

## THE COMING KINGDOM

Isaiah 11:1-16

### I. The Light Shines in the Darkness

A. **LUX LUCET IN TENEBRIS** is a long-standing motto of the Presbyterians testifying of hope in the harshest of times. “And the *light shineth in darkness*; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (JOHN 1:5)

B. Isaiah used the example of stump sending forth a shoot to teach the coming triumph of the Messiah and the vindication of David’s hope. “And there shall come forth *a rod out of the stem of Jesse*, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:” (ISAIAH 11:1)

C. Just as the stem emerging from the stump looks unimpressive compared to the tree which once rose from the stump, the Messiah at first appears unimpressive. “For he shall grow up before him *as a tender plant*, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is no beauty that we should desire him.*” (ISAIAH 53:2)

D. The symbols are explained and definitively applied to Christ in the Revelation. “And one of the elders saith unto me, *Weep not*: behold, *the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book*, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” (REVELATION 5:5) “*I Jesus* have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I *am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*” (REVELATION 22:16)

E. From the perspective of philosophers and historians, the world is shadowy and empty; the Darwinian struggle seems to be the norm of reality. “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, *all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*” (ECCLESIASTES 1:14)

### II. The World of the Messianic Light Will Be Peaceful

A. The Messiah reveals a deeper knowledge established in genuine wisdom. “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*,” (ISAIAH 11:2)

B. There is nothing superficial or ephemeral about the messianic worldview; believers deal in ultimate reality, not fashion. “And shall make him of *quickness of understanding in the fear of the LORD*: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, *neither reprove after the hearing of his ears*,” (ISAIAH 11:3)

C. Genuine righteousness prevails through the Messiah, giving hope to the oppressed in contrast to the cruel proposals of Humanism. “But *with righteousness shall he judge the poor*, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and *with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked*. And *righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins*, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.” (ISAIAH 11:4-5)

D. When the messianic kingdom flourishes, the rules of the Darwinian-Socialist jungle will pass away. “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*. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the *lion shall eat straw like the ox*. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den.” (ISAIAH 11:6-8)

E. Under the Messiah, peace will prevail. “*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.*” (ISAIAH 11:9)

F. The entire world will submit to a new and final order. “And many nations shall come, and say, *Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD*, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and *he will*

**teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.** And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and **they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks:** nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. **But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.**" (MICAH 4:2-4)

### III. God Will Restore His People

**A. The unbelievers will rally to the cause of Christ.** "And in that day there shall be a **root of Jesse**, which **shall stand for an ensign** of the people; **to it shall the Gentiles seek:** and his rest shall be glorious." (ISAIAH 11:10)

**B. God will gather the remnant of Israel.** "And it shall come to pass in that day, **that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant** of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and **from the islands** of the sea. And **he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.**" (ISAIAH 11:11-12)

**C. All roads will lead to the New Jerusalem.** "And **there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria; **like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.**" (ISAIAH 11:16)

**D. God will resolve the barriers to the age of grace.** "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:**" (ISAIAH 40:3-4)

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