



DAY 21

Scriptural Background: Isa 11

*"1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him..."* Isa 11:1–2a

The book of Isaiah contains predictions of Christ which are remarkable for both their poetic beauty as well as their detailed clarity. In chapter 4 Isaiah had prophesied of a certain Branch of the Lord who would be a hiding place for God's people, a "shelter and shade from the heat of the day" (4:6). Now in chapter 11 Isaiah goes on to specify that this Branch will be of the tribe of Jesse (that is, King David's family). He will have the very Spirit of God resting upon Him. And, the result of His work will be peace on a scale which currently dwarfs the imagination (11:6–9). He will even produce an end to Exile in the same way the people of Israel were brought out of Egypt (11:10–16). How will such an astounding transformation take place? Isaiah tells us it will be as a shoot coming directly out from a stump. What looks like death – a stump is what remains when a tree has been felled – from that ending a new beginning will come about. This is what Jesus did. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit rested upon Him (Mt 3:16). When Jesus was crucified, He was securing peace with God for His people (Rom 5:1, Eph 2:14). When Jesus was raised from the dead, He was the beginning of new life bursting forth from death (2 Cor 5:17). Let us "rally to him" (11:10), live in the peace He has secured, and know that He is our way home (John 14:2).

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, how we long for the peace only You can give. Thank You for sending Your Son to reconcile us to Yourself, in fulfillment of all the prophecies given in Your Word. By Your Spirit teach us what it is to live in this peace more fully and to be ambassadors of it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Note: We'll take a break from the devotionals on Saturdays and plan to resume them again on Sundays.