

Reflections on Isa. 11:1-10 (For Vancouver CRC Advent Service Dec 12 2010)

We have here a beautiful poetic expression of the hope that lives and throbs in the hearts of the People of God from ancient times on through today into the future. It is a picture of having arrived, of the great prophecies and promises of the OT fulfilled.

Between the time of Isaiah and us today, many things have happened towards the fulfillment of those promises.

- (1) The main one that “the stump of Jesse” or “the Root of Jesse” as he is called in :10, already HAS come and a branch HAS already born much fruit—the life and work of that Branch is recorded history. And all the good stuff said about this Stump, Jesus Christ, we know all about that from the NT stories. People have seen it, heard it, interpreted it, recorded it for all the world to read, hear it.
- (2) The second event that has happened since is Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the **Spirit** of Jesus.
- (3) The third one, simultaneous with Pentecost, is the birth of the Church, the earthly engine pushing that Kingdom.

All of this is infused with the Spirit of Wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge. His Spirit inculcated it into the Church so that all these good things would also be characteristic of the Church.

What will this final picture look like? Here it is—characterized by all the things the world longs for but cannot achieve. Justice and righteousness that

go to the root of things. The needy will be cared for. His faithfulness will be ever present, ready to kick in. Enmity all around us will be turned into friendship and other safe relationships. The wolf with the lamb, the calf and the lion, little children interacting with the most dangerous forces they can imagine without any harm. An earth full of the knowledge of the Lord.

THAT is the destination ever since the exodus.

And in the meantime, WE not only HOPE for that, but also WORK towards that. We don't just sit there waiting, twiddling our thumbs. We are EAGER to display all of that wisdom and knowledge, justice and righteousness to demonstrate to the world how this all works and to make this so attractive, that the nations will rally to us and ultimately to HIM, the Stump.

Our journey. Our destination. Our style. And our hope.

Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus. Come again. Soon.