

Greetings from God our Father and from Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and from the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Promised Shoot from Jesse Stump

Isaiah 11:1–10

The prophecy we read today in Isaiah is directed to Judah, the southern kingdom. If they will not turn away from their evil desires and rebellion, they will be sent into exile. Unfortunately, Judah did continue its rebellion against God. God used a foreign nation to take over and send the people of Judah into exile. The nation of Judah was almost destroyed.

Like Judah, we need to be warned to be cautious that our sinful flesh has not or does not carry us away from Christ. For sin can and does cause you to become a dead stump in exile without the stem of Jesse in our hearts. Even if we have the stem of Jesse in our hearts we, you and I, can push it aside and it ceases to be the most important guidance, assurance in our hearts. And Jesus once pushed aside does not rule your heart but “I” rules. Paul warns us in Romans 11:19-23

***Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” That is true. They were broken off because of their***

***unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.***

If you turn your back on God in unbelief because sin rules your heart, God will cut you off as He did the people of Judah. For, have you not heard Paul in 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10 –

***Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor con artists will inherit the kingdom of God.***

And sin can cause death in one's heart if it is not repented. Sin in one's heart, can cause death, cause you to be like a dead stump. The stump of Jesse was the result of rebellious hearts, sinful hearts. And a

rebellious, sinful heart can cause the same result today as it did in Isaiah's time.

These sins, when they are not repented can rule our heart and mind. When sin does rule our heart, the love of God is push out and the heart becomes cold and dark and hard. A cold heart without Christ cannot serve God or neighbor for it is unable to shine God's Love. For the cold heart needs to hear the Gospel, the Good News once again. The Gospel, God's Word, by the Holy Spirit breaks down any barriers and sin in our hearts and brings hope, peace and joy to one's heart.

God promised Judah that a Messiah would come one day, and He would be the shoot from the stump of Jesse. Jesus has come and is that Messiah from the stem of Jesse. Jesus would bring life to a dead stump. He brings life to us because the Messiah take your sins and all sins upon Himself and be our righteousness. For read in Jeremiah 23:6 - ***In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'***

Jesus is the shoot out of that stump who will bring truth and justice and peace to all nations. He will have the wisdom and counsel, the knowledge and might, to do all that is needed to accomplish the Salvation

Plan of God. Isaiah says His delight is in the fear of the Lord. Not frightened fear like a lamb before a wolf, but reverence and total submission to His Father's will. Every breath He takes is to do just what the heavenly Father has sent Him to do. Jesus was perfectly obedient to God the Father's will. Hear God's Word in Isaiah:

***He will have 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.***

***And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.***

We know from the account of Jesus' Baptism that the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and rested on Jesus, identifying Him as the promised Messiah.

What was He sent to do? He was sent to bring peace between God and Man. He came in all faithfulness to do what we cannot do for ourselves. And having peace with God, God gives us the desire and

enables us to serve our neighbor out of His Love. The greatest love we can tell anyone about is God's Love for him or her found in the One Who came in a manger.

God's love and wisdom is the cross. Jesus' death on the cross is our *vicarious sacrifice* for the anger and wrath of God that we deserve because of our sin and rebellion against God. By Christ shedding His blood on the cross, we are reconciled to God. Listen to how Paul describes it: ***For in Him [Jesus] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross*** (Col 1:19–20).

Out of our reconciliation in Christ, we can now look ahead, when we gaze into the future, we realize that heaven is ours because of what Christ has done for us. The shoot from Jesse branch from His roots shall bear fruits, which will give eternal hope to you and me, and all who believes in Christ.

Eternal hope, until the time Jesus returns ..... His Word and Sacraments brings us hope ..... recall today's second lesson in Romans 15:13 - ***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in***

**hope.** Paul writes that the stem of Jesse is our hope for it brings us back from death to life. This hope is for you and me and all who believe in Jesus. The Lord reminds us today, The Promised Shoot from Jesse's stump, ..... Jesus, ..... brings us His perfect gifts to us, forgiveness sins and salvation ... the righteousness He accounts to us ... the faith we have ... the assurance of inheriting the heavenly Kingdom – these are all the fruits the promised Messiah has borne for us by His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen