

Isaiah 11-13 “The End in View”

Good evening and thank you for joining us as we continue our vbv study through the book of Isaiah, so would you please turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 11?

I mentioned last week how I’m always struck by the Lord’s timing. Here we are with Christmas just a couple weeks away, and we find ourselves in the book of Isaiah studying some of the most revered OT prophecies of the birth of Jesus. And tonight is no exception.

Tonight we pick up in Isaiah 11, and we’ll study chapters 11-13. And I hope you like prophecy, b/c really tonight is all about prophecy and how Isaiah helps shed light on the book of Revelation. Title of tonight's message is The End in View
Let’s pray

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.: After speaking of cutting down the prideful trees at the end of chapter 10, v1 begins by almost like God looks over the stumps and He causes a Branch to grow out of one of them, the root of the family of Jesse. And remember who was Jesse? King David’s father.

And remember, Jesus did come from the stump of Jesse. The royal authority of the house of David was dormant for 600 years when Jesus came as King and Messiah. When Jesus came forth,

it was like a new green Branch coming from an apparently dead stump.

Now why is Jesus described as a Rod from the stem of Jesse? In using this title, the LORD emphasized the humble nature of the Messiah. Jesse was the much less famous father of King David. It is far humbler to say, “from Jesse” than to say, “from King David.”

Now in the book of Revelation, 4 times it uses the phrase sevenfold Spirit of God. It isn't that there are seven different spirits of God, rather the Spirit of the LORD has these characteristics, and Jesus has them all in fullness and perfection. That phrase, sevenfold Spirit of God again used 4 times in Revelation, comes from here in Isaiah 11 v 2

2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, pause here. The Branch that comes from the apparently dead stump isn't just barely alive. It's full of life, and full of the Spirit of the LORD.

The first aspect of the spirit of the Lord is that the HS was upon Jesus. Jesus didn't have a false spirit or a deceiving spirit, or even the spirit of a man. The Spirit of the LORD God of Israel rests upon the Messiah.

...2 The Spirit of wisdom The Spirit of wisdom is upon the Messiah. Jesus is perfectly wise in all things. **1 Corinthians 1:30**
But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

It isn't just that Jesus has wisdom; He is wisdom.

...2 and understanding, Jesus understands all things, and He understands us perfectly. He is perfectly suited to be our sympathetic High Priest in heaven as we'll study this Sunday!

#4...2 The Spirit of counsel Jesus has perfect counsel to give us at all times. He has both the wisdom and the understanding to be a perfect counselor.

and might, Jesus has the power to do what He desires to do.

#6 The Spirit of knowledge As we saw in our text on Sunday, Jesus knows everything. He knows our hearts and He knows all the facts.

Finally #7... and of the fear of the LORD. Jesus willingly kept Himself in a place of submission, respect, and honor to God the Father.

These seven aspects of the Spirit of God are not the only characteristics of the Holy Spirit. But they are grouped together in a "seven" to show the fullness and perfection of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus.

3-5 describe the perfect character of the Messiah.

3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, Pause here. Nothing pleased Jesus more than doing the will of His Father. John 4:34

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

...3 And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. This reminds us of the scene in Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist. The qualities of righteousness and faithfulness are so close to Jesus they are like belts around His waist. Everything Jesus does is touched by His righteousness and faithfulness.

Revelation 20 speaks of the 1k year reign of Christ, known as the Millennial reign. Now in v6-9 it describes how things will be different when the messiah, Jesus reigns, speaking of the millennial kingdom.

6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;

And a little child shall lead them. When the Messiah reigns, nature will be transformed. There will no longer be predators, and it seems that all animals will be herbivores.

We learn more about this transformation in **Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.**

Nature is waiting for the transformation that will come when Jesus reigns.

7-8

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. A little child will be safe and able to lead a wolf or a leopard or a young lion or a bear. Even the danger of predators like cobras and vipers will be gone. I can't wait to pet a lion!

9 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. When the Messiah reigns, the knowledge of the LORD will cover the entire earth.

10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious.”The glory of the reign of
the Messiah will not only be for the Jewish people but also for the
Gentiles.

In Isaiah 5:26, the banner was used to call the nations to
judgment against Israel. Now the banner calls the nations to the
blessings of the Messiah.

And what’s interesting is we’re about to see during the millennial
reign, a second Exodus will occur.

11-12

11 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 who are left,
From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the islands of the sea.

12 He will set up a banner for the nations,
And will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
And gather together the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.In the reign of the Messiah,
there will be another Exodus of the Jewish people, delivering
them not only from Egypt but from all nations where they have
been dispersed.

13 Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart,
And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not envy Judah,
And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.: In the reign of the Messiah,
the nations will not go to war anymore, Jesus will directly punish
them.

14-16

14 But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines
toward the west;
Together they shall plunder the people of the East;
They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab;
And the people of Ammon shall obey them.

15 The LORD will utterly destroy^[fn] the tongue of the Sea of
Egypt;
With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River,^[fn]
And strike it in the seven streams,
And make men cross over dryshod.

16 There will be a highway for the remnant of His people
Who will be left from Assyria,
As it was for Israel

In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt. Any obstacle
to the gathering of the dispersed Jews among the nations will be
taken away. Nothing and no one can oppose the government of
the Messiah.

Chapter 12 is a brief chapter of praise that comes from the heart
of the one that has surrendered to the Messiah as king and
enjoys the benefits of His reign.

A Hymn of Praise

1 And in that day you will say:

“O LORD, I will praise You;
Though You were angry with me,
Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.” The worshipper decides to praise the LORD, even though at one time he had felt the LORD’s anger against him.

When God disciplines us, He does so as a perfect parent, knowing how to comfort us after we have been chastened. Sometimes, like rebellious children, we refuse the comfort of God after discipline, but that’s always our fault, not His.

2 Behold, God is my salvation,
I will trust and not be afraid;
‘For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song;
He also has become my salvation.’”[fn] :

When God is our salvation, we can trust and not be afraid.

Psalm 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

3-6

3 Therefore with joy you will draw water
From the wells of salvation.

4 And in that day you will say:

“Praise the LORD, call upon His name;
Declare His deeds among the peoples,
Make mention that His name is exalted.
5 Sing to the LORD,
For He has done excellent things;
This is known in all the earth.
6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion,
For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!”

Chapter 13

Now chapter 13 does a pivot. Instead of rebuking Judah, or Israel, or Syria, or Egypt or Assyria, it's now a proclamation against babylon. Next week chapter 14 does the same.

Here's where we see some incredible prophecy in the scriptures. The Prophet Jeremiah in Chapter 51, predicted the fall of Babylon 50 years beforehand. Isaiah wrote of the Persian conquest of Babylon 160 years before it actually happened. Isaiah 45:1 even mentions the Persian King Cyrus by name 100 years before he was born.

And here in Isaiah 13 God predicts judgment on Babylon, and her evil inspiration - the devil who made her headquarters of ungodliness-we'll see that next week in chapter 14.

1-4

1 The burden against Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

2 “Lift up a banner on the high mountain,
Raise your voice to them;
Wave your hand, that they may enter the gates of the nobles.
3 I have commanded My sanctified ones;
I have also called My mighty ones for My anger—
Those who rejoice in My exaltation.”

4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains,
Like that of many people!
A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together!
The LORD of hosts musters
The army for battle. As we have seen, many of the prophecies in
Isaiah have a double fulfillment. There is a present application to
a historical situation. But they also look down the tunnel of time
prophetically and speak of the end of the ages.

The nation of Babylon plays a major part in prophetic Scripture.
Revelation 17 and 18 speak of Babylon as representing both a
commercial and religious system that are false and abominable.
In other words, Babylon speaks of the kingdom of this world—the
false systems set up by the god of this world, Satan himself.

5-6

5 They come from a far country,
From the end of heaven—
The LORD and His weapons of indignation,
To destroy the whole land.

6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand!

It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Here's a strategic biblical mile marker - a signpost - "The day of the LORD" Throughout the Bible this phrase looks to the end of the age.

The day of the Lord begins when Jesus raptures the Church and brings judgment on a wicked world. It culminates when He returns and sets up His kingdom. Evil Babylon will finally and utterly fall - and Jesus will establish His throne in Jerusalem. The Kingdom of God will finally come to earth.

This is the day Isaiah sees, and it includes the destruction of Babylon.

7-9

7 Therefore all hands will be limp,
Every man's heart will melt,
8 And they will be afraid.
Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them;
They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;
They will be amazed at one another;
Their faces will be like flames.

9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes,
Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
To lay the land desolate;
And He will destroy its sinners from it. The Bible mentions two types of tribulation... In John 16:33 Jesus told His disciples, "In this world you will have tribulation."

But that's not the trouble Isaiah describes. He's talking about the tribulation God vents upon the world. God is angry with our wicked ways, and the day is coming when He'll judge fiercely. The cruelty of the nations will be met by the severity of God's wrath.

10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations
Will not give their light;
The sun will be darkened in its going forth,
And the moon will not cause its light to shine. Compare Isaiah's description with Jesus prediction in Matthew 24 - and you'll see that Jesus and Isaiah are on the same page. Both agree that these astronomical phenomena will summon the end of this age and the coming of Jesus.

11-12

11 "I will punish the world for its evil,
And the wicked for their iniquity;
I will halt the arrogance of the proud,
And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
12 I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold,
A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. When God's final judgments are poured out on planet Earth, gold will be more plentiful than guys. Massive destruction and widespread death will ravage life as we know it today.

13-14

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens,
And the earth will move out of her place,
In the wrath of the LORD of hosts

And in the day of His fierce anger.

14 It shall be as the hunted gazelle,

And as a sheep that no man takes up;

Every man will turn to his own people,

And everyone will flee to his own land. Pay close attention to the language in verse 14. The subtlety probably escaped Jews of old, but not those of us with the benefit of a NT. Notice, the people who live through God's final judgments on planet Earth are referred to as "a sheep that no man takes up."

This implies that some sheep do get "taken up." Throughout the NT, we're taught that before God's judgment comes down, God's Church will go up. It's called the rapture. Jesus descends in the clouds and snatches us to heaven. Critics of the rapture say the doctrine never appeared in the OT, but here it is!

15-17

15 Everyone who is found will be thrust through,

And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword.

16 Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes;

Their houses will be plundered

And their wives ravished.

17 "Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them,

Who will not regard silver;

And as for gold, they will not delight in it. This is where prophecy gets interesting. Who are the medes today? Kurds. The Kurdish people are an Irani ethnic group native to the region known as Kurdistan, which spans parts of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria, with

a population estimated between 30 to 45 million. Evidently they will play a large role in the end times.

18 Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces,
And they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb;
Their eye will not spare children. Our translation uses “bows,” but the Hebrew word “quesheth” is literally, “launcher,” possibly modern missile launchers.

19-22

19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms,
The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It will never be inhabited ,
Nor will it be settled from generation to generation;
Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there,
Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.

21 But wild beasts of the desert will lie there,
And their houses will be full of owls;
Ostriches will dwell there,
And wild goats will caper there.

22 The hyenas will howl in their citadels,
And jackals in their pleasant palaces.
Her time is near to come,
And her days will not be prolonged.”

It's interesting when Isaiah first uttered this prophecy Babylon was just a local city on the Euphrates River. It took 100 years and the overthrow of Assyria for Babylon to become a world empire.

The thought of Babylon as a superpower sounded as strange to Isaiah's contemporaries as the idea of the present day Babylon becoming a strategic city on the global scene.

So although Babylon may not be playing a role on the world scene, we know the day is coming when they will!