



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

THE STUMP OF JESSE: ISAIAH 11:1-10

By Stephen J. Casselli

The prophet Isaiah did not have a Christmas tree. He had a stump. A stump with a single shoot growing from it (Isa. 11:1). That is a real Christmas tree according to Isaiah. But what does it mean? Why does the prophet call our attention to this strange little Christmas stump?

It is a picture of the promised Messiah. A savior who will be the king. He is a shoot from the stump of Jesse (11:1). Jesse is the father of King David. But now all that is left of David's glorious kingdom is a stump, just as the Lord promised Isaiah at his call (6:13).

The people of God have fallen away. They have turned from their God but "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases" (Lam.

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2019 Southeast Founders
Conference
JANUARY 3-5, 2019

MICAH 6:8
He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Grace Baptist Church
1300 Ceitus Terrace
Cape Coral, Florida 33991



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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon

COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

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Reaching out to the unsaved is not just the responsibility of a pastor or Christian leader. It is the responsibility of every believer to bear witness to the grace of Jesus Christ. So let your example serve to encourage others to do the same. Make clear to your people that not everyone in the church is called or gifted to be an evangelist but that is not what this is about. Show them through your example the significance of being salt and light, and stress the importance of faithfulness rather than success.

Daniel Hyde

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3:22). He promises to raise up His deliverer out of this bleak and desperate situation, out of this humble and obscure family. And he will be like a vulnerable new shoot growing on the forest floor. God's promised redeemer appears on the scene in obscurity. He appears at first to be weak and vulnerable. He will come up out of desperate conditions, in apparent weakness, but his character and reign will be majestic.

It will be the Holy Spirit's presence with him that will sanctify and empower him. "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him" (Isa. 11:2). The anointing of kings in Israel was a symbolic representation of the Spirit of the Lord being poured out on them so that they might lead the people with wisdom, righteousness, faithfulness, and power (see 1 Sam. 16:13). By the Spirit, this branch is enabled to know what is right and to execute his reign accordingly.

When God's Messiah arrives, we discover that He was not only anointed with the Spirit, as kings of old were, but that He was actually conceived in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). From His birth to His resurrection (Rom. 1:4), Jesus is the man of the Spirit par excellence. At every stage of His life and ministry, the Spirit guides, directs, and empowers Him. He knows what is needed to redeem His own and is empowered by the Spirit to save accordingly.

The secret to His wise power is His Spirit-given delight in the fear of the Lord (Isa. 11:3). He delights in fear—a curious combination. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because the one who fears the Lord will fear no one else. This is what enables Him to be an equitable Judge (11:4–5).

This is the heart of kingship. He is a merciful Judge to the poor and meek (v. 4). Blessed are the meek, Jesus said. The meek are those who know their need and come humbly to their King for protection and care.

But, He is also a fiercely righteous Judge who "shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth" and "with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked" (v. 4). He will breathe on the proud and blow them

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Southeast Founders

Conference—January 3-5. Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida. Theme: *Do Justice — Love Kindness — Walk Humbly*. Speakers include Voddie Baucham, Josh Buice, Tom Ascol, and Jared Longshore. Early registration pricing through Dec. 6. Go to founders.org/events/ for information.

True Church Conference—

January 14-17. Grace Life Church of the Shoals, Muscle Shoals, AL. Theme: *Honoring the Excellency of Jesus Christ*. truechurchconference.com

Deep South Regional

Founders Conference—January 24-26. Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. Theme: *The Doctrine of Sanctification*. Main Speaker: Conrad Mbewe. Go to founders.org/events/ for information.

Southern Baptist Founders

Conference Midwest—February 26 & 27, 2019. First Baptist Church of Fenton in Fenton, MO. Theme: *Reformation in Today's Churches*. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Nettles & Dr. Owen Strachan. <https://sbfcmw.wordpress.com>

Saved By Faith Youth Camp—

June 17-21, 2019. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. For more info go to www.sbfyckansas.com or email trinitybaptistwamego@gmail.com.

Encouraged to Endure

Conference—July 25-27, 2019. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Joseph Mahlaola, Larry McCall, & John Snyder. Worship Leader: Tom Clay.

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away. Righteous and good kings bring justice to the earth. Jesus is the Judge (John 5:22).

Justice produces peace. By His Spirit- endowed wisdom and in the fear of the Lord, He ushers in a worldwide kingdom of peace. There you find animals who should be eating one another dwelling in harmony (Isa. 11:6–7) and children playing with snakes (v. 8). Echoes of Eden. It is a world where peace has been restored. This is what good kings do. They establish peace.

After the fall of Adam, we get animal planet, the wild kingdom. Disharmony and conflict run through the whole of the created order. But here, predator and prey have transformed natures (v. 7), yielding peace. Even a child will once again exercise dominion over them, as God purposed from the start (v. 6; see Gen. 1:28).

The seed of the serpent will no longer be feared (Isa. 11:8; see Gen. 3:15). In Jesus, the head of the serpent will be crushed, the enemy vanquished. Here is the prophetic firstfruits of that peace. Jesus has come as the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). “He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found.”

And how do we become citizens of His kingdom, heirs of this peace? Isaiah tells us: “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (11:9). We know and trust and love the King, the Lord. People from all the foreign nations of the earth will come to know the Lord through this Messiah-King (v. 11).

Do you know Him? Have you bowed the knee before Him and confessed that He is your King and your Savior?

For all who do know Him, Isaiah promises that His resting place is glorious (v. 10). Peace with God, protection from sin and Satan, comfort in the Spirit, no condemnation—it’s all there; do you see it? Do you see that stump, that shoot, that King? Merry Christmas.

Dr. Stephen J. Casselli is senior minister of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Fla. He is author of *Divine Rule Maintained*.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/12/the-stump-of-jesse/>

**SPURGEON
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
OF CHURCHES**

**PO Box 155
Wamego KS 66547**

Phone: (785) 456-8513

Email:
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Contact Us:

Administrative Council:

J.W. Glidewell
Moderator
Phone: (785) 772-1176
jwglidewell@gmail.com

Tony Mattia
Corresponding Secretary
Trinity Baptist Church
Wamego, Kansas
Phone: (785) 456-3796
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Ken Jorgenson, At Large
kjorg@hotmail.com

Robin Jackson, At Large
jacksonrobin@gmail.com

Bill Ascol, At Large
bascol@sbcglobal.net

Paul Walker, At Large
pastorpaul@elmavenuebaptist.org



WWW.SBAOC.ORG

MEN AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

Kevin Berens
Colby, Kansas
Email: berens.kevin@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 785-332-7184

Nathaniel Penland
Lawrenceville, Georgia
Email: n8penland@gmail.com
Phone: 678-925-7024

Tim Lambert
Lindsborg, Kansas
Email: tlambert@smokyvalley.org
Phone: 785-614-3651

Bake Ottogy
St. Louis, Missouri
Email: bakeottogy@gmail.com
Phone: 636-467-7446

Brad Richardson
Lawrence, Kansas
Email: richbud@hotmail.com
Phone: 785-766-7268

John Grove
Ocala, FL
Email: trsjwg@gmail.com
Phone: 352-286-5494

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.



Baptist Association of Churches