

## LESSON 4 • 10/19/18

TEXT • ISAIAH 11:1–10

### IV • SUMMARY & READING

Leading up to the beautiful imagery of the Messiah in chapter 11 is a brutal description of invasion, punishment, destruction, and suffering in chapter 10. We see God using Assyria to punish and correct Judah for her wicked ways, yet only for a season before Assyria itself is taken down for arrogance and defiance.

But the important context to note is this: WHY is God so tough and Israel and Judah in chapter 10? What sin does He specifically call out? Check it out: **Isaiah 10:1–2** • *Woe to those who enact evil statutes And to those who constantly record unjust decisions, So as to deprive the needy of justice And rob the poor of My people of their rights, So that widows may be their spoil And that they may plunder the orphans.*

There you have it: *Injustice!* Even though we read over and over that Israel and Judah were sent into exile because of horrid sins of idolatry, what it produced in the *character* of their society was brutality and heartlessness. People would increase their power and wealth by twisting justice in order to take advantage of the poor, the widows, and the orphans. What Israel needed was transformation from “the top down,” (or, from the “bottom up,” as Jesus showed us how the greatest in His Kingdom takes the lowest place!) A righteous leader who can reform the injustice in Israel is the theme of Isaiah 11!

Another key idea is that the Assyrian army is described as a great forest that is cut down by God’s axe and fire of destruction. By the time God reduces the Assyrian “forest” (it’s soldiers), there would be so few trees a child could count them! (11:19). The mighty Assyrian army, which was like a vast forest of trees, was cut down for boasting in its power; God isn’t impressed by man’s vast armies. In fact, God loves to use a single “shoot” or “branch” to start a mighty work! This leads us to our study...

**Isaiah 11:1**—Messiah is described as a “shoot” or a “branch” with its “roots” in Jesse. King David, of course, was the original “Root of Jesse,” but Isaiah was written about 250 years after King David. Clearly, Isaiah is prophesying of a different “Root of Jesse”—a future Someone!

### VARSITY • QUESTIONS & CROSS REFERENCES

**Jeremiah 23:5–6** • In Jeremiah, the “Root” of Jesse is called the “Branch.” What promise does God make to David’s family? What key adjective describes this Promised Person?

**Acts 13:22–23** • Here, Paul says that God kept a promise. Explain it!

→ *“The Spirit of Yahweh will rest on Him—wisdom, understanding, etc.”*

**Luke 3:21–22, & 41** • How was Jesus led and empowered in His ministry?

**1 Corinthians 12:7–8** • What is the connection to **Isaiah 11:2**?

**2 Peter 1:3–8** • Similar qualities are available to us and we are to grow in them. There are at least *three sources* of these godly characteristics mentioned in this passage—where do they come from?

→ *He wears a belt of righteousness & faithfulness*

**1 John 1:9** • What does Jesus do for us because He is “faithful” and “righteous” (or “just”)?

**Revelation 19:11–13** • What is being pictured here?

→ *His mouth, breath, lips, and words strike the wicked*

**Matthew 7:28–29** • Unlike the scribes, Jesus taught with...

**Luke 21:14–15** • What did Jesus promise His disciples?

**Revelation 1:16 & 19:15** • How is Jesus’ mouth pictured here?

**2 Thessalonians 2:8** • What is the ultimate act fulfillment of this?

→ *The millennial reign & peace on earth* • This is referred to especially in Revelation 20, but also in passages such as Ezekiel 47 and Zechariah 8. What the “Millennium” actually refers to is a hot conversation in Christianity, and is huge topic (a “thousand year” topic!), so let’s put the details aside for a moment.

Isaiah keys in on this: *“the nations will resort to the root of Jesse... and His resting place will be glorious.”*

**Luke 24:46–47** • Where was Jesus’ name to be proclaimed? & How is the Gospel message summarized in this passage?

**Hebrews 4:9–11** • What are we offered in this passage (relating to Isaiah 11:10)?

**Hebrews 4:6** • How do people “enter” in? How do we fail to “enter in”?

**TEXT • ISAIAH 12:1–3**

#### IV • SUMMARY & READING

Chapter 12 offers one last glimmer of Messianic glory and goodness before we enter a long section of judgments and curses on all of Israel’s surrounding nations. The topic of “Messiah” will be put on the backburner for many chapters.

#### VARSAITY • QUESTIONS & CROSS REFERENCES

➔ *“Your anger is turned away and you comfort me”* • There are so many passages of scripture that beautifully illustrate this. Let’s look at just a couple of gems...

**Psalms 30:5** • What is the comparison between God’s anger and His favor?

**Ephesians 2:4–7** • Why do we deserve God’s wrath?

Why does He give us His mercy?

➔ *“...you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation”*

**John 7:37–39** • Jewish history records that Isaiah 12 was one of the passages recited by the people during the “great day of the feast,”— the Feast of Tabernacles. The priests would lead a great procession of people down to the Gihon springs, and bring up a golden pitcher filled with water to be poured out on the altar, or perhaps down the temple steps. This was to symbolize Moses bringing forth water from the rock in the wilderness.

How does one get the “water” Jesus speaks of?

Where does the “water” come from?

**1 Corinthians 10:4** • What does Paul claim about Jesus?

IV • SUMMARY & READING

We are slowly seeing the Messiah reemerge in Isaiah's prophecies! Here, he calls him by the amazing term, "The Costly Cornerstone." The context is this: the drunk and scoffing rulers of Jerusalem have hidden themselves in a "refuge" of lies and deception. They are trusting in their schemes to keep them safe, but they are in for a rude awakening!

But those who believe in and trust the Cornerstone will not be shaken!

VARSITY • QUESTIONS & CROSS REFERENCES

**Psalm 118:21–23** • This is the Psalm that was quoted when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The "Hosanna" is in verse 25 ("Lord Save!"). *(By some accounts, this verse is in the exact middle of the Bible. Interesting...!)*

What happened to the chief cornerstone?

But, ultimately, *why* did this happen (vs 23)?

**Acts 4:11–12** • The term "Corner Stone," referring to Jesus, is found 7 times in the New Testament! Acts 4:11 is just one...

Who are the "builders" (see vs 8)?

What bold statement does Peter make in vs. 12?