

WEEK #11

Isaiah 11&12 - Thankful



Isaiah by Mail

A Bible Study Born in the Midst of Covid

Monday, August 17, 2020

Hi Everyone!

I'm writing this on Thursday, August 13, 2020. Just a few minutes ago I saw an announcement on the news that President Trump had just finalized a momentous peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates. Perhaps you saw it too, and by the time you read this, you'll know more about it than I do right now.

Now you know I'm not political. I truly have no desire to have an opinion on politics. I'm not saying this peace agreement is good or bad, but I've already had someone ask me if this could possibly be the peace treaty spoken of in Daniel and in Revelation 6:1 – the First Seal, the one with the white horse, the one that brings peace to the world. And if it is, does that mean the Last Seven Years, the Tribulation, has begun?



My answer? First of all – there have been peace treaties before and they didn't turn out to be "the one". Second, the peace treaty which begins the Last Seven Years will be a treaty which spells out a specified length of time for the treaty to last - seven years. Have we heard that about this one? And last....let's just wait and see. If it truly is that peace treaty spoken of in scripture – the one that begins the Last Seven Years, then the next thing to come will be the Second Seal - widespread war and violence – people killing people in an unprecedented way. If we see that happening, then we can begin to wonder.

But here's what we can do. We can be thankful for a Savior who has had the future planned from the time He created the World! We can spend our days and moments just thanking Him for all He has done and all He will do...and for how totally amazing He is!

Let's do what we talked about all the way through our study of the book of Revelation – trust Him with our hopes and dreams and future. Whether He returns now or in one hundred years is completely in His hands.

This week we are studying Isaiah 11&12. I think you're going to love these chapters and you will agree with me that they are timely, as usual, for today's news.

When you read Isaiah 11 this week you'll see our memory verse. It's describing Jesus – the Messiah who was yet to come in Isaiah's day. But, you will see, it's also describing the Holy Spirit.

It's almost as if we are seeing a picture of Jesus, covered with a transparent overlay of the Holy Spirit – they are separate, but the same! What a great way to begin to understand the Trinity.



There's a place in the book of Revelation where the great Throne room of God Almighty is described. And there we see the Holy Spirit pictured as seven lamps of fire – or, in other words – a huge candelabra with seven flames. (*Revelation* 4:5) That menorah is a picture of the Holy Spirit. The seven flames are: LORD, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the LORD, as spelled out in Isaiah 11:2.

That's the Jesus who was yet to come in Isaiah's day. That's the Jesus who worked miracles and died on the cross and rose from the dead. That's the Jesus who has lived in my heart since I was 17 years old. He is everything to us. Just to know Him is to know true peace.

When you read Isaiah 12 you'll know why these chapters are so awesome for the news of our day: Our response when we begin to grasp to majesty of God's plan is simply to praise and thank the One who is in charge of everything.

Kathleen

Isaiah 11 & 12 – Thankful Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 11:2

“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.”

- [illegible]

4. 11:6-16 What is the world going to be like when the Savior finally comes the 2nd time?

5. Chapter 12 And....after all that happens, what is the proper response?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

6. Even now, what is our proper response to the sure knowledge that all this is going to come to pass?
7. How important is thankfulness in our lives today?

Isaiah 11 & 12 – Thankful Kathleen's Answers & Comments

Memory Verse: Isaiah 11:2

"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."

Again and again Isaiah yells out in agony – he's screaming the curses of God at his own people - the people of Israel ...and then again and again he stops the yelling and quietly and gently says: "But everything is going to be OK. Your Savior is coming."

Chapters 11 and 12 are one of those little breaks from Isaiah's deep and painful suffering. These two chapters are full of promises of blessing and also full of Isaiah's own spontaneous thankfulness to the LORD as he thinks through the Messiah Who is coming – Jesus!

1. 11:1 How is Jesus being described here?

He's described as green shoot from old roots.

What does that tell us about Jesus, the coming Messiah?:

- The "stem" and the "roots" is referring to the line of the Kings of Israel. David was the first King of Israel, and his descendants had the right to sit on the throne after him. Since Jesse was the father of King David, this line is sometimes described as the line of Jesse. The Messiah would be a descendant of King David. Jesus was a descendant of King David. Need proof of that? See the genealogy of Joseph (Jesus' father) in *Matthew 1:1-16* and the genealogy of Mary (Jesus' mother) in *Luke 3:23-38*.
- And what's the significance of the "old roots"? This prophecy indicated that the Messiah would come to earth when it would seem that no more kings could ever come from David again. Was that true of Jesus? Yes. When Jesus was born, there was little hope in anyone's mind that a descendant of King David would ever reign over Israel again. The only possible hope that might have existed would have been in the hearts and minds of those Jewish people who still looked for their Messiah to come, and who knew that it would be a miracle of God if that Messiah was able to once again reign as the rightful King over Israel.

The Kings of Israel basically stopped with "Jeconiah" in the genealogy Matthew gives us. Jeconiah was the last king of Israel before the people were carted away to Babylon

as slaves. When they returned 70 years later to their own land, they never again actually had a king as an independent nation. They were always under the thumb of some greater power. The Kingship had stopped with Jeconiah.

Besides the fact that the Jews were carried away to Babylon, there's another reason why the Kingship stopped with Jeconiah. He had been such an evil king that the LORD told him the kingship would stop with him, and that no son of his would ever sit on the throne of Israel. (see *Jeremiah 22:30 "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah"*)

So how would Jesus, then, ever have the right to sit on the throne of David (since he, through Joseph, was a descendant of Jeconiah)?

Look at the Matthew and Luke genealogies again. Yes, Joseph was a descendant of King David, but Mary was, too. And Mary, while part of the bloodline of King David, was not part of the bloodline of Jeconiah. And it is Mary's DNA which was passed on to Jesus, not Joseph's, right? So through Joseph Jesus inherits the legal right to sit on the throne of David, but through Mary's bloodline He passes by the curse of the LORD on the line of Jeconiah, and still meets the qualifications to sit on the throne of Israel..

Wow! I always get such a thrill from those usually boring genealogies! They show God's intricate and compassionate dealings in our lives.

2. 11:2 How is Jesus being described here?

So - besides being the King who would come when it seemed kings were gone from Israel, Jesus is also described as having all the characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is One of the Three who make up the Trinity. He is the Son. And He is God. He is the same as the Father. And He is the same as the Holy Spirit.

And what is the Holy Spirit like? We don't see much about Him in the Old Testament, and just a little bit more about Him in the New Testament. There's a reason why we don't see whole books dedicated to Him. His job is to point people to Jesus. To glorify Jesus. He doesn't want to glorify Himself and take the spotlight away from Jesus. (*John 16:12-14*)

Isaiah 11:2 tells us not only what the Holy Spirit is all about, but also that Jesus is the spitting image of Him!

- He is the LORD.
- He is wisdom.
- He is understanding.
- He is counsel.
- He is might.

- He is knowledge.
- And He is the fear of the LORD.

There's a place in the book of Revelation where the great Throne room of God Almighty is described. And here we see the Holy Spirit as seven lamps of fire – or, in other words – a huge candelabra with seven flames. (*Revelation 4:5*) That lamp is a picture of the Holy Spirit. The seven flames are: LORD, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the LORD.

The Messiah described in Isaiah 11:1&2 is the Son of God (*Isaiah 9:6*). He is also The Father (*Isaiah 9:6*). And He also is the Holy Spirit. (*Isaiah 11:2*).

3. 11:3-5 Make a list of all the characteristics of Jesus which are talked about in verses 3-5:

- He delights in fearing the Lord.
- He doesn't judge just by what He sees.
- He doesn't judge just by what He hears.
- He judges with righteousness, He shows justice to the poor.
- He looks over the meek, using truth as His measuring line.
- He will speak and His words will be like weapons.
- He will simply breathe and death will come to the guilty.
- He will be known for righteousness and faithfulness.

Isaiah 11:1-4a describe Jesus in His 1st Coming...gentle, wise, knowing Jesus, taking care of the poor and valuing every person.

In the second half of verse 4, suddenly we see Jesus executing judgment and dressed in the garments of war - and that's what He does in His 2nd Coming!

You can see why the 1st Coming and the 2nd Coming were sometimes thought of as just one "coming" as Old Testament believers tried to understand what the Messiah's coming was going to be like.

4. 11:6-16 What is the world going to be like when the Savior finally comes the 2nd time?

- :6 No violence amongst animals, or from animals to humans.
- :7 No wild animals. All animals will be like domestic animals.
- :8 No danger from poisonous reptiles.
- :9 All people over the whole earth will be believers – they will know and communicate with the Lord.
- 10. Jews and gentiles will love Jesus, who will be the One they look to .
- 11&12 Jews from all over the globe will be brought home to Israel.

- 13. The two warring factions of Israel – Judah and Ephraim – will be one.
- 14&15 All nations will be under the just and loving authority of Israel.
- 16. As all Jews travel home to Israel, the way will be made easy for them.

These verses, Isaiah 11:6-16, describe the world after Jesus' 2nd Coming. They describe the 1,000-year reign of Christ in our world – the Millennium.

Chapter 9 of Isaiah also describes the Millennium - if anyone ever needed proof that Jesus is God, I don't know what could be more clear than Isaiah's words in both chapter 9 and chapter 11. (and so much more to come.)

5. Chapter 12 And....after all that happens, What is the proper response?

In Isaiah 6 we saw one very proper response to the Glory of God: Repentance and asking what He would have us do. And now here in chapter 12 we see another very proper response to all His majesty: Thankfulness and Praise.

When the Millennium finally arrives, all of Isaiah 12 is one of the many songs we will all learn to sing someday:

“And in that day you will say:”.....“O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for Yahweh, the LORD, is my strength and song: He also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

“And in that day you will say:”....“Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for He had done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!”