

Unwrapping the Names of Jesus
Jesus the King
Isaiah 11:1-10

Today is the first Sunday of Advent

I hope you all have one of our Advent Devotionals and will read it every day for the next four weeks – guide us as we anticipate the coming of Christmas.

That’s what the word Advent literally means - “coming.”

So, as it is observed by Christians Advent is the period of anticipation of the coming of the Christ – usually focusing on his birth.

This year at TLEFC we are focusing on the names of Jesus for our Advent season – so I decided to discuss these names by surveying some of the prophecies about the Messiah and tie them to the names for Jesus that are addressed in our devotional.

As I lead us through these prophecies – we will discover that they refer not only to his first coming but also to his second coming – which is of particular interest to his title for today.

In order to set the stage let’s discuss the overall message of the Bible.

I believe that the umbrella theme of the Bible is the Kingdom of God.

For there to be a kingdom there must be a King

There must be a people for the King to rule

And there must be a land in which the people can live.

The KOG on earth was first established in the Garden of Eden

But then came the Fall – messed it all up

So, the ultimate expression of the KOG became a promise in the New Heaven and New Earth

Where once again the King would walk among his people in a re-created heaven and earth

History then has the KOG as bookends

First in the Garden of Eden

Finally in the New Heaven and New Earth

The OT has many prophetic promises regarding the King of the KOG.

Where he would be born

How he would take the sins of the world upon himself and satisfy the wrath of God.

How he would be raised from the dead.

The NT gets very specific in declaring these promises

It identifies Jesus as this King and how he rules in the hearts of those who trust him by faith.

It tells of his resurrection and his ascension into heaven and then he himself gives the promise of his return to establish his kingdom on earth.

Finally, the book of Revelation describes exactly what his kingdom on earth is like.

Those who lived in the OT days had these prophecies from their Scriptures.

And that created a longing, an anticipation, a heart-felt desire for the coming or advent of the KOG on earth

We who live in NT days have that same longing, as we wait for the return of the King and the establishment of the KOG in the New Heaven and New Earth

The prophetic book of Isaiah is prolific in expressing this longing.

It was written for the Jews of the 8th Century

But its message is relevant for us in the 21st Century as well.

Both ancient Israel, and modern Church long for the fullness of the KOG with all of its implications.

Over these four Sundays of Advent, we will be studying four prophecies from Isaiah.

Each one expressing this longing, a waiting, an anticipation for the coming of the King who will rule his people in the KOG

Each one will outline a different element of his ministry – revealed in one of his names.

Today – Jesus is The King who rules the KOG. This inspires HOPE.

Next week – Jesus is Immanuel – God with us. This gives us PEACE as we wait.

Third week – Jesus is the Wonder Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. This fills us with JOY

Finally, Jesus is the Suffering Servant – God’s ultimate demonstration of his LOVE.

Isaiah 11:1-10 (Read)

Notice the KOG

A portrait of the King

A description of how he will rule his people

The promise of the eternal land where his kingdom rests.

The promise of the coming King gives us hope as we await his appearing.

We can wait for his coming with a hope - a certain assurance- that all will be well with King Jesus on the throne.

Not a shallow hope – like “I hope so.”

Thanksgiving holiday was messed up by the weather

I hope that doesn’t happen at Christians – but there is no way to know for sure.

The hope that Jesus the King gives us is not at all like that.

We know what the KOG will be like

And we know that Jesus – the King – will keep his promises to establish the KOG.

He proved his ability to keep that promise – raised the dead, controlled the storms and rose from the dead.

Here is our certain hope, based on the fact that Jesus is King – all will be well with Jesus on the throne.

The portrait of the KING – Vs. 1--5

The King will come from the family of Jesse - Vs. 1

This is an obvious allusion to David – the son of Jesse

And it reminds us of the Davidic covenant found in 2 Samuel 7:11-13

Matt 1:1 declares Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David

The King will be empowered by the anointing of the Holy Spirit - Vs. 2

Very similar to Is 61:1-2.

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

Remember when Jesus began his ministry, he referred to this passage (Luke 4:18)

Isaiah says – the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord will anoint the King

Jesus says the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon him.

Therefore, Jesus sees himself as the fulfillment of this prophecy from Isaiah.

Three couplets – (2's) - are the enablement of the Holy Spirit on Jesus for his reign as King.

Wisdom and understanding

Council and might

Knowledge and fear of the Lord

The King will rule in righteousness - Vs. 3-5

Here we have the first allusion that Isaiah is referring to the ultimate fulfillment of the rule of the King.

Notice in Vs. 4 that the King will rule with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of his lips.

The Apostle Paul in 2 Thes 2:8, uses this same image to describe Jesus in his second coming, just before he establishes his Kingdom on earth.

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Then in Rev 19, the passage that describes the second coming of Jesus, the King riding on his white stallion defeats his enemies with the sword of his mouth.

That's the kind of King that inspires hope!!

The Nature of His Global Rule – Vs. 6-9

Peace among the animals

Peace between the animals and humans

It will be a global peace - Vs. 9

But when will this happen?

Is 65:25 – almost exact quote of 11:6-7

**The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.**

So, it looks like this passage is describing the same circumstance as Is 11.

If that is true – then Is 11 must be talking about the New Heaven and New Earth, since Is 65 clearly says – in Vs. 17 – that this is the New Heaven and New Earth

But there is a problem with that conclusion.

Is 65:20 seems to describe death

And there will be no death in the New Heavens and the New Earth

Is 65:23 says that people will bear children

But since there is no marriage in the New Heaven and the New Earth – this seems incongruent

Further – populating the New Heaven and New earth is by grace through faith –not physical childbirth

And by the time the New Heaven and New Earth arrive – it will be too late for any more.

How does this all fit together?

My conclusion – there is a KOG on earth before the New Heaven and New Earth

Notice Revelation 20:1-6

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

⁴ I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They^[a] had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

This passage describes the reign of the King in his kingdom on earth for a thousand years – the Millennium before the New Heaven and New Earth.

The reign of the King happens in three stages.

Stage 1 - He begins in a humble state – a mere branch from the stump of Jesse – Is 11:1

He is born to a young girl of no reputation

His birth was in a stable and his first worshippers were shepherds

During his first earthly sojourn – Jesus presents himself as the King, (Palm Sunday) – but then he submits to a violent and cruel death on a cross.

In his ascension - he rules only in the hearts of men and women who trust him by faith.

Stage 2 - But, according to Isaiah, that branch grows to encompass the entire earth. And that could refer to a Millennium where:

He rules on earth with perfect

Righteousness and wisdom

Council and might

Knowledge and fear of the Lord.

During the Millennium rule of the King will extend to all nations - Vs. 10

Note Paul in Romans 15:12 how Paul attributes this to Jesus.

¹² **And again, Isaiah says,**

***“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”¹⁴***

In the Millennium there is perfect peace – among governments;
among humans: among animals.

Sin is present – but totally held in check by Jesus

Rev 20 teaches that Satan will be released from his prison

He will find many who are alive during the Millennium
who are eager to follow him and rebel against the King

But fire comes down from heaven and devours them

Those who are not saved will be judged to eternal conscious punishment

Those who follow Christ will transition into life in the New Heaven and the New Earth forever.

Stage 3 - The final Stage is the recreation of the New Heavens and the New Earth

Life under the ultimate and eternal rule of the King

There is no longer any sin or death.

And the King – as the Handel’s Messiah declares – will reign for ever and ever.

So how do we put this all together?

What has to be done in the study of prophecy is to examine the evidence of a particular view

Draw a conclusion from that evidence

Show grace to those who draw other conclusions.

John Piper says – these prophecies could be compared to viewing a mountain range from ground level.

Looking at them they appear to be one length of peaks



But when viewed from above - one discovers deep valleys between the mountain peaks that span for many miles and miles.



Such is the nature of the chronology of prophecy.

The prophecies are the peaks

The valleys are the span of time in between their fulfillment

We see the prophecies from sea level – but have no idea of the time in-between.

The point of Is 11:1-10 is that when Isaiah penned it, Israel was in a mess of hurt.

Assyria had already conquered the Northern Kingdom, and was breathing down the neck of Jerusalem

10:33 - The mighty Assyrians will be cut down by the mightier hand of God, and all that will remain is a memory of a mighty people now gone – described here as are cedar stumps, which do not regrow. (Story is told in Is 36-37)

Once they are cut – they are dead.

Chapter 11 continues this image of cutting down trees leaving only a stump

Here it refers to the family of Jesse that will decline – The Kings of the Southern Kingdom

Leaving a lineage that is only a stump

But then there is the message of hope

There will be a Branch from the line of Jesse. He will have humble beginnings.

He will grow up and be anointed with the Spirit of God – who enables him to fulfill his redemptive mission.

Then he ascends to the right hand of God – where he now governs the affairs of earth from heaven.

Then he returns again to set up his Millennial reign.

I can't wait till Jesus is the benevolent all powerful dictator of the world

No government gridlock

No income inequality

No need for police or fire department or military.

No corruption, no gangs, no fear of walking the dog at night or taking a stroll on the shore with your sweetheart.

Perfect environment – clean air. Crystal clear water.

I can take an African Safari and the animals won't want to eat me.

And God's people will be vindicated.

The persecutors will be brought to justice

The critics will be put to shame

Then after the Millennium – King Jesus reigns in the eternal state in the New Heaven and the New

But now we wait.

But we wait with a certain hope.

And that hope causes a prayer to well up in our hearts – **Come King Jesus!!**