Immanuel as King

*In chapter 6 we saw how Isaiah responded to God as King. The narrative now moves to see how Judah’s king (remember he is supposed to help people understand how to live under God’s rule) lives under God. What we see in chapters 7 to 10 is that when Ahaz is challenged to trust God he doesn’t, believing that Assyria was more able to help against Israel and Syria than was God. Isaiah brings a message of judgement and salvation. God would bring a Syria to destroy the nation but he would also prove his trustworthiness by rescuing the righteous and providing a king he would rule rightly.*

Read Isaiah 11

*Some peoples you will read about:*

***Ammon and Moab*** *were the sons of Lot as the result of incest between Lot and his daughters. Both nations descended from these men were a constant source of aggravation and temptation to Israel during the journey to the promised land and its conquest and settlement. Moabites are specifically excluded from Israel (even though Ruth was a Moabitess) and the prophets often single both nations out as people him God will judge severely.*

*Abraham’s son Isaac had two sons of his own, Jacob and Esau. It is the descendants of Esau that are known as* ***Edomites****. The tension between the two brothers continues to the two nations descended from them.*

***Ephraim*** *is the son of Joseph and his descendants became one of the most prestigious of the twelve tribes of Israel. King Jeroboam, an Ephraimite was responsible for splitting the 10 northern tribes of Israel from the two southern tribes. The northern kingdom is called both Israel or Ephraim*

***Judah*** *is one of the sons of Jacob. King David was from the tribe of Judah. The southern Kingdom is called Judah.*

*The* ***Philistines*** *are descended from Ham the son of Noah. Friendly to Abraham and Isaac, by the time of the conquest of the promised land and the era of the Judges and Kings, the Philistines had become very aggressive towards God’s people.*

Isaiah concentrates on one particular figure. Summarise the following from the chapter:

Where will he come from?

What will he be like?

What Spirit will rest on him?

What will he do?

How are the first 9 verses different to the rest of the chapter?

What does the second half add to our understanding of the what the Stump of Jesse will accomplish?

*In the first study we looked at the idea of God as king. The Hebrew Scriptures often talk about the manner in which God rules. It tells us that God is kingship is not harsh or tyrannical but full of justice, mercy, compassion and faithfulness faithfulness. God’s rule is a loving role where he always has the best interests of his subjects in mind (Psalm 145: 8 – 16). When God pointed Kings over Israel they were to reflect his style of rulership. Kings were not to be ruthless dominating tyrants who harshly subjugated their subjects. Rather, they were to be just, compassionate, merciful, loving and good, with the best interests of their subjects in mind. (see Deuteronomy 17: 14-20, Psalm 72, Ezekiel 34).*

What was the significance of the stump in Isaiah 6? What is its significance in chapter 11?

If you were having to write a press release on the arrival of the person in chapter 11, what would you want to say and include?

Can you imagine a situation where verses 6 to 9 exist? If not, why not? If so, when?

Look at Mark 10:32-45. How do the disciples misunderstand the rule of God? How does Jesus help them to understand it aright? (you might also want to look at Daniel 7)

What are our hopes and prayers for the world we live in? How do they match up with what we read in chapter 11?

What needs to happen for the vision of Isaiah 11 to be seen more clearly in our world?

Whilst it is not always easy to work out how we can change the world, Christians are still called to live under God’s rule and his kingship over our lives. How could you align your life with the vision we see in Isaiah 11? What changes might you need to make?

Look at Hebrews 11: 1- 2 and Hebrews 12: 1 – 2. Why are these verses helpful to us in the context of a study on Isaiah 11? How are they an encouragement?