

Isaiah 11.1-16 & Lk 4.14-22

Clint Le Page

Main Point – Praise the Spirit-filled Messiah who brings a glorious hope – justice, the new creation and salvation rest.

As many of you know, I studied biology at uni in the 90's, for I care about the world God made.

And when I was in high school I loved going to visit my great uncle's property near Bonnie Doon, at Lake Eildon, and we'd do tree planting. **(SLIDE)**

That's me in the daggy black tracksuit

My great uncle Neil Black spoke of how the Australian government 100 yrs ago effectively paid and forced farmers to clear their land of trees.

And he grieved the destruction it brought to the environment.

You drive up Plenty Road now toward Mansfield and you see the bare fields, bare hills, grass everywhere, and few trees. **(SLIDE)**-----

And the farmers are reaping the consequences of this – with erosion, run-off, a lack of biodiversity, soil quality and trees.

And so I loved going up to help with the planting of trees.-----

But in Scripture people and kingdoms are often compared to trees.

And **Isaiah ch10** finished with this image of the Lord God holding an axe and clearing the trees.

Isaiah had said Assyria was God's instrument to judge the Israelites (10.5-6,10-11), but then they will be punished for their arrogance & pride (v12,25).

And at the end of ch10 Assyria is described as tall trees that will be felled. **(SLIDE)**

God will bring Assyria down, like a tall tree cut down, and so there is hope for Judah.---

God will bring down human pride and injustice, and bring a new world.-----

And whether it's the deforestation of our planet, the oppression of the poor, the injustice or sin we experience, I think we long for a better world, a new world too.

Who can bring the salvation and new world we long for?

Who can bring real and sure hope?

We meet that One today, and I pray you'll find hope through him.-----

As in Isaiah ch9, which we looked at last week, Isaiah writes sometime after 720 BC, when Assyria exiled Samaria & Northern Kingdom of Israel. **(SLIDE)**

And he writes before Assyria attacks Jerusalem in 701BC.

Assyria is the invading super-power of the day, and approaching Jerusalem.

God has already said judgement is coming for Jerusalem, and in the end Assyria will be judged.

But if God's people are going to be smashed, what hope is there?-----

Which brings us to Isa 11, and my **first point, The Messiah who has the Spirit.**-----

Isa 11 is one of the most magnificent passages in the Bible.

It is hard to capture the depth of its ideas and its comforting, emotional resonance.

And I won't do it justice in 30 mins.

But Isaiah prophesies that at some time after Assyria is judged 'a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse.'

Jesse, remember, was King David's father, as 1 Samuel 16 tells us.

So, referring to Jesse is a way of referring to David.

Remember God promised in 2 Sam 7, that a descendant of David will rule forever. From Psalm 2 he'll rule over and judge all. And Isa 9, even be God himself.---

But for Isaiah it's been 300 yrs since David.

And 100 years after Isaiah, Jerusalem will get exiled too.

Then for centuries Israel will have No King.

It'll be like the tall tree that was Israel, will be cut down too.-----

But from the stump, a shoot and branch will come.

A descendant of Jesse & David will arrive, n' the **Spirit of the Lord** will rest on him.---

Like Andy said last week, there's some similarity with King Hezekiah in 2 Kings. **(SLIDE-18.5-7)** Isa 11.2-3 are almost true of Hezekiah.

But really, no king of Israel or Judah displays these qualities.

No son of David has this Spirit-given wisdom n' understanding, counsel and strength, knowledge and godly fear; except one.-----

Which King always knew what was right, had the strength to do what was right, and delighted in trusting n' obeying God?

No one, but Jesus.-----

Jesus is a descendant of David and Jesse. **(SLIDE. Lk3)**

The Spirit comes on him at his baptism.

Luke 4 describes him as being 'full of the Holy Spirit'.

Then Jesus himself quotes Isaiah 61 in **Luke 4, (SLIDE)** saying 'the Spirit of the Lord is on me', and 'today... this Scripture has been fulfilled'.

So Isaiah 11.1-2 is true of Jesus in a stunning way.

His strength, his wisdom, his knowledge; his faith, his obedience, is perfect and incomparable. There is none like him.-----

Do you say 'Amen' to that?-----

And what will this Spirit-filled son of David and Messiah do?

Next brief point, He Brings Justice (SLIDE)

See vv3-5, are all about judging justly.

He doesn't judge by appearances, or believe everything people say.

No, he judges truthfully, righteously.

When Jesus returns to judge the world, he will make no mistakes, have no bias.

He will do nothing unfair; nothing harsh; everyone will get what they deserve.

The poor won't suffer injustice cos they couldn't afford a top lawyer, or pay off a corrupt judge.

Those who oppress people will finally get justice.---

And this will come when Jesus returns to judge by the command of his lips, **v4**.

Remember he is the **Rev 19** rider on the white horse, **(SLIDE)**.

He comes to judge and conquer by the sword from his mouth, the powerful word of his lips. (cf Isa 66.15-16, Jn 5.26-29 – this is the Lord)

And everyone who has not surrendered to Jesus in faith & found forgiveness, will face his judgement then.-----

So get right with him now.-----

And I know, that when you suffer injustice, or fail to get justice from our court system, it's so demoralizing and discouraging.

Trust that the Lord who will judge justly. (Rom 12.19; 1Pet 2.23)

But I hope you know that you and I have wronged God, and not responded to him rightly.

We've all acted unjustly toward others, not always treated people God made rightly, so there's a judgment coming.

And remember, there's no refuge from the Son, only in the Son.

I hope you have found safety from God's judgement by relying on Jesus?-----

The other thing the **Spirit-filled Messiah brings is, the new creation, Point 3.**

This Spirit-filled descendant of Jesse will not only serve out justice, but after that, bring-in n' establish a new creation. **(SLIDE)**

Look at what vv6-9 say this new earth will be like.

Wolves not eating lambs.

Lions not eating calves, nor bears eating cows, nor snakes biting people.

I mean we're talking about vegetarian wolves, lions, leopards, bears; and all snakes being safe.

V7, the lion will eat straw like cattle.

It's out of this world.

It's like Eden likely was before the fall – no killing, no predators, no carnivores.

This is a return to Eden, a back to the Garden, restored world, and a new order.-----

No people behaving like wolves or lions either.

No frightening attacks, no invasions, no violence, no fear, no death.

The Gen 3 curses have been undone.

Even defenseless little children and infants are safe.

How wonderful!

We're not given a date for when this will come, but it is a living hope.

And it will come when Jesus comes again, comes on the clouds (**SLIDE**. Lk 21.27-8)

And when he comes all of God's people saved through Jesus the Messiah will get to enjoy a new creation, the new heaven and earth of **Revelation 21.(SLIDE)**

No more death, grief, crying or pain.

Rev 22 even describes the new creation in garden language.(**SLIDE**)

No curse or conflict; no suffering, sin, or death.

I struggle to even imagine a world like that.-----

So God has given Isaiah and the apostle John in Revelation images and words to describe this whole new creation.-----

I think many in our world, long for a new world, and a new kind of life.

There's so many stories about **Utopias(SLIDE)** in books and movies, which tap into the longing we have for a better world.

We long for a world without sickness, crime and cancer, loss and grief;
poverty and injustice and sadness.

We long and desire that don't we?-----

And Isa 11.9 says that day is coming, when no one will hurt or destroy, not only on God's holy mountain Jerusalem, but anywhere.

As the ESV translation better translates the end of v9,(**SLIDE**)

'the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea'.

A new earth full of people, perfectly knowing God and living his way;
enjoying the bountiful, flourishing, fear-free life he gives.

I long for that. Don't you?-----

That's our future, as we trust in Jesus.

And so don't we have a message to such good news to share?-----

It's good news for the world.

For the Spirit-filled Messiah also **brings salvation to the nations;(SLIDE)**
salvation rest to the nations and Israel.

V10, 'On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples.

The nations will 'look to him', or 'seek him'.

And his resting place will be glorious, so people will find rest in him.-----

Imagine being in the ocean on a ship that is sinking.

You're several floors below deck, and it's flooding with water.(**SLIDE**)

It's only a matter of time until you drown.

And you see a sign – Way Out.(**SLIDE**)

The Exit sign leads to escape in an emergency, it leads to a life raft.

Like that, this banner, is a sign that people run towards, for life, for salvation and rest.

And the Messiah's resting place in his presence will be glorious.

Remember ultimately that's the new creation, we're all invited.-----

And the last chapter of Isaiah, **Isa 66** talks about this too(**SLIDE**) – the nations coming to God, to worship him, and enjoy the new heavens and earth.

Through Jesus we come to God and gain **rest**, real and lasting rest.

Just think about this for a moment, this heavenly rest.

No more struggling with sin and temptation.

No more conflict in relationships.

No more striving to try and prove yourself, or be good enough.

No more feeling worthless or not good enough.

No more suffering, no more separation from loved ones, or loss.

Perfect rest, peace and joy, in the presence of God; because of Jesus.
 How good will that be!
 His resting place will be glorious!

But as well as the people from the nations coming to him, the people of **Israel** do too. Jesus brings some of them to salvation rest as well.

Remember Isaiah writes to Israelites exiled by Assyria, and soon by Babylon.

And **v11 promises** that they will be brought back.

Not everyone, but a remnant will return.

The places there are north, south, east and west of Jerusalem.

God will gather the scattered people of Israel & Judah from the 4 corners of the earth.

We'll think more about this next week.

The 12 tribes will be truly united, no longer scattered.

And no enemies will prevent God's people's joy, peace, and life.

And **v16**, in a new Exodus, God's chosen Israelites will miraculously return to God's land, under God's King.-----

Some vainly look to a physical fulfilment of this for the nation of Israel.

But ultimately this is only **fulfilled by King Jesus**.

Jesus is the one who called Jewish disciples to follow him.

Jesus dies for our sins, conquers death, and rises to glory.

Then he sends out his followers to take the message, that he is Lord and Saviour, from Jerusalem & Judea to the ends of the earth.------(Acts 1.8)

In **Romans 15** the apostle Paul speaks of Jesus being the servant & Saviour of the circumcised Jews, **(SLIDE)** so that the Gentiles will glorify God for his mercy too.

Then Paul quotes the Greek translation of Isa 11, and look at the point he makes from it:

Jesus the root of Jesse rules the non-Jew Gentiles, and they will hope in him.

We non-Jews, will put our hope in him; overflow with hope.-----

We should **respond** to Isa 11 in two main ways, the first is **with Hope.(SLIDE)----**

All the passages in our Coming King series, these prophecies of the promised King Jesus, they all call us to a future hope, and place our hope in him.

As Romans 15 said, the God of hope by the work of the HS can enable us to overflow with hope.

What is hope?-----

It's not a wish, or something you would like to receive in the future.

Hope in the bible is a sure and certain thing, but something you have to wait for.

It's something you will receive, you just don't have it yet, and look fwd to it.-----

True story... off Cape York, wind and waves lash a hand-made wooden boat, as 43 West Papuan faces stare into the ocean, terrified and freezing.

Tears mixed with prayers of desperation.

They'd fled from the fighting between the indigenous people and military, fled the shooting, screaming and wailing.

Among them is 15yo **Danny Merdeka** and his 11 yo brother, they'd fasted and prayed for months hoping this boat would take them to Australia safely.

For 6 days they drifted with a broken engine, and for 6 days they sang, prayed and cried out to God.

Danny said, 'Death was on my mind.

But on the 6th day they saw something in the distance. Hope on the horizon.

Danny says, we saw land and when we came closer, red sand along the beach.

We didn't think Australia was like this, so cold at night.

But after seeing beer cans saying , 'Made in Brisbane', they knew they'd made it.

Danny was brought up in a Christian family, but didn't have a good relationship with God. He says, 'I didn't really experience my relationship with God until I got on the boat with my 42 friends'.

They were picked up by Customs, taken to Christmas Island detention.

He lived through throat cancer and eventually was released and got a temporary protection visa, **(SLIDE)** and got involved at St Hilary's Anglican church in Kew.----

<https://www.etsnews.com.au/archive/horizon-hope-sea-trouble/>

Danny hoped that he'd reach Australia, but he also thought he might die.-----

We can have certain hope of enjoying the new creation life and rest.

Do you have that hope?

Because of Jesus we can have that hope.-----

The other way we should respond to Isaiah 11, is the way **Isaiah ch12** speaks of.

In thanks and praise.

Pls turn to Isa 12, **(SLIDE)** for he says, 'in that day you will **give thanks to the Lord**', your anger is turned away and you have comforted me.

V2 God is my salvation I will trust him and not be afraid.

The Lord is my strength and my song.

You will joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation. (cf John 4.14; Rev 22.1)

But not only be thankful, **v4 says, (SLIDE) proclaim** his name, his deeds.

As Andy said last week, proclaim Jesus.

Who could you share with about what Jesus has done, and will do?

Who will you tell?-----

But we're also to proclaim it to the Lord, in song.

Look at vv5-6 **(SLIDE)**

We're told how to Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things.

We're told to cry out n' sing praise to God for his greatness.-----

And like v1 says, God was angry with us Israel, Judah, and us, for our sin.

But Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, took God's anger away, because he took it on himself, on the cross.

So now, if we've trusted in Jesus, we can receive God's welcome, God's forgiveness, God's comfort.

So with Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we move from fear to faith, from God's anger to comfort.

We move from sin, to salvation and singing.----

'Cry out' isn't just an action, but comes from an emotion, joy.

So we're asked to celebrate and sing, with our words and emotions, what Jesus has done.

Honestly when I look out at the congregation from the front, I often see people not singing, or hardly moving their lips, or signing with no heart.

I'm not telling you to fake it.

And please don't sing, worried about who's looking at you, or worried about how you sound.

Sing wholeheartedly.

Let your attention be on the Lord and all he has done for you, & promised to do.

If we are singing about God being my salvation, trusting him and not being afraid, shouldn't that engage us emotionally? With thanks and joy?

If we sing that the Lord has done glorious things, shouldn't we feel thanks and amazement and awe?

As Yip Harburg who penned the words to the Wizard of Oz memorably said, **(SLIDE)**

'Words make you think a thought, music makes you feel a feeling,
a song makes you feel a thought'.

So our singing should bridge the gap between our thinking n' believing and our emotions.

Does it do that for you?

Or should you let it do that for you?-----

In your ear buds alone, in your car (with the kids), and in church.

At Bundy we don't want to emotionally manipulate you by turning down the lights, playing lengthy instrumentals, or repeating a chorus 8 times.

But focus on Jesus and he will engage your head and your heart, so you can even be lost in wonder, love and praise.-----

But I want to finish by saying that singing our thanks to God, can also help us have hope, in the midst of fears, anxieties, darkness and worries about the world.

I wished I'd been able to go to the Lauren Daigle concert last week, for several of her songs have encouraged my faith. (And her emotions are engaged when she sings)

In her song, **Thank God I do**, she sings:

I've seen love come and
 I've seen love walk away
 So many questions
 Will anybody stay?
 It's been a hard year
 So many nights in tears
 All of the darkness
 Trying to fight my fears
 Alone, so long alone

You're my safe place
 My hideaway
 You're my anchor
 My saving grace.
 You're my constant
 My steadiness
 You're my shelter
 My oxygen
 I don't know who I'd be if I didn't know You.
 Thank God, I do.-----

I hope the truths of magnificent Isa 11 enrich your mind, and nurture your heart and your hope, so that it soaks your speech, and pours out in song.

The Spirit-filled Saviour brings a glorious hope – a sure future of justice, new creation, and salvation rest.

Praise him!

Let's pray.