

ISAIAH 11 | *A Shoot from Jesse's Stump*



14th-century "Jesse window" at [St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury](#)

Messiah Rules by the Spirit

1 There will come forth a Shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will produce fruit.¹ 2 And the Spirit² of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. 3 And his delight will be in the fear of Yahweh. He will not judge³ by what his eyes see or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he will judge the poor and decide with equity for the humble of the earth. And he will strike⁴ the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he will kill⁵ the wicked. 5 Righteousness (קִדְּוָה) will be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness (אֱמֻנָה) the belt of his loins.

Eden 2.0

6 The wolf will dwell with the lamb,⁶ and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf, the lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead (נָהַג) them. 7 The

¹ **Jn 15:5** 5 I am the vine. You are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that produces much fruit.

² **Is 61:1** 1 The Spirit of Lord Yahweh is upon me, because Yahweh has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. **Mt 3:16** 16 When Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

³ **Jn 7:24** 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

⁴ **Ps 2:9** 9 You [God's Son] shall break [the nations] with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

⁵ **2 Th 2:8** 8 Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

⁶ **Is 65:25** 25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together. The lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says Yahweh. **Hos 2:18** 18 I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground.

cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child will play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge (הַדָּעָה)⁷ of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.

Signal for the Peoples

10 In that day the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples (עֲמֻיִם)—of him will the nations (גּוֹיִם) inquire,⁸ and his resting place will be glorious (כְּבוֹד).

Remnant's Remarkable Regathering

11 In that day⁹ the Lord (יְהוָה) will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant (רְשֻׁמָּה) that remains of his people, from Assyria,¹⁰ from Egypt, from Pathros,¹¹ from Cush,¹² from Elam,¹³ from Shinar,¹⁴ from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 He will raise a signal for the nations (גּוֹיִם) and will assemble¹⁵ the banished of Israel and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 13 The jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off. Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim.¹⁶ 14 But they will swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they will plunder the people of the east. They will put out their hand

⁷ **Hab 2:14** 14 The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.

⁸ **Is 49:22** 22 Behold, I [Yahweh] will lift up my hand to the nations and raise my signal to the peoples. And they will bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders. **Ro 15:12** 12 Again Isaiah says, The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles. In him will the Gentiles hope.

⁹ **Is 10:20** 20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

¹⁰ **Is 27:13** 13 In that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship Yahweh on the holy mountain at Jerusalem. **Mic 7:12** 12 In that day they will come to you, from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt to the River, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain. **Zec 10:10** 10 I will bring them home from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon till there is no room for them.

¹¹ **Eze 29:14** 14 I will restore the fortunes of Egypt and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom. **Eze 30:14** 14 I will make Pathros a desolation, set fire to Zoan, and execute judgments on Thebes.

¹² **Ge 10:6** 6 The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

¹³ **Ge 10:22** 22 The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. **Ge 14:1** 1 In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim....

¹⁴ **Ge 11:2** 2 As people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

¹⁵ **Is 56:8** 8 Lord Yahweh, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered. **Zec 10:6** 6 I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am Yahweh their God, and I will answer them.

¹⁶ **Eze 37:16-17** 16 Son of man, take a stick and write on it, For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him. Then take another stick and write on it, For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him. 17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

against Edom and Moab,¹⁷ and the Ammonites will obey them. 15 And Yahweh will devote to destruction the tongue of the Sea of Egypt¹⁸ and will wave his hand over the [Euphrates] River with his scorching breath [wind] and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. 16 And there will be a highway¹⁹ from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.²⁰

¹⁷ **Ps 60:8** 8 Moab is my washbasin. Upon Edom I cast my shoe. Over Philistia I shout in triumph.

¹⁸ **Zec 10:11** 11 [Israel] shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart.

¹⁹ **Is 19:23** 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. **Is 35:8** 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness.

²⁰ **Ex 14:29** 29 The people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Commentary

1. Isaiah at a Glance.

- a. For the first time in Isaiah, we've come to a chapter that is all good!
- b. The movement is from the Messianic king's qualifications to his performance to the results.²¹

2. Messiah Rules by the Spirit (Is 11:1-5).

- a. **Is 11:1-5** 1 There will come forth a Shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will produce fruit. 2 And the Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. 3 And his delight will be in the fear of Yahweh. He will not judge by what his eyes see or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he will judge the poor and decide with equity for the humble of the earth. And he will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness (קִדְמוּת) will be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness (אֱמוּנָה) the belt of his loins.
- b. A Shoot-Branch will spring forth after the tree of Jesse, the Davidic dynasty, is chopped down.
 - (1) **Is 6:13** 13 Though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled. The holy seed is its stump.
 - (2) **Is 53:1-2** 1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
 - (3) **Je 23:5** 5 Behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- c. The Shoot-Branch is the Seed of woman prophesied in Ge 3:15-16.
 - (1) **Ge 3:15-16** 15 I [Yahweh] will put enmity between you [the serpent] and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. 16 To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your sadness in conception. In sorrow you will bring forth children. But your desire will be for your Man [Messiah], and he will rule over you.
- d. Jesus is the Shoot-Branch.
 - (1) **Mt 1:1** 1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
 - (2) **Mt 12:23** 23 All the people were amazed and said, Can this be the Son of David?
 - (3) **Mt 21:15** 15 When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that [Jesus] did, and the children crying out in the temple, Hosanna to the Son of David! they were indignant.
 - (4) **Lk 1:31-33** 31 Behold, you [Mary] will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

²¹ Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:278.

- 33 he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.
- e. The Branch will produce fruit.
- (1) **Jn 15:5** 5 I am the vine. You are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him.
 - (2) **Ga 5:22-23** 22 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.
- f. The Spirit will rest on the Branch.
- (1) **Is 42:1** 1 Behold my Servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring forth justice to the nations.
 - (2) **Is 61:1** 1 The Spirit of Lord Yahweh is upon me, because Yahweh has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.
 - (a) Isaiah refers to the Spirit more than any other OT prophet (Is 11:2; 30:1; 32:15; 34:16; 40:13; 42:1; 44:3; 48:16; 59:21; 61:1; 63:10–11, 14).
 - (3) **Mt 3:16** 16 When Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.
 - (4) **Lk 4:14** 14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.
 - (5) **Lk 4:17-21** 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to [Jesus]. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.
 - (6) **Re 1:4-5** 4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Messiah the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.
- g. The Messiah will delight in the fear of Yahweh.
- (1) The fear of God is awesome respect for the Triune God because of who he is and what he can do. It's "an inward attitude of humble reverence toward God, in light of His self-revelation, that results in outward expression of Christlikeness."²² Similar concepts are amazement, appreciation, awe, respect, reverence, wonder for God.
 - (a) Because the Messiah will be characterized by this fear of the Lord, he can be depended upon to perceive correctly (Jn 2:24-25; Mk 2:8) and to act with integrity (Lk 4:1-13)(Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:280).
 - (b) **Pr 1:7** 7 The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge. Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- h. The Messiah will judge the poor with righteousness.

²² Dallas Theological Seminary, Spiritual Formation curriculum.

- (1) **Is 2:4** 4 He will judge between the nations and will decide disputes for many peoples. And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
- (2) **Ac 10:42** 42 [Jesus] ordered us [apostles] to preach to the [Jewish] people, and solemnly to testify that this is the one who has been appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.
 - i. The Messiah will kill the wicked.
 - (1) **Re 19:15** 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
 - j. The Messiah will be characterised by righteousness and faithfulness.
 - (1) **Is 1:26** 26 I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.
 - (2) **Is 9:6-7** 7 Of the increase of [Messiah's] government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.
 - (3) **Is 16:5** 5 A throne will be established in loyal love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness.

3. Eden 2.0 (Is 11:6-9).

- a. **Is 11:6-9** 6 The wolf will dwell with the lamb,²³ and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf, the lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead (גָּדַל) them. 7 The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child will play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge (יָדָעַתִּי)²⁴ of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.
- b. When Messiah comes, the animal kingdom will be transformed to its pre-Fall state.
 - (1) **Ge 1:28-31** 28 God blessed [the man and woman]. And God said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the heavens, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

²³ **Is 65:25** 25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together. The lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says Yahweh.

²⁴ **Hab 2:14** 14 The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.

- (2) **Ge 3:21** 21 Yahweh God made for Adam and for his wife garments of [animal] skins and clothed them.
 - (3) **Ge 9:1-3** 1 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you will be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.
 - (4) **Is 65:25** 25 The wolf and the lamb will graze together. The lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says Yahweh.
 - (5) **Hos 2:18** 18 I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground.
 - (6) **Ro 8:20-22** 20 The creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.
- c. Even the war between the seed of the serpent and seed of woman will end (v. 8).
- (1) **Ge 3:15** 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
 - (2) **Ro 16:20** 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet
 - (3) **Ac 28:3-5** 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. 4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live. 5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.
- d. The earth will be flooded with the knowledge of Yahweh (v. 9).
- (1) **Hab 2:14** 14 The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.
 - (2) **Je 31:34** 34 No longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother saying, Know Yahweh, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares Yahweh.

4. Signal for the Peoples (Is 11:10).

- a. **Is 11:10** 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples (עַמִּים)—of him will the nations (גוֹיִם) inquire, and his resting place will be glorious (קְבוּרָה).
- b. In that day, the nations will inquire of Messiah (v. 10).
 - (1) **Is 2:2-3** 2 It will come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of Yahweh will be established as the highest of the mountains and will be lifted up above the hills. And all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.

- (2) **Is 49:22** 22 Behold, I [Yahweh] will lift up my hand to the nations and raise my signal to the peoples. And they will bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders.
- (3) **Ge 12:3** 3 In you [Abram] all the families of the earth will be blessed.
- (4) **Ro 15:12** 12 Again Isaiah says, The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles. In him will the Gentiles hope
- c. Messiah's resting place will be glorious (v. 10).
 - (1) **Mt 5:35** 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

5. The Remarkable Regathering of the Remnant (Is 11:11-16).

- a. **Is 11:11-16** 11 In that day the Lord (יְהוָה) will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant (רִשְׁטָה) that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 He will raise a signal for the nations (אִתָּן) and will assemble the banished of Israel and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 13 The jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off. Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim. 14 But they will swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they will plunder the people of the east. They will put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will obey them. 15 And Yahweh will devote to destruction the tongue of the Sea of Egypt and will wave his hand over the [Euphrates] River with his scorching breath [wind] and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. 16 And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.
- b. The Lord will recover the remnant of Israel a second time (v. 11).
 - (1) **Is 56:8** 8 Lord Yahweh, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.
 - (2) **Zec 10:6** 6 I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am Yahweh their God, and I will answer them.
- c. The Lord will gather the remnant from the four corners of the earth (v. 12).
 - (1) **Is 10:20** 20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.
 - (2) **Is 27:13** 13 In that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship Yahweh on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.
 - (3) **Mic 7:12** 12 In that day they will come to you, from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt to the [Euphrates] River, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.
 - (4) **Zec 10:10** 10 I will bring them home from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.

- d. The rivalry between Judah and Ephraim will end (v. 13).
 - (1) **Eze 37:16-17** 16 Son of man, take a stick and write on it, For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him. Then take another stick and write on it, For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him. 17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.
- e. Together, Judah and Ephraim will subdue the surrounding nations (v. 14).
 - (1) **Ps 60:8** 8 Moab is my washbasin. Upon Edom I cast my shoe. Over Philistia I shout in triumph.
 - (2) **Ob 19** 19 Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines. They shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.
- f. The Lord will modify the Suez Canal and Euphrates River for the remnant to cross on foot (v. 15).
 - (1) **Ex 14:21-22** 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and Yahweh drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.
 - (a) This happened 500 or 700 years before Isaiah's prophecy.
 - (2) **Zec 10:11** 11 [Israel] shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart.
- g. There will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant (v. 16).
 - (1) **Is 19:23** 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.
 - (2) **Is 35:8** 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness.