

As Isaiah penned this portion of Scripture as he was carried along by the Holy Spirit, Israel (both the northern and southern kingdoms) had abandoned the path that God had desired for them.

A path that their forefather's swore they would follow and uphold (Joshua 24:16-18).

The Government had become corrupt and the rich got richer and the poor, the widow and the fatherless were forgotten and had become disposable in the eyes of the wealthy.

The religious environment wasn't much different. The people of Israel participated in sacrifices as prescribed in the book of Leviticus, however, those sacrifices become a hollow and empty tradition. They paid lip-service to the God that saved them out of the land of Egypt, but their hearts were cold, hard and far from a living genuine relationship with the Triune God of creation.

Assyria, a neighboring country, was a growing threat to the southern kingdom of Judah. But God was faithful even though Judah was not.

God would protect His promise of a Messiah that would come from the house and lineage of David. God Himself would defeat the kingdom of Assyria. .

Isaiah prophesies about this defeat of Assyria in the previous chapter (10). He paints a vivid portrait of God Himself defeating the Assyrian army. The picture the prophet paints is of a huge and powerful forest, one that would resemble something like the Redwood forests found in Ca.

A forest with strong and mighty trees, vast in number and lush with color. But in one swing of the justice bringing axe of God, this once powerful and lush forest, is brought down to mere stumps, and the picture we are left with is one of desolation, hopelessness and despair.

And we see God's deliverance as He defeats the Assyrian army as recorded later in Isaiah 37:36.

**Isaiah 37:36 (ESV) And the angel of the Lord went out and struck down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.**

But in our text today, out of that picture of desolation, hopelessness and despair, comes forth new life and the promise of a new and coming KING.

A King that will bring hope out of hopelessness. A King who will be born in a miraculous manner as we heard about last week in Isaiah chapter 7. A Messiah King who is none other than Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

## **1. A King shall come from the house of David.**

**Isaiah 11:1&2 (ESV) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

**And 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 the fear of the Lord.**

**As we leave the desolation of chapter 10 and walk into chapter 11, the picture we are left with is nothing but dead stumps and hopelessness.**

**The forest that was leveled seemed strong & powerful from a human perspective, but God often does not work through what we perceive as the strong and the mighty.**

**God often brings forth His will through what we would perceive as weak and insignificant.**

**A small shoot, would arise from all these dead stumps, and this shoot that sprouts from the house of Judah, the house of Jesse, will be no ordinary man.**

**This shoot will be a KING, the Messiah. From a small and insignificant family, the house of Jesse, a family that raised sheep, a shepherd King would spring forth (Micah 5:2).**

**Jesse had eight sons, the older surely looked like a king but when Samuel the prophet was commanded by God to anoint His chosen king, it was the the weakest & the youngest of the brothers, not the strongest or the the tallest.**

**1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV) But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, ... For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”**

**So David was chosen to be Israel’s next king that day. However, this prophecy in our text today only finds it’s roots, its beginning in David. It finds its fulfillment in the promised King who comes from David’s family, and that King is Jesus.**

**At the time that this prophecy was given the king that was ruling, Ahaz (a king from the house of David,) was a wicked king, one that refused to look to God for His strength and His guidance. In fact most of the kings of Judah who were from the house of David were evil and wicked kings.**

**Nevertheless, God would keep His unconditional promise to David and would bring forth a righteous and good King from David’s family, a King that would also be a shepherd, just like David was.**

**This Shepherd King will gather the flock of God and provide salvation to all nations.**

As Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, He willingly emptied Himself of all glory honor and privilege as the 2nd person of the Triune God.

Yet even though He became fully human, our text reminds us that Jesus will be fully equipped through the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit to accomplish all that was required to provide salvation to any and all who call on Him.

John the Baptist reminds us of that in John ch. 1 & 3

**John 1:33-34 (ESV)**... 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

**John 3:33-35 (ESV)** Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, *for he gives the Spirit without measure*. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

Jesus is the KING that Isaiah speaks of, He is the 2nd person of the Triune God who willingly set aside all glory, honor and privilege to become fully human in the likeness of Adam to provide salvation.

He is the Shepherd King from the house of David who became nothing so that you and I could have everything in Him, the free gift of eternal life.

### Study Questions:

- A. How does understanding the historical background of this text make it more powerful?
  - B. How does it encourage you and inspire you to see God's faithfulness in the midst of humanity's unfaithfulness?
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## 2. A King like no other is promised.

Isaiah 11:3-4a (ESV)

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

As I think of Christ's ministry during His incarnation, He truly didn't see things the way that we do. Only God knows the true potential of a soul.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

He called Matthew, a tax collector to be one of His disciples, a really, really good sinner, one that participated in many sins unbecoming of a disciple. Yet Jesus saw what Matthew could become through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus healed a Roman centurion's servant, something that would be considered unclean to the religious leaders of that time, but Jesus didn't judge by what His eyes saw.

Jesus **did not decide disputes by what his ears heard.**

Many times throughout Christ's ministry the religious leaders tried to trap Him. Trying to get Him to say something that would ensnare Him so they could put Him to death. But they couldn't. Jesus knew their hearts and was committed to accomplishing everything that was required to provide salvation through His life, death and resurrection. He was committed to obedience to the Father, obedience that led Him to die for you & me.

Jesus judged and discerned things according to the truth, wisdom and righteousness of God, not according the flesh, not according to the lies and deception of this world.

**He showed more love, more compassion and more mercy than anyone who has ever walked the face of this earth.**

But that love, mercy, compassion and righteousness find their greatest expression as Jesus was willingly nailed to the cross for you and for me. He lived the perfect life we could not, He paid the full penalty of all our sins on the cross of Calvary and through His resurrection infused His life and death with the power of the Triune God to save!

He is a KING like no other, worship Him this day and every day, **Why? Because He is worthy!**

### **Study Questions:**

- A. **Discuss other occurrences in the Gospels where Jesus did not judge by what His eyes saw, to decide disputes by what His ears heard.**
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### **3. This Messiah King will rule and reign according to God's righteousness.**

**Isaiah 11:4b-5 and He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.**

In the Old Testament prophecies of Christ, both His 1st and 2nd coming are written in such a manner that one might think there is only 1 advent, or arrival of the Messiah.

But many Old Testament prophecies of Christ speak of both His first and second coming, much like our text. It is my conviction that Isaiah 4b&5 speak of the judging power of God's holy word and of Christ's second coming where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Believers in Christ Jesus have a home that is nothing like this temporary existence.

Believers in Christ Jesus have an eternal home in the presence of the Triune God in a place with no more sin or sickness and death shall be no more.

A kingdom of peace and joy, a kingdom with no more danger of harm, just like verses 6-9 describe.

- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the  
cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on  
the adder's den.

One theologian states this about waiting patiently for Christ's second coming.

If we become impatient waiting for this second coming, we can read this passage of Isaiah, who predicted the first coming, and then had to wait 700 years to see that much fulfilled. We have much more fulfillment and much more revealed to us than Isaiah had. If he could wait in patience, surely so can we.

The statement, "Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

This means that the Messiah will be ready for a battle with evil.

*In ancient times the belt was worn by one who was ready to engage in a bout of wrestling with an opponent. The object of the bout was to grab the belt from that opponent. Later, this conception took on a figurative meaning and came to be used of anyone who was ready to face a contest or struggle. When, therefore, the Messiah is described as so ready, we are to understand that He is to face a foe and to engage in a struggle, and that He is fully equipped for that struggle. (Young, Edward. The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-18. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1965).*

And Jesus did win the victory!!!!

Jesus is indeed the Savior of the world, the Messiah who has overcome the world and has accomplished everything required to provide salvation through His life death and resurrection to any and all who call on His name.

**But Jesus is also the warrior King who will come again to judge the living and the dead. Place your trust in Him and His salvation, you will not be put to shame!**

**Study Questions:**

- A. As we approach Christmas, how can the hope of the 2nd coming of Christ encourage, comfort and preserve us?**
- B. Why is it important to balance out the expectation of Christ's 2nd coming with the call by God to wait patiently?**
- C. Read Revelation 19:11-16, and discuss the imagery of Christ that is shared in our text today.**