

A GREEN SHOOT FROM A FELLED ROOT

¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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 of the fear of the LORD; ³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: ⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. ⁵ And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. ⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10 KJV

¹³ But yet in it [shall be] a tenth, and [it] shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance [is] in them,

when they cast [their leaves: so] the holy seed [shall be] the substance thereof.

Isaiah 6:13 KJV

⁷ For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. ⁸ Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; ⁹ [Yet] through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.

Job 14:7-9 KJV

I. The metaphor of the stump

- A. A stump is all that is left of a tree that's cut down.
- B. A symbol of total loss and utter hopelessness
- C. A symbol of bleakness, desperation, vulnerability, and catastrophe
- D. "Out of something that appears finished, lifeless, left behind, comes the sign of new life – a green sprig."
Stacey Simon Duke
- E. Hope begins in areas of life where we have been utterly cut off.
- F. Stumps of embarrassment and injury
- G. Stumps that remind us of what we once were, but no longer are.
- H. Keep your eyes on the stump. God is not finished with you there!

II. Messy history

A. In contrast to the proud trees God cuts down (Isaiah 10:33,34), salvation will come from a tender shoot from a dead stump.

³³ Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature [shall be] hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled. ³⁴ And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.

B. The 10 tribes in the north, called Israel, have been cut down; they are charred stumps. (722 B.C.)

C. The two tribes of Judah in the south, Judah and Benjamin, are going to be destroyed next by the Assyrian enemies.

D. In direct opposition to reality, God speaks a word of universal calm and hope!

E. Only God can call life out of death!

III. The mystery of Root and Shoot (Matthew 22:41-46)

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, [The Son] of David. ⁴³ He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? ⁴⁵ If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? ⁴⁶ And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any [man] from that day forth ask him any more [questions].

A. Messiah is the source of the entire house of Jesse (the root),

while being a member of the house (the shoot)?

- B. Messiah is both a descendent of David, yet his Lord?
- C. The Messiah is both Origin and Offspring. Son of David, yet Son of God!
- D. God loves both the ashes and dust of his people.
(Isaiah 61:3; Psalm 102:14)

[Isa 61:3 KJV] ³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

[Psa 102:14 KJV] ¹⁴ For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.

IV. The metaphor of the Child / God is the God of total reversals!

- A. Messiah will bring an utter reversal of nature in its working.
- B. A child will lead the predator and prey together; something for which adults could never believe.
- C. A reversal of nature (Lamb/Wolf, Goat/Leopard, Calf/Lion)
- D. Children, alone, can believe that new life can come from old stumps.
- E. Accept the Christ child and believe that God can bring life out of old stumps!

