



READ: Isaiah 11:1-4b, 6-10 (NirV)

Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down. A new little tree will grow from its stump. From its roots a Branch will grow and produce fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on that Branch. The Spirit will help him to be wise and understanding. The Spirit will help him make wise plans and carry them out. The Spirit will help him know the LORD and have respect for him. The Branch will take delight in respecting the LORD.

He will not judge things only by the way they look. He won't make decisions based simply on what people say. He will always do what is right when he judges those who are in need. He'll be completely fair when he makes decisions about poor people...

Wolves will live with lambs. Leopards will lie down with goats. Calves and lions will eat together. And little children will lead them around. Cows will eat with bears. Their little ones will lie down together. And lions will eat straw like oxen. A baby will play near a hole where cobras live. A young child will put its hand into a nest where poisonous snakes live. None of those animals will harm or destroy anything or anyone on my holy mountain of Zion. The oceans are full of water. In the same way, the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. At that time, here is what the man who is called the Root of Jesse will do. He will be like a banner that brings nations together. They will come to him. And the place where he rules will be glorious.

ENTER THE STORY:

On the very first night of our Jesse Tree Advent, we read from Isaiah 11 and learned that a shoot would grow out of the stump of Jesse's cut-down family tree. This would be a special person; he would be the perfect ruler, sit on David's throne, and be a banner of salvation to ALL of the world.

Do you remember who this special person was? It's Jesus!

Well, today, we learned something NEW! We got to take a peek into what Jesus' kingdom will be like when he is king, and if we're honest, it seemed a bit CRAZY!!

Wolves snuggling with lambs? Cows and bears munching on snacks together? Lions eating straw? Babies playing with snakes? **WOAH! Can you imagine a world like that? It's sounds pretty amazing, doesn't it?**

Jesus' kingdom won't be like any of the other kingdoms that came before him. His kingdom will be **FULL OF PEACE!** In fact, yesterday, we read that, *"The peace [Jesus] brings will never end."*

When Adam and Eve sinned **ALL THE WAY** back in the beginning when they were still in the garden, **EVERYTHING CHANGED...**but not in a good way. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden, the ground became super hard to work with, and the animals were different, too. Especially snakes! They had to crawl on their belly in the dust, but in Jesus' kingdom, all those sneaky, slithering snakes become nothing more than playful pets.

This is why God sent His Son Jesus...to make **ALL** things new. This included **ALL** of creation, even the animals! These verses give us hope and point us to a future where death and hurt and pain will be no more!

It is difficult to imagine a future like this, isn't it? Maybe even impossible?

There's that word again...*impossible*, but hasn't God shown us over and over again this season that **NOTHING** is impossible for him?

- He already created a world like this in the garden, and like a bookend to the story, God's Word closes out in Revelation with a brilliant vision of his creation made new again.
- *I saw "a new heaven and a new earth." The first heaven and the first earth were completely gone. There was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.' And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be." He who was sitting on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:1-5 NIV)*
- *Can you see it? Can you imagine a world where everything is made right again?*
- In this new kingdom where Jesus, the Root of Jesse, reigns, the things that seem crazy to us become normal. Isaiah's words are not make-believe or a fairy tale. They are REAL! This is what we have to look forward to!
- PRAISE GOD!!

■ **PRAY:** *Jesus, we are so excited about your kingdom. We want to see you make all the wrongs right, and bring an end all of the death and hurt that causes our hearts such pain. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.*