

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 28

Title: The Lord's Hand is Set

Scripture: Isaiah 11v10-16

Date: 4-26 -09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

In Isaiah 11: 10 the Lord tells us what he is about to show us in the remaining verses of this chapter: **And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.**

We do not have to speculate as to who or what the LORD is declaring to us in this passage because the apostle Paul tells us, quoting this very verse: **Romans 15: 8: Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers: 9: And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy...12: And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.**

Be sure you get Romans 15: 8, 9. Jesus Christ was a minister to his elect Jews--the circumcision (v8.) His message was the truth of God--the gospel (v8.) The reason he ministered the gospel to his elect Jews was to fulfill his covenant which he made unto the fathers--Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v8.) God's promise to the fathers was that in Christ, from among the children of Abraham, he would save those whom he had everlastingly loved, that none would be lost and that in Christ a people in the whole earth would be blessed (Gen 22: 16-18.) So when he walked this earth, Christ Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, began ministering to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And that, because through those disciples from the house of Israel, the gospel might come to his elect Gentiles so that they, too, might believe on Christ--glorify God for his mercy (v9.) Paul tells us that the LORD God declared this very thing through Isaiah (v12.) He quotes our text as confirmation.

**Proposition:** In our text in Isaiah, God is declaring how he will call his elect out of Israel and Judah and then use them to call in the fullness of the Gentiles, thus finishing his work of saving his people out of this world through the gospel.

**Isaiah 11: 11: The Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people...v16: And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.**

A. At first glance, it appears that God the Holy Spirit points back to the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt to declare the future of what God shall do spiritually in saving his people from the bondage of sin into his glorious rest.

1. The first time the LORD God sent forth his prophet Moses, and his high priest, Aaron, and revealed himself to be King over Pharaoh. The second time the LORD God sent forth our Prophet, Priest and King, Christ Jesus the Lord, declaring himself Lord of lords and King of kings of heaven above and of this whole world of Egypt.

2. The first time the LORD God provided a lamb to each of the houses in Israel, he passed by those houses because they were under the blood of his lamb. The second time the LORD provided his Lamb, his own Son, Christ Jesus the Lord, and passed over those who are under the glorious blood of Christ--*upon all, the glory shall be for a defense* (Is 4: 5.)

3. The first time the LORD dried up the Red Sea so the people could go across. The second time he dried up the sea of wrath and judgment by satisfying justice in his Son.

4. The first time his rest was temporary but the second time his rest shall be glorious. **Hebrews 4: 8: For if Jesus [Johsua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9: There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.**

BUT THERE IS MORE REVEALED HERE THAN MERELY LOOKING AT THE DELIVERANCE OUT OF EGYPT AS BEING THE FIRST TIME THE LORD SET FORTH HIS HAND.

Truly, our Lord Jesus Christ set his hand the first time when he came to where we are, lived perfectly, fulfilling the law of God and then as the Substitute of his people was raised up on the cross to satisfy justice and bring in an everlasting righteousness for us (So it is declared in Is 11: 1-9. Verse 10 begins speaking of the resurrection side of Christ's work.) Now our Lord Jesus Christ is raised from the dead--the Ensign. He is now setting forth his hand a second time as he assembles his church, and is separating his redeemed through the gospel from this Egypt.

## I. CHRIST THE LORD IS GATHERING HIS ELECT FROM HIS THRONE IN GLORY!

**Isaiah 11: 11: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.**

A. This word "recover" says it all. It means to buy, to possess, and to redeem.

1. Christ redeemed the remnant of his people when he set forth his hand the first time.

**Acts 20:28: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

**I Peter 1: 18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21: Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

2. Christ shall redeem us out of this world of time into eternity. This we come to know when Christ sets forth his hand of power and grace within us the second time.

**Ephesians 1: 13:...ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

B. Before we go further, it will help to bear in mind that God's elect people are not all the Jews, but a remnant out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people on this earth. The nations listed in this verse from which the LORD promises to deliver the remnant of his people, actually describes who God's elect remnant is

1. Let's look at these countries:

- The Assyrians were the descendents of Asshur, the son of Shem, Asshur was the grandson of Noah.
- The Cushites were the descendants of Cush the son of Ham, Cush was the grandson of Noah.
- The Elamites were the descendants of Elam the son of Shem, Elam was the grandson of Noah.

This tells us something very important. Looking back we learn that all of these were born of one, Noah, after he had passed through the sea of judgment. Looking forward, the Holy Spirit declares so shall the remnant of my people be--all shall be born of One, Christ Jesus the Lord, who after he has passed through the waters of judgment shall set forth his hand a second time.

2. By looking at Pathros in upper Egypt, Shinar in Babylon, Hamath in Syria, and the islands of the sea such as Greece, Italy, Spain and even the America's where we live, we learn that this is the uttermost part of the earth where the Lord Jesus sent his disciples to be witnesses of him. **Acts 1:8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

3. So the LORD is not speaking only of the Jews when he says the "remnant of my people" but he is speaking of his elect remnant made up of both Jew and Gentile scattered throughout all the earth who shall be saved through the preaching of the gospel of Christ as Christ sets forth his hand a second time to gather them in. **Revelation 14: 6: And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7: Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

**Illustration:** After the tornado the people go out looking for their valuables. If the inheritance left to you by your father was scattered by a great storm would you seek to recover it? Why? Because it is YOUR inheritance! Even so, God's elect remnant is his inheritance. He shall set his hand to recover the remnant of his people.

## **II. CHRIST IS GATHERING HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH THROUGH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.**

**Isaiah 11: 12: And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 13: The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14: But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.**

### **A. Christ's Witnesses Bear Witness of Christ our Ensign! V12--he has set up an ensign for the nations.**

1. We saw last time that Christ is the Ensign.
  - The ensign is the banner, the flag, like the stars and stripes of our country.
2. Therefore the LORD has set his hand to assemble his people to hold up the Banner--the Ensign--for the remnant of his people scattered throughout all the nations to see and gather to. Christ seated at God's right hand in heavens glory is the gathering point for all his elect scattered throughout all the earth.

**Illustration:** Moses holding up the rod, a type of holding forth the Ensign through the preaching of the gospel of Christ. Joshua, a type of Christ, won the victory against the Amalekites when the rod was held up. Moses attributed the victory to Jehovah-nissi--the Lord our Banner (Ex 17: 8-16.) Such is this Ensign which the Lord has set up for the nations as he sets forth his hand the second time. Christ assembles those he has called out and gives them the charge to hold up Christ the Ensign through the preaching of the gospel. As the gospel of Christ is preached, Christ draws in others to the Ensign.

**B. The Lord Jesus began this work by assembling his elect remnant from among the Jews by declaring the gospel to his twelve apostles. That is what Paul said when he wrote in Romans that Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God.**

**V12: And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.**

1. This is a description of all God's elect in Adam.
  - Outcasts

- Dispersed

**Jeremiah 50:6: My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.**

2. Yet, the Lord Jesus Christ chose to use "outcasts" and gather in the "dispersed" to do this work. (I Cor 1: 27-29.) So first, Christ had gathered his 12 apostles. Then in **Matthew 10: 5: These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7: And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.** Through those the Lord called out, he gathered many more disciples. Then after he was risen the Lord set forth his hand a second-time, using these had gathered to preach the gospel and thus he gathered 3000 to the Ensign on the day of Pentecost. Then a great number after Pentecost, and so on. This was the gathering of the outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

C. Yet, God's elect remnant in Judah and Israel hated each other. So how would he gather them to this work?

**V13: The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.**

1. When the Holy Spirit gives life and faith in Christ we are joined to Christ and to our brethren in peace. When the gospel makes us one in Christ the love of Christ is shed abroad in the heart--the love of God fills the heart and leaves no room for hatred--by removing the hatred God cuts off our adversaries because he has taken away the power they had over us. We just saw the peace of his kingdom in **v9: 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.**

- Ezekiel 37: 1-28

2. In Christ those believers in Judah no longer envied their brethren in Ephraim and the believer's saved out of Ephraim no longer envied their brethren in Judah. Now they can work together instead of against one another.

**Illustration:** This world claims to be promoting love and peace but it is only strength is hatred and division. Thus the world's gospel only promotes hatred and division among people.

All ambition that is not made by the love of Christ in the heart is selfish, jealous, envy no matter what it claims. Therefore, those who operate from a carnal heart have no true desire to see union and peace and love or else they will have no life, no occupation, no reason to exist.

But when God creates peace in the heart by Christ taking up dominion therein--there is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, bond or free. We throw away our posters of protest and raise one common Banner--Jehovah-nissi! **Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim** but now they will work together.

D. Then After Assembling His Elect Among the Jews the Lord Jesus Uses Them to Preach the Gospel To His Elect Among the Gentiles.

**V14: But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.**

Note: The Philistines, Edom, Moab and the children of Ammon are listed here to signify those outside the camp of Israel, namely Gentiles. If you will study this out you will see that these were all distant relatives of

Abraham. Yet, they were not considered to be of the nation of Israel for the same reason that Abraham was not of the nation of Israel, because they were not born into the Mosaic covenant. But there is an allusion here to the fact that Gentiles, like Jews, are of God's nation--spiritual Israel--the same way Abraham was, by being born into the everlasting covenant of grace.

1. First, we are told that God's elect from Judah and Israel shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west. The Philistines to the west were the sworn enemies of the Israelites. "Flying upon the shoulders means two things: 1) the gospel will conquer the hard hearts of God's elect among the Gentiles; 2) Through the Gentile believers the gospel of Christ will fly like a bird into all parts of the world. So we find in Acts: **8:40: But Philip was found at Azotus: (a city of Palestine) and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea; 10:5: And now send men to Joppa, (in Palestine) and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter; 18:6: And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.**

**Isaiah 66:19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. 20 And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.**

**Matthew 8:11: And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.**

#### E. The Work of Christ Jesus in Setting Forth This Gospel Shall Never Fail

We read in v14: **they shall "spoil them" of the east together: they shall "lay their hand" upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall "obey them."**

1. The spoil are the trophies taken out of the hands of the enemy. God's elect saved by grace are the spoils which Christ shall save out of the hand of the enemy by converting his people through the gospel (Is 5: 26-29.)

2. Laying of their hands signifies power. **Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.** Because Christ Has Set His Hand Through This Gospel The Power is Of God Not of Us.

3. Obedience comes by the revelation of Christ in the heart through the Holy Spirit. **Psalm 87: 4: I will make mention of Rahab (Egypt) and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there.** (Born again, born of the Spirit of God.) I love this! **1 Peter 5:13: The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.**

### **III. THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST OUR GOD SHALL UTTERLY DESTROY ALL OUR ENEMIES AND DELIVER US SAFELY OUT OF THIS EGYPT IN WHICH WE DWELL.**

(In these two verses the Lord summarizes what he just told us.)

**V15: And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16: And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt**

## A. THE TONGUE OF THE EGYPTIAN SEA SHALL UTTERLY BE DESTROYED

1. The Egyptian represents the chief liar and his underling liars. All sin began in the garden with the father of lies.
2. The sea declares that this is a spiritual warfare-- **Ephesians 6:12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places; 2 Co 10:4: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**
3. The tongue represents the voice of falsehoods--in religion and in the philosophy of the world.

## B. CHRIST JESUS THE LORD IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

**Illustration:** Often science seeks to discredit the word of God but only serves to unknowingly glorify the work of Christ. The latest studies have men theorizing that a storm drew the water out of the Red River so that a high ridge in the river was exposed and Israel went across on this high piece of ground. Read these two verses again: **Isaiah 11: 15: And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16: And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.**

1. This is the gospel through which Christ is now setting forth his hand the second time. This is the gospel through which the Holy Spirit exalts Christ, the HIGH WAY, in the hearts of redeemed sinners. The All Powerful Holy God shook his hand the first time over the River of Life. He smote the seven streams--the Perfect Man--the Man who is Seven--Christ Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:21: For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** And just as Moses stretched forth his rod over the red sea so the law of God stretched forth its rod of justice upon Christ Jesus, drying up the waters on behalf of all God's elect. There is now a HIGH WAY for the remnant of his people--CHRIST THE HIGH WAY!
3. Through the Mighty Wind of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ stretches forth his hand a second time from his seat in heaven through the preaching of the gospel and he exalts the HIGH WAY and makes men go over dryshod through faith in him. Now, having seen all this, we can get a little better grasp on what the apostle Paul meant in Romans 11. Christ began with his elect remnant from the house of Israel whom he used to send forth the gospel. Then he flew this gospel upon the shoulders of the Gentiles into all the earth until the fullness of the Gentiles be called out of darkness into his marvelous light. Paul writes in Romans 11: **26: And so [even so or in this manner] all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

**Application:** What will be your song when the Lord Jesus sets forth his hand a second time into your heart? What will be the song in that great day when the Gentiles are completely called in and the work of grace is finished? **Isaiah 12: 1: And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.**

Some think that God's sovereignty is limited when we declare that it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. But seeing this great detail which God promised to bring to pass and is now bringing to pass, I say it magnifies the absolute sovereign hand of God to exalt his Son through the gospel in the hearts of all his elect. May we go forth with this word flying upon our shoulders knowing with confidence that Christ our King has set his hand a second time and his word shall not return void.

