The Coming of Christ

Lesson 3 Isaiah 11:1-12 December 18, 2022

Christ: The Hope of Peace

INTRODUCTION

We all go through times in life of feeling sad, lost, or not knowing what to do in a variety of circumstances. Sometimes life seems too hard, and depression or anxiety starts to take over. How can we, as Christians, find hope and peace when there appears to be none?

In this passage, Isaiah, one of five major prophets, prophesies about the "stump of Jesse" and a new Kingdom that results from the roots of the stump. This Kingdom first appears as a Shoot growing out of the stump. You will discover what or who the stump and Shoot represent. You will also learn what grows from the Shoot and how this impacts our lives.

God told Isaiah that there will be a time of peace that follows a period of exile and captivity. The long-awaited peace will be glorious! Isaiah 11:1-12 is a passage of Hope and Peace.

Memory verse: "A Shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."—Isaiah 11:1

Pray, and read Isaiah 11:1-12. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1.	What does Isaiah say will come from the stump of Jesse? From his roots, what will the Branch bear? (Isaiah 11:1)
2.	What will rest on Him? (Isaiah 11:2)
3.	How will He, and how will He not judge the needy? How will He strike the earth? (Isaiah 11:3-4)
4.	What does Isaiah tell us about His righteousness and faithfulness? (Isaiah 11:5)
5.	Isaiah prophesies a time of peace. How does he describe it? (Isaiah 11:6-9)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Isaiah refers to the (tree) stump of Jesse. During Old Testament times, kingdoms were often referred to as trees. What Kingdom did the tree represent, and why was it cut down? (Isaiah 9:13-16; Jeremiah 32:30)

2. What biblical event does the Shoot represent? What do we know about the Shoot, and how does this knowledge give us hope? (Isaiah 53:1-2; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Micah 5:2; Romans 15:12)

3. Isaiah (11:1) prophesies about the Branch and the fruit He will bear. Using single words, how might the characteristics of the Branch be described? (Isaiah 4:2, 11:1-5, 42:2-4, 53:1-3)

4. After the fall of Judah in 586 BC and a period of captivity, God would establish a new Kingdom. Describe what this Kingdom looks like, and write one word that characterizes it.

(Ezekiel 34:25-28; Isaiah 11:12-13, 65:25)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. David's Kingdom was cut down and divided leaving a stump which would have appeared dead. Yet life was growing within it. A Shoot grew from the root of the stump to live and bring hope of peace. Was there a time when all seemed hopeless, and you had no idea what to do next? How did God work in your life during this challenging time? Did you pray for guidance? What was the outcome?

2. Beginning in Isaiah 11:6, we see a picture of animals living together in harmony. Think of a time in your life when a relationship was strained. How did you manage the situation; did you turn the shaky relationship over to God through prayer? What, if anything, would you do differently if the situation arose today?

3. God offers hope and peace if we follow Jesus. Have you ever been torn between following Christ or following your own way? If so, why? If you did choose your own way, what was the result, and why do you think that was the outcome?