

## Living among the Bible's Trees: Jesse's Tree

Lenten Midweek Message

March 18, 2020

### As We Gather

The trees of the Bible help us realize why we need a Savior, how God provided a Savior for us in the person of Jesus Christ, and how the saved lives of repentant believers look. Today we consider Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faith with God, but succeeding generations wandered away, and God let other nations' armies defeat them until only a veritable stump remained. But by the grace of God, from that stump a Branch would come, our Lord Jesus, fulfilling all the ancient promises. From Him springs new, eternal life.

### *Isaiah 10:33—11:16*

<sup>33</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low.

<sup>34</sup>He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

<sup>14</sup>But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east.

They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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.

## “The Family Tree”

Every family may have a historian. My Aunt Austa and my cousin Bill were for my mom’s side of the family. My sister, Jane, is presently working on both the Blomquist and Bramscher family tree. And now my daughter, Katie, is taking on the role of family historian.

Today, DNA testing can help in the research of the family tree. Many a notorious person has shown up but it cannot describe or predict who will show up in the family in years to come.

The Bible records the family tree of Jesus. It begins in Genesis and is completed in Matthew and Luke. The family tree of Jesus ends with Jesus. He had no descendants. He did not marry and move to France with Mary Magdalene and have children.

What is unique is that before the family tree of Jesus is completed, Jesus was described. 700 years before Jesus is born, he is described by the prophet Isaiah. He would be from the root of Jessie’s tree.

First of all, who is Jessie and why is he important? Jessie is the father of King David. David is Jessie’s youngest son. David was not considered by Jessie to be a good candidate for king. Jessie other sons were more warrior like. But from the smallest of Jessie’s son God anointed David to be king. This brings us to the title, the root of Jessie.

Isaiah uses the title the root of Jessie to bring comfort to the Israelites after speaking harshly and announcing the judgement God would pour out against them. The Israelites were proud and an idolatrous people. They had turned away from God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of their fathers. They had turned away from the God of King David.

And now God was going to deal harshly with them as He had warned them. If they turned away from Him He would send other nations to carry them away.

And it happened. This great mighty nation which David had built would be cut down to nothing more than a stump. The mighty tree that was Israel would only be a remnant, a stump which seemed only good for removal.

Yet, from this stump a branch will come. From humble beginnings, and this is why the name of Jessie, the humble father of David is used. To use David’s name would give the impression that this one would come a mighty king.

No, Christ would come from humble beginnings, an expectant branch from a stump. But it would grow into a mighty tree. This humble start of Jesus would eventually end with Him being the King of kings, Lord of lords. He will put His enemies under His foot. He will crush His foes. He would establish peace. He would gather His people from all nations to His holy hill.

Christ has done that. He crushed the enemies of His people. He has put sin to death. He has left death behind when He rose. And He becomes our victorious king forever.

There is no hint in my family tree of my coming existence. Neither is there in yours. But God foretold of this Son of His who would become a part of the human family tree. In doing so, bring life to the whole tree.

T AMEN T