

“Hope” is an especially important word and idea in the Bible.

In the Bible “hope” is not used how we usually use it. Usually, we use it to indicate a wish.

“I hope I get chocolates for Christmas. But I don’t know what I will get.

In the Bible “hope” is a looking forward to something certain.

“I hope Christmas will come. I know it’s coming, but I have to wait until it’s here. It is certain.

In Isaiah, that certainty is the Messianic King.

We live now in the day of the Messianic King.

He has come, just as the prophets, like Isaiah, have said.

In Isaiah’s introduction of chapters 1-5 he described the sinful state of God’s people.

He prophesied the coming judgment of the Lord of Hosts... Assyria is on the way.

He explained the survival of a remnant of faithful believers who, through trials, would remain faithful.

He invited us all to empathize with the Lord who loves His wayward people.

He predicted the coming of redemption and salvation from the Holy One of Israel.

Now, beginning with chapter 6, we are in the book of the King, the King who is coming.

In chapter 6 we saw the Holy Lord of Hosts in the temple, on His throne... in contrast to dead Uzziah.

In chapter 7 we read of Isaiah’s warning to Ahaz, “If you will not stand by faith, you will not stand at all.”

This was the beginning of Isaiah’s message to Judah and Jerusalem.

We saw the Lord’s prosecution due to their sins, rebellion, and corruption.

The judgment of the Lord is on its way. But the Lord will show them a sign of His faithfulness.

Again, in chapter 8 was the promise to a remnant.

In chapter 9 we read that amazing prophecy of a light to those in darkness. **Isaiah 9:1-7**

Then in chapter 9:8ff Isaiah begins his message to the northern kingdom, Israel.

We see in Isaiah’s song, “In spite of all we do, His anger remains, and His arm is upraised.”

Because of the people’s sin the judgment of the Lord is coming. Assyria will destroy them.

Again, in chapter 10, is the promise to a remnant of God’s people who will trust him.

To those left in Judah and Israel, the promise of the coming Messiah in chapter 11.

I. He is the King on whom the Spirit of the Lord will rest.

Isaiah 9:1-2

Verse 1 is a Hebrew bicolon, a pair of lines in poetry where the second echoes the meaning of the first.

This serves to emphasize and give color to the combined message of both. Do you get the picture?

A branch bearing fruit will spring from the dead stump of Jesse. What does this mean?

“Jesse” is a reference to the Davidic line of kings. Jesse was King David’s father.

You see, a promise was made to King David in **2 Samuel 7:8-16**.

But David’s line is now headed for disaster and Isaiah is predicting even worse to come. Hope?

The royal Davidic family tree is about to be chopped down. **Isaiah 10:33-34**

But God is not done. There is life left in the dead stump. A shoot will sprout up, a Davidic King!

And this is precisely what we have been prepared for from **Isaiah 9:7**. This will be the same guy!

What will this King be like? After all, this is the great hope of the whole book of Isaiah.

Are we about to hear about His army, navy, and military might?

Are we going to hear about His foreign and domestic policy proposals?

Is He a republican? Is He a democrat? Is He conservative, liberal, a socialist, a capitalist?

All this is unimportant to Isaiah. What we are about to hear about is His character. This is what matters.

In verse 2 we have a sevenfold description of the Spirit of the Lord upon the Davidic King.

“He will rest upon Him” = indwelling presence of the Spirit of the Lord, the dove descending at His baptism

“wisdom” = means knowing the right thing to do and then doing it in the right way

“understanding” = discernment, seeing truth from falsehood, right from wrong, seeing clearly

“counsel” = having a plan, a strategy for doing what needs to be done, the application of wisdom

“strength” = valor, courage, and the ability to do what needs doing
“knowledge” = accumulation of all necessary information, not by internet searches
“fear of Yahweh” = knowing what God can and should do in His sovereign power
You know that God sees all things. When you fear God, you do not sin.

II. He is the King who will rule in righteousness.

Isaiah 11:3-5

This last attribute is emphasized at the beginning of verse 3 as His “delight.”

And then another poetic bicolon emphasizing what He will not do.

No hasty, unwise decisions... no thoughtless, uninformed making decisions by listening to advisors.

This King will not function on the basis of rumor, gossip, conspiracy, or the latest media pressure.

vs. 4-5, three bicolons in quick succession working to paint a picture of the righteous rule of this wise King.

4ab He will bring justice for the poor, those who have been used and abused by the rich.

4cd He will judge the wicked. Real justice means sinners get what they deserve.

5ab He has integrity, fairness, justice, faithfulness. Every decision will be right.

Everybody in the world talks about justice. We all think we want it.

But we often think that justice means me and my people getting the upper hand. Not so.

Only God can see clearly and objectively enough to dispense real justice.

III. He is the King who will rule in justice and peace.

Isaiah 11:6-9

vss. 6-9 paint a picture of the peace that will result from the righteous reign of this Davidic King.

There will be no more danger, no destruction, no ignorance.

“The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Every year we hear about someone’s plan to promote peace in this world.

There are ministries and organizations and movements devoted to promoting reconciliation.

Racial reconciliation, family reconciliation, corporate reconciliation, church reconciliation

There are efforts to bring peace to the Middle East or between North and South Korea... lots of places.

There are efforts to make peace between political parties or people of different views or different religions.

It isn’t working. It never seems to work. What is the problem? Why can’t we just get along?

People are sinners. They are self-centered and do not want to change.

We are unwilling to submit our desires to anyone else’s. Not to mention to God’s desires.

What needs to happen? How can there be peace on earth?

There needs to be a perfectly righteous ruler over people who are perfectly righteous.

700 years after this prophesy, Jesus Christ came to Israel and the Spirit of the Lord rested upon Him.

He displayed these character qualities and reached out to the poor and downcast.

He announced that “the Kingdom of God is in your midst” because the Davidic Messianic King had arrived.

He has been building His Kingdom ever since and teaching his people what it is like to have such a King.

He has been changing hearts and making people righteous, one by one.

The project of His royal rule has already begun, but it is not done. It is not yet complete.

What yet must happen? Isaiah continues.

IV. In that day the nations will come to the King.

Isaiah 11:10

This is such an important part of the work of the Messianic King. Remember **Isaiah 2:2-4**.

Realize that this day that Isaiah prophesies has already begun. **Mark 1:14-15**

It began when Jesus announced the kingdom.

He is already drawing people from all over the earth to come and worship Him and have life eternal.

John 3:13-15 What does “lifted up” mean? What will happen?

John 12:32 It is His death on the cross that will draw all men to Himself, all over the world.

Matthew 28:18-20 It has begun, it is well underway, but this project is not finished.

Consider the new Jerusalem in **Revelation 21:22-24**. All the earth will come to honor this King.