

**CALVARY PANDAN  
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**DHW BIBLE CLASS**

**LESSON 11**

**THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

**CHAPTER 11**

**Theme:** "The Millennial Rule of Christ  
Prophesied!"

**THEME VERSE**

**Isaiah 11:2** (KJV) "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 of the fear of the LORD."

**INTRODUCTION**

Prophecies are more than mere fortune told by fortunetellers! God's prophecies are a class by themselves. These are accurate descriptions of what God Almighty says He would do in the future. As these are prophecies of future events, the target audience are believers and not unbelievers. Although one can use prophecies to present the gospel message like if one dies in one's sin without Christ, one will go to Hell; that is not the primary purpose of prophecies. Prophecies are meant to benefit God's children like a loving father informing his children what he has planned for them in the future.

In prophecies, the event is always the focus unless the prophecies are

about time such as the prophecies of the 1,000 years' reign of Christ in Revelation 20. The certainty of the fulfilment of prophecies is never doubted even though it has come under constant attack by liberals and modernists. When these events are to be fulfilled should not bother the believer as long as the believer believes in the certainty of the events occurring. This belief must be translated into a changed life. He now lives his present life in light of what he sincerely believes will definitely happen. If he does not do that, then his belief is false. He has just called his heavenly Father a liar!

There are three types of prophecies in the Bible. The first type pertains to immediate prophecies where very soon after the prophecies are given, they are fulfilled. An example of immediate prophecy is Genesis 40 and 41. Genesis 40 described the prophecies given by God to the baker and butler. Both prophecies were fulfilled soon after. Genesis 41 refers to the dreams of Pharaoh regarding 7 years of great plenty followed immediately by 7 years of great famine. Immediately after Joseph explained the meaning of the dreams to Pharaoh, they were fulfilled.

The second type of prophecies is intermediate in their fulfilment. These prophecies normally do not belong to the Last Days of Last Things. An example of intermediate prophecies could include the prophecies of Israel in the Land of Bondage recorded in Genesis 15. Other examples of intermediate prophecies would be the

judgement of the Northern Kingdom Israel by the Assyrians and the judgement of the Southern Kingdom by the Babylonians.

The third type of prophecies is distant fulfilment. Examples of distant fulfilment prophecies are those found in the book of Revelation. All other prophecies pertaining to the doctrine of eschatology like the end of sin, death, Hell and Satan, etc. are included here. Some argue that all prophecies pertaining to the first Coming of Christ like Christ's virgin birth, the place of His birth, etc. as distant prophecies as well because of the long period of time involved. This is an acceptable view as Genesis 3:15 is not only the first gospel preached by God Himself, but it is also a prophecy on the birth of Christ! This prophecy took more than 10,000 years for it to be fulfilled!

Since Isaiah 11 is a prophecy about the rule and reign of Christ in the millennium, it has to be categorised under distant fulfilment.

### **OUTLINE**

1. The Messiah and His Kingdom (vv.1-9);
2. The Restoration (vv. 10-16).

### **COMMENTARY**

#### **The Messiah and His Kingdom – 11:1-9**

The best hope God could give to the people of Israel is the prophecy of the coming Messiah! When a nation is down and under persecution, there is no brighter hope and light than the

knowledge that from Israel will ultimately come the Great Messiah! Chapter 10 describes the punishment of Israel by the Assyrians. The Assyrians in turn will be punished for what they will do to Israel. However, the punishment of a Gentile nation does nothing for Israel in terms of Israel's glory and well-being. Will Israel be strong again? How will Israel be ruled in the future after all the Gentiles are done with her? These are all answered in Isaiah 11.

The rod and branch is used as a synonym in verse 1. Jesse was the father of King David. As God had prophesied in the days of King David that He will build King David a kingdom in 2 Samuel 7, this prophecy of Christ coming from the rod of the stem (i.e. King David as Jesse had seven sons) of Jesse is for confirmation! To bring this prophecy even further back in time, the Bible says that Christ will come forth like a Branch out of his roots. The "his" refers to Jesse. This has to refer to Jesse's roots. This brings us all the way back to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If we wish to, we can even go as far back as Noah and to Shem, the son of Noah, who had three sons.

This means that the genealogy recorded in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 are of utmost importance to establish the legitimacy of the claim of Jesus of Nazareth that He is indeed the Messiah. This means that Christ did not come from any lineage but only that of the lineage of David. We will find the name of David in both the above genealogies. This is very important to the Jews and all believers.

God's prophecies will always be fulfilled to the very jot and tittle.

Verse 2 – The sevenfold name of the Holy Spirit is described here. The Holy Spirit in His fullness will rest upon the Messiah. The word rest is not the word for Sabbath rest. This verb has the idea of settling down or remaining. This means that the Holy Spirit in His fullness, as the usage of the sevenfold aspect of the Holy Spirit argues, will remain on the Messiah while He ministered on Earth. This was seen at the baptism of Christ, the Holy Spirit “descending like a dove and lighting upon him” (Matthew 3:16).

- the spirit of the LORD – The use of the covenantal Name here is to point to the covenantal relationship that the LORD made with Israel and humanity as a whole. Jesus is the CHRIST (Messiah in Hebrew), the Saviour of the world! The LORD is a Keeper of His covenantal Promises!
- the spirit of wisdom and understanding — This refers to intelligence (i.e. understanding) and the application of knowledge (wisdom). This speaks of Christ's ability to know the mind and plan of man. He will not be deceived by their evil and cunning devices. He also knows the ploy and wicked plan of Satan who will try his utmost to destroy Christ and tempt Him into sinning.
- the spirit of counsel and might – This refers to purpose (i.e. counsel) and power and

strength (i.e. might). Christ will do the Father's will all the days of His life on earth. There is no second wasted on frivolity. His purpose is to come and die for the sins of the world. Every step and every place He entered and every person He speaks with is in accordance to the purpose and will of the Father. His power speaks of His omnipotence. There is no sickness He could not heal. There is no demon possession He could not cast out. There is no miracle He could not do! All things that require power to accomplish, Christ has the power to do them all and He never feels tired. His strength remains constant and unchanging.

- the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD – Christ is omniscient for He knows all things all at the same time. He does not lose or gain knowledge. He knows all things from the beginning to the end all at once. His knowledge is immutable. The fear of the LORD here is not one of fright but reverence. It is interesting to note that this sevenfold description of the Holy Spirit begins and ends with the Name of the LORD. It begins and ends with the covenant that God made. Christ came with reverence for God in the heart as He fulfils the covenant that God made with Israel and the world to send the Saviour to save man from their sins.

Verse 3 – The incarnate Christ will be very special from the rest of humanity. God shall make him of quick understanding (literally it means “to smell”). How fast does it take to smell something the moment a person comes into contact with something that is pungent? It is instantaneous. The ability of Christ will be like that when it comes to knowing the schemes and heart and motives of people around him. This is in the fear of the LORD i.e. with reverence before the LORD. This means that it will be based upon God’s perfect Word and will not be done superficially.

Man judges after the sight of his eyes and reprove after the hearing of his ears but the LORD judges the motives as well including the thoughts of men. This is seen on many occasions in the life of Christ as recorded in the gospels.

Verse 4 – Having the ability to know the inner motives of all men as He judges, the Bible reveals to us the basis for Christ’s judgement. It is one of righteousness and equity. There is no favouritism when Christ judges. He judges the rich as well as the poor and with the same standard of righteousness. Those who have done wrong, He will rebuke with equity. Those who are not able to defend themselves because of the injustices they encounter on this earth, Christ will rebuke them with equity.

Those who are unrepentant and are stubbornly fixed in their sinful ways, Christ will smite the earth with the rod of His mouth i.e. His sharp Word, which is like a double-edged

sword. This same Word will be used by the LORD to slay the wicked. This will be fulfilled when the LORD returns at His second coming (see Rev 19).

Verse 5 – Righteousness will be the girdle of His loins i.e. Christ will be characterised by righteousness even in His wrath against the wicked ones. It is as if righteousness is tied around His waist! He carries it with Him everywhere He goes. The second picture is one of faithfulness. Faithfulness is tied around His reins i.e. the seat of vigour and strength. To be faithful is to be trustworthy. Christ will never break His Word. Every word that He utters will be yea and amen. The very seat of His strength and power is one of faithfulness. He never does anything where righteousness and faithfulness will not prevail.

Verse 6-9 – These are verses that describe the time of the millennium. From the time of the incarnation of Christ (verse 1) to the judgement of Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation, Isaiah transports his readers to the time during the millennium. **Isaiah 11:6-9** (KJV) says, *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ 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."*

The entire animal kingdom is transformed to the time of Adam and Eve before the Fall of Man. "The wolf will live with the lamb" is a picture of peace and tranquillity within the animal kingdom. The lamb will dwell inside the wolf today! The leopard will lie next to a kid. This is also unthinkable today. The leopard prefers lamb chops today. The calf and the young lion and the fatling will also dwell together! It is a picture of restoration in the creation of God. They will follow a little child whereas today they eat the little child. They will not hurt the child. God has reversed the entire disposition of the animal kingdom.

The illustration continues on with the bear and the cow feeding together with their young ones lying side by side! The lion shall eat straw like the ox. The new disposition of the animals in God's creation is one of herbivorous rather than omnivorous or carnivorous. This miraculous work of God means that the second coming has occurred. Romans 8:19 says that God's creation waits for the second coming of Christ to redeem man and give him the glorified body. When that day comes, all of God's creation would also be restored!

The suckling child, i.e. a baby who drinks mother's milk, is able to play with a poisonous snake and not be bitten. And a child who is weaned shall put his hand on the cockatrice i.e. a viper and not be bitten as well. These are pictures that conjure a utopian world where every creature is at peace

with one another! Animosity is removed completely and there is genuine peace and safety.

No one is allowed to hurt or destroy on Christ's holy mountain because the world is filled with the knowledge of the LORD just like the waters cover the sea. The Holy Mountain has to be Zion or Jerusalem. The vast saturation of the Word of God in the millennium is startling to say the least. Every inch of the sea is always covered with water. That part of the earth that is not covered by water is not called sea! The totality of the spread of the Word of God can only occur during the millennial kingdom where Christ would rule ON earth in the New Jerusalem and the Millennial Temple.

Please note that the Bible did not say that God's law is written in their hearts! This would mean that they would all be believers. It means that God's Word is found everywhere on earth.

### **The Restoration – 11:10-16**

The phrase, "in that day there shall be a root of Jesse" indicates a natural division between the first section of this chapter and the second. The root has to refer to Christ here. Again, we are reminded of the importance of the fulfilment of prophecy and the importance of the genealogies in the gospels of Matthew and Luke! The standard (i.e. ensign) of Christ will prevail throughout the earth. The Gentiles will seek this standard that Christ has set up and all who turn to Christ will find and enjoy glorious rest (i.e. repose or peace). This is what

the world looks for today but will not find anything that is remotely close to the glorious rest that Christ alone can give. However, when a person believes in Christ today, he too can find this rest.

Verse 11 – On that day, the LORD will gather all the people of Israel from the Gentile nations a second time. When was the first time that the LORD recovered the people of Israel? The use of the word again points to a first. Up to this point in Isaiah's prophecy, there was only the Exodus to be considered as the first. There was no Assyrian captivity (722 BC) and Babylonian captivity (586 BC) yet. Could the second return be understood as the return from captivity during the time of Nehemiah? When that return occurred in 535 BC, there was no return from these Gentile nations and islands as listed in verse 11. This second return has to refer to the period of the LORD's gathering of the saints after the Great Tribulation which would definitely include the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7 but not exclusively. There were others who would be saved as well like people of Israel from the tribe of Dan who were not listed as part of the 144,000. This gives hope to Israel for when the end comes, Israel will be the only nation left standing and all other Gentile nations will disappear from the sea of humanity for eternity.

Verse 12-13 – The LORD shall set up a standard for the nation. That standard (i.e. ensign) will have to be His perfect and Holy Word. This is the work of God in the last day. This will

surely come to pass for only God alone could move the hearts of the people to "desire" to leave everything behind and follow the LORD into the Promised Land. Ephraim which is the strongest of the 10 tribes that broke away to form the Northern Kingdom called Israel will not envy Judah her southern neighbour any more. They will be united as one again. The adversaries of Judah will be cut off. Judah will no longer vex her northern neighbour! This unity was not seen in the days of Nehemiah but will be seen in the days of the millennium after the LORD reunites them as one and they enter the new heaven and new earth as a united people of God.

Verse 14-16 – All the past enemies of Israel will be soundly defeated and they will cease to exist forever. The Philistines, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites and the Egyptians were all long-term enemies of Israel since the days of Moses. They will be utterly destroyed by the LORD. The river that prevents the gathering will be dried up by the LORD. There will be a highway for the people of God to return. They will march toward where the LORD would gather them like they did when they came out of Egypt during the days of Moses.

### **PRACTICAL VALUE**

Prophetic hope – The hope of man is often in the things of this earth. This is temporal and do not last a lifetime. Hopes that are earth bound wane when the body grows old and begins to decay. The five senses disappear one by one with age and all

hopes in the things of this earth disappear with them.

However, when the hope is based upon God's prophecies, then the hope grows stronger as the body grows weaker! As the body detaches itself further and further from the things of this earth, the soul gravitates stronger and stronger toward the eternal promises given by God in His holy Word. Therefore, even though the prophecies do not occur in our lifetime, they are not useless. In fact, they engender hope and undergird our faith to live more for the LORD Jesus Christ as we look forward to the day when He will return in power and glory to rule this world that He has created.

The Millennium Environment – This present world of ours has not always been in this geographical and topographical state. There was a time before the global Flood in Noah's days where the creatures of the world do not consume one another for food. They lived in peace with one another. Thorns and thistles formed on the earth after the fall and the world plunged into a state of sin and destruction. God will restore the earth to her former glory during the millennium.

The Ruler is Christ. The Headquarters of Christ's rule is Jerusalem, the holy mountain of God. The word of God will cover the whole earth. Gentiles will turn to Him and find peace.

Israel Stands alone for eternity – All the nations of the world are designed by man and founded by man. The only exception is Israel. Israel was

the chosen nation of God for the coming of the Messiah. Her role was done when Christ came through the Virgin Mary. But Israel's purpose before God remains incomplete. Israel will rule on the earth according to the territory set forth by the LORD in Genesis 15. That rule has not been fulfilled yet. Since God keeps all His promises we know that this will be fulfilled in the future during the millennium. It is not the spiritual Israel but the actual nation of Israel.

Gentile nations will be destroyed and cease to exist. In time to come, they will probably all be forgotten like some of the past great cities have now been forgotten by man today. This world is not our home. As believers, we are citizens of heaven. We have to remind ourselves that we are not Singaporeans forever but we are Christians forever. Do not become a permanent resident in your heart to this earth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Find the heart and find the real treasure! AMEN.

## **DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Daily Readings**

**MONDAY:** Isaiah 11:1-16;

**TUESDAY:** Isaiah 11:1-16;

**WEDNESDAY:** Isaiah 11:1-16;

**THURSDAY:** Isaiah 11:1-16;

**FRIDAY:** Isaiah 11:1-16.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Can you trace from the OT the lineage of Jesse from Abraham to the time of David? In which verse did God promise that the Messiah would come from the line of David?

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2. What is the difference between the indwelling, filling and the coming upon of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the Bible? Please explain your answer.

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3. Can I say that the most powerful weapon on earth is the Word of God? If this is true then why is it that people can disobey the Word of God? If it is not true, please explain what is more powerful than the Bible.

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4. What does it mean when the earth is full of the knowledge of the LORD? Does it mean that there are signboards everywhere where the Word of God is openly displayed?

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5. Is the rest that the believer enjoys in the millennium the same as the rest that believers enjoy on earth today? Please explain.

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6. How does the prophecy of the Second Coming of Christ impact you today? Please explain in practical terms like your family, work or study, etc.

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7. Is it biblical for a believer to have fun and laugh and enjoy life, knowing the terror of the LORD would soon come upon this earth? Please explain.

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9. Is the ensign of Christ the Word of God or the person of Christ in the millennium?

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8. Is there any other way to interpret verses 6-9 other than to see them as a period occurring during the millennium?

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10. How should we regard our enemies and Israel knowing that one day all the enemies of God would be destroyed and only Israel remained? Give reason for your answers.

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11. How do you view this world with her many nations and cities in light of Isaiah 11? Please explain.

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12. How does this hope of the millennial kingdom affect your life right now? Please give reasons for your answer.

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13. What lessons can you learn from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?

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