

In the previous passage we saw God's prediction of the army of Assyria, as numerous as a forest of trees, would be reduced to the point a child could number them (10:19). Judah would be reduced to a single stump, but life was still in it. While great Assyria would come to an end, the future of the Davidic line was almost too glorious to describe. The Messiah was going to come, anointed with all the qualities a perfect king should have, wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord (11:2).

This coming King would be able to judge in righteousness, for He would have the ability to see beyond the externals. Nothing but righteousness would influence Him. The poor and needy could expect Him to judge fairly. Is not this what man has waited for, longed to see, and tried to find a way to bring about? Communism and socialism stem from this desire to see all treated equally and fairly, but their rulers enrich themselves at the expense of the masses and distort justice. Democracy intends to give the people a voice in their governance, but neglect the fact that people can vote for their own ease while leaving future generations the bill. The leaders the people elect can choose to leave their campaign promises unfulfilled. Democracy could only work if the majority were godly. With all governments, the problem is the heart of man (Jeremiah 17:9). How can we make a world of fairness and justice where the good are protected and the evil are justly punished? We can try our best, but it will only be a reality when the Prince of Peace, the Branch from the stump of Jesse reigns (11:1).

We pick back up our study in the second half of verse four. There are numerous interpretations for the passage we are looking at today. Some believe it applies to the advancement of the gospel around the world and that the language is all figurative. Others believe this is describing the Millennial Kingdom. Still others think this is a description of the new heaven and new earth after the final judgment. I think they are all right to some extent. As we have seen before, prophecy can have intermediate and ultimate fulfillments.

^{4b} and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Isaiah 11:4b We see this both at Armageddon (Revelation 19:21) and at the end of the Millennium (Revelation 20:9). When the world rises up against the King of kings, the One anointed with might will slay them with the sword that comes from His mouth. Who can stand against their Creator? His Word created man and it can destroy evil men. This is absolutely necessary if there is to be peace. It will be completely clear just who these armies are resisting. They choose not to accept His love and mercy and would rather be in hell than to worship Jesus in heaven. These who are hardened in heart want only their own will and way and recognize that Jesus will not let their evil continue (Psalm 2:9).

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. Isaiah 11:5 The ancient people wrestled with a belt which each opponent tried to take from the other. To be girded with your belt meant you were ready for the match. Jesus

Commented [PW1]: Isaiah 10:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.

Commented [PW2]: Isaiah 11:2 (ESV)

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Commented [PW3]: Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Commented [PW4]: Isaiah 11:1 (ESV)

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Commented [PW5]: Revelation 19:21 (ESV)

²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Commented [PW6]: Revelation 20:9 (ESV)

⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

Commented [PW7]: Psalm 2:9 (ESV)

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

is more than ready. It reminds me of the cleansing of the Temple (John 2:15). I can see Jesus waiting with anticipation for the day to come in which the Spirit of God told Him, "Now!" He waits for the day to rid the world of evil. His belt of righteousness and faithfulness can't be taken from Him, but He can certainly remove the belt of evil from the world. It is His righteousness and faithfulness that motivates Him to jump into the ring and finish the job (Revelation 21:5-8).

Verses six through nine are seen in the three ways I mentioned earlier. If we see Judah as the lamb and Israel as the fattened calf, the vicious nations that once threatened their existence will one day no longer be a threat to them, but will be at peace. That could come through the Gospel transforming both nations as they accept Jesus as their Savior. It could come after the Psalm 83 war. There are prophecies of the conversion of these nations, but that may not happen until the Millennium (Isaiah 19:23-25).

If we are to read this literally, we could see it as the reversal of the curse to take place during the Millennial Kingdom or in the new heaven and new earth. It would seem to me it would have to be the latter as "none hurt or destroy in all" God's kingdom. At the end of the Millennium there is an uprising and every intention is to hurt and destroy (Revelation 19:19). My impression of the Millennium is that it will be a time when man is taught that even under the benevolent rule of our righteous and just Savior, man's heart must be changed. Even after experiencing a thousand years of perfect conditions, man will still choose evil, just as he did in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:6).

The verse that concludes the four verse poem seems to indicate it is describing a general condition of peace that is greater than the world has ever experienced. *⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* Isaiah 11:9 When everyone knows the LORD, when His character and judgments saturate the heart and mind of all mankind, there will be no more pain or destruction. This also leads me to lean toward the interpretation that the ultimate fulfillment is in the new heaven and new earth. It is after every tear is wiped from our eyes (Revelation 21:4). It is when there is no more concern what another might do to you emotionally or physically. Nature will be restored to the condition before the fall of man (Genesis 1:29-30). Even our most ancient of enemies, the snake, will not bite a child who plays with it.

This is our great expectation! Death and sorrow will be no more. The world and all that is in it will be in perfect harmony. Abuse and sickness will be unheard of. There will be no lack or anxiety. Even the most perfect Christian life experiences problems in this fallen world. Job did, and God said there was none so righteous as His servant Job (Job 1:8). But one day, no one will face the fallen conditions of our world. It will truly be a new earth wherein dwells righteousness and only righteousness (2 Peter 3:13). Then we will know living as God meant it, abundant, loving, reverent, and ever grateful.

The passage goes on to describe the return of the people of Israel. We have seen this happen in the last hundred years. As Isaiah predicted this so eloquently in his final chapter, *⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in*

Commented [PW8]: John 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

Commented [PW9]: Revelation 21:5-8 (ESV)

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."

⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Commented [PW10]: Isaiah 19:23-25 (ESV)

²³ In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth,

²⁵ whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

Commented [PW11]: Revelation 19:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

Commented [PW12]: Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Commented [PW13]: Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Commented [PW14]: Genesis 1:29-30 (ESV)

²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the (... [1])

Commented [PW15]: Job 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

Commented [PW16]: 2 Peter 3:13 (ESV)

¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

labor she brought forth her children. Isaiah 66:8 God sovereignly restored a nation after almost 2000 years. There is nothing else like this in all of history. But that is the intermediate fulfillment. The ultimate one is when the redeemed who survive the tribulation are returned to Jerusalem to be with their Savior. ¹⁰ *In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.* Isaiah 11:10 Jesus' physical presence as the King will be the signal for believers to come from the corners of the earth. There will be no more false religions. Truth will reign with authority. He will clarify all things. Our many interpretations of Scripture will be reduced to His perfect explanation. The Word will be clear. Truth will be known by all. The verse literally says that the place of His rest will be glory. If any are in doubt they simply need to go to see the glory shining from His throne.

¹¹ *In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.* ¹² *He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.* Isaiah 11:11-12 Paul tells us that in that day all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26). That is those who survive the day of Jacob's trouble will all turn to Jesus as the Messiah. They will all return to Israel where Jesus reigns. We should note that in Isaiah's day, Israel was not dispersed anywhere near this extent. It was a prophetic indication that it would be the case. The first great return in our day saw Jews return from all these countries. I believe in the second return there will be an even greater numbers.

¹⁴ *But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.* Isaiah 11:14 If any would resist the redeemed in Israel in that day, they will quickly be brought into line. David conquered all these enemies of Israel. The Son of David will reign over them, as well as the whole world.

¹⁶ *And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.* Isaiah 11:16 Just as God led the Children of Israel through the Red Sea, He will dry up the Euphrates so they can walk over in shoes as they migrate to Israel. Every impediment from keeping the Jews from receiving Jesus as their King and Lord will be removed.

¹ *You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.* Isaiah 12:1 The remnant that survives and returns will be thanking the LORD that His anger has turned away. Now they are comforted by the LORD. When we look at the history of Israel since 70 A.D. it would appear that God has been angry with them. While there are certainly many that seek to do the will of God their Creator, and who call on His name, YHWH, as a whole they have been blinded to the fact that Jesus is their Messiah (Romans 11:8). But the day will come when they look on Him whom they have pierced and mourn (Zechariah 12:10). Then they will know Him as Savior and Lord.

Commented [PW17]: Romans 11:26 (ESV)

²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

Commented [PW18]: Romans 11:8 (ESV)

⁸ as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

Commented [PW19]: Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

The reason for this comfort is found in the next verse. ² *"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."* Isaiah 12:2 We miss something when reading it in English. In Hebrew it says, "El – my Yeshua!" God – my Jesus! Now they can trust in Him and not fear judgment. That is what happens when anyone comes to know Jesus as their Savior. They recognize Jesus is God in the flesh (Romans 10:9). They trust in what He did for them and no longer fear God's judgment on their sin. Instead of running from Jesus, they run to Him. He becomes their strength. They no longer trust in their own ability to be good, but lean on the One who empowers them to live a new life.

Commented [PW20]: Romans 10:9 (ESV)

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

God is the song they sing because He is their Yeshua (salvation). Jews and Christians are the most singing people of any of the world's religions. Jewish songs are usually in a minor key, and often mournful. But in that day, they will have a key change to the key of David (pun intended – see Revelation 3:8). They will be singing with us even as the messianic congregations do today. Our song is about Jesus and the salvation He has so freely and graciously given us (Exodus 15:2). So we see this partially fulfilled even now.

Commented [PW21]: Revelation 3:8 (ESV)

⁸ "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

You don't have to be Jewish to live this verse. You can live it today. You need never fear again. You can place your complete trust in Jesus and let Him be your strength, your song, and your salvation. You can do as the next verse invites. ³ *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.* Isaiah 12:3 Jesus is our well of salvation.

Commented [PW22]: Exodus 15:2 (ESV)

² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

I think He was referring to this verse when He spoke to the woman at the well. ¹³ *Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* John 4:13-14 To receive Him as our Savior is great joy for us, for other believers and even for angels in the heavenly realms (Luke 15:10). We find our sin burden lifted and are at peace with God. This is the joy that Isaiah foresaw when the people of Judah would turn to the Lord in faith and trust. It is the joy that will one day be manifest by everyone in that heavenly kingdom of peace that Isaiah was describing.

Commented [PW23]: Luke 15:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

⁴ *And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted."* Isaiah 12:4 This certainly fits all three interpretations. If you have drawn water out of the well of salvation, you called on His name. You give thanks to the LORD. The earth is full of the knowledge of the LORD in that day, but it doesn't know your testimony. Make known His deeds!

When I spend any time with other believers I love to hear their story of the deeds of the LORD in their life. At Wheaton my wife and I went around asking individuals about the deeds of the Lord in their life. I heard the story of the stutterer from India who was instantly healed one morning and became a campus minister in the U.S. I heard the story of a Chinese man who found Jesus on the internet searching for truth. Ask fellow

believers you meet about the deeds of the Lord in their life. Exalt the LORD's name by telling others those stories and ones from your own life.

Proclaiming that His name is exalted is to share the wonder of His attributes such as His grace, love, and faithfulness. His name is the essence of His being. When believers get together, we should quickly turn the conversation to what God is teaching us and what He is doing in our lives. It's all about Him, but we see Him through His Word and the ways He works in our lives.

⁵ *"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.* Isaiah 12:5 The joy of sharing these testimonies and remembering the great things God has done for us should overflow into song. I don't understand how any believer could not desire to sing God's praises. There should always be a song of praise overflowing from our hearts. As I'm writing this I'm whistling We Declare Your Majesty. I don't think about it; it just is there from that fountain springing up in me. Has the Lord done a glorious thing in saving you? Has He met all your needs? Does He have a wonderful heaven awaiting you that is greater than we can imagine? If you really believe it, you'll want to proclaim it in all the earth.

Did you ever put your testimony on Facebook? You don't have to be preachy. Just tell what God has done in your life. The Internet is a new way to proclaim it in all the earth. Let's use it for God's glory (Mark 8:38). Post those testimonies.

⁶ *Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*" Isaiah 12:6 In the day that Isaiah is referring to, this will be quite literal. The Holy One of Israel will be enthroned in Zion. I'm sure there will be a lot of shouting and singing for joy then. But He is in the midst of the church today. When you get together with a brother and sister in Christ, He is there with you. He is in the midst of you personally, His temple (1 Corinthians 6:19). We should be shouting for joy and singing. That's Thanksgiving! It should be Thanksgiving every day for believers; thanking God for His presence in our lives, for His mercy and grace that saved us, and for the joy we have in Him. He is the song we sing with our lives and our voices.

By God's sovereign design we have come to this passage on Thanksgiving week. How appropriate! **While we have many things in this life to be thankful for, they are only a glimpse of what is coming** for those who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus. We should be living every day with this great expectation of seeing our Savior face to face and His transformation of our world. Our hope isn't in the governments of man; it is in these promises of God (Hebrews 10:23). We don't need to be discouraged as this world falls apart. It's to be expected. We are to keep our eyes on the world to come where nothing will hurt or destroy, and where the lion will lie down with the lamb. Righteousness will reign and evil will be abolished. Jesus will be the glory in the midst of it all.

While we look expectantly for that day, let's keep drawing with joy that water out of the wells of salvation and making known His deeds among the nations. Let's keep sharing

Commented [PW24]: Mark 8:38 (ESV)

³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Commented [PW25]: 1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Commented [PW26]: Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

with all who will listen what great things He has done for us. Let the song overflow from your heart. He loves you!

Questions

- 1 Why must the wicked be slain?
- 2 What are the three interpretations of verse 6 -9?
- 3 Why do the nations come to Zion?
- 4 What will happen to the Euphrates? Why?
- 5 How can God's anger be turned from us?
- 6 What does 12:2a declare?
- 7 Who should be our strength? Our song?
- 8 How did Jesus use 12:3?
- 9 What do verse 4 and 5 tell us to do?
- 10 What should our response be to Jesus in our midst?

Genesis 1:29-30 (ESV)

²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.