

A Shoot From the Stump of Jesse

Last Sunday, we heard God call Isaiah as a prophet during a very dark time in Israel's history. In [Isaiah 6:1-8](#), we heard about Isaiah's incredible vision where he saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. But as God tells Isaiah to go and deliver a

message to the descendants of Abraham, the news isn't good. In the next few verses, God describes "dull" hearts, "heavy" ears, and "blind" eyes. "How long, O Lord?" Isaiah asks.

"Until cities lie waste without inhabitant,
and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,
and the LORD _____ people far away,
and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.
And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak, whose _____ remains when it is felled."
The holy seed is its stump. ([Isa 6:11-13](#))

The nation of Israel would eventually become like a cut down tree, burned, with only a stump remaining. **Why?** Because they had "rebelled against" God ([Isa 1:2-4](#)).

But even in the darkest times, God was working. God had a plan to send the greatest King of all. Listen very carefully to what he foretells through his prophet in [Isaiah 11](#):

There shall come forth a _____ from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ([11:1](#))

This King would be a different kind of king, with a different sort of heart ([11:2-5](#)), bringing good news, not just to Israel, but to everyone.

In that day the root of _____, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. ([11:10](#))



We've heard the name "Jesse" before, haven't we? Jesse was the father of David. David was the father of Solomon. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, and so on. But for more than 200 years, the kings of Israel had lost their way and led the people in rebellion against God. Over the course of the next 700 years, the descendants of Abraham would spiral into being like a cut down, burned, hollowed out stump. **Until...**

Everything written about the Christ in the Prophets—including [Isaiah 11](#)—is fulfilled in Jesus, the greatest King of all. *Our King.*



For Class & Family Discussion:

- What did God mean by describing his people as having “dull” hearts, “heavy” ears, and “blind” eyes (Isa 6:10)?
- When you hear the language in [Isaiah 11:1](#), what comes to your mind? In your own words, what is God communicating through his prophet?
- Notice carefully the language in [Isaiah 11:2](#). Can you think of an instance in Jesus’ life when much the same language is used? ([Matthew 3:13-17](#) might be helpful here). What did it all mean?
- As you survey [Isaiah 11:3-5](#), how would you describe this coming King as being different from so many of the kings of Israel and Judah that led the descendants of Abraham so far astray?
- What should we make of [Isaiah 11:6-9](#)? What is being described?
- In what way would this King “stand as a signal for the peoples” ([Isa 11:10](#))? What is meant by “of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious”?
- Finally, let’s turn our Bibles back to [Acts 13](#). In [13:14](#), Paul and Barnabas come to Antioch in Pisidia. On a Sabbath day, they enter the local synagogue. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, Paul is given the opportunity to address the crowd. Looking at [13:16-41](#), how would you summarize his message? How does it relate to what we’ve studied from [Isaiah 11](#)?

For NEXT Sunday:

- We’ll examine the prophecy in [Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#) of the coming servant of God who would suffer for the sins of others. What does it all mean? **We’ll talk about it...**