

I SAIAH CHAPTER 11, THE BRANCH (Nazarene) FROM THE ROOT OF JESSE

A shoot will spring from the root of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. Is.11: 1.

- The “Branch” prophesies.
 - The Hebrew “nat-zer” or “nazer”, meaning “branch”, from which the name of the town of Nazareth draws its origin.
 - Other references include:
 - Ezekiel 17:22
 - Zechariah 6:12
 - Caution in overreaching interpretation of prophecy.
 - The prophecies of the O.T. were meant first for the children of Israel, and were for the primary purpose of exhortation and proclamation of impending judgment.
 - Our hindsight now gives us a clearer picture, but not a perfect picture.
- The text
 - 11:1-5. The promise of a deliverer.
 - The early Aramaic text, the Targum, written during the inter-testamental period, substitutes the word “Messiah” for “Nazar.”
 - The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him.
 - He will not judge by the world’s standards.
 - He will judge with righteousness and equity.
 - Notice, though, that this prediction has limitations.

 - 11:6-10.
 - A promise of universal peace, and the reconciliation of all creation.
 - Peace will reign in “My holy mountain”, and the earth will be full of the “knowledge of the Lord.”
 - Once again, though, there are limitations.

- 11:11-16.
 - The Lord will recover a remnant “a second time.”
 - There will be peace among the tribes of Israel.
 - Israel will conquer the surrounding nations.
 - Again, what are the limitations?

- **Understanding Prophecy.** (Note: this doesn’t mean “interpreting” prophecy.)
 - Doing “It” for the wrong reason.
 - “It” meaning any virtuous practice or behavior.
 - Isaiah 58 scolds the Jews for practicing their righteous religious behaviors for their own glorification.
 - In other words we do it (whatever “it” is) for the purpose of

 - (follow this reasoning closely) We tend to believe we are right, not for the purpose of defending or supporting that which is truly right or virtuous, but for the purpose of contending that we are right.
 - This may be overkill, but we don’t know factually that we are right as much as we insist that we are right.
- Doing “It” for the right reason.
 - Prophecy means “proclamation” and not “prediction.”
 - Prophecy has a purpose.
 - And it is not predicting the end of the world.
 - It is to serve as a warning:
 - **That all who practice lawlessness and injustice, both individually and corporately, will ultimately be held absolutely accountable under God’s law. Is. 11:4b**
 - **But that there is a promise of redemption, including the release from ultimate accountability, for all those who turn (t’shuvah, heb.) to God. Is. 12:1-2**

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(follow this reasoning closely) *We tend to believe we are right, not for the purpose of defending or supporting that which is truly right or virtuous, but for the purpose of contending that _____ are right.*
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