



As we learnt to wait this Sunday we thought our Lord Jesus Christ's return to bring his promise of peace! All human approaches to solving the problems of war will always fail. Isaiah wrote to a people who lived in a time, like us, of unrest and war. King Ahaz, didn't believe in God or trust in his promises and so led the nation astray by making alliances with foreign nations. However, God promised to raise up a king who will judge righteously bringing lasting peace.

We all desire peace and justice and we long for leaders who can bring it fairly and finally. We can confidently wait for the Lord because of the character of the judge and the effects of his judgement.

The Character of the Judge

Who is he and what is he like? – This King to come is a shoot of the stump of Jesse. God's judgement upon Israel and Judah was described as felling trees in the forest leaving only a stump. But from this stump life would come. Jesse is King David's son 'a king after God's own heart' (Acts 13:22). This future king will be a new David. He will have the Spirit of the LORD in him and he rule and judge perfectly. This King is Jesus (Romans 15:12)

What will he do? He will judge fairly and decisively. His Word will be the judgement upon humanity. In Jesus' first coming and in his death and resurrection he dealt with the judgement of God. In his second coming he will come to judge all those who have not trusted in God's judge.

The Effects of his Judgement

Isaiah 11 describes the effects of God's judgement resulting in world peace and specifically peace with in nature taking us back to pre-fall days in the Garden of Eden. The whole earth with filled with his presence and knowledge and from this creation will be changed, this resting place will be glorious (Is 11:10)

Some questions for further study and to create discussion and application ...

What opinions and ideas have you heard people have regarding the solution for world peace? In what areas of life do you long for peace and justice? What ways do leaders seek to bring peace and justice? Why will any human approach always fail to bring lasting peace?

What is going on in Isaiah's day what do you know about King Ahaz? (Read either 2 Chron 28 or 2 Kings 16) What warnings and promises do we read of between Is 2 and 11? (Read particularly Is 6:8 - 7:14 notice the mention of stump 6:13 and warning to King Ahaz in Ch 7)

Who is the shoot from the stump of Jesse v1?) (1 Samuel 16; Acts 13:22; Roms 15:12) How does the picture of a shoot from a stump help us understand the nature and greatness of this promise?

What is he like? What is his character? (Is 11:2-3) What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with the Holy Spirit in the NT (Matthew 1:20-21; 3:13-17)? Think of other verses. How do we see the descriptions of the Spirit in v2 appear in Jesus?

What will he do? What is the judgement he will bring? (Is 11:3-5) How is this different from the people in Isaiah's day and our day experience? How does this type of judgement make you feel?

Read Is 11:6-10 - How do you respond/what do you think of when you read these verse? Can you imagine such a day and place? Why do you think Isaiah chooses to focus on the effects of judgement upon nature?

Do you believe in this day? Do you trust the judge? How do these verses help you wait for the Lord?