



**READ:** Isaiah 11:1-10 (NIV)

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 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—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; 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. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 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. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.*

**ENTER THE STORY:**

On our very first night of advent, we began our journey at the stump of Jesse’s Tree, and today we return to it, but this time, we’ve learned something NEW! We got a glimpse into what this new kingdom will be like with Jesus ruling and reigning as the perfect king, and if we’re honest, it seems CRAZY!!

Wolves snuggling with lambs? Cows and bears eating together? Lions eating straw? Children playing with poisonous snakes? Is this REALLY going to happen, or is Isaiah trying to teach us something with this picture of animals living in peace? Well, before we answer that question, we need to go back and read one verse in particular that will help us. Verse 9 says, *“They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”*

*Whether we know it or not...this is the KEY to unlocking this passage.*

In Isaiah chapter 9, we learned that when Jesus comes to usher in this new kingdom, there will be PEACE. In fact Isaiah 9:7 says, *“Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.”* Connect that with this idea that *“the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD,”* and we see that the changes Jesus brings to this new kingdom extend to all of creation...possibly even the animals!

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul adds to this idea of creation being made new again in *Romans 8:19-21 (NLT)*, *“For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”*

Death and suffering – even a world where animals attack and eat each other – these are symptoms of a sin-soaked creation, but Isaiah 11 gives us hope and points us to a future where suffering will be no more, and peace will rule.

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

There’s that word again...*impossible*. It hangs out there at the end of that sentence like a challenge for God, but we know it wouldn’t be difficult for the One who spoke everything into existence.

• 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 all things made new again.  
• *Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no  
• longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride  
• beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now  
• among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their  
• God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order  
• of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)*

• *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, all of this craziness becomes not just possible but actual.

• Isaiah's prophecy is not make-believe, and it's not a fairy tale. This is what we have to look forward to!

• PRAISE GOD!!

• **PRAY:** *Jesus, we long for your kingdom. We long for you to make all the wrongs right, and to call to an end all of the  
• death and suffering that causes our hearts such pain. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.*