

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 11 — The Branch from Jesse and the Peaceable Kingdom

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 11 begins with what appears to be:

A stump.

Something cut down.

Something reduced.

Something that seems finished.

Isaiah 10 ended with the proud forest of human power being cut down before the Mighty One.

Then Isaiah 11 begins:

“Out of the stump of Jesse will come a shoot.”

Human kingdoms fall.

But God’s promise continues.

The reference to Jesse deliberately points back to:

David.

The Davidic line.

The covenant promises.

From what looks like a dead stump comes:

A living Shoot.

A fruitful Branch.

This Branch is the Messiah.

He will be completely equipped by:

The Spirit of the Lord.

Wisdom.

Understanding.

Counsel.

Might.

Knowledge.

The fear of the Lord.

Unlike corrupt human rulers, He will not judge superficially.

He will judge with:

Righteousness.

Fairness.

Truth.

He will defend:

The poor.

The meek.

The vulnerable.

Then Isaiah describes an extraordinary kingdom.

The wolf lives with the lamb.

The leopard rests with the goat.

The lion eats straw.

A child plays safely near once-dangerous creatures.

Violence is removed.

Fear is removed.

Destruction is removed.

Why?

Because:

“The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

The Messiah's reign transforms not only:

Government.

But:

Creation.

Relationships.

Nations.

Israel.

The scattered remnant.

Even ancient divisions between Ephraim and Judah are healed.

The chapter concludes with a new exodus.

God makes a highway for His people.

The same God who made a way through the sea before will make a way again.

The central truth of Isaiah 11 is:

The promised Messiah from the line of Jesse will rule in the fullness of the Spirit with perfect righteousness and justice, establish a kingdom of peace and safety, draw the nations to Himself, gather God's scattered people, heal ancient divisions, and make a way for the faithful remnant to return.

I. A SHOOT COMES FROM JESSE'S STUMP

Isaiah 11:1 — Life from What Appeared Dead

“Out of the stump of Jesse will come a shoot; from his roots a Branch will grow and bear fruit.”

The image is powerful.

A tree has been cut down.

Only:

A stump.

Remains.

Yet:

Life is still present.

From Jesse's family line comes:

A Shoot.

A Branch.

A fruitful King.

The reference to Jesse rather than David may intentionally take the reader back before royal glory.

The Messiah does not arise from human pomp.

He comes from the covenant root.

Cross References

Romans 15:12

Paul quotes Isaiah and declares that the Root of Jesse will rise to rule the nations, and the Gentiles will place their hope in Him.

Revelation 5:5

Jesus is identified as the Lion from the tribe of Judah and the Root of David, the victorious One worthy to accomplish God's purposes.

Jeremiah 23:5

God promises to raise up a righteous Branch from David's line, a King who will reign wisely and practice justice and righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

God can bring new life from circumstances that appear completely finished.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse a stump with the death of God's promise.

II. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD RESTS UPON THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 11:2 — Perfectly Equipped for His Reign

“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

The Messiah does not rule according to fallen human limitations.

The Spirit rests upon Him.

Isaiah describes:

Wisdom.

Understanding.

Counsel.

Might.

Knowledge.

Fear of the Lord.

He possesses everything necessary for perfect kingship.

Cross References

Luke 4:18

Jesus reads the prophecy declaring that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him because He has been anointed to proclaim good news, freedom, recovery, and God's gracious deliverance.

John 3:34

The One sent by God speaks God's words because God gives Him the Spirit without measure.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord is upon the Anointed One to preach good news, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom, and announce God's favor.

Spiritual Principle

God's King is not lacking any wisdom, power, or discernment necessary to rule.

III. THE MESSIAH DELIGHTS IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Isaiah 11:3 — He Does Not Judge Superficially

“He will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make decisions by what His ears hear.”

Human judges can be deceived by:

Appearance.

Rumor.

False testimony.

Public pressure.

The Messiah cannot.

He judges with perfect knowledge.

His delight is in:

The fear of the Lord.

Cross References

John 5:30

Jesus says His judgment is righteous because He does not pursue an independent selfish will but carries out the will of the Father who sent Him.

Hebrews 5:8

Although He was the Son, Christ experienced obedience through the suffering He endured.

1 Samuel 16:7

God told Samuel not to judge by outward appearance because people look at what is visible, while the Lord sees the heart.

Spiritual Principle

Perfect judgment requires seeing beyond appearances.

Key Truth

Christ cannot be manipulated by image, reputation, or public opinion.

IV. THE MESSIAH DEFENDS THE POOR AND JUDGES THE WICKED

Isaiah 11:4 — Perfect Justice

“But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and with fairness He will give justice to the meek of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.”

The Messiah protects those easily ignored by corrupt systems.

He judges:

Righteously.

Fairly.

He also judges evil decisively.

His weapon is:

His Word.

Cross References

Psalm 72:2

The righteous King will judge God's people with righteousness and administer justice faithfully to the afflicted.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

The lawless one will be destroyed by the breath of the Lord Jesus' mouth and brought to nothing by the manifestation of His coming.

Revelation 19:15

From the victorious Messiah's mouth comes a sharp weapon of judgment by which He rules the nations with absolute authority.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah's compassion for the poor does not weaken His judgment against wickedness.

V. RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITHFULNESS DEFINE HIS RULE

Isaiah 11:5 — The Character of the King

“Righteousness will be His belt, and faithfulness the sash around His waist.”

The Messiah does not merely perform righteous acts.

Righteousness characterizes Him.

Faithfulness surrounds His rule.

Cross References

Ephesians 6:14

Believers are told to stand firm with truth around them like a belt and righteousness protecting them.

Isaiah 59:17

God is pictured clothing Himself with righteousness and salvation as He comes to judge and deliver.

Revelation 19:11

Christ appears as the One called Faithful and True, judging and making war in righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

Character is the foundation of righteous leadership.

VI. NATURAL ENEMIES LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE

Isaiah 11:6 — The Wolf and the Lamb

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf, the lion, and the yearling will be together, and a little child will lead them.”

Isaiah describes a transformed order.

Predator and prey no longer exist in their former hostility.

The picture communicates:

Peace.

Safety.

Harmony.

Restoration.

Cross References

Isaiah 65:25

Isaiah later again pictures the wolf and lamb feeding together, the lion eating straw, and violence disappearing from God's holy mountain.

Hosea 2:18

God promises a covenant of peace involving animals and the removal of warfare so His people may live securely.

Romans 8:21

Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom associated with God's redeemed children.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah's kingdom reaches farther than human politics.

It touches creation itself.

VII. THE LION EATS STRAW LIKE THE OX

Isaiah 11:7 — Hostility Removed from Creation

“The cow and the bear will feed together; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox.”

Again:

Predation gives way to peace.

Dangerous relationships are transformed.

Cross References

Isaiah 65:25

God again describes the future order in which former natural enemies live peacefully and no longer destroy.

Genesis 1:30

At creation, God provided green plants as food for the animals, describing an original order centered on provision rather than bloodshed.

Job 5:23

Job is told of a condition of peace in which even the natural world is no longer hostile toward the person under God's care.

Spiritual Principle

God's redemptive purpose ultimately addresses the disorder that entered creation.

VIII. CHILDREN WILL LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF DEADLY CREATURES

Isaiah 11:8 — Perfect Safety

“Infants will play near the hole of the cobra, and young children will put their hands into the viper’s nest.”

The imagery emphasizes complete safety.

What now represents:

Danger.

Venom.

Death.

Will no longer produce harm.

Cross References

Psalm 91:13

God's protection is pictured as triumph over dangerous animals, including lions and serpents.

Mark 16:18

Jesus speaks of divine protection in the mission of His servants, including situations involving serpents and deadly dangers.

Luke 10:19

Jesus tells His disciples that He has given them authority over the power of the enemy, using serpents and scorpions as imagery of dangerous opposition.

Spiritual Principle

Where the Messiah fully reigns, fear and destruction lose their dominion.

IX. THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD

Isaiah 11:9 — No Harm on God's Holy Mountain

“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.”

Why does peace fill the earth?

Because:

Knowledge of God fills the earth.

Ignorance of God produces:

Sin.

Violence.

Idolatry.

Corruption.

Knowledge of the Lord transforms the world.

Cross References

Habakkuk 2:14

The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord's glory as completely as waters cover the sea.

Numbers 14:21

God declares that His glory will fill the whole earth despite human rebellion.

Psalms 72:19

God's glorious name is blessed forever, and the prayer is that the entire earth be filled with His glory.

Spiritual Principle

True peace cannot be separated from knowing God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The deepest cure for the world's darkness is the knowledge of the Lord.

X. THE ROOT OF JESSE WILL DRAW THE NATIONS

Isaiah 11:10 — A Banner for All Peoples

“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to Him, and His resting place will be glorious.”

The Messiah is not only:

Israel's King.

He becomes:

A banner for the nations.

Gentiles seek Him.

His kingdom reaches beyond ethnic and national boundaries.

Cross References

Romans 15:12

Paul quotes this prophecy and explains that the Root of Jesse will rule the nations and become the hope of the Gentiles.

Revelation 5:5

Jesus is identified as the victorious Root of David, worthy to accomplish God's redemptive plan.

John 12:32

Jesus declares that when He is lifted up, He will draw people to Himself.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah's saving reign extends to every nation.

XI. GOD GATHERS THE REMNANT AGAIN

Isaiah 11:11 — The Second Gathering

“In that day the Lord will reach out His hand a second time to bring back the remnant of His people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.”

God's people have been scattered widely.

Yet distance does not defeat God's ability to gather.

The list emphasizes:

Every direction.

Many nations.

Wide dispersion.

God reaches out again.

Cross References

Isaiah 10:21

Isaiah had already promised that a remnant of Jacob would return to the Mighty God.

Jeremiah 23:3

God promises to gather the surviving members of His flock from the lands where they had been scattered and bring them back into safety.

Ezekiel 37:21

God promises to gather Israel from among the nations, bring them from every direction, and restore them to their land.

Spiritual Principle

No scattering is too extensive for God to reverse.

XII. THE EXILES ARE GATHERED FROM THE EARTH

Isaiah 11:12 — A Banner for the Nations

“He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

God gathers:

Israel.

Judah.

The scattered.

The exiles.

His restoration is intentional.

Cross References

Isaiah 49:22

God raises His signal among the nations, and they participate in bringing His scattered sons and daughters home.

John 11:52

John explains that Jesus would die not only for one nation but also to gather together God's scattered children.

Jeremiah 31:10

The nations are told that the One who scattered Israel will gather and keep His people like a shepherd caring for a flock.

Spiritual Principle

The God who knows every scattered person also knows how to bring them home.

XIII. OLD RIVALRIES WILL DISAPPEAR

Isaiah 11:13 — Ephraim and Judah Reconciled

“Ephraim's jealousy will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be cut off. Ephraim will not envy Judah, and Judah will not oppress Ephraim.”

The northern and southern kingdoms had experienced:

Jealousy.

Conflict.

Division.

Under God's restoration:

Rivalry ends.

Unity returns.

Cross References

Ezekiel 37:19

God promises to join the divided houses of Israel together like two sticks becoming one in His hand.

Hosea 1:11

Judah and Israel will again be gathered together under one head rather than remaining permanently divided.

Jeremiah 3:18

God promises that Judah and Israel will walk together and return from the lands of dispersion.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah does not merely defeat external enemies.

He heals internal division.

Key Truth

God's kingdom replaces rivalry with reconciliation.

XIV. THE RESTORED PEOPLE WILL NO LONGER BE HELPLESS

Isaiah 11:14 — Former Enemies Brought Under Control

“Together they will swoop down on the Philistines to the west; they will plunder the people of the east. They will lay hands on Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be subject to them.”

The emphasis is reversal.

The people once oppressed by surrounding nations will no longer remain helpless.

God restores strength and security.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 26:6

During Uzziah's reign, Judah successfully fought Philistine cities and broke through their defenses.

Zephaniah 2:5

God announces judgment against the Philistine coast and declares that its proud settlements will be brought low.

Obadiah 1:19

God promises restored possession of territories formerly controlled by hostile neighboring peoples.

Spiritual Principle

God can reverse long-standing patterns of defeat.

XV. GOD MAKES A WAY THROUGH IMPOSSIBLE BARRIERS

Isaiah 11:15 — Waters Divided

“The Lord will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea; with His mighty wind He will strike the River into seven streams so that men can cross over in sandals.”

The imagery recalls:

The Exodus.

The Red Sea.

God removing an impossible barrier.

The lesson is clear:

If God needs a road where none exists:

He makes one.

Cross References

Exodus 14:21

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the waters back by a powerful wind, making dry ground for Israel.

Zechariah 10:11

God promises to bring His people through distress and strike the waters so that barriers to restoration are removed.

Revelation 16:12

The great Euphrates is dried in preparation for events connected with God's final purposes.

Spiritual Principle

God is not limited by barriers that appear impossible to us.

XVI. GOD BUILDS A HIGHWAY FOR THE REMNANT

Isaiah 11:16 — A New Exodus

“There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who are left from Assyria— just as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.”

Isaiah ends with:

A highway.

The Exodus becomes the pattern.

God made a way before.

He will make a way again.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:8

Isaiah later describes a holy highway prepared for God's redeemed people, a path set apart for their safe return.

Exodus 14:29

Israel walked through the sea on dry ground while walls of water stood on either side.

Isaiah 51:10

God is praised as the One who dried the sea and made its depths into a pathway for the redeemed to cross.

Spiritual Principle

God's past deliverance becomes a pattern of hope for future deliverance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who made one road through the sea has not forgotten how to make another.

XVII. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 11

1. God Brings Life from What Looks Dead

A shoot comes from Jesse's stump.

Principle:

God's promise can survive what looks like total collapse.

2. Christ Is the Spirit-Anointed King

The Spirit rests upon Him in perfect fullness.

Principle:

The Messiah possesses every quality needed for perfect rule.

3. Christ Judges Righteously

He cannot be deceived by appearances.

Principle:

The perfect King sees what human judges cannot see.

4. God's Kingdom Brings True Peace

Predator and prey live together.

Principle:

Messianic peace reaches deeper than political agreement.

5. The Knowledge of God Transforms the Earth

Peace exists because the world knows the Lord.

Principle:

True transformation begins with knowing God.

6. The Messiah Draws the Nations

The Root of Jesse becomes hope for Gentiles.

Principle:

God's salvation reaches beyond one nation to all peoples.

7. God Heals Division

Ephraim and Judah are reconciled.

Principle:

God's kingdom brings unity where sin created rivalry.

8. God Makes a Way for His People

The highway appears like a new Exodus.

Principle:

No obstacle is too great when God determines to bring His people home.

XVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

Isaiah presents Christ as:

Shoot.

Branch.

Root.

Spirit-filled King.

Righteous Judge.

Defender of the poor.

Universal ruler.

Source of peace.

Hope of nations.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every failure of human government points toward humanity's need for the perfect King.

XIX. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit rests upon the Messiah.

The Spirit supplies:

Wisdom.

Understanding.

Counsel.

Might.

Knowledge.

Fear of the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

God's work is accomplished by God's Spirit, not merely human ability.

XX. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT JUSTICE

The Messiah gives justice to:

The poor.

The meek.

He cannot be bribed.

He cannot be deceived.

Key Truth

Perfect justice requires a perfect Judge.

XXI. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT PEACE

Peace includes:

People.

Animals.

Creation.

Nations.

Former rivals.

This is comprehensive peace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical peace means more than stopping conflict.

It means restoration of right order.

XXII. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT CREATION

Creation currently experiences:

Death.

Predation.

Fear.

Decay.

Isaiah presents a future transformed order.

Spiritual Principle

God's redemptive plan is bigger than individual human experience.

XXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT THE NATIONS

The nations come to:

The Root of Jesse.

God's Messiah becomes:

Their hope.

Key Truth

The Messiah is not merely Israel's national deliverer.

He is the hope of the world.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT THE REMNANT

The remnant is:

Scattered.

Preserved.

Gathered.

Restored.

God knows exactly where His people are.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Scattered does not mean forgotten.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT UNITY

Ephraim and Judah had centuries of rivalry.

God promises:

Jealousy ends.

Oppression ends.

Spiritual Principle

God's restoring power can heal divisions that have existed for generations.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 11 TEACHES ABOUT DELIVERANCE

The imagery of the Exodus appears again.

God:

Dries waters.

Creates passages.

Builds highways.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If obedience requires a road, God is able to provide one.

XXVII. THE STUMP AND THE BRANCH

Isaiah 10 ended with:

Trees falling.

Isaiah 11 begins with:

A Branch growing.

That contrast is deliberate.

Human pride is cut down.

God's Messiah rises.

Spiritual Principle

God may cut down what is proud before raising what is righteous.

XXVIII. THE KING WHO CANNOT BE FOOLED

Human rulers depend upon:

Evidence.

Reports.

Witnesses.

Advisers.

The Messiah possesses perfect discernment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You never need to convince Christ of the truth.

He already knows it completely.

XXIX. THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD

Isaiah does not say merely:

The earth will know religion.

It will know:

The Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Information about God is not identical with knowing God.

XXX. A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM

A child safely leads creatures once considered dangerous.

That image communicates:

Complete security.

No fear.

No violence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Where Christ perfectly reigns, vulnerability no longer means danger.

XXXI. THE NATIONS RALLY TO HIM

The Messiah is:

Banner.

Center.

Hope.

The nations gather not around:

An ideology.

An empire.

A human ruler.

But:

Him.

Spiritual Principle

The unity of God's kingdom is centered in the King.

XXXII. GOD GATHERS WHAT WAS SCATTERED

Sin scatters.

War scatters.

Judgment scatters.

God gathers.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's ability to restore is greater than humanity's ability to scatter.

XXXIII. A NEW EXODUS

The final verses intentionally sound like Exodus.

This is salvation language.

The God who once delivered:

Israel from Egypt.

Will act again.

Spiritual Principle

Past salvation teaches us how to interpret future hope.

XXXIV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who is the Shoot from Jesse's stump?

The prophecy points to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who comes from David's family line.

Question 2

Why is Jesse mentioned instead of only David?

It emphasizes the Messiah's root in David's family even when the royal dynasty appears reduced and cut down.

Question 3

What rests upon the Messiah?

The Spirit of the Lord in perfect wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and reverence for God.

Question 4

How will His judgment differ from human judgment?

He will not be limited by outward appearances, rumors, or incomplete information.

Question 5

Who receives special attention under His justice?

The poor and meek.

Question 6

What do the peaceful animals represent?

They depict the profound peace, safety, and restoration associated with the Messiah's reign.

Question 7

Why will there be no harm on God's holy mountain?

Because the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

Question 8

Who will seek the Root of Jesse?

The nations.

Question 9

What will God do with the scattered remnant?

He will gather them from many lands.

Question 10

What happens between Ephraim and Judah?

Their historic jealousy and hostility end.

Question 11

What does the drying of the waters recall?

Israel's Exodus from Egypt and God's ability to remove impossible barriers.

Question 12

What does the highway represent?

God preparing a clear way for His remnant to return.

XXXV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 11 asks several searching questions.

Do I Trust the Branch?

Is Christ truly the King of my life?

Am I Discouraged by a Stump?

Have I assumed something is over when God may still bring new growth?

Am I Seeking the Spirit's Wisdom?

Or relying only upon my own understanding?

How Do I Judge Others?

By appearance?

Rumor?

Reputation?

Or truth?

Do I Care About Justice?

Do I notice the poor and meek?

Is Christ Producing Peace in Me?

What relationships remain controlled by:

Jealousy?

Competition?

Bitterness?

Do I Believe God Can Restore What Has Been Divided?

What rivalry have I assumed can never be healed?

Do I Believe God Can Make a Way?

What obstacle seems impossible?

XXXVI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“God's Messiah Grows from the Stump Human Eyes Would Have Called Finished”

The royal line appears cut down.

Yet God says:

A Shoot will grow.

Principle:

God's promises do not die when human circumstances collapse.

XXXVII. THE KING AND THE SPIRIT

Christ's reign is marked by the fullness of the Spirit.

That means His leadership is never:

Confused.

Weak.

Ignorant.

Unwise.

Spiritual Principle

Everything lacking in fallen leadership is present perfectly in Christ.

XXXVIII. THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM

Isaiah pictures a world where danger is transformed.

The wolf no longer devours.

The lion no longer hunts.

The child no longer fears.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Christ does not merely restrain chaos.

He restores order.

XXXIX. THE ROOT AND THE NATIONS

The Root of Jesse becomes a banner for:

Peoples.

Nations.

Gentiles.

Spiritual Principle

The Messiah's kingdom is larger than ethnicity, geography, and human borders.

XL. HEALING OLD DIVISIONS

Ephraim and Judah had reasons to remember:

History.

Conflict.

Jealousy.

But God's kingdom creates a new future.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can heal relationships that history says must remain divided.

XLI. GOD MAKES A HIGHWAY

A highway means:

Access.

Direction.

Return.

No wandering.

God prepares the route.

Spiritual Principle

God's call to return is accompanied by God's ability to make return possible.

XLII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 11 begins with:

A stump.

That may be where some lives feel today.

Cut down.

Reduced.

Disappointed.

Finished.

But Isaiah says:

Look again.

A Shoot is growing.

God is not finished.

The promised Messiah comes from Jesse's line.

He is everything fallen rulers are not.

He is:

Wise.

Understanding.

Strong.

Knowledgeable.

Righteous.

Faithful.

Just.

He cannot be deceived by appearances.

He does not ignore the poor.

He does not protect wickedness.

He rules perfectly.

Then His kingdom transforms the world.

Predator lies beside prey.

Children are safe.

Violence disappears.

Why?

Because:

The earth knows the Lord.

That is the heart of the chapter.

The deepest human problem is not merely:

Bad economics.

Bad politics.

Bad education.

Bad circumstances.

The deepest problem is alienation from God.

When the knowledge of the Lord fills the earth:

Peace follows.

Isaiah also gives hope to scattered people.

God gathers.

He gathers from:

Assyria.

Egypt.

Cush.

Elam.

Shinar.

Islands.

The four corners of the earth.

No distance is too far.

No scattering is too complete.
Then God heals old divisions.
Ephraim and Judah stop envying and oppressing one another.
This teaches us:
God's kingdom does not preserve our favorite rivalries.
It heals them.
Finally:
God makes a road.
He dries waters.
Creates crossings.
Builds highways.
He did it at the Exodus.
He can do it again.
Therefore:
Trust the Branch.
Follow the King.
Seek His righteousness.
Live as a peacemaker.
Release old rivalries.
And when you see nothing but a stump:
Remember.
God sees the Branch.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Thank You for the promised Branch from Jesse.
Thank You for Jesus Christ, our righteous King.
When circumstances look cut down and hopeless, remind us that You can bring life from the stump.
Fill us with wisdom through Your Spirit.

Give us:

Understanding.

Counsel.

Strength.

Knowledge.

Reverence for You.

Teach us not to judge people merely by outward appearances.

Make us people of righteousness and justice.

Give us compassion for:

The poor.

The meek.

The vulnerable.

Father, bring peace into our hearts and relationships.

Where there is:

Jealousy.

Competition.

Bitterness.

Division.

Bring reconciliation.

Thank You that Christ's kingdom will not forever contain:

Violence.

Fear.

Destruction.

Thank You for the promise of a world filled with the knowledge of You.

Gather those who are scattered.

Restore those who feel forgotten.

Make highways where there seem to be no roads.

Remove barriers that appear impossible.

And above all:

Fix our eyes on Jesus.

The Shoot.

The Branch.

The Root of Jesse.

The King whose righteousness never fails.

In His name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Out of the stump of Jesse will come a shoot; from his roots a Branch will grow and bear fruit.” — Isaiah 11:1

Central Truth

Jesus Christ, the promised Branch from Jesse, will rule in the fullness of the Spirit with perfect righteousness, justice, and faithfulness, establish a kingdom of extraordinary peace, draw the nations to Himself, gather God's scattered people, heal division, and make a way for the redeemed to return.

Isaiah 11 in One Sentence

Isaiah reveals the coming Messiah as the Spirit-filled Branch from Jesse who will judge perfectly, establish a peaceable kingdom, fill the earth with the knowledge of God, gather the remnant and the nations, heal Israel's divisions, and create a new highway of deliverance for His people.