

Finish Line

2-2-20

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV)

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

To make the Finish Line, we need to understand the Race! The Bible reveals all we need to know about HIMSELF and what HE is going to do. However, the Jews had the OT but could not put all the pieces together. Even Jesus' disciples could not put all the pieces together. **It was after Jesus' death, resurrection, and coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that all the pieces of the puzzle could be put together.** Now we have in our hands, the Bible, the completed puzzle; the full revelation of God. An example how several puzzle pieces are necessary to understand the Race is the Virgin Birth.

Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us).

To the OT Jews, this verse was a mystery. Isaiah 11:1 gives us another puzzle piece to the mystery of the Virgin Birth. It is a shoot from the stump of Jesse. Still a mystery, the NT clarifies:

Matthew 1:5,6,&16. (ESV)

... Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born.

With all the puzzle pieces, we see that this section of Isaiah is clearly talking about Jesus.

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV)

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

Jesus, THE SHOOT, THE BRANCH, will have great attributes!

Isaiah 11:2–4a (ESV) **No O/H**

- 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.
- ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

Here 800 years before the birth of Jesus, we have a clear prophecy about the ministry of Jesus. Christians will agree that these facts are true and accurate. Amen! THEREFORE, THE NEXT VERSES ARE ALSO TRUE!

Isaiah 11:4b (ESV)

And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Jesus will return to strike the earth and destroy all wickedness! This verse is also confirmed in the NT! Therefore, we are encouraged to focus on Jesus and Finish the Race set before us. Since these verses are true about judging the world, then the next verses about what happens after judging the world is also true!

Isaiah 11:6 (ESV)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:7–8 (ESV) **No O/H**

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

In context with all “the facts” in this section of Scripture, I believe this also is fully literal and not some metaphor.

So what? Understanding these facts, we are passionately encouraged to give our best effort all the way to the Finish!

1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So, run that you may obtain it.

Of course, this has nothing to do with salvation, but the celebration at the Finish Line. Paul had full understanding of these truths which he stated at the very end of his life.

2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Paul also said if we don't believe Biblical Truth, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." He was talking about the resurrection, but it applies to the whole Bible. Our belief dictates our behavior. Run the Race! First "start" the race!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.