

Fact Sheet for **“A Shoot from a Stump”**
Isaiah 11:1-10

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The book of Isaiah moves in and out of events that were occurring, or soon would occur, in Isaiah's day to events that would take place in the distant future, notably around the 1st and 2nd comings of Jesus Christ. We have clearly seen the events of His 1st coming, but not of His 2nd. As such many of the events surrounding His 2nd coming are still couched in mystery. But when they take place we will be able to look back on them and on Isaiah's preaching and wonder why we weren't able to see them more clearly. The passage today has elements of both His 1st and 2nd comings.

Before this passage God spoke of judgment on the Northern kingdom of Israel, and on Assyria (see Isaiah 10:20-23). The Septuagint reads...

^{LXE} **Isaiah 10:22-23** And though the people of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them shall be saved. ²³ He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because the Lord will make a short work in all the world.

Paul would quote this passage when speaking of His heartfelt desire to see the great bulk of the Jewish people saved, but that not happening (Romans 9:27-28).

Then in speaking of His judgment on Assyria God closes out chapter 10 with words that will introduce chapter 11 (Isaiah 10:33-34).

^{ESV 1} ¶ **There shall come forth a shoot from
the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

Israel will be beaten down but not completely. Jesus Himself defines Who this shoot is (Revelation 22:16).

² **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 the fear of the LORD.**

Isaiah is speaking of Jesus Christ (God the Son), and of God the Father (LORD), and of God the Spirit. The whole Trinity is here!

³ **And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

We see elements of His 1st coming, and also of His 2nd coming in these verses.

Consider a statement by the Apostle Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

**⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.**

And some have thought that the “Armor of God” was only to be found in Ephesians 6:14-18a (see also 1 Thessalonians 5:8). By the way, notice that all three of these passages (Isaiah, Ephesians, and Thessalonians) have different descriptions of the armor. This leads us to a question, “Which is more important, the armor or the character qualities they speak of?”

**⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.**

**⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

**⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.**

**⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.**

Notice that it is not “the lion and the lamb” but “the wolf and the lamb” (see also Isaiah 65:25). Lamb chops will one day be off the menu for wolves, and they will graze on grass instead. Consider how God earlier changed nature in Genesis 3:14-19.

In verse 9 God says that “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD”. This is not just intellectual knowledge but that people everywhere will live by God’s principles and Word.

**¹⁰ ¶ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal (a rallying point) for the peoples--
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.**

LXE Isaiah 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall arise to rule over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust, and his rest shall be glorious.

Paul quotes from the Septuagint to show that Jesus Christ is the hope of not only the Jews, but also of the Gentiles (Romans 15:12).

God will judge the wicked and save those who are truly His. Our world has a way of redefining wickedness as righteousness and righteousness as wickedness. Often this is done through the courts. Take courage. God will set things straight. Just be sure you are on the right side with God.