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| 1The Hope Against All Hopes 12/24/23Isaiah 11:1-16 INTRO: Today Christmas Eve -See tree after tree Where does tree come from? Some say 16th Cen. German Protestants Whatever the origin, tree = Jesus Christ as Lord and giver of life Plus tree = Tree of life (Garden of Eden) Tree lights = Light of the world But…if nation of Israel had own Christmas tree = stump | 2No leaves/branches, just stump stump = cut down by God’s axestump = The Messiah will come from humble beginnings Though all may seem hopeless for Israel, God will provide their long-awaited Messiah to save them and crush their enemies MAIN POINT: This is the hope of Isaiah 11, that though you may feel like you’re being crushed by trials, tribulations and sufferings, you can have hope that Jesus came to earth the first time to come again the second time to finally put an end to sin and death forever BODY: Isaiah 11 comes right after heels of ch. 10 Ch. 10 = judgment against Israel through Assyria  |
| 3But Assyria also will be judged for their sinfulnessIncredible chapter = God’s sovereignty and man’s full responsibility Also, Israel was suffering from wicked reign of king Ahaz Seemingly hopeless situationBut though exiled, there will be remnant in last days Remnant will be restored under righteous branch of Jesse. Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord will come to save His people and judge the ungodly Israel was not to lose hope because: VV. 1-2 *“shoot would spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.”* | 4In the OT, kings would be compared to their father 1 Kings 5:11 *“Asa did what was right in the sight of Yahweh, like David his father.”* Or in 1 Kings 15:3 King Jeroboam is described like this: *“And he walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to Yahweh his God, like the heart of his father David.”*This shoot is not likened to David but to father of David, JesseJesse’s family = shepherd with no royal line, no money, just obscure, not prominent Just like how David rose to prominence from nothing, Jesus will also rise to prominence from nothing  |
| 5But Messiah will be even greater than Davidic king This king will not be like arrogant king of Assyria King of Assyria said this Isaiah 10:10-11 *“As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, Whose graven images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, Shall I not do to Jerusalem and her images just as I have done to Samaria and her idols?”*Contrast this with Jesus in Philippians 2*“although He was equal with God, He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but humbled Himself to the form of a slave”*Unlike the spirit of Satan energizing the king of Assyria different spirit for Messiah  | 61. Spirit of wisdom and understanding = judicial term More wiser than king SolomonHe will perceive all and understand all. 2. Spirit of counsel and might = military Strength of king of Assyria will be nothing compared to this king 2 chapters previously Isaiah 9: “*government rest on His shoulders, His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”*3. Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord He will know God intimately and unlike David, he will truly be a man after God’s own heart perfectly without sin.  |
| 7Will be characterized by fear of the Lord which = V. 3 is His delightNot judge by what he seesNot by what he hears, but by pure righteousness V. 4 He will show no partiality toward the poor  and To those afflicted on earth No fear of man clouding his judgments He will operate by pure grace. He will show mercy to whom He shows mercy and compassion to those whom He shows compassion This is exactly what Jesus did in John 7:24 Crowds accused him of having a demon but he said *“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”* | 8Not only this V. 4He will strike earth with rod of iron and with breath of His lips slay wicked Rev. 19: Heaven will be opened and Messiah will come riding down on white horse + sharp sword to slay wicked One word = life One word = death V. 5 *“Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.”*Righteousness = Christ will always do right thing in all circumstances Faithfulness = Consistently always do right thing Rightly “Faithful and True”  |
| 9When He slays wicked = turn world back into Eden Animals will not hurt or kill each other. No fear V. 6 wolf w/ lamb leopard w/ young goat calf w/young lion and fatling together Little boy will lead them like his little pets! Cow will graze with the bear Lion eat straw like an ox!Babies will play by hole of cobra and be absolutely unafraid weaned child will put their hand on viper’s den Snakes likewise don’t attack  | 10V. 9 No one/nothing will hurt/destroy in all of Messiah’s holy mountain Death will no longer characterize this earth, but life will under rule and reign of branch of Jesse Why? Because earth will be full of knowledge of Lord as waters cover the sea Gen. 1:28 *“fill the earth, and subdue it; and to have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth”* will be fulfilled. The remnant of Israel will know the Lord. Jeremiah 31:34 says days are coming when *“they will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know Yahweh,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares Yahweh, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”* |
| 11Then V. 10 All nations will resort to root of Jesse Isaiah 2: all nations will *“stream to the mountain of the house of the Lord”*Not only Israel but Gentiles will call upon name of the Lord Apostle Paul raised by Jesus Himself to be an apostle to the Gentiles Epistle of Romans written so that Gentiles would have hope in knowing that Christ came to save not only Jews but GentilesRom. 15:12 quoting Isaiah 11:10 *“There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.”* | 12Gentiles will not have to fear reign of Messiah because he has extended same salvation to them And you as Gentile should have great hope because of that!V. 10 Isaiah says Messiah is not only shoot of Jesse but *root* of Jesse = eternal Precedes Davidic line He is alpha and omega He is the first and the last He is the ancient of days He is the Great I AM In Mark Jesus spoke of His eternality to the Pharisees when asking “how can the Messiah be both David’s Son and David’s Lord?A: Because He is God Himself  |
| 13Spoke of His eternality in John 8: Declared to Pharisees that before Abraham was, I am = eternal/Yahweh He not only will be great like David but far surpass Him in every way Col. 1:18 Christ *“beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”* “First place” = only occurs here in NT, means preeminence Idea of supremacy = everything created to put His glory on display No rivalNo equal to Christ He alone created and sustains all for His glory  | 14Whatever trials or tribulations you are going through, take comfort in knowing that even your trials and tribulations are putting His glory on display in your life. Not only deliver perfect justice on earth, but He will gather His people to Himself forever. V. 11 = four corners of known earth for Isaiah’s time V. 13 = united divided kingdom of Israel or Ephraim and Judah No more jealousy, harassment or fighting but become one powerful nation and swoop down to overcome all its enemies V. 15 When that happens = second exodus Not only for Israel, but for all nations Highway from Assyria for remnant to walk through If you thought Exodus was something, wait until the second! |
| 15Ultimate question: Are you one of God’s people? Have you submitted to lordship and kingship of Christ? Because if not His people, you are His enemy Enemy = enslaved to your sins and need to be delivered from it Divine sentence = hell forever for those who reject Him 2 Thess. 1:7-8 *“Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, executing vengeance on those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”*  But… | 16Jn. 3:17***“****God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”*Created this world by word of His power and took on human flesh to enter His world Despised and rejected by men, nothing in His appearance to look at John 1:11 *“He came to what was His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”*  World saw him as just a stump They saw Him as just foolishness and a stumbling block Yet shoot of this stump became a branch w/ fruit  |
| 17Luke 2:52 = Jesus grew in wisdom and stature with God and with men One day He became a full tree, radiantly shining light upon this dark earth This “Tree of Life” was hacked down and put on a Tree of Death to be a curse for us Jesus did it all through power of Holy Spirit Mary: How can I conceive while being a virgin? *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”*Holy Spirit that rest on Him = delight in the fear of the Lord No one has ever feared the Lord like Jesus, the Son of God did  | 18Perfectly feared the Lord by not sinning once Perfectly feared the Lord did not give into temptation to avoid the cross Perfectly feared the Lord in John 17 by praying that nothing will ever be separate you from His Father’s handsPerfectly feared the Lord because He was the Lord Himself His delight was in fear of the Lord so that you would also delight in fearing HimSo that you would delight in Him more than your sin When Paul in Rom. 4 describes God’s call on Abraham’s life to trust in Him *“in hope against all hope, he believed”* accounted to Him as righteousness.  |
| 19Rom. 4:23 *“Now not for his sake only was it written that it was counted to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be counted, as those who believe upon Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead*.*”*If you believe in Him, Jesus will take away your sins and grant you the gift of righteousness He will grant you an exodus out of your slavery to sin and into the land of freedom which He has promised. It is God’s love gift to you: His one and only begotten Son This is the hope of Christmas1 Timothy 1:15 *“It is a trustworthy saying deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”*  | 20 |