📖 The Peaceful Kingdom

September 6, 2026, Lesson 1

Bible Basis: Isaiah 11:1-9

Bible Truth: The sovereignty of God will bring peace and an end to painful problems, persistent evil, and other troubles.

Memory Verse: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9)

Lesson Aim:

We will recognize Jesus as the promised King from David's line, explain how Isaiah describes His Spirit-filled and righteous rule, and connect that rule to God's promise of peace, justice, and restoration.

Historical and Background Context

Isaiah son of Amoz served in Judah around 740–680 BC during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. His ministry unfolded during spiritual drift, political instability, and the looming threat of Assyria. Against that backdrop, Isaiah 11 offers hope after judgment: even if David's royal line seems cut down like a stump, God will bring new life through the Messiah, the coming King whose reign will be righteous, peaceful, and secure.

Background Scripture Connection

How does Psalm 72:1–7 connect with Isaiah 11:1–9?

Psalm 72:1–7 and Isaiah 11:1–9 both describe the Messiah as a righteous King whose rule brings justice, peace, protection for the vulnerable, and the flourishing of creation.

Psalm 72 emphasizes the *character and effects* of His reign; Isaiah 11 emphasizes the *source and nature* of His power.

Opening Summary and Teaching Flow

Isaiah 11:1–9 is a Messianic prophecy that points to Jesus Christ, the promised King from the line of Jesse. Isaiah first shows who the Messiah is and how He rules, then shows what His righteous reign produces: peace, restoration, and the knowledge of the LORD filling the earth.

By the end of this lesson, students should see that Isaiah's promise of peace begins with the identity of the King: Jesus is the Spirit-filled Messiah whose righteous rule restores what sin has broken.

The lesson moves in four steps: first, we will identify the promised King from Jesse's line; next, we will examine the Spirit-filled righteousness of His rule; then we will consider the peace and restoration His reign produces; finally, we will apply that hope to our own need for justice, peace, and trust in God's promises.

The Lesson

I. The Messiah Gives Real Hope: The King God Promised and Equipped (Isaiah 11:1–5)

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

2And 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;

3And 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:

4But 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.

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

What's Happening Here?

Isaiah 11:1 — The Branch from Jesse

"There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

Jesse was the father of King David. God had promised David that his royal line would continue.

But Isaiah pictures something remarkable: the Davidic tree appears to have been cut down to a **"stem"**, yet a new **Branch** comes from its roots.

The picture is one of **life coming out of what appears to be dead or hopeless**.

The “Branch” points to the Messiah, the promised descendant of David. Isaiah’s image shows that God can bring new life from a royal line that appears broken, weakened, or nearly finished, and the New Testament presents Jesus as the fulfillment of that promise.

Teaching Point:
God’s promises are not stopped by human failure. He brings new beginnings out of broken places.

Isaiah 11:2 — The Spirit Resting upon Him

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him…”

Isaiah describes the Messiah as completely equipped by the Spirit of God.

Notice the three pairs:

1. Spirit of wisdom and understanding

Wisdom is the ability to know what is right and how to apply it.

Understanding involves insight—seeing beneath the surface and comprehending what is really happening.

Jesus demonstrated both. He wasn't merely knowledgeable; **He understood the hearts and motives of people.**

2. Spirit of counsel and might

Counsel speaks of wise guidance and decision-making.

Might speaks of strength and ability to accomplish what God purposes.

The Messiah does not merely know what should be done; He has both the wisdom to guide rightly and the power to accomplish God’s purpose.

3. Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD

Knowledge involves knowing God and His truth.

The fear of the LORD means reverence, awe, honor, and submission to God.

So the Messiah's life would be characterized by **complete dependence upon and reverence for God.**

Isaiah 11:3 — He Doesn't Judge by Appearances

"And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD…"

The Messiah's judgment would not be based merely on what He could see or hear.

Human beings can be deceived by:

- appearances,
- reputation,
- rumors,
- outward behavior,
- social status,
- incomplete information.

But Christ sees beyond the surface.

"He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes"

He doesn't simply look at circumstances and make a conclusion.

"Neither reprove after the hearing of his ears"

He doesn't make judgments simply because He has heard someone's accusation or someone else's version of a story.

Jesus judges with perfect knowledge and perfect righteousness.

That should give us great comfort: **God knows the whole story.**

Teaching Point: Jesus leads perfectly because He is filled with the Spirit without measure. His leadership is unlike any earthly ruler.

Isaiah 11:4 — His Judgment Is Righteous

"But with righteousness shall he judge the poor…"

The Messiah does not favor people because of wealth, influence, position, or status. He judges with righteousness and equity, which means the poor and meek are neither ignored nor exploited. His kingdom corrects what earthly systems often distort: power does not determine truth, and status does not determine worth.

Then Isaiah gives a powerful picture:

“He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth…”

The Messiah's **word carries authority**.

He doesn't need human weapons or political power to establish His ultimate authority. His word is sufficient.

This connects with the biblical picture of Christ as the One whose word brings judgment and ultimately defeats wickedness.

Isaiah 11:5 — Righteousness and Faithfulness

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

The imagery is powerful.

A belt holds clothing together and prepares someone for action.

Isaiah is essentially saying that **righteousness and faithfulness characterize the Messiah's entire rule.**

His leadership isn't occasional righteousness.

Righteousness is woven into who He is.

His decisions are righteous.

His judgments are righteous.

His character is righteous.

And He is **faithful**.

Teaching Point: Jesus’ kingdom is marked by justice. He lifts the oppressed and confronts wickedness with truth.

The Big Picture

Isaiah isn't describing an ordinary earthly king.

Isaiah is describing the **ideal King**: the Messiah who possesses God’s Spirit, wisdom, understanding, power, righteousness, and faithfulness.

And this gives us a wonderful picture of Jesus:

He comes from the promised line. He is empowered by the Spirit. He sees what others cannot see. He judges perfectly. He protects the vulnerable. He confronts wickedness. He reigns in righteousness and faithfulness.

After showing the character of the King in verses 1–5, Isaiah shows the result of His reign in verses 6–9. The peace of the kingdom flows from the righteousness of the King, so the lesson now moves from who the Messiah is to what His rule restores.

II. The Messiah Gives Real Peace: The Restoration His Rule Produces (Isaiah 11:6–9)

6The 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.

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

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

9They 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.

What's Happening Here?

Isaiah 11:6–9 continues the prophecy of the Messiah's reign. Verses 1–5 described **the King**; verses 6–9 describe **the kind of world His righteous reign produces**.

Isaiah 11:6 — Peace between Natural Enemies

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb…"

Normally, the wolf and lamb represent predator and prey. Yet Isaiah pictures them living together peacefully.

He continues with:

- leopard and young goat
- calf and young lion
- a little child leading them

The image is one of **complete harmony replacing hostility**.

The statement about **"a little child shall lead them"** emphasizes how extraordinary this peace will be. Animals that would normally be dangerous will no longer threaten the child.

Teaching Point

The Messiah's reign doesn't merely establish political peace.

He brings peace into creation itself.

Isaiah 11:7 — Predators and Prey Together

"And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together…"

Again, Isaiah puts animals together that would normally have an adversarial relationship.

Then:

"The lion shall eat straw like the ox."

The lion, normally a predator, is pictured eating vegetation.

The emphasis is unmistakable:

The violent order of things has been radically changed.

This points to a restoration that is much bigger than individual salvation. God's redemptive purposes ultimately extend to **creation itself**.

Isaiah 11:8 — No Danger to Children

"And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp…"

The imagery becomes even more striking.

A very young child is able to be near creatures that would ordinarily represent danger without being harmed.

Isaiah is describing a world where **fear and danger no longer dominate creation.**

This is the opposite of the curse and brokenness we experience in the present world.

Isaiah 11:9 — The Reason for the Transformation

This is arguably the key verse of the entire section:

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain…"

Why?

“For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Notice that Isaiah doesn't say merely that people will have more information about God.

The earth will be filled with **the knowledge of the LORD**.

This means God's character, authority, truth, and glory will be universally recognized.

Think about the comparison:

How much of the sea is covered by water?

All of it.

In the same way, Isaiah says the knowledge of God will fill the earth.

There will be no corner where God's truth is unknown.

What Does This Mean?

Isaiah 11:6–9 gives us a picture of **Messianic peace and restoration**.

The progression is beautiful:

Isaiah 11:6–9 pictures **Messianic peace and restoration**: the Messiah reigns in righteousness, creation experiences peace, fear and destruction disappear, and the knowledge of the LORD fills the earth.

The ultimate problem isn't simply that people need better circumstances.

Creation needs the reign of the righteous King.

And that King is the Messiah.

Teaching Point: Where Jesus reigns, peace reigns. His kingdom heals what sin has broken.

A Deeper Connection to Genesis

There's also an important connection between **Genesis and Isaiah**.

Genesis shows humanity’s sin bringing disorder, fear, conflict, and death into God’s good creation. Isaiah 11 answers that brokenness with a vision of creation restored under the Messiah’s righteous rule. The movement is not only from personal guilt to personal forgiveness, but from creation, to fall, to redemption, to restoration.

God's plan isn't simply to rescue people from the world.

His ultimate purpose includes the **restoration of creation under the reign of Christ.**

This is why Isaiah's prophecy is so hopeful.

And Notice What Produces the Peace

Verse 9 says:

"For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD…"

The peace is connected to **knowing the LORD**.

When God's truth fills the earth, violence and destruction no longer have the same place.

This gives us a powerful teaching principle:

Where the knowledge of God increases, the influence of God's kingdom increases.

Isaiah isn't merely giving us a beautiful picture of peaceful animals.

He is revealing **what life looks like when the rightful King is fully recognized and His righteous rule is established.**

Key Teaching Statement

"When the King reigns in righteousness, creation experiences restoration; and when the knowledge of the LORD fills the earth, peace fills the earth."

Jesus is the righteous King who comes from God's promise, rules through the Spirit, judges with perfect righteousness, and ultimately brings restoration and peace to creation.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the "stump of Jesse" teach us about God's ability to restore what seems dead?
2. Which of the Spirit's qualities in verse 2 stands out to you most, and why?
3. How does Jesus' justice differ from human justice systems?
4. What part of the peaceful kingdom imagery is most powerful to you?
5. What practical step can we take this week to reflect Christ's peaceful kingdom in our relationships, conversations, or responses?

Life Application

- **Trust God for new beginnings.** Even when life feels “cut down,” God can bring a shoot of hope.
- **Seek the Spirit’s wisdom.** Jesus models Spirit-filled living; we are called to walk in the same Spirit.
- **Practice justice and compassion.** Reflect the heart of the Messiah by defending the vulnerable.
- **Be a peacemaker.** Let Christ’s peace rule your relationships, decisions, and responses.
- **Look forward with hope.** The world is broken, but God promises a future where peace and righteousness reign.

Closing Prayer

“Lord, thank You for sending Jesus, the Branch from Jesse, our righteous King. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can walk in wisdom, justice, and peace. Help us reflect Your kingdom in our daily lives as we wait for the day when Your peace fills the whole earth. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”