

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 04 December 2022
Services: *Across the Diocese*
Series: Advent: Jesus is coming
Passage: Isaiah 11:1-10
Title: Look forward

Outline:

- 1 From the ashes...**
- 2 ... a judge**
- 3 ... a new creation**
- 4 ... a banner**

- We are spending Advent lifting our eyes from **earth to heaven** – and **looking forward** with **great expectation** to Jesus' **return**.
- Last week we saw that we can never know when Jesus' return will be – but that we should and can be ready for it – by trusting Jesus... entering into Christ – into relationship with Christ – just as Noah entered into the ark – and if we have entered into relationship with Jesus by repentance and trust and are serving him wholeheartedly – then we will be ready whenever Jesus returns!
- Without a **doubt**, the **only hope** that we can **cling** to amidst the **mess** of **this** world, is the absolute **sheer indescribable magnificence** of the **next!** //
- And **ALSO** with a **doubt** – the absolute **sheer indescribable magnificence** of the **next world** – the **new heavens** and the **new earth** – hangs on the **coming** of the **hero** – the **champion** – of the **new future** – who the Bible calls the **Messiah**. //
- **He** is the one **through whom** God is **promising a new world...**
- A **renovated, purified, restored, God-centred, fully alive world...** //
- Our world right now – is **in such deep trouble** – it will take nothing less than the **second coming** of our Lord Jesus to set it **right again**.
- And he **IS** coming – **that** is the message of the **Bible...** It's the **direction** the whole **movement** of the Bible is **heading...** //
- The first **two chapters** of the Bible are the account of **creation** – and the **last two** – the account of the **new creation!** That's no **accident!** //
- The **expectation** is that everything humankind **mucked up** and therefore **lost** in our **rebellion** against **God**, will be **renewed** and **restored** by **Jesus** when he **returns...**
- And this **wonderful fact** – this **glorious hope** – is - as it were – to keep the **wind** in our **sails** through the **storms** – through the **trials** – as we **wait** for our **coming King**. //
- And that brings me to our **OT** reading from **Isaiah 11** today – I hope you have that **ready...**
- Some important **background** – in Isaiah chapter **10**, Isaiah has been painting a **terrifying picture** of God **chopping down a vast forest of human cruelty and savagery...** someone described it as a **thicket of human ego!**
- This is all **picture-language** of God – in an effort to describe God's **judgement** on **people** – in the case of Ch 10 – on both the **Assyrians** and God's people **Israel**.

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- The result was **utter devastation** – continuing the imagery of the **forest** – think of the devastation seen after one of the worst Australian bushfires has been through – practically **nothing left...** perhaps a few **smouldering logs...**
- But God is **saying** – the world will not be like that **forever** – I will **not allow it** - and **judgement is not the last word... ///**
- So let's have a look at the passage – I have four headings...
 1. **From the ashes...**
 2. **... a judge**
 3. **... a new creation**
 4. **... a banner**

• So

1. FROM THE ASHES

- Have a look with me at v1 – remembering as you do – the **devastation of judgment** described in the previous **chapter...**
- *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*
- **After the judgment** – the **disaster** brought about by human **rebellion** – there was **nothing** – no **life** – no **sound** – only **devastation**
- But now in **ch 11** – Isaiah **sees** something – something **growing from one of those logs which had been smouldering....** A **short green fresh shoot of new life**
- And that **new life** is bearing **fruit**
- That **fruit** // will actually eventually become a **whole new world...**
- And it is **fruit** from the **stump** of **Jesse....**
- Do you recall or know who **Jesse** is?
- He's the **father** of **King David** – who was the **promise of** – the **anticipation of** – the **Messiah** – **Jesus!**
- So **from the ashes...** comes the hope of **something new...** and from an unexpected **source...** from **David** the shepherd **boy** – **youngest son** of an **unknown Jesse...**
- From those **unimpressive origins** – is promised **Jesus...** - a **new David** if you like – a new **hero** the **whole world** will one day **admire**
- **Here** is the **only hope** for the **world!**
- Our **path** to a better **future** – does not stem from any **discovery** made in a **science laboratory**
- ...not from the **lecture halls** of **philosophy...** or the **chambers** of **parliaments...**
- The **only hope** for the world is from the **stump** of **Jesse...**
- And down **through** the **line** of **David** – would be born a **baby** in a **stable** in a **remote part** of the **Roman empire 2,000 years ago...** and **apart** from a few **shepherds...** and some **magi....** **hardly any one notices...**

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- But this **little boy** born **so long ago** is literally qualified to **rule the whole world** and is unlike **anyone else** throughout all of **human history!!**
- **How** is he **qualified?** //
- Have a look with me at v2 – *The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.*
- Jesus had arguably the greatest **anointing** of the **Holy Spirit** any one ever **had** – **sufficient anointing** to **remake the whole world!** //
- **Here** is what it **means** – Jesus has the Spirit of **wisdom** and understanding **///** for **leadership**
- He has an **annointing of the spirit of counsel and might** **///** for **war**
- And he has the spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the Lord** **///** for **holiness**
- He is **unlike every other human conqueror** – here comes somebody we can **trust** and **admire**
- We have **nothing** to fear from **Jesus**
- We can open up to **this one** and his **authority** and his **power** – we can open up with **nothing to fear**
- No one has ever **trusted** him **too** much and come out a **loser**
- Nobody ever **will**
- Whatever you're going through right now, Jesus Christ is saying '**I know**' – I know your **heart** and your **needs**... I know how to take **care** of you... this is going to be **OK** – you can **trust** me – hand it **over** – I am **bearing** your **burden**... //
- **HERE** is the **leader** we've been **waiting for**
- Note v3 – *and he will delight in the fear of the Lord*
- That is – he has a **nose** for what **honours** God – and Jesus **relishes** it...
Utterly **trustworthy**... like **no other human leader!**
- our second point... from the **ashes, emerges:**

2. ...A JUDGE

- Note v3 – have a look – the second part – *He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;*
- - not judging by what his **eyes see** or **ears hear**
- ...because the **wisdom** of **God** is **resting on him** by the **HS**
- **Normal King** – can only go by what they **see** and **hear**
- **Jesus however** // is not **swayed** by brilliant **speech**
- He sees **through** appearances into the **truth** of **things**
- He knows your **heart** – its both **comforting** and **scary**

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- ...and that is why we can **trust** him as **Judge**...
- He has a passion for **justice**... v4 – look with me – *with righteousness he will judge the needy... with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth*
- Judging the poor doesn't mean he'll **condemn** the poor because they are **poor**... but Jesus the **Judge** will act **FOR** them... he will **intervene** on their **behalf**...
- Remember the **words** of **Jesus** – **blessed** are the **poor** – not the **literal** poor – but the poor in spirit – those who are not puffed up with themselves, but recognise the poverty of their own spirit... in the same vain – *blesse* are the meek... for they shall inherit the earth...
- When he returns as **Messiah** – he will **deliver** on that **promise**...!
- He will **act** for the **poor** – and the **power hungry** – the **wicked** – will be no **more**...
- He will **redirect** the flow of **power** in the **earth**...
- And he will judge the people **how?** – by his **word** – the **rod of his mouth** v4 – he will just **speak**... and all he will **right** all the **wrongs** of this **world** we have been living with **throughout our entire lives!** //
- V5 – he will be clothed not with the **usual trappings** of human **power** – human **ego** – but with **righteousness** and **faithfulness**...
- We can **trust** him without ever being **disappointed** – trust him more than we trust **ourselves**...
- We must catch this **vision brothers** and **sisters** – this **prophetic vision** of the **coming Messiah** – someone said – he **deserves** all our **enthusiasm**... ///
- So // we've seen what he will do as **judge**... now let's go explore the **new creation** he will **bring**...

3. ...A NEW CREATION

- Have a look with me – v6 – *The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them*
- Can you imagine!
- Or v8 *the infant will play near the cobra's den*...
- This is a whole **new world order**
- Its back to the garden of **Eden**, only **better**
- When those lions escaped in Toronga zoo in the beginning of November – well – no need to sound the alarm or call the police... well – they won't even need to be locked up in any case!
- A little **lamb** – lying next to the lion... making little baa noises – and the lion goes – that's the most most darling thing I've ever heard... don't you love it when he does that?
- And the lion lets out a roar... and the lamb says – that's so awesome - do it again! ////
- Jesus is coming to create a world without **hurt**.. without **destruction**... without **darkness**...
- No **rebellion**... no **guilty conscience**... no **going back**...
- The very **environment** is going to **breathe** the **peace** of **God**...
- And we will never **hurt** again... ///
- Human **social evolution** will not get us **there**

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- Our **trends** will not get us **there**
- No amount of **climate activism** will achieve **this...**
- This **new era** will come only through the **righteous Judge** who will make **all things right //**
- **Christ owns** the **world**. He made it. He will **remake it**. He will **transform** it.
- This is what **Isaiah** wants us to **see... here** is the prophetic **vision....**
- The victory of **Jesus** will **restore** this **world** we live in
- The victory of **Jesus** will be the **restoring**, and **awakening** and **purifying** and **gladning** of **all...**
- Think of anything right now you **enjoy** doing... and now multiply that enjoyment by a factor of **tens of thousands...** and that is only a **small** insight into what the **new creation** will be **like**
- Jesus is the **world leader** we've been **waiting for...** and the one God has **promised...**
- Our imaginations are **not big enough – wild enough to comprehend** all that is described **here... //**
- And did you notice the climax of these verses - *v9b the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea...*
- Everyone will know the Lord....
- **That friends //** is the world we've been longing for... *//who would not want to live in that world... ??*
- Which brings us finally to v10 and:

4.A BANNER

- Have a look with me at v10 *In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious – or perhaps – glory*
- Note that in v1 he was a **shoot** – now recognised as actually the **root** – the one **through** all things came into **being //** **for** whom all things **exist...!**
- And when his kingdom is **once** and for all **established** – a **flag is flying** – or a **banner....** – for all the **peoples....**
- And just as Australians have proudly fought under the Australian flag... the **Messiah's** banner – will be a **rallying** place... for **all** the **nations...**
- What is this **banner** – this **rallying place**?
- Aren't you reminded of Jesus' words in John 12:31-32 - *Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.* – and then John the gospel writer adds - *He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.*
- the **signal** – the **banner** – is his **cross**
- ...and he wins us not with **human brilliance**, but with his own **dying love...**
- it's the **power** of his **dying love...**
- **drawing** you in – drawing you to **himself...**
- it's the **dying love** of **Jesus Christ** in the **gospel** that gives you **hope...** that keeps your heart **alive**

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- it's the **dying love** of **Jesus** which will cause people – **all people** - one day - to **acknowledge** that **Jesus Christ is Lord** – to the **glory** of **God the Father** ////
- look forward – look forward to this great time... allow it to transform the way you live in this world... for we start to grasp in Isaiah 11 today – just **something** of what awaits us when Jesus returns!
- **two** things to say as I **finish**
- 1. The church is meant to give people a **glimpse** of life in the **new heavens** and the **new earth** ///
- is your church doing that...??
- do your services make sure people are in absolute **awe** of **Jesus**?
- Does your **church life together** show people the **beauty** of **restored, renewed, forgiving relationships**??
- Does your church **heart, beat** to **share** the **news** of Jesus so others may find **life**? ////
- And 2. If the **dying love** of Jesus for **you** – does not **awaken** a **glad joy-filled response**... keep **looking**... keep **reading** of **Jesus** in the **gospels**... don't turn your **eyes away** – keep **thinking it over**... keep **coming back** to church... keep **hearing** of his **love** – of his **death and resurrection** – of the **beauty** and **glory** of what will **happen** when he **returns**... it's your **only hope** – don't **stop**... until **Jesus' dying love** – and **resurrected glory** – draws **YOU** to **himself**...