

IN THAT DAY

Thursday, August 6

Reading: Isaiah 11-12

Isaiah 11:9 *They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to Him, and His place of rest will be glorious.*

Isaiah has much to say about the coming of Messiah. We will focus on more of these passages next week. Chapters 11 and 12 are nestled between the opening passages of judgment on Israel (cha. 1-10) and an extended section of God's judgments on the nations (cha. 13-24). Before he issues these next oracles of God's judgment, Isaiah reminds us that one day Messiah will bring peace and righteousness to the earth.

"The Root of Jesse" refers to Messiah. God had promised King David (Jesse was his father) that he would have an eternal kingdom (2 Samuel 7). Isaiah sees the future day when this kingdom will occur. Verses 1-5 describe the character of this coming Ruler from David's family. He will exhibit the character of God Himself and rule with justice, righteousness, and faithfulness. Only God the Son could fit these requirements.

Next Isaiah records some of the characteristics of this coming kingdom. It will be one of peace between people and peace with nature. The nation of Israel will be gathered under His banner and finally be at peace. This is only possible because "the earth will be full of the knowledge of God" because God the Son is reigning from Jerusalem ("My holy mountain").

In response to these blessings of the Kingdom, God's people will praise the Lord who has forgiven and saved His people (12:1-3). They will give thanks and tell the nations the glorious things that the Lord has done (12:4-6).

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. This passage is talking about that future day when Christ rules and reigns on the earth. We sometimes call this age the Millennium where Christ reigns for 1000 years (see Revelation 20:1-6). Knowing that someday Christ will reign here on earth and turn this world "right-side up," how should we as believers be responding to His reign in our lives today?
2. Have you "drawn water from the wells of salvation" (12:3)? Christ freely offers salvation to all who will repent and turn to Him in faith. Then you can truly sing "the Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation."
3. Notice that one of the responses to Christ's salvation and coming reign is to "make known among the nations what He has done" (12:4). What are you doing to "proclaim that His name is exalted"? How are you doing your part to reach the lost with the message of the gospel before it is too late?
4. Did you recognize the words used for those who have experienced God's salvation? Comfort! Trust! Strength! Song! Joy! Are you experiencing these things in your life? Why or why not?