

# POEMS of the PROPHET ISAIAH.....

TOUCHING THE DEEPEST LONGINGS OF OUR HEARTS



Session 2: All You Have to Do is Look – Isaiah 11:1-10

**IN this Poem** the Prophet speaks of the characteristics of the . coming Kingdom of God and reminds us that God's Kingdom is often evident in unexpected ways. Today, we too can know God in ways that can change our thinking forever and look forward with excitement to see how he will fulfil his promises.

## SECOND POEM OF THE PROPHET

**Step 1:** Read Isaiah 11:1-10, slowly, choosing either of the two versions printed below – or another if you prefer.

Isaiah 11:1-10 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

### A Branch Will Come From Jesse's Family Line

11 Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down.

A new little tree will grow from its stump.

From its roots a Branch will grow and produce fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on that Branch.

The Spirit will help him to be wise and understanding.

The Spirit will help him make wise plans and carry them out.

The Spirit will help him know the LORD and have respect for him.

<sup>3</sup> The Branch will take delight

in respecting the LORD.

He will not judge things only by the way they look.

He won't make decisions based simply on what people say.

<sup>4</sup> He will always do what is right

when he judges those who are in need.

He'll be completely fair

when he makes decisions about poor people.

When he commands that people be punished,

it will happen.

When he orders that evil people be put to death,  
it will take place.

<sup>5</sup> He will put on godliness as if it were his belt.  
He'll wear faithfulness around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> Wolves will live with lambs.

Leopards will lie down with goats.

Calves and lions will eat together.

And little children will lead them around.

<sup>7</sup> Cows will eat with bears.

Their little ones will lie down together.

And lions will eat straw like oxen.

<sup>8</sup> A baby will play near a hole where cobras live.

A young child will put its hand into a nest  
where poisonous snakes live.

<sup>9</sup> None of those animals will harm or destroy anything or anyone  
on my holy mountain of Zion.

The oceans are full of water.

In the same way, the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> At that time, here is what the man who is called the Root of Jesse  
will do. He will be like a banner that brings nations together. They  
will come to him. And the place where he rules will be glorious.

## Version 2

### Isaiah 11:1-10 Living Bible (TLB)

11 The royal line of David<sup>[a]</sup> will be cut off, chopped down like a tree; but from the stump will grow a Shoot—yes, a new Branch\* from the old root. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might; the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight will be obedience to the Lord. He will not judge by appearance, false evidence, or hearsay, <sup>4</sup> but will defend the poor and the exploited. He will rule against the wicked who oppress them. <sup>5</sup> For he will be clothed with fairness and with truth.

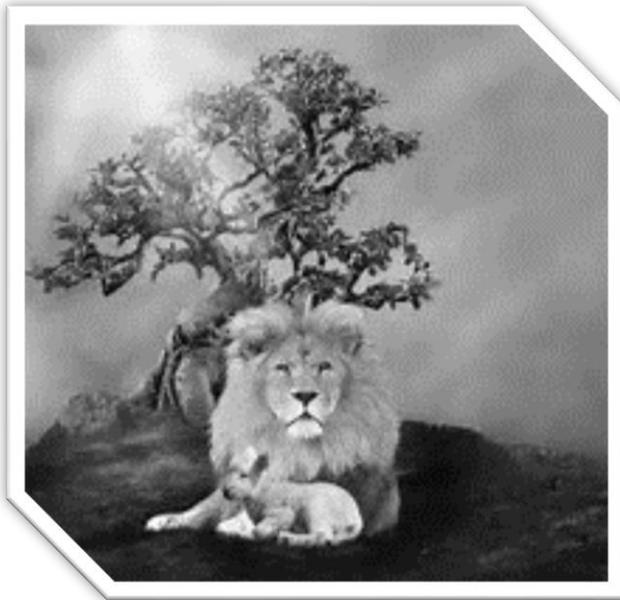
<sup>6</sup> In that day the wolf and the lamb will lie down together, and the leopard and goats will be at peace. Calves and fat cattle will be safe among lions, and a little child shall lead them all. <sup>7</sup> The cows will graze among bears; cubs and calves will lie down together, and lions will eat grass like the cows. <sup>8</sup> Babies will crawl safely among poisonous snakes, and a little child who puts his hand in a nest of deadly adders will pull it out unharmed. <sup>9</sup> Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so shall the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> In that day he who created the royal dynasty of David<sup>[b]</sup> will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, for the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

**Read the poem for a second time. Take time to picture the words with the eyes of your imagination**

**Step: 2** The poet wrote his words in pictures. Choose one version of the poem and read it a third time. This time note the predominate

thought, word, or image that stays in your mind.



### Thoughts for discussion or journaling

In your imagination visualise a place where life seems extinct and nothing grows.

Now come closer and look again carefully. In your mind dwell on the detail of the place you thought was dead, visualising and noting the smallest signs of life.

Think about the image of the Root of Jesse – What implications does this image have for your Christian discipleship.

Where have you noticed God working in unexpected and transforming ways in your life, church or community?

## Journaling space - you may like to try the following

**Journaling tip:** Pay attention. Spend a few minutes studying one of the pictures. Write for a while about what you do see; then write for a while about what you don't see. Finally, read your journal entries and write or draw a response to what you did and didn't notice.



**ROOT PRAYERS** have a stripped back simplicity and can help in centring ourselves with God

A root prayer begins with a piece of scripture or a short prayer which is repeated slowly. Every time it is repeated, however, a word or two is removed. In doing so the scripture or prayer is stripped

back until you truly come to the root or essence of it by meditating on one or two words.

Just like the roots of a tree or plant, these prayers are a way of focussing more deeply and listening attentively to the Holy Spirit

Here is an example from today's poem.

First **"He'll put on godliness as if it were his belt. He'll wear faithfulness around his waist"**

Second **He'll put on godliness .....He'll wear faithfulness around his waist"**

Third **He'll put on godliness .....He'll wear faithfulness.....**

Strip back each version to focus finally on God's **"Faithfulness"**

Why not experiment and change the verse?

## BLESSING PRAYER

God,  
let your Spirit,  
who rested on Jesus the Branch—  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord—  
rest on me and rule in my life today,  
in Jesus' name, Amen.

(Based on Isaiah 11:1-2)



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Adapted from The Prayer Bench [www.theprayerbench.ca](http://www.theprayerbench.ca)