



Message Reflections

December 20, 2020

*“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”* Isaiah 11:1

From something seemingly dead, new life appears. This “shoot” or “branch” represents the coming Messiah, sent to bring salvation and peace to God’s people who have been in exile. This Messiah, as Isaiah explains, is filled with the Spirit of the Lord and has all wisdom and understanding and power. He will rule with justice and righteousness; not viewing people by appearances, and faithfully caring for the poor and the needy.

Isaiah spoke this prophecy during a time when they were faced with hardship, political corruption, and the threat of destruction. He spoke to their desperate need for a Savior.

- What about our present reality makes you want to cry out to God for salvation and deliverance?

Read Isaiah 11. Notice the promise of the Messiah, His character, and the future picture of peace that we are given.

- In what areas of your life are you seeking peace right now?
- What does peace look like in this weary world?

We are given a picture of a glorious resting place where the Lord reaches out to His people to rescue them and reclaim them as His own. This brings hope through the peace and restoration that it promises. Reflect on this and thank God for the amazing gift of His peace.

For further reflection on how God fulfills His promises and offers salvation, **read Isaiah 53**, thanking Jesus for taking on our suffering in order to offer us peace.