

THE COMING SAVIOUR AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH: HOPE GIVEN THROUGH THE MESSIAH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ISAIAH 11:01–12:06

Introduction

Conflict, strife, war, terrorist attacks, murder, abuse — we live in a world of lawlessness and violence. No community escapes the criminal, wicked behaviour of sinful hearts. Despite the peace and comfort that we experience at times, the world is full of crime, corruption, wickedness and evil. Disorder and disturbance occur within every community and they occur often. How many families are ripped apart by divorce? How many neighbours are alienated from one another due to petty differences? How many co-workers are jealous of each other or prejudiced and discriminatory toward fellow workers? How many people are envious of others or feel slighted by them and begin to slander their names? When we consider all the disturbances that take place every day, we must acknowledge that we live in a world that knows very little peace or tranquillity. Disturbance and disorder — ranging from mild agitation to major conflict and war — affect every one of us.

Within society and within the heart of every human being is a longing for peace and tranquillity. The *good news* is that there is great hope and a wonderful promise for the world. The LORD promises a day in which there will be no more war or conflict, a day in which the human heart will rest in peace and tranquillity. This day will be when the LORD Jesus Christ returns and sets up His kingdom on earth. This is the wonderful message of the present Scripture. The Saviour is returning to establish God's kingdom on earth, a kingdom of perfect righteousness and justice.

As we study this passage, we must keep in mind that it is a prophecy about the coming Messiah, the Saviour of the world, the LORD Jesus Christ. With this prophecy Isaiah closes the first section of his great book, entitled by us: “The Prophecies of Rebuke and Hope Given to Judah and Jerusalem.” No more *fitting climax* could be chosen for closing this first section. Once God has rebuked and judged His people for their terrible sins, He reaches out to offer them the wonderful hope of God's kingdom coming to earth. This is, *The Coming Saviour and the Establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth: Hope Given Through the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ*, Isaiah 11:1-12:6.

- I. The coming of the Saviour: a Branch from Jesse, David's father, 4:2; 53:2; 2 Sam 7:16; Mt. 1:1; Acts 2:29-30; Rom 1:1-3; Rev 5:4-5 (v. 11:1).
 - II. The qualification of the Saviour: God's Spirit rests on Him (v. 11:2).
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III. The future work of the Saviour (vv. 11:3-16).

IV. The song of praise for the Saviour: true reasons to praise the LORD in that day (vv. 12:1-6).

I. *Isaiah 11:01 The Coming Saviour: a Branch from Jesse*

The coming of the Saviour is promised and the Scripture identifies Him. Closely note who Scripture says He is.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots (v. 11:1).

1. Scripture says that the Saviour (Messiah) is a *rod* or *shoot* that comes from the *stem* or *stump* of *Jesse*. The *stump* is the line of Jesse, his descendants. Remember that King David was the youngest son of Jesse, and that David's royal kingdom reached the summit of righteousness and justice. But the word *stump* also indicates that the towering tree of David's royal power would be cut off. No longer would the descendants of Jesse rule on a throne. Their rule and royal line would be cut so much that only a stump would remain. Most of the descendants would be cut off, and none of them would hold a position of authority. Even the few who would still be alive when the Saviour came would be living in poverty and obscurity. The illustrious family of David would lose its glory and become an average, undistinguished family (see Amos 9:11). Remember the poverty of Mary and Joseph and the lowly birth of Christ (Lk. 2:7, 24).
2. Although only a stump of descendants would remain, the Saviour would come forth from the descendants of Jesse, like a small shoot growing out of a stem or a stump. The idea is that the Saviour would come as a small and tender child — a totally unexpected entrance into the world. Who would ever think that the promised Messiah — the Prince of Peace who was to come from the royal line of David — would come as a lowly child in such humble surroundings from a poor and obscure family?
3. Nevertheless, the small *shoot*, the Saviour, will grow into a strong branch that bears fruit. Jeremiah also refers to the Saviour as *a righteous Branch*. He says, "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land." (Jer 23:5).

This reference to the Saviour's being a Branch always means at least two things: first, as a strong Branch growing from the root of Jesse, the Saviour will restore David's kingdom. He will sit on the throne of David and fulfil all the wonderful promises God had given David. These promises include the establishment of God's kingdom on earth, which is now being prophesied by Isaiah in this present passage (see note, 2 Sam 7:11-17).

Second, as a strong branch, the Saviour will bear fruit, much fruit. Other Scriptures tell us why the Saviour came and what the fruit will be:

- a. The Saviour came to minister and to give His life as a ransom to set people free from the bondage of sin and death.

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Heb 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

- b. The Saviour came to seek and to save the lost, all who were alienated from God because of their sin.

Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

2 Cor 5:17-21 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- c. The Saviour came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”*

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Rom 5:21 *So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2 Tim 1:10 *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

2 Pet 1:4, 11 *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires... For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

1 John 5:12 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- d. The Saviour came to do the will of God, which was to die for the sins of people.

Heb 2:9-14 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers, in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil.*

4. The Saviour or Messiah is definitely Jesus Christ, and the picture of the *Branch* (netser) definitely identifies Christ as the Branch. The Hebrew word netser became the name of Nazareth (netsereth). Christ became known as Jesus of Nazareth, which Scripture says was a fulfilment of prophecy: "And He [Jesus Christ] came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene" (Mt. 2:23).

Time and again throughout Scripture Jesus Christ is called *The Son of David* and referred to as the *shoot* or the *Branch*. Without question Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, the descendant of Jesse and David who is to bring God's kingdom to earth. Note these few Scriptures among many to support the messiahship of Christ:

2 Sam 7:16 *"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."*

Isa 4:2 *In that day shall the branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel.*

Isa 9:6-7 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

Isa 11:1 *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

Isa 53:2 *He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

Jer 23:5 *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."*

Mt. 1:1 *A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

Acts 2:29-30 *"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne."*

Rom 1:1-3 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God. The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David.*

Rev 5:4-5 *I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."*

II. Isaiah 11:02 Qualifications of the Saviour: Fullness of God's Spirit

The Saviour will be imminently qualified to establish God's kingdom on earth, for He will be filled with all the fullness of God's Spirit. The *Spirit of the LORD* will rest on Him, fully equipping Him to fulfil His task. Throughout history, other people had been endowed with God's Spirit, including Isaiah. But in every case the person was a mere human being, therefore, the power of the Spirit was limited. But not so with the Saviour. The Spirit of the LORD indwelt Him in *all the fullness of God Himself* (Col. 1:19; 2:9). He was able to fulfil the works of God with the full power of God. Jesus Christ began His preaching ministry by proclaiming that the fullness of God's Spirit was upon Him (Lk. 4:18). In the present passage Isaiah says that six very special gifts of the Spirit will rest upon the Messiah:

1. There will be the gift of *wisdom* (**chokmah**), which means to be skilful; to have good sense; to act wisely. It is practical wisdom, practical insight that enables a person to know what to do and how to do it. A person is able to act wisely, to carry out his project or task successfully.
2. There will be the gift of *understanding* (**biynah** or **binah**), which means to have the ability to grasp facts or knowledge that lead to understanding. A person with understanding can discern between various possibilities. He has the ability to solve problems.
3. There will be the gift of *counsel* (**etsah**), which means advice, purpose or plan. The Saviour Jesus Christ will be filled with the *Spirit of Counsel*, the ability to see into a situation and to devise plans to handle the situation. Jesus Christ would be able to

deal with all situations no matter how complex. By being filled with the “Spirit of Counsel” the Messiah is able to empathize with the sufferings of all people and to counsel them about how to cope with and manage their sufferings (Heb 4:15-16).

4. There will be also the gift of *might* or *power* (gebuwrah or geburah), which means to possess strength; to act mightily with force or valour; to be strong and prevail; to take heroic action. By possessing the *Spirit of Power* the Saviour Jesus Christ was able to accomplish every task He undertook and to gain the victory over every obstacle, opposition and enemy.
5. There will be the gift of *knowledge* (daath), which means to know and fully understand; to be deeply aware; to perceive with full comprehension. The idea is a deep knowledge, an embracing knowledge that fully comprehends. It is the kind of knowledge that takes hold of what is known, that experiences what is known. For example, the Saviour Jesus Christ possessed the very knowledge of God Himself. His knowledge ran deep, embracing a full understanding of God. Thus the Saviour possesses a full knowledge of every person, thing and event, not only in the past and present but also in the future. The Spirit of Knowledge that rests upon Him is naturally the knowledge of God Himself. His knowledge is a great comfort to all believers, for He knows our every need. He can meet our need because of the Spirit of Power that He possesses.
6. There will be the gift of *fear*, the *fear of the LORD*. The word *fear* (*yirah*) means to have a reverential awe or dread; to experience great apprehension or show profound reverence. The idea is that a person humbly walks before God in reverence, trust, obedience and worship. Note that the Saviour will take *great delight*, great joy and rejoicing, in the fear of the LORD (v. 3). The idea is that He will totally yield Himself to the will of God. Carrying out the will of God will not be a burden to Him but, rather, a joy and a delight.

The task of the Saviour was to be an enormous undertaking. He was to provide redemption for the sinful and to establish God's kingdom on earth. To equip Him for this awesome task, the *Spirit of the LORD* rested upon Him in all the fullness of God. This was the clear prophecy predicted by Isaiah the prophet.

Thought 1. Isaiah predicted that the *Spirit of the LORD* will rest on the *Branch* that grew from the stump of Jesse (vv. 1-2). Jesus Christ is unquestionably this Branch upon whom the Spirit of God rested. Christ fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

Isa 11:2 *The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

Isa 42:1 *“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.”*

Isa 61:1 *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.*

Mt. 3:16 *As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.*

Jn. 1:32 *Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him."*

Acts 10:38 *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

Thought 2. Once we accept Christ as our Saviour, the Spirit of God comes and lives within our lives. Listen to some of the amazing things the Spirit of God does for us:

1). He bears witness that we are the adopted children of Israel.

Rom 8:16 *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit, that we are God's children.*

Ga1 4:4-6 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

Eph 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.*

1 John 3:24 *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

1 John 4:13 *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

1 John 5:6 *This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.*

2). He guides us as we walk day by day.

John 16:13 *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*

1 John 3:24 *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

Rom 8:14 *Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

Isa 30:21 *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

3). He teaches us both the Word of God and how to walk through life.

Luke 12:12 *"For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

John 14:26 *"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

1 Cor 2:13 *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

4). The Spirit of God gives life to our mortal bodies.

John 6:33 *"For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

Rom 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

2 Cor 3:6 *He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

5). The Spirit of God comforts us as He dwells within us.

John 14:16 *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever."*

John 14:17 *"The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

John 14:26 *"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

Jn. 15:26 *"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father — the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father — he will testify about me."*

6). The Saviour convicts us of sin.

John 16:7-8 *"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment."*

III. *Isaiah 11:03–16 The Future Work of the Saviour*

The future work of the Saviour will involve a great task. The Saviour will establish the kingdom of God on earth. This will be a period of history commonly known as the Messianic Kingdom or the Millennium (see *Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ*, Isa 2:1-5). What follows is a captivating description of the Messiah's kingdom:

1. As world ruler, the Saviour will establish true righteousness and justice on earth (vv. 3-5). But He will not be like an ordinary judge who has to give opinions based upon imperfect knowledge. He will not judge by what appears to be true or false nor by the statements given by witnesses. And He certainly will not be a judge who can be bribed or who bases His decisions upon public opinion. To the contrary, there will be no favouritism or partiality in any of the Messiah's decisions. Every decision will be based upon true justice, in particular for the poor and meek, the needy and oppressed. Furthermore, He will execute justice against the wicked, slaying them with the very breath of His mouth (see Rev 19:15).

In a marvellous way the Saviour will wear righteousness and faithfulness as a belt. His righteousness and faithfulness will keep the loose clothing of injustice and oppression from affecting His decisions. Nothing will keep Him from executing perfect justice among the people of the earth.

Thought 1. Society today is anything but righteous. A quick glance at any form of news media sadly exposes this fact. Our society is gripped with a spirit of lawlessness and wicked behaviour. Nevertheless, we as believers are to do all we can to establish a moral and just society, to bring God's kingdom to earth. His kingdom is the rule of righteousness, love, joy and peace — peace among nations and peace within the human heart. Thus we can make no greater contribution to society than to live and teach righteousness, for in so doing we bring peace to the earth. Listen to God's Holy Word:

Mat 5:20 *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

1 Cor 15:34 *Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.*

Eph 6:13-14 *Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.*

Phil 1:9-11 *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.*

1 Tim 6:11-12 *But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

2 Pet 3:10-14 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

Isa 54:14 *In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be removed; it will not come near you.*

Hos 10:12 *Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.*

2. Amazingly, the Saviour will restore creation itself and bring peace to the earth (vv. 6-9). A radical change will take place in the nature of animals. No longer will animals be wild and ferocious but, rather, tame and peaceful (vv. 6-7). Wild animals such as the wolf, leopard, lion and bear will live with the lamb, goat, calf, cow and ox. A little child will even be safe in the presence of wild animals (Isa 11:8). All fear and danger will be erased. A child will no longer fear a cobra and will easily put his hand into the vipers nest. Also, the very nature of man will be changed. Hostility, conflict, divisiveness and discrimination will no longer fill the hearts of people. Destruction of life and property will cease (v. 9). The knowledge of the LORD will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. The message of the gospel, of a personal and saving knowledge of the LORD, will be everywhere.

As stated above, righteousness will sweep the earth. People will obey the laws of the LORD. His holy commandments will be kept. The Saviour will save the Gentiles, as well as the Jews (v. 10). The Saviour will actually be a banner around which all the people and nations of the earth will rally (Isa 49:22). While Christ was on earth, He clearly taught that many people would come from all the nations of the earth to sit down in the kingdom of God (Lk. 13:29). This promise was even given to Abraham when God promised that his (Abraham's) descendants would bless all the people on earth (Gen 12:3).

When the Saviour returns to rule over the earth, His place of rest (home) will be the restored Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be glorious. Of course, its glory will be due to the majestic holiness and glory of the Saviour Himself, the LORD Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's glory and that of Jerusalem, the nations of the earth will flood to the LORD's kingdom (see note, Isa 2:1-5).

Thought 1. The LORD Jesus will restore creation and bring peace to the earth.

Rom 8:18-22 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

Isa 14:3 *On the day the LORD gives you relief from suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labour forced on you.*

Isa 30:26 *The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.*

Isa 65:25 *"The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.*

Ezek 34:14 *"I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel."*

Ezek 34:26-27, 29 *I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them.... I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations.*

Zep 3:13 *They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.*

Zep 3:16 *On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp."*

3. The Saviour will preserve a remnant of Jewish believers, freeing His people for a second time (vv. 11-16, esp. v. 16; Exo 12:1-13:16 for the first Exodus). Just as God

freed the Israelites from Egypt under the leadership of Moses, so He will bring the Jews back from all nations under the leadership of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ the Saviour will raise a banner to rally His chosen people from all over the earth (v. 12). Then all Jewish exiles will be set free from their bondage to return to the promised land, which will be restored under the rule of the Saviour.

Note this fact: the division existing between Israel and Judah will be healed by the Saviour (vv. 13-14; Eze 37:15-28; Hos 1:11). Remember that Ephraim was the largest tribe of the Northern Kingdom of Israel; therefore Israel was often referred to as Ephraim. The jealousy and hostility between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms will be done away with. All the Jews will unite under the banner of the Saviour. Through Him they will be victorious over all those who had persecuted them down through the ages. The traditional enemies of Israel — the Philistines, Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites — probably represent all the enemies who will oppose the Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom on earth. All these enemies will be subjected under the rule of the Saviour and His people.

Thought 1. When Christ returns for a second time, He will establish His kingdom on earth, the Messianic Kingdom. It will be the LORD Jesus Christ Himself who is lifted up before the world, the banner to whom all people will look for salvation. To Him and Him alone will the nations turn for peace and unity. Yet today neither the nations nor most of the people look to God. To the contrary, most people reject Him, and many even deny that He is the Saviour of the world. Nevertheless since His coming, the door of salvation has been thrown wide open. God has loved the world and sent His Son into the world to offer salvation to anyone who will call upon Him.

1). Note what Scripture says about the conversion of the Gentiles when Christ returns to establish God's kingdom on earth.

Rom 11:11-12 *Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!*

Eph 3:6 *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

Gen 22:18 *And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*

Psa 22:27 *All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him.*

Psa 86:9 *All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, LORD; they will bring glory to your name.*

Isa 9:2 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

Isa 11:9 *They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Isa 42:1-4 *“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.*

Isa 55:5 *Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.*

Isa 60:3 *Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Dan 7:14 *He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

Hos 2:23 *“I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”*

Mal 1:11 *“My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD Almighty.*

2). Since the coming of Christ, the doors of salvation have been thrown wide open to the Gentiles. Listen to what God's Holy Word says;

Mark 16:15 *He [Jesus Christ] said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Acts 10:34-35 *Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.*

Rom 10:9-13 *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Rev 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

4. The Saviour will remove all obstacles that hinder the return of His people to the promised land (vv. 15-16). A second exodus will actually take place. Interestingly, Isaiah predicted that the Gulf of Suez will be dried up and the great Euphrates River will become so dry that it will be divided into seven shallow streams (see Exo 14:21-22). *In that day* no obstacle will be able to prevent the return of the Jewish remnant back to the promised land (v. 11). The Saviour will actually make a great highway for His people to leave the land of Assyria, their brutal enslavers (v. 16). Keep in mind that the land of Assyria was eventually conquered by Babylon and Persia and that the Jews were freed by Persia. This great highway symbolizes the absolute certainty of the Jews' return to the promised land. Absolutely nothing will be able to stop their return.

Thought 1. When Jesus Christ returns to earth, there will be a movement of God's Spirit among the Jews. There will be a remnant of believers who will be saved. From every nation of the world there will be a stream of Jewish believers turning to the LORD as the true Messiah, the Saviour who was promised to their father Abraham (see notes, Rom 11:1-36).

Rom 9:27 *Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved."*

Rom 11:5 *So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.*

Isa 1:26 *"I will restore your judges as in days of old, your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City."*

Isa 4:2-6 *In that day shall the branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. The LORD will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion, and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day, and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.*

Isa 11:12 *He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.*

Isa 27:13 *And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.*

Isa 33:20 *Look upon Zion, the city of our festivals; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful abode, a tent that will not be moved; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor any of its ropes broken.*

Isa 40:1-5 *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Isa 49:22 *This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders."*

Isa 60:10-11 *"Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favour I will show you compassion. Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that the people may bring you the wealth of the nations — their kings led in triumphal procession."*

Jer 23:3-8 *"I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the Lord. "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land." In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Saviour. "So then, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the people will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land."*

Jer 31:1, 6-8 *"At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.".....There will be a day, when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim; 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.' This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and woman in labour; a great throng will return."*

Ezek 20:40 *For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them. There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices.*

Ezek 36:8-10 *“But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and I will look on you with favour; you will be ploughed and sown, and I will cause many people to live on you — yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.*

Micah 2:12 *“I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel.”*

Zec 1:16-17 *Therefore this is what the LORD says: ‘I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’”*

Zec 10:6, 9-10, 12 *“I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them... Though I scatter them among the peoples, yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive, and they will return. I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon, and there will not be room enough for them...I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will live securely,” declares the LORD.*

Zec 14:9, 11 *The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name...It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.*

IV. Isaiah 12:01–06 Praise for the Saviour

A very special song of praise. will be sung in the Saviour's kingdom. The citizens of His kingdom will be filled with joy and thanksgiving for what the Saviour has done for them. Note that this song will be sung by the Jews. But its praise is applicable to every believer, so probably all the redeemed will lift up their voices in singing this wonderful song of praise. It is divided into two stanzas, and each is introduced by the words “in that day you will say [sing]” (vv. 1, 4).

1. The first stanza praises God because He had turned away from wrath and comforted His people. Down through the centuries their rebellion and hostility toward God had aroused His anger and brought His hand of judgment upon them. As a result, they had suffered every hardship and misfortune imaginable. Eventually they had been dispersed among the nations of the world. But then God turned away from His wrath and sent the promised Messiah back to earth to rescue them. God became their salvation, delivering them from their captivity. His promise of a remnant being saved was fulfilled. And there they stood, having been brought back to the promised land

(11:11-16). Praise will be lifted up to the LORD because God is no longer their judge or avenger but their Saviour. Therefore they will trust Him and no longer be afraid (v. 2). No longer will they put their trust in men or in the military power of nations. Their source of strength is the Lord who has saved them.

God's salvation includes far more than just being delivered from the bondages of this earth. It includes His provision of the basic necessities of life, His meeting every need people have. In the kingdom of the Saviour, citizens will draw water from the wells of salvation (v. 3). In a dry land such as Israel, water was a scarcity. Thus the picture is that of the LORD providing all the basic necessities of life in the glorious day of His kingdom.

2. In the second stanza the emphasis shifts to giving thanks and to proclaiming the Name of the Lord among all the nations of the earth (vv. 4-5). *In that day* of the Messiah's kingdom, the Jews will have a burning desire to let the whole know what the Lord has done for them. With hearts bursting with joy over God's wonderful salvation, they will be shouting and encouraging one another to praise the Lord. They will call upon the nations to join them in exalting the LORD's Name, for great is the Holy One of Israel who was now living among them. Keep in mind that this is a picture of the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ, who has returned to establish God's kingdom on earth. Christ is sitting in Jerusalem as the ruler of the world.

Thought 1. Jesus Christ deserves our praise. Through His death upon the cross, He has saved us and forgiven our sins. No longer are we held in the bondage of guilt nor enslaved by sin and death. Christ has set us free from sin, death, and the coming judgment of hell. Our souls have been released from all the bondages of this life, and we have been given eternal life. When we take our last breath on earth — quicker than the eye can blink — the LORD will snatch us out of the physical world and bring us into the spiritual world, into His very presence.

In addition to giving us eternal life, the LORD comforts us as we walk day by day. He guides and delivers us *through* all the trials and temptations of this life. By His Spirit He strengthens us to endure the hardships and misfortunes of life, teaching us to walk victoriously over all the difficult circumstances that confront us.

Our praise and thanksgiving are to be lifted up to the LORD. He has done so much for us that our voices should never be silenced. Shouts of joy should be sounded around the world, for the LORD has saved us. He has delivered us from sin and death and given us eternal life. How can we keep silent? An hour should never pass that we do not give thanks to Him for the great things He has done.

Mat 5:16 *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

John. 15:8 *“This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

Rom 15:5-6 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. So that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ.*

1 Cor 6:20 *You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Heb 13:15 *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise the fruit of lips that confess his name.*

1 Pet 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

Psa 9:11 *Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.*

Psa 22:23 *You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honour him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!*

Psa 33:2 *Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.*

Psa 67:3 *May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.*

Isa 42:12 *Let them give glory to the LORD, and proclaim his praise in the islands. ■*