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| 1  The Hope Against All Hopes  12/24/23  Isaiah 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 | 2  No leaves/branches, just stump  stump = cut down by God’s axe  stump = 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 |
| 3  But Assyria also will be judged for their sinfulness  Incredible chapter = God’s sovereignty and man’s full responsibility  Also, Israel was suffering from wicked reign of king Ahaz  Seemingly hopeless situation  But 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.”* | 4  In 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, Jesse  Jesse’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 |
| 5  But 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 | 6  1. Spirit of wisdom and understanding = judicial term  More wiser than king Solomon  He 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. |
| 7  Will be characterized by fear of the Lord which = V. 3 is His delight  Not judge by what he sees  Not 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.”* | 8  Not only this V. 4  He 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” |
| 9  When 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 | 10  V. 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.”* |
| 11  Then 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 Gentiles  Rom. 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.”* | 12  Gentiles 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 |
| 13  Spoke 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 rival  No equal to Christ  He alone created and sustains all for His glory | 14  Whatever 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! |
| 15  Ultimate 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… | 16  Jn. 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 |
| 17  Luke 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 | 18  Perfectly 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 hands  Perfectly 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 Him  So 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. |
| 19  Rom. 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 Christmas  1 Timothy 1:15  *“It is a trustworthy saying deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”* | 20 |