

## Jesus in Isaiah: King

We started this 10-part series, *Jesus in the Old Testament*, back in February. This is the first of the last three messages, all three from the Prophet Isaiah.

I could have made *Jesus-in-Isaiah* a 10-part series all by itself.

Even though it is in the Old Testament, penned over 700 years before Jesus, some refer to Isaiah as *the 5<sup>th</sup> Gospel*. If you have read the New Testament, you have read a lot of Isaiah. “According to some counts, the New Testament has over 400 allusions to this book, and parts of 47 chapters of Isaiah’s 66 are either directly quoted or alluded to in the New Testament.” (Kaiser)

So, we could easily linger here in Isaiah longer, but we are going to limit our view this time along the lines of three themes:

- King
- Servant, and
- Conqueror

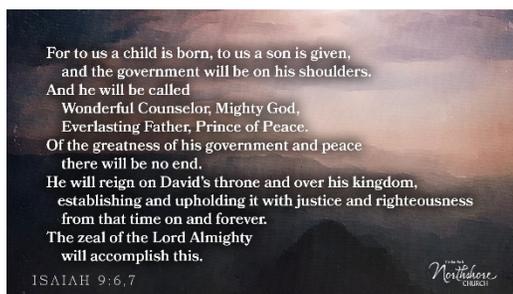
Today it is Jesus, the Promised Messiah, depicted as **King**... and I’m going to focus on 4 passages from Isaiah.

The first passage could sound familiar. It is from Isaiah 9... and I say it may sound familiar because it has been sung for centuries.

It is Handel’s *Messiah*, nearly 300 years old, one of the most popular and widely sung pieces in Western choral music.

“For unto us a child is born” is movement 12 of 53. (It is long. Usually 3-hours to perform, with intermissions. Most everyone has heard *parts* of it, but far fewer have listened to **all** of it.)

It begins with that great proclamation:



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given<sup>1</sup>

I suppose it is familiarity with this movement in Handel's *Messiah* that might cause many to think of this as *Christmas Music*. But the 53 movements of Handel's work span more than just the *Christmas portions*. It starts with Isaiah's prophecy (Comfort Ye My People) and ends in the Book of Revelation (Worthy is the Lamb); it covers the promise of the Messiah, the life of Jesus, and the ultimate, eternal triumph of Our Christ.

For to us a child is born...

Of course, this was no ordinary child who came in exactly the ordinary way. His virgin birth was promised in Isaiah 7:

the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin<sup>h</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel<sup>2</sup>

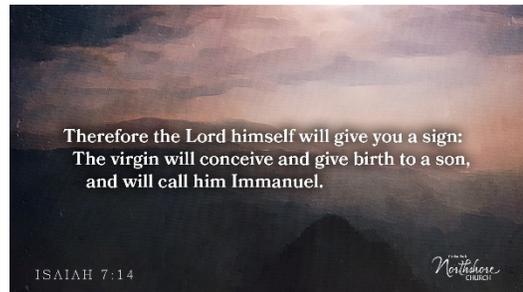
Immanuel means ***God with us***... what a Name! Our Savior among us, not merely as some sort of cosmic visitor, but taking on human flesh... ***with us*** in every way.

While our passage in Isaiah 9 starts with that proclamation of an extraordinary child, it immediately turns to His reign as King; that is where the emphasis remains throughout the passage.

the government will be on his shoulders<sup>3</sup>

Government might often be understood as a yoke placed on the shoulders of the governed. Anyone feel like the government is piling a heavy burden on us these days? It can sure feel like it, especially in these times.

Governments are often repressive; they certainly were in the times of Isaiah, and the years Jesus walked the earth. Whether Pharaoh, King, or Caesar (or even mayor, governor, or president) human rulers often govern for their own benefit.



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<sup>1</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 9:6). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>2</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 7:14). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>3</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 9:6). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

But that is not what is Promised in the Messiah. He will take the government on His shoulders. He will serve far more than He ever demands to be served.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>4</sup>

Add these four names to His Name Immanuel.

- It starts with **Wonderful Counselor**. We use the word *wonderful*... but do we really mean *full of wonder*. That is what the word means here. Each of these four names can only be ascribed to someone far more than a mere man. Full of wonder... this wise One hears and knows and answers our pain and questions.
- **Mighty God**. If there was any question about His deity, this confirms that this King **is God**... not merely acting like a god, or demanding to be worshipped as a god... but fully, **Mighty God**.
- **Everlasting Father**. He is the Child Born **and** the Everlasting Father. He is preexistent... and will always be. Everlasting from before the beginning through all eternity.
- **Prince of Peace**. Again, not a prince that demands service, nor a prince that conscripts warriors... but the Prince who promises peace, both peace among men, and peace with God.

Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end. <sup>5</sup>

Everlasting, Mighty, and Wonderful... this is our King.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 9:6). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>5</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 9:7). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>6</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 9:7). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

This is the Promised One, the heir of David, and also the superior Lord and Father to David.

And what upholds this Kingdom? Not wealth or military power. Not even alliances or skill. This Kingdom is upheld with justice and righteousness. A Kingdom upheld by justice is a Kingdom not merely *for* the King... but a Kingdom for the citizens. A perfectly righteous King, a righteousness that is beyond human ability or even comprehension, ruling with justice for all.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this. <sup>7</sup>

This is God's plan and purpose accomplished through Christ. This is the reign Promised from the beginning, begun as Jesus walked the earth and paid the price for sin, and the reign that will be complete in eternity.

Let's jump ahead to Isaiah chapter 11; it starts with this:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the  
LORD—

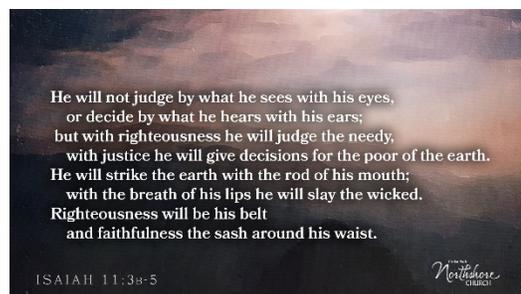
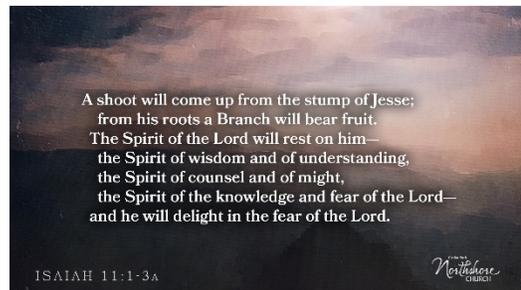
<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor  
of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the  
wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 9:7). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>8</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 11:1-5). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

What a beautiful description, our King distinguished by righteousness and faithfulness, our King with His eyes and ears tuned to the poor and needy.

Verse 2 contains a comprehensive description of leadership: wise, smart, and Spiritual. It seems that every leader needs one, some have two, few are truly strong in all three. Do you see it there? It begins with:

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding<sup>9</sup>

**Wise:** knowing what is right.

the Spirit of counsel and of might<sup>10</sup>

**Smart:** knowing how to get things done. (These are often called administrative, or management, gifts.)

the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—  
<sup>3</sup> ... he will delight in the fear of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>

**Spiritual:** knowing the heart and ways of God.

It takes all three to lead well. It is rare when someone is really strong in all three. When teams lead (even couples in a marriage) it is usually best when the team does a good job of complimenting one another, covering all three bases.

I study, and even sometimes consult in, leadership. I don't think I've ever done it, but drilling down on these three strengths (wise, smart, spiritual), having people evaluate themselves and others on the team, would likely be a productive approach. I know where my strengths and weaknesses lie (and I'm not telling).

But before we leave the passage, consider the word picture painted with verse 1.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 11:2). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>10</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 11:2). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>11</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 11:2–3). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>12</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 11:1). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

In Isaiah's day, Israel was broken and on the verge of distinction. The nation had split, and the Northern Kingdom had been conquered. The Southern Kingdom would be too. In the natural, apart from God's Promises, it seemed like Israel was finished. What was once a great oak, was now a mere stump. Jesse was King David's father, King Solomon's grandfather... but that royal line had been reduced to a stump, cut down, vanquished, and carried off to build some other kingdoms.

But... a shoot was promised. From what seemed to be dead and doomed, a shoot arose. The Branch, a miracle from what seemed dead and doomed, bore fruit.

Have you ever seen it? You can't keep some trees down. Out from the stump comes a shoot. And as the shoot grows, branches bear fruit.



You see... no matter how bad things get in a season, there is the hope of a shoot... regrowth.

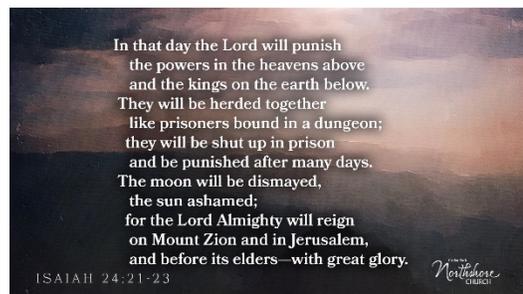
Got any stumps? See any stumps around?

This is a very hard time for many. Some are feeling cut down, reduced to stumps. It will be fascinating to see what God does from stumps. It seems that God excels at providing something wonderful from stumps.

In Isaiah 24, the Messiah-King is depicted as superior to every foe... that He alone will reign, vanquishing His enemies and the enemies of His people.

The chapter closes by promising:

- <sup>21</sup> In that day the LORD will punish  
the powers in the heavens above  
and the kings on the earth below.
- <sup>22</sup> They will be herded together  
like prisoners bound in a dungeon;  
they will be shut up in prison  
and be punished after many days.
- <sup>23</sup> The moon will be dismayed,  
the sun ashamed;  
for the LORD Almighty will reign  
on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,  
and before its elders—with great glory.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>13</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 24:21–23). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

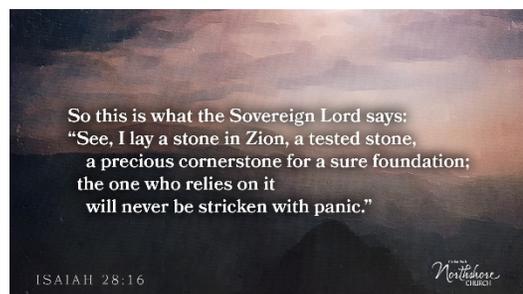
There are those who are distracted and concerned about the harshness portrayed in the Bible, with people being “herded” and tossed into a “dungeon” and such. I get it; there *is* violence in the Bible. But to that I would say: *Be sure to choose the right side.*

Make no mistake about it. In the last day there will be those who joyfully bow our knees to Our King. And there will be those humiliated, forced to their knees, facing eternal punishment. Choose the right side.

Finally, for today, let’s look to chapter 28. Verse 16 reads:

<sup>16</sup> So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a sure  
foundation;<sup>14</sup>



There is so much in chapter 28, but here our King is described in terms of a stone, a solid rock. The stone is tested, precious, and sure.

Our King is **tested**. We can trust Our King, because He has endured every test and proved to be righteous and faithful. He was **tested** beyond any test any of us will face, and He prevailed.

Our King is **precious**, God’s own Son. Yet this costly price was paid on our behalf.

Our King is **sure**. Again, we do not hold this King up; our King holds us up. Our King serves us, holding us up... a sure foundation.

the one who relies on it  
will never be stricken with panic. <sup>15</sup>

And *that* is the closing point for today. Jesus is our Promised, Eternal King. He is righteous and trustworthy. He alone is worthy of all honor and obedience. We can, we must, trust Him.

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<sup>14</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 28:16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>15</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 28:16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Is there cause for panic today?

Many panic because of the pandemic, and the various impacts of the pandemic. We might panic because the virus could get us... and if it doesn't get us, the failing economy might.

Perhaps there is panic for some other reason. It could be anything, really... things seen and unseen.

Today, Isaiah calls us to not panic.

If we rely on ourselves, or our governments, or even our families or friends... there might be cause for panic. The way to never be "stricken with panic" is to truly rely on the firm foundation, the precious cornerstone, the tested One who calls us to Himself.

this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
the one who relies on it  
will never be stricken with panic. <sup>16</sup>

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word, and the Holy Spirit's convicting power that comes from hearing Your Word. Forgive us for foolishly relying on anything, or anyone else, including ourselves. We declare our trust in You, our Glorious, Eternal King. We believe. In Jesus' Name... amen.

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<sup>16</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 28:16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.