

December 15, 2024

Advent Sermon Series: O Come

Week 2: O Root

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

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

*2 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—*

*3 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;*

*4 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.*

*5 Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

*6 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.*

*7 The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

*8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.*

*9 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.*

10 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.

1. What was the historical situation when Isaiah wrote this? (Look at Isaiah 10 to see what was happening to Israel and why it was happening.)
2. The “shoot” growing out of the stump of Jesse represents the Messiah. What do we learn about him here?
3. What surprising changes did Isaiah prophesy would happen here on earth after the Messiah sets up his eternal Kingdom? What is the significance of these surprising changes?
4. How would you describe biblical hope?
5. Talk about the surprising way that God's hope came to earth.
6. Share about a time when it was very difficult for you to have hope.
7. What helps you experience true hope and joy even in seasons that seem hopeless?
8. Talk about some Christian leaders whose hope in God inspired them to bring about positive changes here on earth.

9. How might you live out your hope in ways that bring positive changes here on earth?
10. What did you sense God saying to you through this passage and this message?