

This morning we are starting a new sermon series called waiting for Jesus. This is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the Latin word for coming. And it is the time leading up to Christmas where we celebrate Christ's first Advent or his first coming to Earth.

And so during the time of Advent we reflect on what Jesus is coming means to us. And we also reflect and think about what it will mean when He comes again. Because the season is about so much more than just the fact that Jesus was born. It is what the birth of the God-man represents symbolically and what He did actually.

And so each week as we light a different candle we are going to talk about some of the different themes of Advent. What I mean by that is we're going to reflect some of the different reasons that we are excited and celebrate the coming of Jesus.

This week we're going to talk about hope. Hope is something that is desperately needed in our world and in all of our lives. Hope is the belief that something better is coming in the future. If you have hope it can allow you to endure even the most horrific darkness that the world throws at you. And if you don't have any help it's really hard to stay alive.

Christmas can be a very exciting season for many especially if you're a young child. But for many it can be a very difficult season. Many of us have lost people that we love this year. And it will be hard to celebrate while you're still grieving. I want to remind you this morning of the hope that Jesus brings. His birth is not just a wonderful moment. The birth of Jesus is the light shining in a very dark world. And His birth gives us hope that even in the midst of suffering and death our salvation comes.

Go ahead and open your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 11:1-10. We are going to look at Israel's hope for the Messiah, will look at how Jesus did or didn't meet those hopes, then we'll conclude with what our hopes are.

Point number one **Israel hoped the true king would come.**

Israel's expectation and their hope for a brighter future for their nation was through the Messiah.

Israel's Messianic expectations were not for a prophet, teacher, or savior. They longed, they waited, and they hoped for a king.

And not just any kind of king they hoped for a true king.

The king who would fulfill the promises that God made to their people.

The king who would restore not just their nation to greatness but the king who would rule forevermore.

And if you wonder why would they hope for that?

Your answer is found in these 10 verses.

These verses are all fairly clearly about the Messiah and the king who is to come.

Verse 1, **"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."**

Their hope was that the true king would be born from King David's line.

But they would be one of his descendants and the rightful King.

Because God made a covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7.

And God's promise was David's descendants would rule forever.

But they aren't ruling right now.

Israel has no King.

There has not been a davidic king on the throne in a very long time.

But Israel has hope that one day a king will come again.

This is why the prophecy says that a shoot or a flower is going to come from the stump.

That new life will come from what was dead.

The hope the tree of Israel has been cut down and conquered God's promise will still come true.

There is still hope even in the darkness.

And they don't just hope that the king will come from the right family but that he will be a king like David.

That he will be a king with the right heart.

Verse 2, **"And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."**

This is the inner life that they hoped the Messiah would have.

They hope that the king would be filled with the Spirit.

Now in the Old Testament not everyone was filled with the Spirit of God.

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost then all believers were filled with the Holy Spirit.

But at this point in time not everybody gets the Spirit but some do.

Most significantly the Kings of Israel would have the spirit of God.

And so their hope for this king is that the spirit of God would rest on him.

And they don't just hope that he would be filled with the Spirit,

They hope that the spirit would stay.

That he would rest there.

Because you did have Kings like King Saul who had the spirit of God but because of their sinfulness their wickedness and their rebellion against God the Spirit of God left him.

So they're hoping the prophecy here is that the spirit will not leave this King.

It will stay there.

What does it look like to be filled with the spirit of the Lord?

They will be a king of understanding and of wisdom.

And it will be filled with wisdom like Solomon.

But that he won't be as foolish.

That will be a king who rules understanding the struggles that his people face not just what's best for the king.

He will be filled with the spirit of counsel and might.
God will speak to him and give him his counsel.
That he will know the right thing to do.

They hoped he would be a king filled with God's might and power.
That he would not be a weak King.
They hoped that this king would be filled with God's knowledge and the
fear of God.

There are lots of Kings who rule.
But most of those kings don't fear God.
They don't have any respect for God.
They rule as if they are the highest authority in the world not as if God is.
So Israel's hope is that the true king was rule believing that God was his
authority.
That he would rule as a just King because he feared the justice of God.
That he would rule as a righteous King because he cared about the
righteousness of God.

They hoped he would not just fear God, but that he loved God
Verse 3, **"And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD."**
The Messiah is to be a king that loves God.
He does not fear God because he is terrified and afraid.
He rules out of respect for God because he loves God he delights in him.
It brings the king joy to do what is right.
It makes him laugh and delight like a child to live a righteous life.

And his delight in the Lord leads him to make decisions that are pleasing
to God.

Verse 3, **"He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes
by what his ears hear, but with righteousness, he shall judge the poor
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth."**

This will be a king who makes the right judgments.

Many presidents of our country have made the statement that the only decisions that come to their desk or the difficult ones that don't have an easy answer.

Because if they did someone else would have decided it already.

It's the same thing with Kings the only decisions have to make are ones that are hard.

But this King will be one who doesn't make decisions just based off of what looks the best.

He won't base it just off of what will make him the most popular.

He won't base it off of what looks like the best decision on the surface.

And he won't make his judgments or decisions based off what people argue.

Those with the best lawyers or lobbyists will not be able to bend his ear one way or another.

This King will make righteous and just decisions.

And he shall listen to the poor.

He will hear their cases not just the cases of those who have the most power and money.

The problem with most judicial systems is that the more money you have the easier it is to get the law on your side.

That's true in our day and it was true in the ancient world.

But this King will be one who decides equally even for the meek and the poor.

They will also get Justice and righteousness.

The true king that they hope for won't just make good decisions but he will defeat the wicked.

Verse 4, **"and he shall strike the Earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked."**

Those who are enemies of God's people will be destroyed.

Those who are terrorizing people.

Those who are taking advantage of the Widow and the orphan and The Immigrant will face his wrath.

Not because the king is cruel but because the king is just righteous.

Verse 5, **"righteousness shall be the belt of his waste, and faithfulness the belt of his loins."**

This is poetic language to say he will be a righteous King.

And he will be a faithful King.

His righteousness won't just last for a moment or first year in office but throughout all of his reign.

And his rule will bring unprecedented prosperity in peace.

This is why we get several verses of the wolf dwelling with the lamb.

The calf and the lion being led by a child.

The leopard sleeping with a young goat.

The cow and the bear grazing on the grass together.

The baby cow frolicking with a baby bear cub with no fear.

The lion will no longer eat their cattle or eat their children but will eat straw and grass.

You can let your child that is still nursing play with snakes.

This is painting a picture of peace.

And this is their hope.

Their hope is that the king would bring them peace from all their enemies.

No longer would they need to fear what the Romans might do.

No longer would they have to watch the news to care about Empires like Babylon and Assyria or Egypt may or may not do to them.

They can live their lives in peace.

Verse 9, **"They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."**

He will bring a restoration of Eden.

In the world of once again be as it should have been.

It is a Utopia or no longer will people hurt or harm one another.

Under the Mountain of God there should be peace.

Because the whole place will be filled with the knowledge of God.

As much as the water fills the oceans, Israel will be filled with true knowledge of God.

Verse 10, **"In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples - of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious."**

and in that day when the king rules.

When the king from Jesse's line stand on the throne, it will be a signal to all the world.

All of the nations shall hear of him.

And the nations shall ask him about him.

Because Israel was never meant to just be their own nation and their own state.

They were meant to be a people of God who shined in a dark world.

They were to be a people who invited the other nations to come in and to join them.

And their hope was that the Messiah would do this.

And that the place that he ruled would be glorious.

That's a lot to hope for.

But this is just a taste of what Israel's Hope was.

This is what they were longing for.

This is the kind of King that they would hold on to and believe was coming even as all the Roman emperors ruled wickedly around them.

Even as all of their own kings were wicked and failed.

They longed and they hoped that one day the true king would be born.

The expectations they have could never be fulfilled by one man.

You would have to take it and twist it.

You would have to say that these are only general principles or spiritual hopes don't take it literally.

Because a human being could keep these promises.

But Jesus could.

The one who is truly God and truly man truly do what no one else can.

Point number two: **Jesus began to fulfill their hopes.**

Jesus's birth and his first Advent.

His first coming into our world began to fulfill all of these promises.

Even as we were reading them before many of you could see or notice ways that Jesus has already met these hopes.

We've been walking through the Gospel of Luke.

And as we walk through we've seen Jesus fulfill prophecy after prophecy after prophecy.

In the first thing we see is that Jesus is born from the line of Jesse.

The beginning of the gospels usually make a big deal about Jesus's genealogy.

They point out Mary and Joseph's descendants.

Jesus is the Davidic King.

You may wonder why Isaiah says the line comes from Jesse instead of David I think that's on purpose not just Isaiah being weird or trying to be different.

If it's trying to remind us of the humble origins of King David's birth.

David was not born a king.

And the prophet Samuel heard from God that one of Jesse's Sons would be king.

Jesse himself didn't think it was even a tiny possibility that David would be the one who would be the king.

In a similar way Jesus came from humble roots.

He was not born to an influential family but born to those from small community.

He was not born to those who are rich but to parents who were poor.

He was not born to parents who were influential and important but he was laid in a manger.

The shoot came from the stump, not just because the line of David is dead because there was no possibility of Life coming from the virgin's womb.

And yet Jesus was born.

Where there is no human possibility of life, God works miracles.

And in verse 2, **"the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him."**

Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God.

Because He is God.

At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove.

And the heavens opened to declare that Jesus was God's son.

Jesus was filled with wisdom and knowledge.

Even at 12 years old, Jesus was teaching in the temple.

And His wisdom amazed all of the leaders with His wisdom and understanding.

Jesus answers always confounded and surprised those who thought they were wise.

The religious leaders would ask Jesus complicated questions.

They would ask Him trick questions in order to trap Him in controversy.

But Jesus always escaped.

And He asked better questions than they did.

Jesus was full of **"the fear of the LORD."**

He did not care what the crowds wanted Him to do.

He did not take an opinion poll before He decided what action He should take.

He did not fear the Romans.

He did not do ministry in a way to stay out of their eyes or to keep the Roman peace.

He did not fear the religious leaders and high priests.

They constantly tried to control Him.

They tried to stop Him.
They tried to threaten Him and silence Him.

But Jesus only feared God.
And everything Jesus did was in obedience to God.
He delighted in righteousness and never sinned.

Jesus also did not judge based off of His eyes or ears.
He was never fooled by what people said.
Over and over in the gospels we read how Jesus **"Knew their thoughts"**
Jesus **"knew what was in their hearts"**
You cannot fool and you cannot trick Jesus.
He always knows.

And Jesus **"with righteousness shall judge the poor"**
Jesus gave the poor justice.
Frequently we saw Jesus, throughout His ministry,
Pay special attention to the poor.
He did not look over them or ignore them.
He gave His time to infants and widows.
He saw those on the margins and those without power.
And He called them to be His disciples.

Most of Jesus' ministry tells us that we are to be like the poor.
That the foolish things of the world shame the wise.
That the kingdom of God does not belong to the rich, but to the poor in spirit.

"Decide with equity for the meek of the earth."

Jesus said in the sermon on the mount that the meek shall inherit the earth.

Most of Jesus' ministry tells us that we are to be like the poor.
That the foolish things of the world shame the wise.

That the kingdom of God does not belong to the rich, but to the poor in spirit.

The way to salvation is to emulate the poor in their faith.

Verse 10, **"In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples-"**

Jesus stood as a signal for all the people.

In fact, He was raised up on the cross.

High on a hill where everyone could see.

Standing as a symbol of our salvation.

Because He died on the cross in our place.

He died in order to save us.

And His death and become a symbol and a signal.

We decorate with crosses.

Because they are no longer a weapon of terror employed by the government.

Now they remind us and point out the fact that anyone can be saved.

Because Jesus loves you and He died for you.

"Of him shall the nations inquire."

People from every nation are welcome to follow Jesus.

And the people did inquire of Jesus on that day.

When Jesus died, the Roman centurion said Jesus was truly the Son of God.

And throughout Jesus' ministry every miracle He worked made people ask, "who is this Jesus?"

"And His rating place shall be glorious."

When Jesus died, He was laid to rest in a tomb.

But that tomb is empty.

Because Jesus came back to life.

And that tomb is glorious because it is a reminder that Jesus defeated death.

And it is glorious because one day the tombs of all those who trust in Jesus will be empty too.

We see in these verses that Jesus began to fulfill their hopes.

But He did not accomplish all of these things.

At least not yet.

Especially when you read and see the verse about the wolf dwelling with the lamb.

Of the knowledge of God covering the whole world.

And so we wait.

We wait for Jesus to finish what He started at His birth.

Point number 3: **We hope the King will come again.**

Our hope currently is not found in the fact that Jesus came once.

Our hope is that He will come back again.

That what humanity experienced in Christ's first Advent was only the foretaste and a sample of the greatness that is to come.

And as wonderful as the first coming was, the second will be even greater.

And on that day, Jesus will finish everything that He started.

There are a few main promises here in Isaiah 11 we are waited to be fulfilled.

The first is His promise to destroy the wicked.

Verse 4, **"He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked."**

One day Jesus Will judge the wicked.

They will all face Justice and his Wrath.

Literally this will be filled in Revelation 19.

And that day all of the enemies of God will gather up in the final battle to try to overthrow his rule.

It tells us that from Jesus's mouth he will just speak in the battle will be over.

Jesus will do this one day.

And there are times they hear people object to the idea that God would punish the wicked.

But we need to understand that the message of God's judgment is not meant to make us afraid but to give us hope.

It is meant to remind us that evil will not win.

It is meant to remind us that one day people will have to pay for the wrong they have done.

One day they will answer to Jesus.

All those unsolved crimes and Unsolved Mysteries.

Jesus knows them.

And Jesus will do what is just.

Because Jesus is gracious, He doesn't do it yet.

That gives everyone chance after chance after chance to turn from their sins to repent.

And when Jesus came the first time He died for His enemies because He loved them.

But the next time He comes, those who have rejected His love will face the consequences.

The second promise is to bring peace to our world.

These beautiful phrases of the wolf the lamb.

My personal favorite is the one with the child playing with a snake.

I'm always a little nervous with my kids are outside cuz you have no idea what they're going to get into.

But when Jesus returns you won't have to worry.

You could send your kids and to the zoo the rainforest or the Sahara on a safari and not worry that any animal would harm them.

Here's the great reversal.

Send corrupted creation after eating when Adam and Eve sinned.

Jesus returns again He will make it new.

You'll get to cuddle and play with whatever your favorite animal is.

Even the ones that would eat you now if you got too close.
And this time in the garden Jesus will make, none of us will be able to ruin it.

The last hope is that one day all our suffering will end.

Verse 9, **"They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."**

One day death and dying will be no more.

We wait for Jesus to return so that there will be no hurt.

Can you image what that day will be like?

No more physical pain anymore.

No more aches.

No more old injuries that won't recover.

No one paper cuts or bruises.

No more chronic pain.

No more suffering that the doctors cannot solve.

And no more emotional pain.

No more broken hearts.

No more feeling like you are drowning in grief.

No pain that makes you willing to do anything to make it stop.

No more mental pain or mental illness.

No more depression bad days.

No more times you just feel numb.

And best of all, no more sin or death.

Sin will no longer be able to destroy anything.

We will no longer die.

No more going to funerals.

No more sitting by bedsides hoping that their suffering ends soon.

Jesus will come and it will all be okay.

This is our hope.

This is what we should hold onto when the nights are dark.

This is what we cling to when the news is terrible.

This is our hope in the cancer ward and the NICU.

This is our hope when we miscarry.

This is our hope when our spouse dies.

Jesus is our hope.

For some you this is not a fun season.

It will be hard as you celebrate with a heavy heart.

I want you to remember, this season is not about pretending everything is awesome.

This is a season of hope.

It is about remembering what Jesus birth means.

What He accomplished.

And what He still will do.

Having hope doesn't mean pretending that everything is okay.

Having hope is not about refusing to acknowledge how terrible things are.

But having help means is that you can face the darkness of your life and of the world without despair.

Having hoped means that the circumstances around you won't keep you from following Jesus.

Having hope in Jesus means that we will be able to endure all things.

And we can do this today because we know that Jesus was born.

He really did come.

His first Advent is proof that our hope is not in vain.

And it is a reminder that He will come again.

So let us live this week in this Advent season as though who's hope is in Jesus.