

# Building Your Vision of Christ

Isaiah 11:1-9

Pastor Guy Gray

## Who or What did Isaiah Actually See?

Last week we saw an astonishing vision of God in Isaiah 6. It was filled with the majesty of God, the awfulness of sin and the life changing touch of God's grace. When we turn to the New Testament, we find that this was really a vision of the Glory of Jesus Christ! (John 12:41). This is the key insight we need to make sense of the prophecy of Isaiah. Like all of the Old Testament, Isaiah points forward to Jesus in profound ways. In Isaiah we find the most amazing revelation of the true nature of Jesus Christ—we find the mystery of who Christ really is. We find that Christ is Sovereign God in human flesh. He is Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14). He is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6). Yet he is also the humble and gentle servant of the Lord (Isaiah 42:1-3). It is only in putting together these various pieces of Christ's identity in Isaiah that we begin to understand the overwhelming power of this vision. When you get it—it moves you! It moves you to faith and hope and love. It moves you to worship. It moves you to offer yourself in service to this unique and majestic Lord and God. That is the point!

## Hope When There is No Hope

The failure of God's people could not have been more complete. It's one of the biggest lessons in Isaiah. This is why Isaiah 6 ends the way it does. After His amazing vision of God, Isaiah is sent on a mission that seems hopeless (6:9-12). It seems that no one is going to listen to Isaiah. Hearts are hard—eyes are blind—ears are closed to God. This is a harsh dose of reality. God's people, as well as the larger world, appear hopelessly lost in pride, sin and rebellion against God. Just then, when there is no hope, God speaks a transforming word of hope and promise. He says there will be a Holy Seed that will spring forth even after God brings destruction and judgment (6:13). Who or what is this hope—this Holy Seed that will spring up? The answer is two-fold. The Holy Seed is first and foremost Jesus Christ himself, the seed of David, the root of Jesse (David's father and so again a reference to the line of King David). The hope from God, when there is no hope, is Jesus Christ the Messiah, the savior, the incarnate almighty God who comes to save. He comes to do what He alone can do because of who He is. Secondly, we see that He will form a new community of those who trust and follow Him. This is the New People of God—the New Israel. This is also the "holy seed." This is a people that God forms for His glory—to partner with Him in His saving work in a fallen world. This is God's promise and call for our lives as followers of Christ.

## God's Radical Answer to the "Spirit of this World"

Isaiah chapter 11 is amazing because it blends together all these themes. Here we see hope springing up where there is no hope—the new shoot sprouting forth from the fallen "stump" of Jesse (11:1). Here we see God's radical answer to the "spirit of this world"—which is Jesus the savior, anointed with the Spirit of God beyond all measure. The Spirit empowers Him to live with eyes that truly see and ears that truly hear. This is a radically different kind of seeing and hearing than what is found in the lives of men and women who are controlled by the corrupt, sinful spirit of this fallen world (11:2-3; compare with 6:9-10). This radical new way of seeing and hearing is 100% in tune with the true heart and mind of our loving, righteous, merciful and caring God. This is a total contrast to the sinful, corrupt and distorted perspective of our prideful, selfish lives in this fallen world. Isaiah 11 reveals to us the true heart and mind of Jesus. It reveals the true basis of our hope and salvation. It also reveals the very character of Christ. This is the character the Holy Spirit is working hard to produce in each of our own lives as His followers. He wants us to see and hear in a new way and then to act in step with Christ because we do. His New Community!

## **Humble Savior; Righteous Judge...Sovereign Lord**

Isaiah 11:4 gives us the full spectrum for our vision of Christ. Here you have Jesus the compassionate savior who works to rescue and defend the poor, broken and needy of our world. In the second part of the verse you have Jesus the Righteous Judge and Sovereign Lord who will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and slay the wicked with the breath of His lips. The first half of the verse looks like the Jesus of the Gospels. The second half looks like the Jesus of the Book of Revelation. Both are 100% true and 100% Jesus. This is the wonder of the vision of Isaiah. It gives us the full truth about Jesus. Do you get it? Do you hold both sides of this truth about Jesus our Lord? If you do, you will be moved. You will change. You will trust, and worship and serve. That is the point of it all. Praise be to our glorious, loving and mighty Savior!

### **For reflection this week:**

Read Isaiah 11 every day this week. Spend time in praying, listening, and journaling. Ask the Lord to sharpen your vision and understanding of Jesus Christ.

## **RW Happenings:**

### **Tonight!**

#### **El Salvador Presentation**

#### **7:00pm @ River West**

Come hear the stories, see the pictures and share the vision with our two groups who have just returned from El Salvador. Traditional Papusas will be served. Contact Pastor Chris for more info at 699.2226 or [chris@riverwest.org](mailto:chris@riverwest.org)

### **Wednesday, May 28th**

#### **Global Missions Prayer Group at the Nave's Home @ 7pm**

Join Pastor Chris and others at the Nave's home on the last Wednesday of each month. Contact Pastor Chris at 699-2226 or [chris@riverwest.org](mailto:chris@riverwest.org)

### **Friday, May 30th**

#### **4th & 5th Grade Bowling**

#### **6:30 @ Wilsonville Lanes**

Don't miss your chance to show off your bowling skills! Invite a friend or two to this fun event! \$12.00 & medical release form. Contact Lindsay at 699.2226 or [lindsay@riverwest.org](mailto:lindsay@riverwest.org)

### **Saturday, May 31st @ 5pm**

#### **Single Women Game Night**

Join the fun with other single women every other Saturday night. Contact Lori Pyzik 654.5232 for more information.

### **2 Summer Studies for Women**

**Tuesdays starting June 10<sup>th</sup>** 7pm in the Fellowship Hall is a study for young moms lead by Linda Steger and Charlaine Carlock. For more information, contact: Emily Mickelson at 639.8733 or Stephanie Paulson at 454.0889

**Mondays starting June 23<sup>rd</sup>** 7pm in the Community Center, the study is 1 John "Love each Other" by John Ortberg. For more information, contact Barb McCarthy at 524.1150 or [kevbar@comcast.net](mailto:kevbar@comcast.net)