

ESF, Lord's day Message (International festival service)  
10/12/2014 (North American-USA, Mexico, Philippines)

### **The Kingdom for All Nations**

Isaiah 11:1-10

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

<sup>2</sup> *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--*

<sup>3</sup> *and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;*

<sup>4</sup> *but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

<sup>5</sup> *Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

<sup>6</sup> *The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.*

<sup>7</sup> *The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

<sup>8</sup> *The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,  
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.*

<sup>9</sup> *They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.*

<sup>10</sup> *In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the*

*peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.*

USA has been known as a land of opportunity and freedom. People from all over the world have immigrated to USA with the dream that they would be better off if they could come and live in this country. This country is truly a land of opportunity and freedom. But this country also has lots of problems –racial conflicts, moral decay, drugs, and economic instability etc.

In this world, there is no country or kingdom which has no problems, and which is governed by perfect justice and peace.

But through the prophet Isaiah, God shows us a kingdom where we can live in perfect justice. It is a kingdom where men's hearts are filled with peace, and a kingdom where all people live in peaceful unity in diversity. It is a blessed kingdom for all nations and for all people. Where is such a kingdom? How can we live in such a kingdom?

### **The kingdom of a shoot**

The kingdom for all nations is the kingdom of a shoot. A shoot signifies a small, tender beginning and can be easily broken off. The shoot is a shoot from the stump of Jesse. It means the Savior of the world, the Christ came to this world as a shoot. As a shoot comes out of a stump to be a little green twig, so the birth of the Savior was humble and poor. He was born as a poor baby in a cattle stall. Nothing special was in there. Isaiah 53:2 says, "*He (The Savior) grew up before him (God) like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.*" The life of the Savior was a humble life.

But the "shoot" is the evidence of God's handiwork, and reveals God's wisdom and power. 1 Corinthians 1: 27-28 says: *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the*

*lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,*

God starts doing great things from seemingly weak and humble beginnings. Jesus explained this principle with the parable of a mustard seed. In the parable He said that the kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed that starts out almost microscopic in size but grows into a tree big enough for birds to perch in (Matt 13:31-32).

Are you too weak and poor to make any difference in this world? Let the Christ Jesus, the humble shoot be your King. He will make you a person who belongs to the most powerful of kingdoms and help you to imitate His life. And God will use your life like a shoot from an insignificant stump becoming a great tree.

The shoot from the stump of Jesse also means a powerful new life which comes from the ruins. Jesse was the father of king David. So “the stump of Jesse” refers to the ruined kingdom of David.

The kingdom of Israel under king David and his son Solomon was the most prosperous kingdom in the history of Israel. However, the royal line of David was broken and the kingdom was destroyed. If the kingdom is compared to a tree, it was like a tree which was cut down with only the roots and the stump left. But the Savior came from the stump (Matthew 1:1).

What does God teach us with this? God teaches us that Christ brings us a new hope and life even though our life is totally ruined: *“from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”*

Have you carried marks of failure and struggled to overcome them? Is your life like a cut down tree with only an insignificant stump? Have faith in the shoot of Christ. Believe that in Christ, you can receive the power to overcome all failures. In Christ, you can make a new blessed life even though your present situation

seems to be nothing; like a shoot growing to be a great tree from an insignificant stump.

### **The Kingdom of the Spirit**

The kingdom for all nations is not a kingdom governed by political power or unity like the UN, but a kingdom governed by the power of the Holy Spirit. The shoot, Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Look at the words in verses 2-3.

*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,*

The Holy Spirit held a key role in Jesus' life and ministry. Jesus' ministry, which started at his baptism by John the Baptist, was a Spirit led and Spirit empowered ministry. Jesus' preaching and teaching were done by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. He healed the sick and cast out demons with the power of the Holy Spirit. All His movements from place to place were guided by the Holy Spirit.

The same Holy Spirit who was upon Christ, indwells believers today. God gives the Holy Spirit, the greatest of gifts to all believers (Luke 11:11-13). God gives us all good gifts through the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do greater things than what He did on earth: "*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father*" (John 14:12). And in the following words of (John 14:15-17), He promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to believers after He returned to the Father.

With the power of the Spirit we can overcome all the turmoil in our lives. With the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit we can build up and enlarge the kingdom for all nations as Jesus promised in

Acts 1:8, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

### **The kingdom of righteousness**

The kingdoms in this world bring justice by laws and politics. But they deal with only men’s outward appearance and behaviors.

They can’t meet the need of men’s hearts.

But Christ, the king for all nations, doesn’t judge men according to outward appearance: *“He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears”* (verse 3). He sees the needs of men’s hearts and take care of them. How many times do we cry saying, “nobody understands me!” But Jesus understands your heart and meet the need in your heart.

Christ is the righteous king. As the righteous king, *“he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.”* Who are the needy and the poor? All men. There is no one who is righteous before God: *“There is no one righteous, not even one”* (Romans 4:10). So all men needs the righteous king who rules them with righteousness and enables them to be righteous. But only those who humbly ask His righteousness, will receive the righteousness: *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for there is the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 5:3).

Also the righteous king, Christ rules the earth with his Words: *“He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and the breath of His lips.”* Christ’s words have authority and power which can penetrate every human heart and transform it. With the words, He commands natures. With His words, He judges and crushes all evil spirits.

### **The kingdom of peace**

Some years ago, the magazine “Personnel Journal” put together this incredible statistic: since the beginning of recorded history, the

entire world has been at peace less than eight percent of the time! In its study, the periodical discovered that of 3540 years of recorded history, only 286 years saw peace. In that time more than 8000 peace treaties were made--and broken.

The reason why peace treaties cannot bring peace to this world is because there is war inside men's hearts. Until men's hearts are at peace, nothing can bring peace into this world.

The kingdom over all nations is a kingdom that treats the wars in men's hearts first and brings peace into this world with the peace in men's hearts.

In today's word, God shows us the kingdom where men's hearts are ruled by His peace.

- <sup>6</sup> *The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat, ...*  
<sup>7</sup> *..... and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*  
<sup>8</sup> *The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,  
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.*  
<sup>9</sup> *They will neither harm nor destroy*

The statements of wild animals and domestic animals living together along with little children depict the kingdom where men's hearts are ruled by perfect peace.

The kingdoms of this world come and go with power struggles and wars. But the kingdom over all nations lasts with peace. Jesus came to this world as the Prince of Peace. He rules men not through power of weapons, but the power of peace. He did not use physical force to bring peace. He sacrificed His own life by dying on the cross to bring peace. Through His death on the cross, He reconciled sinful men to Holy God. Through his death on the cross, He brought God's forgiveness to all our sins so that our hearts can

be ruled by peace. He changes the wild and destructive hearts into gentle and kind hearts.

When Paul was converted, he went from a persecutor of Christians to a Christian missionary. The wolf ended up living with the lambs, feeding with the cows, eating straw like the ox. That's where peace is found.

Often times we unknowingly end up sticking our hands in a viper's nest - going places we should never go, meeting people we should never meet, doing things we should never do. Yet the Prince of Peace preserves us and we aren't destroyed. Even if we are bitten by a viper, God takes the viper's poison away from our blood and heals us with the blood of Christ.

How can we have peace in times of turmoil? How can we experience peace in the midst of conflicts in our jobs and in our families? Let the Prince of Peace rule our hearts.