhelming. It is scary and if that was it, it would leave Israel without any hope . But in this section, God gives Israel some amazing hope. He permits her to go beyond the Tribulation and beyond the time of Jacob’s trouble and lets her see what life will be like on in her land after the Tribulation. As Dr. C. I. Scofield said, “This chapter is a prophetic picture of the glory of the future kingdom, which will be set up when David’s Son returns in glory” (*New Scofield Reference Bible*, Isaiah 11:1, p. 935). The point is this:

ISRAEL’S DELIVERER, JESUS CHRIST, WILL EVENTUALLY PHYSICALLY RETURN TO ISRAEL A SECOND TIME AND WILL MAKE ISRAEL AND HER LAND AND THE ENTIRE WORLD A GLORIOUS PLACE FULL OF GOD’S BLESSINGS.

The Assyrian Empire would fall. The Babylonian Empire would fall. The Persian Empire would fall. The Greece Empire would fall. The revived Roman, Antichrist Empire will fall. These empires that at one time were so lofty and arrogant and proud will all come tumbling down. They will all cease to exist. **However, there is a world empire that will be established that will never fall and that will be God's Empire.** Isaiah was given prophetic insight concerning this Divine Empire and it is thrilling.

As we travel down through this amazing section of Scripture there is precise data we learn about Jesus Christ. There are five amazing prophetic facts we want to see:

PROPHETIC FACT #1 – Israel's reigning Christ will come with a specific size and seed .
11:1

The adverb "then" which begins **verse 1** means that after God would topple all the big trees and powers of the world, there would be a surviving small shoot that would make it through all of the dominating dispensations. In contrast to the massive power of the Assyrians or Antichrist, this little surviving group would be out of Jesse and would be Davidic and would eventually rule the world. The One who would come from this Davidic line would be able to produce unbelievable fruitfulness in the land of Israel. He would be able to turn a small stem in Israel into an amazing fruit-producing branch.

Now what immediately catches our eye is that the reference is to ' Jesse ,' not 'David.' Why is that? Because of a very important prophetic point and that is **when this event actually happens, the royal line of David will have regressed back to the time when Jesse, not David, was its representative.** David's Throne will be next to nothing. As John Calvin said the rank of the family will have "sunk low" (*Isaiah*, Vol. 7, p. 372). In 586 B.C., when Babylon conquered Jerusalem, the Davidic Kingdom pretty much seemed to disappear and for the most part is pretty much gone even to this very day.

When you look at present Israel, we must conclude this precisely fits Jerusalem at this very hour. Certainly there is no one from David's line sitting on a kingly throne in Jerusalem right now, ruling the world. In fact, what is actually happening in Israel right now is that they are arguing about who should lead them. Most Jews today don't even know what family line they are in. When God fulfills this prophecy, there will be no argument about who should lead them; it will be Jesus Christ.

When you carefully check the O.T. or the N.T., there is no doubt that Jesus Christ is the One who is predicted to reign as a Davidic King. It is clearly spelled out in passage after passage. His kingly humanity will have come through the line of King David - (II Samuel 7:12; Psalm 132:11; **Isaiah 11:1**; Matthew 1:1; Romans 1:3; Revelation 5:5).

The specific Biblical lineage for the reigning King is Davidic. He comes from the line of David and from David's father, Jesse, which is clearly stated by Matthew (Matthew 1:6). By bringing this point up, we know that Jesus Christ has full authority to reign in Jerusalem and to sit on the Davidic Throne as King of Kings. God's covenant established that one would sit on David's throne who would reign forever (II Samuel 7:16) and that One is none other than Jesus Christ.

PROPHETIC FACT #2 – Israel’s reigning Christ will have a special anointing of God’s Sovereign Spirit . **11:2-3**

Some Jewish interpreters read these verses and conclude that He cannot be God because if He were God, He would not need what is described here. Why, they ask, would God need the “Spirit of the LORD” resting on Him? **Our answer to this is to show precisely that He is God** . It is clearly predicted in many O.T. prophecies that it will be God reigning in Jerusalem. For example, Zephaniah 3:14-15 says, “Shout for joy ... O Israel ... **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst.**” The reigning King in Israel’s midst is the LORD, Jehovah.

When you carefully look through these next verses you cannot help but see that Jesus Christ will reign in Sovereign/Human Person . You may conclude this by seeing the emphasis on normal human organs: eyes (**v. 3**); ears (**v. 3**); mouth (**v. 4**); breath (**v. 4**); lips (**v. 4**); loins (**v. 5**); waist (**v. 5**).

We know from many passages of Scripture that The Spirit’s connection to Jesus Christ is very special and unique when He is actually physically here on earth (Matthew 3:16; Luke 2:40; 4:1, 14, 18; John 3:34). It is far above and beyond any Spirit relationship that exists with any prophet, priest or king or believer, because you have two members of the Godhead on earth working at the same time. You have the Divine Holy Spirit, working in harmony on earth with the Divine Holy Son. Jehovah’s Spirit is on Jehovah’s Person/King. That is why when Jesus was physically here on earth, it was possible to actually “blaspheme the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 12:31-32).

During the glorious reign of Jesus Christ on earth, there will be a very unique connection between God the Son and God the Spirit. Obviously, there has always been a Divine connection between every member of the Trinity, but during this time, that relationship apparently will take on a new specific dimension, just as it did when Christ was here the first time. He will bring special demonstration of God’s attributes, in Person, to this world. He will do amazing things which display God’s glory in amazing ways. He will judge Israel, He will judge the nations, He will restructure the world and relationships.

Jesus Christ will reign as King of Kings, in harmony with the Holy Spirit and will especially manifest six amazing Divine Attributes.

Any political leader who would actually purpose to attempt to manifest any form of these attributes would discover their constituents would be greatly blessed. **However, these are six Deity levels described here.**

(Divine Attribute #1) - Jesus Christ will manifest a divine level of wisdom . **11:2a**

The wisdom of God founded the earth and established the heavens (Proverbs 3:19; 8:27). These three members of the Trinity possessed this wisdom before any thing was created (Proverbs 8:22). Then these same three members went to work on creating all things (Genesis 1; John 1; Colossians 1). When Jesus Christ reigns in Jerusalem that Divine Trinitarian wisdom will be on display. Israel will see it and so will the whole world.

(Divine Attribute #2) - Jesus Christ will manifest a divine level of understanding. **11:2b**

Jesus Christ will have and demonstrate a perfection of understanding about everything. He will demonstrate God's level of understanding in every situation on every subject. He will show how to analyze and scrutinize various things at a Divine level and will never make a wrong calculation.

(Divine Attribute #3) - Jesus Christ will manifest a divine level of counsel. **11:2c**

When Jesus Christ reigns, He will display how the Word of God is able to give counsel and guidance to every possible situation and circumstance and be able to harmonize everything in view of the plan of God.

(Divine Attribute #4) - Jesus Christ will manifest a divine level of strength. **11:2d**

The power of God that will be displayed in the Millennium will be something stupendous. Jesus Christ will demonstrate all power and might in carrying out the Will of God.

(Divine Attribute #5) - Jesus Christ will manifest a divine level of knowledge. **11:2e**

Jesus Christ will display all of the knowledge of God, which will be totally and completely consistent with God's Word and will throughout all of time.

(Divine Attribute #6) - Jesus Christ will manifest a divine level of a fear of the LORD.
11:2f-3a

Jesus Christ will promote and fear of the LORD. There will be a reverence for God during the Millennium that has never been seen in this world ever. In fact, He will delight in making the fear of the LORD known all over the world.

What an amazing display of God's glory will be seen when God the Son and God the Spirit are displaying these things out of Jerusalem for all the world to see.

PROPHETIC FACT #3 – Israel's reigning Christ will judge with shrewd supervision.
11:3b-5

The first time Jesus Christ came to this earth, He did not come to judge but to save. The next time He comes to this earth, He will come to judge. There is coming a day when Jesus Christ will rule the world and everyone in it as judge and jury. When Christ comes, there will be many judgments He will make: 1) judgment of Israel, 2) a judgment of the nations and then 1000 years later, 3) the Great White Throne Judgment. All throughout the Millennium He will judge because He is the Judge.

When you look at **verse 4**, it is prophetically intriguing, because when He comes to judge, He will find His people "poor"; He will find the world "afflicted" by the Tribulation, which He Himself set in motion via breaking the seals (Revelation 6:1). It is also revealed that He will slay the wicked, which not only includes people, but the wicked Antichrist and False Prophet (Revelation 19:20).

What we certainly learn in these verses is that when Jesus Christ judges, he will not judge on the basis of appearances or images. There will be no favoritism shown in any of His judgments. No one will be able to hire an elite corps of defense attorneys. Monetary status won't mean a thing at the judgment of Jesus Christ. There are four judgment facts brought out:

(Judgment Fact #1) - His judgments will be righteous. **11:4a** - total conformity to God's Word

(Judgment Fact #2) - His judgments will be fair. **11:4b** - totally equitable to what is deserved

(Judgment Fact #3) - His judgments will be ferocious. **11:4c** - God's judgment eliminates evil

(Judgment Fact #4) - His judgments will be faithful. **11:5** - His judgments are faithful and true

When you have a true fear of God, your desire will be to make proper judgments.

PROPHETIC FACT #4 – Israel's reigning Christ will create a Sovereign serenity. **11:6-9**

What is described in these verses is something the church cannot ever accomplish no matter how hard they try. No human government can accomplish this; in fact, what is described here must be produced by God. Artists have tried to capture these verses in drawings and many have thought about a world like this in history, but it will not happen until Christ returns and sets up this Kingdom in Israel, which time is described in Revelation 20:1-6.

The prophet Hosea predicted that there will come a day when God will make a peace covenant with Israel and the entire animal world (Hosea 2:18) and that is described right here.

Do not make the mistake that so many make here and say this must be some symbolic tranquility but not literal tranquility. What is described in these verses is an amazing and even miraculous level of world peace and harmony. **It is to be taken and interpreted literally.** This is the moment that Paul spoke of, when the "groaning" of all creation will be over (Romans 8:21). The Adamic curse will be lifted from the world and there will be total harmony between everything and everyone, both young and old.

The specific animals mentioned here are the deadly animals that were known to potentially be in Palestine. That is why you do not read about alligators, crocodiles or tigers. Certainly God wants Israel to know that one day her land will be totally blessed and totally peaceful. However, based on what we read in **verse 9**, "the earth," we believe these eight features will be seen all over the world:

(Feature #1) - A wolf will dwell with a lamb. **11:6a**

(Feature #2) - A leopard will dwell with a goat. **11:6b**

(Feature #3) - A calf will dwell with a young lion. **11:6c**

What this means is that the predatory and carnivorous nature is gone.

(Feature #4) - A little boy will be able to lead them all. **11:6d**

We learn something important here and that is during the millennium, man will still have dominance over the animal world. But this is an amazing level of tranquility when see that these wild beasts are happy and ready to obey a little child.

(Feature #5) - A cow will graze with a bear. **11:7a**

(Feature #6) - All the young animals will lie down together. **11:7b**

(Feature #7) - A lion will eat straw. **11:7c**

(Feature #8) - A little baby will play near deadly snakes. **11:8**

There are two types of deadly snakes mentioned here but neither is any threat to the little baby. We see a very important principle here and that is until God's righteousness reigns on this earth, this world is deadly dangerous for a little child. The environment described here is amazing. Today, you cannot let a little child go outside for fear of great harm coming to it. A child may be taken, stolen, molested or killed. But not so during the Millennium. Little children will be totally safe. This is truly the Kingdom time when the "meek have inherited the earth."

Christ's reign will not only create peace between Israel and all nations of the world, it will affect the animal world as it relates to other animals and as it relates to the human world. This will be an amazing display of Messianic power.

Why will life be so wonderful on earth? **Verse 9** gives you the answer; because "**the earth is full of the knowledge of God**" (see also **Habakkuk 2:14**). When Jesus Christ reigns, the earth will not be like it is now in that it tries to remove as much knowledge of God as it possibly can. The earth will be filled with God's knowledge. Jeremiah says "all will know the LORD" (Jeremiah 31:34). Joel says God will pour out His Spirit on "all mankind" (Joel 2:28). Life on this earth will be glorious when Jesus Christ reigns; it will be full of the knowledge of God.

PROPHETIC FACT #5 – Israel's reigning Christ restores Israel with reigning signs.
11:10-16

The "in that day" formula (**verse 10**) is a prophetic reference to the time when Jesus Christ will return again to reign and it has specific time reference to the Tribulation which precedes it.

Sign #1 - All the nations of the world will honor Jesus Christ and Israel. **11:10**

When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth, there will be an amazing unity in the world and an amazing esteem of Israel. Gentiles will share in the peace and the power and the blessings of the Millennium. Jesus Christ will be the central attraction of the whole world.

The whole world will be drawn to this “root of Jesse,” Jesus Christ. **He will stand for all people of the world to see that God is with Israel and God is in Israel.** He was lifted up on a cross (John 3:14; 12:32) and all the world, both Jews and Gentiles, will honor Him.

Sign #2 - Christ will gather all of His people from all over the world like a second Exodus. **11:11-12**

Notice this regathering will be a second (**11:11**) gathering. The deliverance of Israel from Egypt at the first gathering was miraculous and dramatic. There is a second deliverance that will be even more miraculous and more dramatic. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. some 48 years after the Babylonian captivity, they did not return from the four corners of the earth; but there is coming a day when she will. When Israel became a nation in 1948, many saw this as the beginning of this, and in some respects it was but in many respects it wasn't. What 1948 did was it brought Israel back to a land that eventually the Antichrist will chase her out of. **The deliverance described here is a miraculous deliverance that will occur at the end of the Tribulation which will be more dramatic than the Exodus.**

During Isaiah's day, Assyria was the biggest threat. To the south were Egypt, Pathros and Cush; to the northeast was Elam and Shinar; and to the northwest was Syria and the Mediterranean Sea and islands. From these places, Jews have scattered all over the world. Jesus Christ will regather all of His people a second time from all scattered places.

During the Tribulation, Jews will be dispersed all over the world. In fact, Jesus told Israel that when she sees the Abomination of Desolation take place, she needs to flee the area as fast as she can (Matthew 24:15-18). The Antichrist will try and rid the world of the Jews and they will literally flee to the “four corners of the earth,” north, south, east and west.

The promise here is that Jesus Christ will perform a major miracle for Israel a second time. He will gather His people and bring them into the Promise Land to experience all of His blessings. The standard that will be lifted up will be Jesus Christ Himself!

Sign #3 - Christ will gather all Jews from the north and the south and there will be no more hostility between them. **11:13**

Ever since the days of Jeroboam there has been a great schism in Israel. That will all change when Jesus Christ returns. All Jews will love each other and get along and live together as the nation of God.

Sign #4 - Christ will see to it that all of Israel's surrounding enemy nations are subject to Israel. **11:14**

I want you to notice who is specifically named in this verse, “Edom, Moab, Ammon.” God has preserved these very people ever since the days of Moses (Deuteronomy 2:5, 19) and Daniel (Daniel 11:41). God is preserving them because **there will be a group of Arabs, who will survive the Tribulation who will eventually become subject to Israel. There will come a day when Israel will be the esteemed nation of God and will control every inch of the Promised Land.**

Sign #5 - Christ will miraculously make the route for all Israel to return to her land. **11:15-16**

God will create a superhighway that makes it possible for every Jew to get into the Land from every location (Isaiah 40:3-4; 42:15-16; 49:11).

God will remove every obstacle so that His people can get back to their land (Isaiah 57:14). We get a glimpse here of where many of them will physically hide out during the Tribulation. There will be many in Egypt, by the tongue of the Nile and many in Iraq and apparently some in Iran. The geographical changes mentioned here are solely for the welfare of Israel.

A very practical theme that shows up in Isaiah is that when His people walk on a righteous path, God makes the road smooth (Isaiah 26:7-8).

Notice that the LORD (Jehovah) does this and since the One actually doing this is Jesus Christ, He is Jehovah, He is God.

There is coming a day when all the nations of the world will look to Israel as the place where God's Presence, Power and Person resides. Jesus Christ will regather Israel from all over the world and bring her to this sacred place in Jerusalem. As one commentator observed, the nation that Isaiah saw as so sinful will one day be a highway of holiness leading to a righteous Kingdom of God.

What an amazing prediction. What an amazing Kingdom. What an amazing God. Here is the true application of the prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come." Israel, that has been a suffering people, a scattered people, will one day be a saved people.

Would you like to get into this Kingdom? Would you like to experience all of this and see all of this? You need a ticket to get in. The ticket you need will take you on a round trip - to heaven and then back to earth to see this and share this. The ticket you need is Jesus Christ. If you will believe on Jesus Christ then all of your eternal dreams will come true.