

Theme: Jesus is the Root of Jesse, Who sustains and nourishes God's people through every season of life, restoring them to God's favor and producing fruit in them and throughout the earth.

## I. Intro - Redwood Trees in California

- A. Visiting Muir Woods years ago; huge redwoods
- B. Some are thousands of years old!
- C. They reproduce both by seed and by spreading root
- D. Often a catastrophe causes new trees to sprout
- E. They can then be seen forming a circle around where the original tree they grew from had been
- F. This reminds me of today's powerful metaphor title: the Root of Jesse
- G. What does this mean? How does it apply today?

## II. The Background: A Forest Cut Down

- A. Isaiah was told that Judah would be cut down  
Then I said, "For how long, O Lord?" And he answered: "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, <sup>12</sup> until the Lord has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. <sup>13</sup> And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land." Isaiah 6:9–13
  - 1. Judah would refuse to listen to God's Word through Isaiah
  - 2. They would be judged and sent into exile
  - 3. They would be like a forest of trees cut down (v13)

- B. Assyria would itself be cut down  
See, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. The lofty trees will be felled, the tall ones will be brought low. <sup>34</sup> He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; Lebanon will fall before the Mighty One. Isaiah 10:33–34
  - 1. Assyria laid Israel and many others waste
  - 2. Assyria invaded Judah and besieged Jerusalem
  - 3. But God judged Assyria and cut them down like a tree
- C. A powerful metaphor of distress and despair
  - 1. The metaphor of a tree and whole forest cut down is a strong picture of judgment and the distress that followed
  - 2. Assyria fell to never arise again; what about Judah?
  - 3. Was exile in Babylon the end of the story of Judah and for the Davidic dynasty?

## III. The Root and Branch of Jesse

- A. The Branch will shoot forth from Jesse's stump  
A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. Isaiah 11:1
  - 1. The trees were all cut down - but new life will come from the stump of the tree of Jesse
  - 2. He probably says Jesse rather than David because the Davidic kings had failed so badly, the judgement had to cut all the way back.
  - 3. A new David would arise - the Branch arising from the stump that seemed dead!

4. This idea of the Branch became a major metaphor for the coming King
- “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.” Jeremiah 23:5
- A righteous Branch from David - a King!
  - The Branch will reign wisely with justice!
  - Remember this theme from Isaiah 11 about the King  
“Listen, O high priest **Joshua** and your associates seated before you, who are men **symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch.** <sup>9</sup> See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘**and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.**’ Zechariah 3:8–9
  - The High Priest Joshua (Jesus!) is symbolic of things to come - the Branch
  - The Branch will come and remove sin in 1 day!
  - This was not done by this Joshua but by Jesus (Joshua), of whom Joshua the High Priest was only a type and shadow.  
Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of **the high priest, Joshua** son of Jehozadak.  
<sup>12</sup>Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is **the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord.** <sup>13</sup> **It is he who will build the temple of the Lord,** and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. **And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.**’ Zechariah 6:11–13
  - Joshua the High Priest will build the Temple and will sit on the throne and rule - a Priest-King

h. Again, this Joshua was only a type of the True Joshua, the True Branch, who came and built the true Temple of the Lord, the Church, and Who rules from God’s Throne!

5. Jesus is the Branch coming forth from the stump of Jesse who removes the sin of the people, builds the Temple of God in the earth, and rules from God’s Throne as the Priest-King to establish righteousness and justice.

## B. The Root of Jesse

In that day **the Root of Jesse** will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. Isaiah 11:10

- The Coming King is not only the Branch arising from Jesse’s line - He is the Root from which Jesse’s line arose and is sustained!
- As the Root of Jesse, Jesus not only nourishes and restores David’s Kingship, but he also restores Israel and brings the Gentiles into God’s People!  
In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. <sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. Isaiah 11:10–12
- The Root of Jesse will gather Israel
- He will draw in the nations - the worldwide spread of the Gospel!

- c. This is how Paul quotes this verse in the NT  
And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." Romans 15:12

1. Paul quotes the LXX almost verbatim
2. This stresses the Gentiles coming to Christ
3. Paul is quoting this to show the gathering of the Gentiles was always part of God's purpose

- d. This is how the O Radix antiphon uses the idea  
O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;  
before you kings will shut their mouths,  
to you the nations will make their prayer:  
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

- C. Jesus is both the Root and the Branch of Jesse/David  
"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. **I am the Root and the Offspring of David**, and the bright Morning Star." Revelation 22:16
1. Jesus is both the Root from which David sprang and was sustained and also the Offspring (Branch) which grew from David.
  2. These words are near the end of Scripture - which shows how important this idea is in understanding Jesus' identity and mission!
  3. As the Root and Branch/Offspring, Jesus has fulfilled all of the Messianic prophecies, removed the sin of the people of God in a single day, gathered in the Gentiles, and now rules as the Priest-King over the people of God!

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.  
Hebrews 1:3

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see there is hope for the Church & the Kingdom?
1. It looked like Israel would perish - but God kept her!
  2. The church seemed so small and weak - but she survived and thrived!
  3. Rome threatened to destroy the tree of God's Church - but Rome perished and the Church still thrives and grows!
  4. The Root has sustained us through all attempts to destroy the Tree of the Kingdom, and He will sustain us still! Have hope!
  5. It may seem that the Gospel and the Kingdom face perilous times, but God's Promises will prevail and a bountiful harvest is coming even now around the world!
- B. Do I see there is hope for me?
1. This title was meant to sustain hope in dark times!
  2. Imagine reading these words in exile - all seemed lost for Israel and David's line.
  3. It looked as if the promises of God had failed!
  4. All that could be seen was a stump to remind the tree had been cut down - but there was still a Root!
  5. The Root of Jesse survived the exile, brought the people of God back, and sustained Israel as a nation until the promises could be fulfilled!

6. It may seem like you have been cut down, reduced to a mere stump, but do not despair. The Root of Jesse will sustain and keep God's Promises to you!
7. It may seem fruit will never come - but the Root will nourish you and bring forth fruit in your life!

### C. Nourished at the Table (rituals of grace)

1. Jesus has promised to meet & feed us via the habits of grace (means of grace)
2. One of the problems in our age is how we discount the power of the simple means God has ordained to cause us to be strengthened and grow.  
All of us sprung from one deep-hidden seed,  
Rose from a root invisible to all.  
We knew the virtues once of every weed,  
But, severed from the roots of ritual,  
We surf the surface of a wide-screen world  
And find no virtue in the virtual.  
Malcolm Guite "O Radix"
3. When we despair it is easy to flip on the TV, look at Facebook, surf the web - but we will find no virtue or strength there
4. Virtue and strength are found in connecting to the Root via the rituals of grace - Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, and the Table
5. I will talk about this more in AfterHours
6. Today we come to the Table to confess our sin, struggles, and despair, and the receive fresh grace from Jesus
7. Nourished at the Table

## The Root of Life (O Root of Jesse)

Isaiah 11:1, 10-12

December 1, 2019

Communion

Romans 15:13

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), hope, Church

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit... <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:1, 10–12