



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Look to the Lifted-Up Banner for the New Exodus

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Isaiah 11:10-16; Ex. 17:15; Dt. 4:34-35; Jn 12:32-33; Mt 24:30-31; Ps. 23; Heb. 4:3-4
Isaiah begins chapter 11 with an image of **hope sprouting in the midst of devastation**: “*Then a shoot will come forth out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch will bear fruit out of his roots*” (Isaiah 11:1). Out of what looked like a dead stump, God brings forth life. This One—filled with the Spirit of Adonai, ruling with perfect justice, righteousness, and faithfulness—ushers in a **renewed creation**. Wolves lie down with lambs. Children play near vipers without fear. Death is undone, and the earth is “*full of the knowledge of Adonai as the waters cover the sea*”.

But Isaiah’s prophecy doesn’t stop with Eden restored. Beginning in verse 10, the Lord gives us a breathtaking vision of a **worldwide gathering**—a *new Exodus*. The Root of Jesse will be lifted up as a banner, the nations will stream to Him, God’s people will be gathered from every direction, and every obstacle that has kept us apart will be shattered by His power. What God did once in Egypt, He will do again on a global scale.

1. LOOK TO THE LIFTED BANNER—MESSIAH, OUR SIGNAL (Is. 11:10)

Isaiah declares: “*In that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will seek for Him and His resting place will be glorious*” (v. 10). In the ancient world, a **banner (nes, נֶס)** was a rallying point. Soldiers looked for the banner to know where to gather and whom to follow. Moses built an altar and called it *Adonai Nissi*—“The Lord is my Banner” (Exodus 17:15)—after God Himself fought for His people against Amalek. Here, Isaiah tells us the **Root of Jesse**—the very source of the Davidic line—will be lifted up as that banner.

This is more than a symbol; it’s a **person**. Messiah Yeshua, both the shoot and the root, is raised up not just as another king, but as the Divine One who gathers the nations. Yeshua said, “*And as I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself*” (Jn 12:32). The same banner once raised to summon judgment (Is. 5:26) is now raised to summon the nations to salvation. When the banner is lifted, the nations respond. They *seek* Him—they *derash*, investigate, pursue. His resting place—His home—is glorious. It’s the still waters of Psalm 23, the promised rest of Hebrews 4. He is the rallying point for all peoples.

2. THE NEW EXODUS—GOD GATHERS FROM EVERY DIRECTION (Is 11:11-14)

Isaiah continues: “*It will also come about in that day that my Lord will again redeem a second time with His hand the remnant of His people*” (v. 11). The first Exodus was out of Egypt, by a mighty hand and outstretched arm (Deut. 4:34–35). But now, God will redeem His people again—this time not from one land but from **every corner of the earth**: Assyria (east), Egypt and Patros (west and south), Cush (Africa), Elam and Shinar (Mesopotamia), Hamath (north), and even the distant islands.

This second Exodus isn’t a localized rescue—it’s **global**, signaling the end of exile and the beginning of a restored people. Isaiah says God will “*lift up a banner for the nations and assemble the dispersed of Israel, and gather the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth*” (v. 12). And what happens when God gathers His people? Old rivalries are healed. “*Ephraim’s envy will end, those hostile to Judah will be cut off... Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim*” (v. 13). Under the Prince of Peace, centuries of division dissolve. The divided kingdom is made one again—not through human diplomacy, but through divine restoration.

3. GOD REMOVES EVERY BARRIER—MAKING A HIGHWAY HOME (Is. 11:15-16)

Finally, Isaiah paints Exodus imagery with new intensity: *“Then Adonai will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea... He will wave His hand over the river with His scorching wind, and will strike it into seven streams, and let men walk over in sandals”* (v. 15). Egypt (*Mitzrayim*, מִצְרַיִם) literally means “from distresses”—from narrowness, oppression. God will **destroy the “tongue” of the sea of distress**, just as He split the Red Sea. He will strike the Euphrates with His *Ruach*, His scorching wind, dividing it into seven streambeds—completing the work of making a way. Obstacles that held His people captive will be obliterated.

“So there will be a highway for the remnant of His people who remain from Assyria, as there was for Israel in the day they came up out of the land of Egypt” (v. 16). This is a **raised highway**, a clear way home. What human strength cannot achieve, God accomplishes by His breath—His *Ruach*—His Spirit. Every barrier—hostility, envy, division, distance, spiritual bondage—is swept away by the power of the lifted Banner.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah’s vision points us to Messiah, lifted high for all nations. He is the Banner we look to, the rallying point for all people. He is leading a new Exodus—not just from one land, but from the bondage of sin, hostility, and division. He is gathering His people from the ends of the earth, healing old wounds, and preparing a highway of return. This is not mythic language—it’s the unfolding story of God’s redemption. The same God who parted the sea will part every barrier keeping you from His rest. The same Banner that once called judgment now calls all nations to come and find their home in Him.

Today, the Banner has been lifted. Yeshua has been raised—on the cross, in resurrection, and now as King. Will you look to Him? Will you gather under His banner? Maybe there are barriers—sin, bitterness, division, fear—that have kept you from the rest He offers. God has prepared is making a highway home for you. Come to the Banner. Come to the Root of Jesse. Step onto the highway He has prepared, and let Him lead you into His glorious rest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Isaiah’s vision of the “Banner” expand your understanding of Yeshua’s role in redemption?
2. In what ways does the “new Exodus” differ from the original Exodus?
3. What barriers—personal, relational, or spiritual—has God broken in your life? What barriers still need to be addressed?
4. How does the image of God gathering from the four corners of the earth shape your view of His global mission?
5. Where might God be calling you to “step onto the highway” He’s prepared, trusting His power to lead you through obstacles?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, thank You for lifting up the Banner of our salvation—Yeshua the Messiah. Thank You that when we look to Him, we find both justice and mercy, both judgment against sin and redemption for sinners. Thank You that You are gathering Your people from every corner of the earth and preparing a way home. Lord, remove every barrier in our hearts—envy, hostility, fear—and unite us under Your banner. Lead us on Your highway of holiness. May the nations stream to You, and may Your glorious resting place be our home.

B’Shem Yeshua... In the Name of Yeshua, Amen