

Of Quick Understanding

Isaiah Chapter Eleven

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~ The day is coming when the Lord Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom here on earth, literally and physically. All nations will become subject to His dominion and autocratic authority. The section of prophecy we are currently studying in our Spiritual Safari runs from chapter seven through chapter twelve; and there is a very definite progression and connection between each of them. If you have not read our first thirteen safari reports from Isaiah, I can only suggest you go back and read them now. These are the writings of a true prophet during the reign of completely godless and totally evil King Ahaz, in the southern kingdom of Judah. Our last report from chapter ten brought us through the time of judgment the Lord Jesus Himself labeled the Great Tribulation period.

This chapter follows chronologically, and presents one of the greatest Messianic prophecies in the Word of God. Isaiah declares the power of the Person of the King! The type of plan, purpose, and program Christ will mandate in His Kingdom are also revealed here. Chapter eleven begins a culmination of the Millennial Kingdom, after the Great Tribulation period, and brings us the source of power, the character of Christ's reign, different qualities that will be found in the Kingdom, the extent of the Kingdom and, then, chapter twelve concludes this eschatological series by showing us how the worship of Christ will be exercised *IN THAT DAY*. Frankly, if we do not understand this first section of Isaiah, we will *NEVER – EVER* understand prophecy in its entirety. This part of Isaiah is the foundation of prophetic knowledge and, without it, you might as well build your so-called Biblical house on sand – because it will not stand....

1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

~ When we get to the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, we will see the Lord Jesus presented as the rod and Branch that came from King David; which signifies a royal lineage. Here, Isaiah is careful to go all the way back to

David's father, Jesse; because Jesse was a peasant sheep farmer in Bethlehem. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the line of David was no longer on the throne in Israel; they had returned to being peasants. Jesus was raised in a poor family – in a carpenter's shop. The word for "branch" here means "a live sprout." There are some eighteen Hebrew words for the word "branch;" and this one is "netser" — which is also a title that designates Christ as Messiah. It is pronounced as the beginning of Nazareth is annunciated. Remember, Jesus is called the Root and the Vine – and other synonymous terms. In historical fulfillment, even the ring of the words of prophecy must be noted; the very phonetics of the words has deeply profound meaning....

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 of the fear of the LORD;

~ Here, we are presented the seven-fold Spirit: **1)** of God **2)** of wisdom **3)** understanding **4)** counsel **5)** might **6)** knowledge **7)** fear of the Lord. This speaks of the completeness of Almighty God and the fulness of the plentitude of power that He Alone possesses. In the New Testament, we're told God gave Jesus the Spirit not by measure. You and I are to be filled with the Spirit of God. Unfortunately, most modern Christians have but a few drops in their spiritual tank; others are literally running on fumes. Some are about a quarter-full and others half-full – but very few – and I do mean *VERY* few, are truly filled to overflowing. Our standard needs to be "overflowing," friends.

In His humanity, Jesus went forth in the power of the Spirit! When He returns to establish His earthly Kingdom, He will reign and rule in the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to learn and remember these seven-fold attributes of God. As we learned very definitely in Proverbs, and in the New Testament, Christ has been made over unto us wisdom. Christ is the only One Who can ever lead and guide you and me through this life on earth! My dear readers, you and I are no match whatsoever for the world. Jesus said, "*the prince of this world cometh and he findeth nothing in Me.*" Well, the prince of the world stands and accuses me when I pray, and he *ALWAYS*

finds something in me; and I am sure he finds something in you, too. Well, maybe not you – but definitely in me.

We need the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding. We need to pray every day for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment. That means we ask God to renew us daily in our minds and refill our hearts with the Holy Spirit from the Word of God. I know most people claim they have some superior level of spiritual discernment, but they are really as undiscerning as a bucket of rocks. I must tell you dear readers that troubles me and disturbs me a great deal; particularly around this forum on which I teach. It makes me wonder how few of the called are truly chosen. When Jesus said, *“many are called but few are chosen”* – I think it would scare the living daylight out of us if we knew the real number of *“few.”* It isn't many; I can promise you that. Candidly, it makes me question myself.

Further, I am shocked at how many self-professing believers follow a so-called “Bible teacher” on a purely human basis. They like their looks, or the sound of their voice; but they never comprehend what those men are saying. Usually, they aren't writing or saying anything of substance or value – but I digress. Someone says, *“... I am traveling to such and such a foreign country to be their pastor”* – but they never witness about what they are going to be preaching – because they don't know themselves! It's usually just a bunch of self-serving, non-sensical, and purely self-righteous garbage – never true to the Word of God – and the dogs eat it up like the vomit it is! Oh yes, I don't mind telling you again that this truly disturbs me. It very well could be the one thing that I lose sleep over.

Anyone who has ever spoken to me knows the one thing I do is admonish you to ask the Lord for understanding; and to pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you if I am a false teacher or not. I am absolutely convinced that if we do not pray daily for discernment, it wanes and, eventually, disappears completely. That means that there are many people spewing Bible verses and pseudo-religiously themed essays and quips that we need to avoid at all cost. On the other hand, there are a few men who you truly deserve to be listened to. How can you know the difference? – There's only one way: praying for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment; and that the Lord will lead you to a competent, Spirit-filled, and Spirit-led Bible study.

Myriad critics find fault in my teaching and grade me as a failure, but they have never asked God for wisdom and understanding in accord with Holy Writ. As a result, they have no judgment, and even poorer spiritual discernment. When I receive the lengthy messages that start out by saying something like, "Andrew, I don't know why you are so angry, or what your problem is. You are a wolf in shee...." – my friends, I don't dignify that with a response – I assure you. Some people must spend a full hour writing messages that I delete in less than three seconds. Well, if you have spiritual understanding, then you are going to recognize that this Spiritual Safari has one objective: to discover the Lord Jesus Christ on every single page of the Word of God, and lifting Him up so that He might draw all men unto Himself. Now, I know I typically fail at presenting Him that way – but I sure try. That's called true understanding – and it just happens to be important.

Now, each and every one of us needs counseling; but Jesus never asked for advice. No, Jesus never even considered making decisions on that basis. Jesus *GAVE* council; and instruction – period. That gave Him the Spirit of Might – and that was His power. Interestingly, there is no record of Jesus being called Counselor in the New Testament. That title is for His second advent – not first. Oh, how we need to understand these things today so we might know Christ and the power of His resurrection. I simply cannot stress to you how critical these truths and basic tenets of Scripture really are. Until we receive this knowledge, my beloved, you are just never going to understand the Bible; because that would be impossible. These things don't come easy, either; they are only derived from an educated, systematic, sincere, daily, proper, correct and complete study of Holy Writ....

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

~ The one He shall smite with the rod of His Mouth is Satan. This is the time when the devil is having his climactic hey-day here on earth, during the Great Tribulation period. There is no deliverance for the world at that time, humanly speaking. Even Israel, who rejects the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ – will cry out *IN THAT DAY*, “*my help comes not from the north, south, east or west.*” *IN THAT DAY*, only from above, will any deliverance be received! After that, Messiah returns, and establishes His earthly Kingdom.

The reason Jesus returns *IN THAT DAY* is because the earth will need a righteous and just ruler. The world will have entered total chaos, anarchy, destruction, nihilism, insurrection, discord, mayhem, mobocracy, apostasy, tumult, and blanket disorder. The world will not have an opportunity to vote for Jesus – and *WOULD* not vote for Him if they could, either – I am sure of that; but God Himself sets Christ Jesus on the throne down here, and His rule will be a monarchy, dictatorial, autocratic, undemocratic, totalitarian, unaccountable, iron-fisted sovereignty. I thank God for that, personally. I am looking forward to that day.

God doesn't judge after the sight of His eyes; and He isn't going to call witnesses to testify against us, either. There won't be lengthy, drawn-out court cases resulting in a few acquittals. That's just not how it works, according to Scripture, friends. It should literally be terrifying for *believers* to understand how they will appear before the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ, where their works are judged by fire, and a Heavenly reward is determined – or denied. Some believers will have no reward. Subsequently, one thousand seven years later, the *lost* will appear at the Great White Judgment Throne to be judged *BY* their works – because that's the way they wanted it. Well, the lost have no chance of prevailing against God, and will be cast into outer darkness and torment; where some shall receive few stripes; and some shall receive many. One thing I can promise you is that you will not want to witness their demise – because frightening is an understatement for the reality of their eternal disposition.

Now, read this very carefully as we conclude this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God; and I make this final statement based on the things I see and hear about me: you are not going to be a witness against me *IN THAT DAY*. There are two groups of people in the world — neither of which know me nor understand this ministry. One is my enemy — and they have no earthly idea who I am. If the enemy knew me, they wouldn't say such horrible and ugly things about me. The other is my friend; and they may flatter me — but they don't know me, either. Candidly, if my friends knew me, they wouldn't flatter me. In fact, if you knew me like I know me, you would never read another word I write. But, don't throw me overboard so fast; because if I knew you like you know you — I wouldn't waste my time talking to you.

No, friends, just like you, I am going to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ all by myself one day, and be judged *by the Word of God!* You won't be there. The things that are fake and phony in my life are going to be brought right out in the open for me to realize. I'll need some privacy for that. So, as your safari guide, I am trying to get all the fake and phony stuff deleted right now. I am trying to be crystal clear, and totally transparent in my life, and in my dealings with each of you. That's going to be quite a light that is turned on in the lives of some believers someday — which makes this section of Isaiah beyond remarkable — much further out than wonderful. The faithfulness, justice, and righteousness of God to His Son is an abject terror to us as we speak of the coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom, and how He recovers the remnant of Israel, and restores the dominion that was lost by Adam in the Garden of Eden. Very few are aware of these deep theological tenets of truth in the prophecies of Isaiah. Pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment now....

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

10 And IN THAT DAY there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

11 And it shall come to pass IN THAT DAY, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

14 But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

15 And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.

16 And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt ~

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