

The Coming Kingdom

Isaiah 11:1-16

By Scott Huckaby

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Isaiah 10:33-34 left with the idea of the LORD chopping down the proud as if they were mighty trees. Now, the LORD is looking over the stumps, and causes a Branch to grow out of one of them, the root of the family of Jesse, David's father.

Isaiah 11:1-2 – The Branch from the stem of Jesse

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 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.

Why was the Messiah described as a Rod from the stem of Jesse?

The LORD is emphasizing the humble nature of the Messiah. Jesse was the much less famous father of King David. It is far more humble to say "from Jesse" than to say "from King David."

How is it Jesus came from the stump of Jesse?

The royal authority of the house of David had lain dormant for 600 years when Jesus came as King and Messiah. When Jesus came forth, it was like a new green Branch coming from an apparently dead stump.

What is the Davidic Covenant?

This refers to God's promise to David through Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17:11-14 and 2 Chronicles 6:16). It is an unconditional covenant which promised that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever.

- The Davidic Covenant is unconditional because God does not place any conditions of obedience upon its fulfillment. This covenant rests solely on God's faithfulness and does not depend on David or Israel's obedience.
- The Davidic Covenant reaffirms the promise of the land that He made in the first two covenants with Israel (the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants).
- God also promised David that his son (Solomon) will succeed him as king of Israel and would build the temple.

Other references to the Davidic Covenant are found in Jeremiah 23:5; 30:9; Isaiah 9:7; 11:1; Luke 1:32, 69; Acts 13:34; and Revelation 3:7.

Why would God remind the Jews of the Messiah in the midst of all this bad news of judgment?

The LORD wanted Judah to know that even though the Assyrians and others would come and bring judgment, God would still use them and bring forth life from them. Even if they looked like a long-dead stump, God can bring forth life.

How is it the Messiah would have the Spirit of the Lord?

The Messiah did not have a false or a deceiving spirit or even the spirit of a man. Once Jesus rebuked the disciples saying, *You do not know what manner of spirit you are of* (Luke 9:55). Jesus was of the Spirit of the LORD, and He knew it.

How was the Spirit of wisdom upon the Messiah?

Jesus is perfectly wise in all things. He showed it among us during his earthly ministry, and He shows it now in His ministry towards us in heaven.

1 Corinthians 1:30 – *Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God*

It isn't just that Jesus has wisdom; He is wisdom!

How was the Spirit of understanding upon the Messiah?

Jesus understands all things, and He understands us perfectly. He is perfectly suited to be our sympathetic High Priest in heaven...

Heb 4:15 – *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

How was the Spirit of counsel upon the Messiah?

One of His names is Counselor...

Isaiah 9:6 – *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

The Lord counsels us via His Word, His Spirit, and through His children.

How was the Spirit of might upon the Messiah?

He is the Almighty. He has the power to do what He desires to do. Many would help us if they could, but are powerless. Others may have the power to help us, but don't care about us. Jesus has both the love and the might to help us.

How was the Spirit of knowledge upon the Messiah?

He is omniscient, He knows everything. He knows our hearts; He knows all the facts. He has the BIG picture.

- There have been times we've made decisions that seemed strange or wrong to others because they didn't know what we knew.

Jesus has knowledge that we don't have, so it shouldn't surprise us that sometimes His decisions seem strange or wrong to others.

How was the Spirit of the fear of the Lord upon the Messiah?

He willingly kept Himself in a place of submission, respect, and honor to God the Father...

What is the significance of these particular seven aspects of the Spirit of God?

These are not the only characteristics of the Holy Spirit. But they are grouped together in a "seven" to show the fullness and perfection of the Holy Spirit.

- This passage is behind the term the sevenfold Spirit of God used in Revelation 1:4, 3:1, 4:5 and 5:6.
- The seven-branched lampstand that held the oil lamps for the tabernacle is also an illustration of the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit.

Did Jesus have the characteristics of the Spirit of the Lord because of His "own" deity?

Jesus lived and ministered as a man filled with the Spirit of God. The godly characteristics Jesus displayed in His ministry flowed not from His "own" deity, but from His reliance on the Holy Spirit who filled Him.

- In His "own" deity, Jesus had all these attributes from eternity. But when He emptied Himself at the incarnation, he allowed the Holy Spirit to fill Him as a man, being an eternal example to us and a sympathizer with us.

- There is no difference between the nature of Jesus and the nature of the Holy Spirit. When we see Jesus, we see the Father (John 14:9).

Isaiah 11:3-5 – The perfect character of the Messiah.

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;*

⁴ *But 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, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.*

⁵ *Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

How did Jesus delight in the fear of the Lord?

Nothing pleased Jesus more than doing the will of His Father...

John 4:34 – *My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*

What characterizes the judgment of the Lord Christ?

With righteousness He shall judge: Jesus did not rely on outward appearance, or by the mere words that someone said. He judged with righteousness. He didn't cheat the poor of justice, and if the poor and the weak are given justice, then all will be.

How is it the Messiah would *strike the earth with the rod of His mouth*?

The mere words of Jesus have the power to judge the wicked. He only has to announce a judgment and it is done.

The description of the return of the Lord comes to mind:

Revelation 19:15 – *out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.*

v4 – Why is “equity” used here instead of equality? Does this endorse progressive wokeness?

- The Hebrew word here means a level, a plain, straightness, justice, equity, right.
- The dictionary definition of equity is (1) the quality of being fair and impartial, (2) value of shares in a company.
- Social justice warriors have changed the definition of equity to mean equal outcome to distinguish it from equality.

Isaiah 11:6-9 – New ecology of the Kingdom

⁶ “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

What does this tell us about the Millennial Kingdom?

The wolf also dwell with the lamb: When the Messiah reigns, nature will be transformed. No longer will there be predators among the animals, and seemingly all animals will be only herbivores (*the cow and the bear shall graze ... the lion shall eat straw like the ox*).

Romans 8:19-22 – *The earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

Nature is waiting for the transformation that will come when the Messiah reigns and believers are glorified.

What is meant by a little child shall lead them?

Not only will the way animals relate to each other be changed, but the way they relate to humans will be changed. A little child will be safe and able to lead a wolf or a leopard or a young lion or a bear. Even the danger of predators like cobras and vipers will be gone.

- In Genesis 9:2-3, the LORD gave Noah, and all mankind after him, the permission to eat meat. At the same time, the LORD put the dread of man in animals, so they would not be effortless prey for humans. That is reversed in the Millennial Kingdom.
- For this reason, many think that in Millennium, humans will return to being vegetarians, as it seems they were before Genesis 9:2-3.

What does it mean that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea?

The knowledge of the LORD - in a relational sense, not merely an intellectual sense - will cover the entire earth. Reports on the Messiah from Jerusalem will headline the news everywhere on earth every day.

Why would God have an age with most of the curse removed?

To demonstrate that we really do have freedom of choice... even in a utopian environment with most of the curse removed, some will still reject a relationship with the Savior. You will not be able to blame being brought up in an environment that causes people to be bad (victim mentality of systematic racism or misogyny).

How does having a dispensational view of history help us better understand Scripture?

God has a distinct “lesson learned” for each dispensation...

- Innocence: free will is revealed in man’s sin nature, Conscience: man’s conscience is insufficient for righteousness, Human Government: man’s corporate efforts will not restrain evil, Promise: man’s pursuit of blessings apart from God will fail, Law: man’s efforts to meet God’s standard will fail, Grace: man’s efforts at faith apart from God will fail, Kingdom: man will still sin even in a perfect environment.

Isaiah 11:10-12 – The new Exodus of the Kingdom

¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”

¹¹ It shall come to pass 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 and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. ¹² He 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.

What does it tell us that the Gentiles will seek the Messiah during the Millennial Kingdom?

The glory of the reign of the Messiah will be not only for the Jew, but for the Gentile also. He shall stand as a banner to the people, lifted high to draw all peoples to Him.

What is this banner of the Messiah?

Another banner was used before to call the nations to judgment against Israel...

Isaiah 5:26 – *He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, and will whistle to them from the end of the earth; Surely they shall come with speed, swiftly.*

This banner during the Millennial Kingdom is the Lord Himself who calls the nations to the blessings of the Messiah.

How is it the resting place of the Messiah will be glorious during the Millennial Kingdom?

Jerusalem and the temple during the Millennial Kingdom will be a sight to behold, it will be a wonder of the world and a fitting base for the Creator-God with us.

v11 – What is the “second time” that the Lord would recover the remnant of His people?

This has to be bringing them back to the land of Israel for the Millennial Kingdom. The first time was when He brought them back following the Babylonian captivity in preparation for the First Advent of the Messiah.

v12 – When would the Lord will gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth?

There will be another Exodus of the Jewish people, delivering them not only from Egypt, but from all nations where they have been dispersed...

Jeremiah 16:14-15 – *behold, 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,’ but, ‘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.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.*

Since this regathering is so memorable, many commentators have speculated that it would be supernatural, a sort of lateral rapture.

Isaiah 11:13-16 – The peace of the Kingdom

¹³ *Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.*

¹⁴ *But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them.*

¹⁵ *The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. ¹⁶ There 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.*

How is it the envy of Ephraim shall depart?

Ephraim shall not envy Judah ... Judah shall not harass Ephraim: Israel and Judah will be unified during the Millennial kingdom.

How would adversaries of Judah shall be cut off?

Israel will be at peace with all nations. In general, the nations will not go to war any more during the reign of the Messiah. Conflicts will be justly and swiftly settled by the Messiah and His government.

v14-15 – Why are these nations mentioned here?

These nations as traditional enemies of Israel would be punished if they threaten Israel during the Millennial kingdom... so it will not happen.

v16 – What will be this highway for the remnant of His people?

Any obstacle to the gathering of those dispersed among the nations will be taken away. Nothing can oppose the regathering of the Jews in Israel. Indeed, this highway would also facilitate the gathering of the nations in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles...

Zechariah 14:16 – And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

What applications come from our discussion today?

- God keeps His promises... this is certainly seen in the stage being set for God to begin working through Israel again.
- The seven-fold characteristics of the Holy Spirit are the characteristics of Jesus... He is God in the flesh!
- Jesus will rule during the Millennial Kingdom with a rod of iron... the time will come when justice reigns!
- Most of the curse will be removed during the Millennial Kingdom... we should look forward to this with all creation.
- The peace the nations long for will be a reality during the Millennial Kingdom... don't be disappointed when human efforts fail.
- The Jews will be regathered to Israel a second time... and they'll remember this even more than the original Exodus because they'll know their Savior.