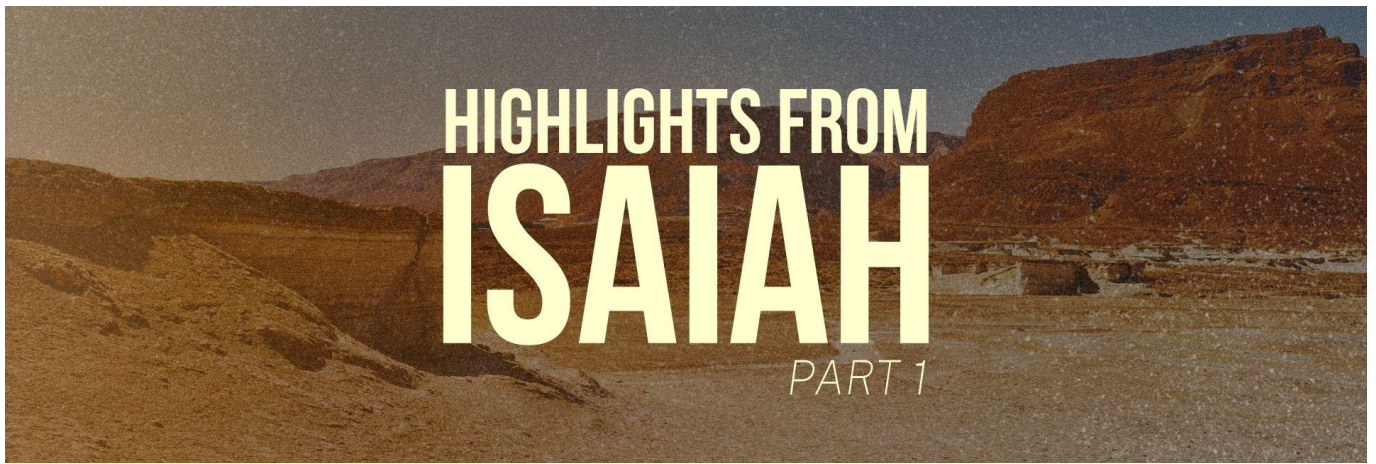




ISAIAH

The Shoot from Jesse - Isaiah 11

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders, please use these questions **as a guide for discussion**. Please don't feel like you have to go through every one!)

Connect: Spend some time this week thinking about the titles of Jesus and the difference each of these make in your life.

Warm-Up

1. When you think about things that are “broken” in our world—big or small—what comes to mind first?

Read Isaiah 11:1-5

2. What does the “shoot from the stump of Jesse” image communicate about God’s ability to bring hope after judgment or devastation?
3. How does Jesus fulfil the description of the Spirit-filled King in verses 2–3?
4. Isaiah says this King “will not judge by what His eyes see.” What difference does that make compared to human justice systems?
5. Where do you see injustice in today’s world? How does the promise of Jesus’ perfect justice speak into those realities?
6. Have you or someone you know experienced unfairness or hurt? How does knowing Jesus sees and will judge rightly bring comfort?

Read Isaiah 11:6-9

7. How does this passage challenge or expand your understanding of what the new creation will be like?
8. What are some aspects of creation or relationships today that most clearly show the effects of the fall?
9. Verse 9 says the earth will be “full of the knowledge of the LORD.” What would a world truly filled with God’s knowledge look like?
10. How should the picture of future restoration shape the way we face suffering, fear, or frustration now?

Read Isaiah 11:10-16

11. Isaiah describes the Messiah as a “signal” for the nations. What does this tell us about God’s heart for people beyond Israel?
12. How does Jesus bring together people who would normally be divided (ethnicity, background, personality, status)?
13. The remnant trusted God even in exile. What does faithfulness look like for believers today in a culture that often rejects God?
14. Isaiah’s vision ends with a second Exodus, a picture of God gathering His people home. How does this give you hope as you think about Jesus’ return and our future with Him?

Apply: What difference does God’s patience make in your life?

PRAY: *Father, thank you for sending Jesus, the true Branch of Jesse, who brings justice, restoration, and unity. Help us trust your promises and live with hope as we wait for Jesus’ return. Strengthen our faith, calm our fears, and guide us to walk faithfully with you each day. Amen.*

TITLE: ISAIAH - The Branch of Jesse

LOCATION: St John's Wishart 9AM

BI: When Jesus comes all things will be renewed and put right. He began this work in his time on earth, but will complete it when he returns.

STRUCTURE:

- 11:1-5: The Messiah - Brings Justice
- 11:6-9: Brings Restoration
- 11:10-16: Brings Unity and Victory

- **Brings Justice:**
- V1 "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."
 - *Where Rach and I live, there were a number of bushes which were really growing out of control along our usual walking path*
 - *And so what the gardeners did was pretty much take it all down to the stump!*
 - *Not being a gardener, I thought they were out of their mind!*
 - *Just a few days later, from this seemingly dead stump, came shoots. Those shoots became branches, which bore leaves, until they became a pest again!*

- Well Isaiah writes that there is going to be a shoot from the stump of Jesse!
- Yes, Israel will be cut down to a stump in their judgement, but that's not the end for them.

- Jesse is King David's father.
- And David was promised that someone in his family line is going to be the great King and everlasting King.
 - Of His throne and reign there will be no end!

- So naturally, as we read about the ongoing History of Israel in the book of 1&2 Kings, we would hope to see this king.
- But as we read the books of 1 & 2 Kings - we don't find this king at all.
- After King David, we get King Solomon (his son) - who was a very successful king. He had wisdom, he had money and riches, he had land - But at the same time he also had 700 foreign wives, and 300 concubines who turned his heart from God.
- The nation also turned their heart from God and then turned inwards to civil war and ending up dividing the Nation into the northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) kingdoms.
- The kings of Israel were utterly hopeless and pagan.
- The kings of Judah (the kings in the line of David) weren't that much better.
- That's partly why the nation was taken into Exile and flattened. Their leaders turned away from YHW
- But from this flattened nation, the nation that's going to be brought down to a stump...there's going to be new growth. A shoot. Hope. Life.
- Someone who isn't just another king in David's line, but someone brand new. Someone who is a new David. A better David.
- Someone who is fruitful and wise and leads with power and justice and by the power of the Spirit of the Lord!
- Someone who will have a life of reverence and awe of YHW, the Almighty God.
- Someone like in V2
- "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. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD."
 - This person...this shoot - is going to have ALL wisdom...is going to be given God's Spirit.

- And quoting from another part of the book of Isaiah...
 - the man
 - who was born in Jesse's town, Bethlehem,
 - who was from the Tribe of Judah - Jesse's Tribe
 - Who was a direct descendent of Jesse and David..
- Came onto the center stage of the local synagogue, or local church, unrolled the scroll of Isaiah and quoted this:
- Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."
- And then said:
- Luke 4:21 "And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
- This shoot, this branch, this sole source of life and hope for the nation of Israel - is Jesus!
- Jesus is this King of Justice and he is filled with the Spirit and has the great fear and reverence of the Lord.
- And he alone is the one who brings good justice and judgements.
- V3 "He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 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."
- He is the Savior, the Messiah, the Anointed one - who has come to save his people and judge every nation...even you and me.
- When we think of our earthly leaders who make decisions on budgets, welfare, law making, I don't think the word perfect usually comes into our minds...
- Maybe we think more about the words - corrupt, or deceitful, or power hungry come to mind..
- But we're so used to imperfect justice and judgements, that it's almost impossible to begin to consider what the justice of Jesus is like!
- It's like it's almost beyond our puny human imagination because we're so used to frustration and inequality.
- But when Jesus came 2000 years ago, we get a glimpse of what this is going to be like in the Gospels..
- He vindicated those who were the oppressed;
- He had the harshest words for the religious hypocrites;
- He forgave those who repented and turned to him;
- He began to reorder and heal creation itself through the miracles...
- And this is just the beginning! This is just a foretaste!
- Because when Jesus returns for a second time - this is when he the perfect judge will have the final say over all creation.
- This is what season of Advent is all about - looking forward to Jesus' return - the return of the king - when he will put all things right.
- And judge with fairness and PERFECT justice.
- Maybe you're here today, and have been the victim of injustice...
- Maybe someone who you thought was a close friend really hurt you...shamed you publicly...perhaps a family member even....maybe your name may have been dragged through the mud with no consequences...

- Perhaps you're joining us and have been a victim of something that you haven't told anyone about...that's been kept hidden away....domestic violence is rife in our country and often goes unseen
- Know this - Jesus sees all of this. The branch of Jesse sees this.
- And when he returns, he will bring about justice simply by speaking.
- The oppressor will be destroyed and those who leave ultimate and perfect justice in his hands by faith, will be vindicated.
- And his judgements are good.
- V5 tells us that when we strip the branch down to his undergarments - when you get down to the core of what Jesus is like - you'll find nothing but Righteousness and faithfulness

- **RESTORATION**
- And when he returns, all will be made right again.
- In Vv6-9 we get an amazing picture of a restored creation. A creation that has been returned to its state before the fall.
- This picture is almost like a return to Eden.
- Where prey and predator can reside at peace - and humanity will be at peace with creation.
- As a result of humanities disregard for God, God laid out some consequences of their rebellion.
- There would be brokenness and fractured relationships.
 - Humanity would have a fractured relationship with God
 - Humanity would have a fractured relationship with Creation itself
 - Humanity would have a fractured relationship with each other.
 - But what Isaiah prophesies here - is that these curses will be revoked...reversed.
- Vv 6-9
- "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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 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."
- Peace with creation! Humanity doing their role in ruling creation as they were supposed to do!
- Why?
 - Because the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHW.
 - Even creation will recognise that YHW is the Lord.
 - **We** will truly recognise that YHW Is Lord on that day.
- There will be perfect knowledge of God and faith in him. Plenty!
- On that Day when the Messiah comes - all will be made new and right, and sin will be abhorrent to us, and we will live at peace!
- And there'll be peace and unity within God's people.

- **UNITY**
- Now Because of the people's rejection of him...God raised up a signal for all the nations to come and plunder Israel. To Wipe them out! - We can read that in Isaiah 5:26....
- But now there's another **banner** or another **signal** being raised.
- And that is by the Messiah.
- V11 "In that day, the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples - of him the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious"
- We get the repetition of "In that Day" here.
 - Signalling that Isaiah is talking about when the Messiah appears
- The Messiah will be the gathering point of not just Israel but for the nations as well! For people like you and me.

- Here we get a glimpse of what would be fully expanded when Jesus came - the inclusion of the nations in the promises of God. The inclusion of people like you and me!
- The Messiah is Jewish but not just for the Jews - but for all nations!
- But he is first for the Jews.

- Vv11-16 describes an amazing picture of the recovery of God's people after their punishment and judgement in Exile.
- At the time of the Exile - the people were scattered all around the area. They were plucked up by the other nations and taken away, OR they just ran away.
- But this wouldn't be the end of the story.
- Exile and judgement was never the end of the story for God's people
- God hadn't finished with them just yet.
- But he will keep for himself a remnant.
- A group of people who are faithful to him.
- Isaiah 10:20-21 explains what the remnant is: "In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them [that is..the other nations], but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God."

- *Australians love a good come back story.*
- *The story of the person who was knocked down but then eventually comes back up and wins.*
- *We love rooting for the underdogs!*
- *In the Australian open - in the tennis - we love matches that go on for 5 sets - especially after one of the players loses two sets in a row*
- *We love cheering on the Socceroos even though we all secretly know that they have no hope on the international stage*
- *We love the story of the battler who takes on the big man and wins....*

- Well - the story of Israel that we see in these verses is like the ultimate underdog story.
- Because even though it looks bleak for Israel as we've seen in Isaiah - hope is not lost.
- God is still faithful to his promises to Abraham:
 - Of a great nation, of Land, of blessings to the whole nations;
- Faithful to his promises to David:
 - That a descendant of his will reign on the throne forever.
- All the people had to do was to have faith in the words and promises of YHWH and trust them
- And there were people who did this!
- Who remained faithful to the Lord in the midst of Exile. A remnant (ie. a smaller bunch of people from the nation) but a faithful remnant at that!
- But Exile and dispersion isn't the end.

- 11:11 "In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."
- God is going to bring his people back together!
- And he's going to unite the nation!
- The two kingdoms of Israel (sometimes called Ephraim) and Judah will be reunited!
- After years of hostility and civil war and strife - there will be civil peace!

- And then the reunited nation, the faithful remnant, will go and defeat their enemies from East to West. Defeat the people who took them to exile.
- And bring more people back to him.
- V15 "And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt."
- Isaiah describes this unity or this reunification like a second Exodus.
- This is God's people being brought back safely by his mighty hand.
- The Mighty river Jordan will once again be turned into passable streams.
- And there will be a safe main road for God's people to return back to him. From all nations
- Despite their rejection of him. Despite their unfaithfulness...to their side of the covenant - God was still faithful to his.

- Now - when exactly will this all happen?
- It's easy to understand how the people in the first century thought that the messiah would be a mighty soldier to lead them isn't it? Even after his death and resurrection, the disciples still thought this was the case!
- But Jesus didn't come wielding a sword - but came as a lowly carpenter...
- So is Jesus the messiah? Is he going to do this?
- Well - yes he is! But it's a matter of timing.
- This will all find its fulfillment not now - but in the new creation!
- In Revelation 18 - we get a picture of the city of Babylon which represented all that was evil, all those other nations being judged and defeated. All
 - Rev 18:21 - "Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;"
- All those nations will be brought to nothing when the Messiah appears again.
- All those oppressors will be judged with justice when the Messiah appears again.
- And all those who return to the Lord from every tribe and every nation will be brought into eternity when the Messiah appears again.

- One of the amazing things about our brief look at some of the Highlights from Isaiah - is just the sheer patience and grace of God!
- If I was God, and these people of mine were this stiff necked, I'd be tempted to wipe them out completely and just start again!
 - *But it's a good thing that I'm not.*
- Because God's grace and love are streaming from every page of Isaiah.
 - His steadfast love endures forever!
- Yes - God is a Holy God and won't let rejection of him go unpunished, BUT God is still faithful to his promises to his people NOT to wipe them out but to **save them**.
- And this is all because of God's amazing and phenomenal grace.
 - Giving them what they don't deserve!
- The faithful remnant didn't have to prove themselves to God by being perfect or by doing lots of good stuff - they simply had to have faith in God and in his promises!
- And God promises to reunite, return, and restore them through the Messiah!

- And it's no different for us today!
- We deserve punishment, we deserve judgement!
- But God promises grace and mercy. He promises to restore us through the Messiah - Jesus.

- Who took the judgement and punishment that we deserve on our behalf by his death on the cross for us
- To bring us into his perfect Kingdom where creation will be at peace, where the King will reign for ever and ever, where we will have peace with God, peace with creation, and peace with each other.
- All we have to do is trust in the Messiah - trust in Jesus!
- All of God's promises here in Isaiah are completely fulfilled and will be completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ!
- And if we trust in him - we can join in the chorus of the faithful [remnant...](#) of all who trust in him as in Isaiah 12:1-2
 - "You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."