

## Sermon: That Day

### Text: Isaiah 11-12

#### Introduction:

We come today to the fourth week in our study of the Book of Isaiah. Week #1 (chapters 1-5) begins with Isaiah describing the “situation on the ground” in the nation of Judah during the time of his ministry. On the surface—things appeared to be going fine (economy, prosperity, church attendance, etc.). But underneath it all—the nation was spiritually rotten (the government had become corrupt; the rich got richer and the poor, the widow and the fatherless were forgotten and had become disposable in the eyes of the wealthy). God had had enough. Which brought us to Week #2 (chapter 6)—the holiness of God and the call of Isaiah. Isaiah sees God in all of His glory, he repents of his sin, and God calls him to proclaim salvation. Last week (Week #3 / chapters 7-10), we see that Isaiah points directly and specifically to the birth of Jesus. He indicates that Jesus (the Messiah) will be born of a virgin, He will come from Galilee, and He will be a direct descendant of David and establish an eternal kingdom.

Today we examine chapters 11-12—which point beyond the birth of Jesus, and describe the ultimate return of Jesus in the last days.

In the last several verses of Isaiah chapter 10, Isaiah prophesies about the defeat of Assyria. Keep in mind that this was BEFORE Assyria (think Iraq) was truly a world power. Isaiah paints a vivid portrait of God Himself defeating the Assyrian army. The picture the prophet paints is of a huge and powerful forest, one that would resemble something like the Redwood forests found in California. A forest with strong and mighty trees, vast in number and lush with color. But in one swing of the justice-bringing axe of God, this once powerful and lush forest is brought down to mere stumps—and the picture we are left with is one of desolation, hopelessness and despair. [Note: we see God’s deliverance as He defeats the Assyrian army as recorded later in Isaiah chapter 37]

In our text today—it is out of this picture of desolation, hopelessness and despair that we see new life and the promise of a new and coming KING. He is a King that will bring hope out of hopelessness. He is a King who will be born in a miraculous manner as we heard about last week in Isaiah chapters 7 & 9. He is a Messiah King who is none other than Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

#### Examination:

- Read **Isaiah 10:24-27; 33-34**
  - Who is Isaiah speaking to—and who is he telling them not to be afraid of?
  - What will happen to the Assyrians?
  - What does God compare the destruction of the Assyrians to? (v. 26)
  - Verses 33-34 create a picture of a vast and epic event. What does God compare the Assyrians to—and what will happen to them?
  - Is there anything you can draw from these verses and apply to today?
  
- Read **Isaiah 11:1-9**

- We have the image in our minds of the lush forest that has been completely devastated and cut down to the ground. Imagine thousands upon thousands of acres of nothing but decimated logs and clear-cut trees. But somewhere out in the middle of those stumps is one particular tree that is still alive—one particular stump that will grow again. According to verse 1, what is that stump?
  - Who is Jesse? Why is he important?
  - What “branch” is first mentioned back in Isaiah 4:2? Is this the same branch?
  - What is the most outstanding feature of this “stump”? (vv. 2-5)
  - How does this “stump of Jesse” treat the poor and needy? How does this compare and contrast with the way they were being treated by the current leaders of Judah in the time of Isaiah? (see Isaiah 5:8; 23)
  - How did Jesus actually treat the poor and needy when He walked on this earth?
  - What will form the basis of how WE will be judged in the final judgment as described in **Matthew 25:31-46**?
  - Sum up verses 6-9 with one word that will describe the world when Jesus returns. Is there any way that the world can be this way unless Jesus does it?
  - Verse 10 talks about “that day”. When is that day?
  - Take some time to describe all of the things that will happen when Jesus “stands as a banner for the peoples”. (vv. 10-16)
- Read **Isaiah 12**
    - We once again see the words: “that day” in verse 1. Talk a bit more about what you understand “that day” to mean. Do you believe it’s a literal day? When will that day occur? What has to happen before that day comes? What will the world be like on that day? What will be the reactions of the nations on that day? Are you aware of any other passages in the Bible that talk about and describe that day?
    - These 6 verses describe what “you” will say on that day. Who is the “you”? Are you going to be one of these “you”? Can you see yourself saying these things? Are these things you can say (or are saying) today? What of these things, specifically, are you able to say today?
    - Are you drawing from the wells of salvation with joy in your heart today? (v. 3) What are some very practical ways that this happens?
    - Is the name of Jesus being known among the nations today? (vv. 4-5) Is there anything you are doing to help this take place? What more can you do?
    - Chapter 12 verse 6 brings to a close the first major section of Isaiah (Chapters 1-12...Chapter 13 verse one completely shifts gears). How is this verse a fitting close to these first twelve chapters?

### **Application:**

Do you believe to the core of your being that Jesus is really coming back to this earth to raise up everyone who loves Him? Do you believe that He could come today? Does this belief make any noticeable difference in your life and choices? Are you doing anything to tell others about this?