

Session 4 The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 11-12

I. REVIEW: THE CONTEXT OF ISAIAH 11-12

- A. Isaiah 9-11 is similar to Isaiah 2-4. Each passage has three parts—first, a promise about Jesus’ millennial glory (2:1-5; 9:1-7), followed by a warning of judgment (2:6-4:1; 9:8-10:34), concluding with another promise of Jesus’ millennial glory (4:2-6; 11:1-16).
- B. An outline of Isaiah 11-12
- 11:1-5 The reign of Jesus as the righteous King
 - 11:6-9 Jesus will restore creation and fill the earth with God's glory.
 - 11:10 Jesus will reveal His salvation to all the nations.
 - 11:11-16 Jesus will restore the remnant of Israel to God and the land.
 - 12:1-6 A song of praise to Jesus
- C. In Isaiah 11, we see the result of Jesus’ anointed leadership (11:2-3)—He will restore righteousness in the social order in every nation (11:4-5), destroy the enemies of His people (11:4b), establish garden of Eden conditions on earth (11:6-8), fill the earth with God’s glory (11:9), bring the Gentile nations to God (11:10), and rescue, unify, and restore Israel to God and her land (11:11-16). In Isaiah 12, Israel praises God for Jesus’ merciful and powerful leadership (12:1-6).
- D. The glorious promise of their coming Messiah-King would be very significant to the Jewish people during many times of suffering related to the Babylonian captivity and their dispersion in AD 70.

II. THE REIGN OF JESUS AS THE RIGHTEOUS KING (ISA. 11:1-5)

- A. Isaiah prophesied glorious promises of a coming King (9:1-7; 11:1-16) when Israel was backslidden and the dynasty of David was in a crisis—he compared it to a stump or stem of a once-mighty tree.
- ¹There shall come forth a Rod [shoot] from the stem [stump] of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (Isa. 11:1)***
1. Many popular translations use the words a “shoot” coming from the “stump” of Jesse (NIV; ESV; NRSV) instead of a “Rod” coming from the “stem” of Jesse as in the NKJV.
 2. ***Stem of Jesse:*** Jesse was King David’s father. The stem or stump of Jesse describes a future time when the dynasty of kings that came from David’s family line would seem to have failed and be over. The once flourishing “tree of David” had fallen into ruins. By Isaiah’s day only a “stem” remained, with roots supporting it beneath the ground. Israel’s future looked bleak.
 3. Isaiah pictured a Rod or tender shoot sprouting from a barely surviving stump of a nation. Earlier, Isaiah referred to the surviving remnant as a small, weak stump (6:13). This shoot would sprout up from Jesse and David’s family line. In AD 27, when Israel appeared weak and hopeless, a little “shoot” sprouted from the stump of Jesse—Jesus of Nazareth.

- B. Jesus will rule the nations by the power of the Spirit (Isa. 11:2). The context of Isaiah 11 includes desolate cities in Israel and in the nations after the Great Tribulation (Isa. 24:1-3, 6, 12, 16; 25:2; 27:10; 59:10; 61:4; Jer. 30:16; 33:10-12; 50:3; 51:26; Ezek. 38:12-13; 39:10; Joel 3:19; Amos 9:14; Mic. 7:13; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 14:2; Rev. 8:9; 16:18-21; 17:16; 18:19). National economies will be desolate at this time, and Jesus will lead great nation-building programs.

¹⁸*There was a **great earthquake**, such a mighty...earthquake...²⁰the mountains were not found.*

²¹*And **great hail from heaven fell upon men**, each...the weight of...[100 pounds]. (Rev. 16:18-21)*

⁴*And they shall rebuild the **old ruins**, they shall raise up the **former desolations**, and they shall repair the **ruined cities**, the desolations of many generations. (Isa. 61:4)*

¹*Behold, the day of the LORD...²For I will gather **all the nations** to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into **captivity**, but the **remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city**. ³Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations... (Zech. 14:1-3)*

- C. Jesus returns as a King operating in a 7-fold anointing of the Spirit (Isa. 11:2; 42:1; 61:1; Jn. 3:34; Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6). John referred to the Spirit as “the seven Spirits before the throne” (Rev 1:4).

²*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 of the fear of the LORD. (Isa. 11:2)*

1. Jesus as a Man will rule the nations as a King operating in the fullness of the Spirit (Jn. 3:34). Jesus had to live as a man, *dependent* on the anointing of the Spirit. He was “*never less than God*” after His incarnation, but lived as if He was “*never more than a man*,” (Ian Thomas). While He was on earth during His first coming, each miracle that He did was the result of looking to the Father in prayer, in full dependence on the Spirit (Jn. 5:19). He shall continue *to live and function as a Man* anointed by the Spirit in His millennial leadership (Isa. 11:2-5).

2. **An imperfect analogy:** A laptop is powered in two ways—the battery is an *internal source* of power; the plug in the electrical socket is an *external source* of power. Jesus lived by the anointing of the Spirit on Him as a Man instead of drawing on the power of His deity in Him.

- D. Jesus’ leadership style, values, and practices (Isa. 11:3-5)

³*His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall **not judge by the sight of His eyes**, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ⁴But **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...He shall **slay the wicked**. (Isa. 11:3-4)*

1. **Not judge by the eye:** Jesus will not make judgments or decisions by what seems apparent on the surface. Often the truth in government processes is buried below layers of spin, favors owed, self-agenda, hidden information, etc. Men present their “truth” with a façade. It will be impossible to manipulate or fool Him by presenting distorted information.

2. **Righteousness:** Jesus will act in perfect righteousness and equity in all that He does.

3. **Poor:** Jesus will use His power to make a difference for the poor (Ps. 37). The poor are often not a priority for national leaders considering what to do after a national calamity. National and local infrastructure and economies will be destroyed after the Great Tribulation.
4. **Judge:** Jesus will act decisively in establishing new leaders, laws, and policies that will help the poor and that will establish righteousness in the government and culture.
5. **Strike the earth with His mouth:** The rod of His mouth refers to pronouncing decrees to release His judgments in a supernatural way or to establish new governmental policies.

*¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.
(Rev 19:15)*

6. **Slay the wicked:** Jesus will be zealous to judge or to remove all that hinders love. He will strike and slay the wicked (Rev. 19:19-21; cf. Ps. 110:5-6; Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 19:15).

⁶He shall judge the nations...and shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:6)

¹⁹I saw the beast, the kings of the earth...gathered together to make war against Him...

*²¹The rest [kings] were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him...
(Rev. 19:19-21)*

III. JESUS WILL RESTORE CREATION AND FILL THE EARTH WITH GOD'S GLORY (ISA. 11:6-9)

- A. Jesus will remove the curse from creation and restore conditions as they were in Eden (11:6-9). There will be no hostility in the relationships between animals nor between animals and people.
*⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion...⁷The cow and the bear shall graze...and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.
⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain. (Isa. 11:6-9)*
- B. Creation will be delivered from the curse of sin that came as a result of Adam's sin (Gen. 3:17; Rom. 8:20-21). Hosea prophesied of the Lord making a covenant with the animals (Hos. 2:18).
²¹...creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption... (Rom. 8:21)
¹⁸In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts...with the birds... (Hos. 2:18)
- C. Jerusalem will become like the garden of Eden (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12).
³The Lord will comfort Zion [Jerusalem]...will make her wilderness like Eden... (Isa. 51:3)
- D. **God's holy mountain:** The Eden-like conditions begin on God's holy mountain in Jerusalem.

- E. Isaiah enumerated this supernatural blessing on creation and human life in 65:17-25. The Lord will renew the heavens (including the atmosphere and weather; v. 17) and the earth (vegetation and animals), remove animosity from animals (v. 25), and increase the lifespan of humans (v. 20, 22).
¹⁷...I create new heavens and a new earth...²⁰No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses... they shall plant vineyards...²²for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people...²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (Isa. 65:17-25)
- F. Jesus will fill the earth with the knowledge and the glory of God (11:9; cf. Num. 14:21; Hab. 2:14).
⁹The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9)

IV. JESUS WILL REVEAL HIS SALVATION TO ALL THE NATIONS (ISA. 11:10).

- A. The Gentile nations will experience salvation and seek Jesus (11:10).
¹⁰And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse [Jesus], who shall stand as a banner to the people [nations]; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious. (Isa. 11:10)
- B. **Stand as a banner:** To “stand” speaks of Jesus arising to take action in the earthly realm.
- C. **Gentiles will seek God:** Jesus will be worshiped in Jerusalem by people from all the nations (Zech. 2:11; 8:20-23; 14:16-18).
*²⁰Peoples [Gentiles] shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; ²¹the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, “Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD...”
²²Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD...in Jerusalem... (Zech. 8:20-22)*
¹⁸I will gather all nations [Gentiles]...they shall come and see My glory...¹⁹They shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. ²⁰Then they [Gentiles] shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...to My holy mountain Jerusalem. (Isa. 66:18-20)
²All nations shall flow to it [Jerusalem]. ³Many people shall...say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD...[Jesus] will teach us...the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” (Isa. 2:2-3)
- D. **Resting place:** Jesus’ place of rest on earth starts in millennial Jerusalem, connected to the New Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be the eternal dwelling place or resting place for God’s throne (Ps. 132).
³¹When the Son of Man comes in His glory...He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Mt. 25:31)
⁵...a dwelling place for the Mighty One... ⁸Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place. (Ps. 132:5, 8)

V. JESUS WILL RESTORE THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL TO GOD AND THE LAND (ISA. 11:11-16)

- A. Jesus will rescue and restore Israel (11:11-16). Isaiah described an area from the north (Assyria) to the south (Cush), and from the east (Elam) to the west (islands)—thus, the four corners of the earth.
- ¹¹...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 [Jordan, Syria, Iraq] and Egypt, from Pathros [Upper Egypt] and Cush [Ethiopia], from Elam [Iran] and Shinar [Iraq], from Hamath [Syria] and the islands of the sea [Mediterranean]. ¹²He 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... (Isa. 11:11-12)*
- B. Assyria and Egypt were the dominant world powers in Isaiah’s generation. Therefore, he prophesied concerning things that would occur in the end time in the modern *geographic areas* that the ancient empires of Egypt and Assyria occupied. The ancient Assyria empire included parts of modern-day Iraq, Syria, and Jordan.
- C. *A second time*: The Lord will extend His hand with miracles a second time to recover His people.
1. The end-time regathering of Israel will be with great miracles liberating Jews from the north (an area in the former USSR). I believe this began in 1948 and will be accelerated with many great miracles as we get closer to the return of Jesus who will complete this glorious return (Jer. 16:14-15).
- ¹⁴“...the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ ¹⁵but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.” (Jer. 16:14-15)*
2. The “second time” that Israel is regathered parallels God’s initial rescue of Israel from Egypt. The second rescue is defined by the details seen in 1:12-16 and “in that day” (11:11) points to the time Jesus returns (11:1-9). The regathering of the captives from Babylon had not yet occurred, many Jews did not return to Israel after being released from Babylon in 538 BC, and that return was not characterized by great miracles comparable to the exodus with Moses.
 3. The Lord’s “hand” is a primary motif describing the exodus (Ex. 3:19-20; 6:1; 13:3; Dt. 6:21).
- D. In the end times, there will be both a gathering and a scattering of Israel related to the land, as there will be both a gathering to and falling away from the faith. There will be both a great increase of God’s glory in the church and a great increase of darkness in the nations related to the coming of both Christ and the Antichrist.

- E. The end-time remnant of Israel shall be unified and shall defeat modern Jordan which includes the ancient territories that were once under Edom, Moab, and Ammon (11:13-14). The people of Ammon will obey the leaders in Israel who will honor Jesus' leadership in requiring restitution for war crimes. These Gentile survivors of the Great Tribulation attacked Israel, yet did not accept mark of the Beast.

¹³...Ephraim [Israel] shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. ¹⁴But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines [Palestinian territory] toward the west; together they shall plunder the people of the East [Jordan]; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them. (Isa. 11:13-14)

- F. The Lord will show His power to help the remnant of Israel like in the days of Moses (11:15-16). To prepare the way for the remnant to return to Israel, the Lord will strike the tongue or gulf of the Red Sea and the Euphrates river since the remnant will also return from the territory that was once a part of the Assyrian Empire. He will send a hot, searing wind over the Euphrates River to break it into seven streambeds, which the people will be able to cross without even taking off their sandals.

¹⁵The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt [Red Sea]; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River [Euphrates in Assyria], and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. ¹⁶There 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. (Isa. 11:15-16)

- G. He will rescue the remnant and Jewish captives in the end time who will be in the geographic areas of ancient Egypt and Assyria (Isa. 11:11, 16; 27:13; Hos. 11:11; Mic. 5:6; 7:12; Zech. 10:10-11).

¹²In that day that the LORD will thresh from the channel of the River [Euphrates] to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. ¹³...The great trumpet [Jesus' return] will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord...at Jerusalem. (Isa. 27:12-13)

VI. SONG OF PRAISE TO JESUS (ISA. 12:1-6)

- A. Israel will be filled with gratitude to God for the miracles that He did on their behalf (12:1-6). There are two parts to this song announcing what people will say "in the day" (12:1, 4). The first part of the song highlights the time when God was angry—Israel will experience salvation in Jesus (12:1-3).

¹And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away..."²Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid... (Isa. 12:1-2)

- B. The second part expresses their joy in being saved and making His name known (12:4-6).

⁴And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD...declare His deeds among the peoples [nations]...⁵Sing to the LORD...⁶O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!" (Isa. 12:4-6)