

# PROMISES

# KEPT

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE



## The Righeous Reign of the Branch

• Isaiah 11 : 2 - 8 •

### Advent Week 2 : PEACE

#### DEVOTION

Some 600-800 before the birth of Christ, the Book of Isaiah was written. Chapter 11 prophetically tells us something of our coming Saviour.

Chapter 11 begins by telling us that a Branch from the root of Jesse (King David's father) will bear fruit. In v. 2 we are told that "the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him," Further, we learn that He will possess the Spirits of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might and knowledge. Further, His delight will be in the fear of the Lord.

vs's 3-5 go on to describe the qualities our Lord of Lords will exhibit and describes His power and disposition when His second coming and the final judgement occur. We learn that it is not using normal senses of sight and hearing that judgement will be rendered, but rather with righteousness and equity.

Throughout scripture, a single repetition of any message or theme is used to call us to pay attention and learn. If a message or theme is used a third time, the emphasis is even more powerful. vs's 6-8 provide 9 or 10 examples of how, in the new kingdom Christ will establish, the weak, vulnerable and meek shall co-exist in peace, and without violence or danger with the strong, their former enemies and predators. v. 6d "...and a little child shall lead them." leaves us with a heartwarming example of how the meek shall inherit the new earth v. 7 provides a partial explanation as to how this shall occur, but leaves us to wonder how our Lord will accomplish such stunning changes in the nature of the predators and dangerous creatures. vs's 7 and 8 go on with examples of how even the most vulnerable will no longer be under threat of harm in order the peace may reign.

In His first coming as a Son of Man (Dan. 7:13-14) & Son of God (1 Jn. 4:15), Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. However, He will return in glory with the new heaven & the new earth. After the final judgement He will reign as King of Kings & Lord of Lords. As Is. 9:7 declares "Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end..."

As we celebrate the advent of the coming of Jesus, our Christ, let us remember not only that He came to earth as a propitiation for the salvation of all who will believe in Him, but to bring the message of peace with God, now and for eternity.

### Monday

**Read Isaiah 11:2 -3;; Isaiah 42:1; John 14:27**

Consider the peace that is available to you when you truly offer your fear and anxiety to Jesus by faith. Let's remember, Jesus does not leave us a peace that just means no war.

Will you pray that our Lord will grant you a Spirit of counsel and might? i.e. An inner Spirit to lead and guide you with wisdom & strength to change as necessary for your peace?

## Tuesday

**Read Isaiah 11:4; Matthew 5:2, 5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 16:33**

Take a few moments to contemplate the peace that is available to you through His Holy Spirit when you place your trust in Christ. Christ has overcome the evil one.

If, as Jesus has stated, He has overcome the world, will you ask the Holy Spirit to so fill your heart that, even in the most trying circumstances, you will sense an inner peace?

## Wednesday

**Read Isaiah 11:5; Ephesians 6:14; 1 Kings 18:46**

Ask yourself, without Truth, can I truly have peace with Jesus? Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The Belt of Truth is spiritual armour. We are called to find peace in being truthful.

Is your image or status more important than being right with God by not lying to Him, yourself or others? Ask, how could I change my heart to demand consistent truthfulness of myself? How would I feel about myself if I achieved this?

## Thursday

**Read Isaiah 11:5; Revelation 3:14; Hosea 2:20; Isaiah 32:17**

Please pray and ask God to replace your sinful nature with the peace that comes from righteousness and a quiet heart of trust? Consider that righteousness is the opposite of the sinful nature.

Scripture tells me that I have imputed righteousness from Christ. So, if I repent, (desiring a change of heart and mind each time I fail or fall), and if I believe that I possess that righteousness, will my sinful nature diminish?

## Friday

**Read Isaiah 11:7; Romans 12:18-20**

Let us pray that, by the Holy Spirit, we will be transformed to become peace seekers. Meditate upon a heart attitude or change you could make to "live peaceably with all?"

Carefully consider whether, if you frequently go to God in prayer and supplication, seeking peace with Him, will He not, in turn, change your heart to seek peace with all?