



First_published

Friday 26th June 2020

Monday 5th April 2021

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – ³ 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; ⁴ 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. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash round his waist. *Isaiah 11*

We are going to look at Jesus through the amazing book of Isaiah (written around 740BC). Some of Isaiah like chapter 11 is full of unabated hope and so remains a living hope for all who believe until Jesus returns. We see in these verses the nature of the perfect King -

- **He is of David's line** (v1) – The expectation is of a coming King but more than that, of another like David, for David is the only king who had Jesse as his father. The 'stump' then points to the fact that David's line will suffer calamity and be in a mess but there will be a secret vitality that means life will spring up again and fruitful life at that. Isaiah points to a king of stature and magnificence who will fulfil God's purposes as
- **He is perfect** (v2-3a) – Isaiah chooses his words and numbers carefully. In the Bible the number seven is often tied to the idea of perfection. This sevenfold permanent giving of the Spirit of the Lord is to make us aware that here is the perfect king –
 - 'The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him (1)
 - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding (2 and 3) – He is perfect in mind.
 - the Spirit of counsel and of might (4 and 5) – He is perfect in action.
 - the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord (6-7) - He is perfect in His spirit and relationship with the Lord.

When we think of Jesus on earth we see how He perfectly exhibited all these characteristics, He is the only one who can fulfil Isaiah's prophecy. We see it in Jesus' dealings with people and we see it in His dealings with us. We also see He delights in obeying His Father, which is perhaps most evident as he prays in Gethsemane where He does not delight in what He faces but He does delight to do His Father's will. This is a perspective we all need to learn.

- **He is active** (v3b-5) – Isaiah tells us this perfect King judges with full knowledge and fairly. He does not just use His eyes and ears; He judges rightly whatever our status in life. This world's justice is far from perfect and it is obvious that it is the needy and poor who often seem to face the greatest injustices, not so before this judge. This judge will look at things rightly and His word will be powerful, just and final. Isaiah uses the belt and sash to show us that righteousness and faithfulness are inherent parts of His character and this give us confidence in His judgements.

Question

How did Jesus show His perfection while on earth and why is this important?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Jesus and that He is the perfect king and judge that we need. Amen.