

November 27, 2011

*“The Holy Spirit Difference” Isaiah 10:32 – 11:10*

*In this passage, we have a contrast drawn between a tall and proud forest representing Assyria and a small green Branch growing from a single stump representing our LORD Jesus Christ.*

*As we near Christmas, we know a similar contrast is made in Luke 2 between Caesar Augustus who is taxing the world to advance his empire and Jesus Christ, born to Mary and placed in a manger, humbling starting His own endless reign as KING of kings.*

*I. Note the contrast –*

*1. Assyria at this time was the most powerful nation on earth –*

*A. They defeated Samaria and Israel –*

**In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, ... (2 Kings 17:6 NKJ)**

*B. Very soon they would defeat Egypt and Ethiopia –*

**“so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt. (Isaiah 20:4 NKJ)**

*C. They would make great boasts against Judah and even against God because of their military success –*

**... But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, “The LORD will deliver us.”<sup>33</sup> “Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria?<sup>34</sup> “Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand?<sup>35</sup> “Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?” (2 Kings 18:32-35 NKJ)**

*2. Assyria is described Biblically as a great forest of tall trees, yet one that would fall –*

**<sup>33</sup> Behold, the Lord, The LORD of hosts, Will lop off the bough with terror; Those of high stature will be hewn down, And the haughty will be humbled.<sup>34</sup> He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One. (Isaiah 10:33-34 NKJ)**

*3. Jesus Christ is described in a humble way, yet He is victorious – There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (Isaiah 11:1 NKJ)*

*A. Note, Jesse, David’s father is named as Jesus’ ancestor --- Why? Because he was a less accomplished man, he was a shepherd and yet he never became a King as did his son David. Of course Christ comes from the line of both Jesse and David and yet Jesse is mentioned to emphasize Jesus’ humble state!*

*B. The terms used here Rod(or twig), stem(or stump), Branch (still green) refer to the very beginning of growth ... (remember this is contrasted to a huge forest)*

*C. This is comparable to other descriptions of the humble beginnings of Christ’s Kingdom –*

**“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.<sup>32</sup> “This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,<sup>33</sup> “its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.<sup>34</sup> “You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.<sup>35</sup> “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:31-35 NKJ)**

**“Then speak to him, saying, `Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; (Zechariah 6:12 NKJ)**

**And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)**

*II. Yet, there is another aspect to this contrast, Christ would be indwelt by God’s Spirit –*

**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. (Isaiah 11:2 NKJ)**

*1. Assyria had military and economic power, Christ had the power of God’s Holy Spirit, God’s Holy Spirit gave Christ the power of a sound mind, a right heart and a courageous will vs. the mindless and heartless power of the world -*

*A. The Spirit of Wisdom – skill to do things right!*

- B. *The Spirit of Understanding – ability to see things right!*
- C. *The Spirit of Counsel and Might – ability both to plan and successfully / courageously accomplish God's will.*
- D. *The Spirit of Knowledge and Fear of the LORD –*

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His* commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)

- 2. *How different from the ungodly world that lacks these things, they are described as:*

A. *Tools –*

<sup>15</sup> Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood! (Isa 10:15 NKJ)

B. *Beasts – Daniel 7*

<sup>3</sup> "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

<sup>4</sup> "The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. <sup>5</sup> "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: "Arise, devour much flesh!"

<sup>6</sup> "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. <sup>7</sup> "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. (Dan 7:3-7 NKJ)

C. *Spiritual & Moral Zombies –*

And you *He* made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)

D. *Fools –*

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. (Psalm 14:1 NKJ)

- 3. *With the Spirit's gifting, Christ actions equal GOOD GOVERNMENT and the blessings which attend it –*

His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; <sup>4</sup> But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. (Isaiah 11:3-5 NKJ)

- 4. *The Ultimate RESULTS of Christ's Spirit empowered Government is a world free from the curse due sin –*

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:6-10 NKJ)

- A. *Before the curse all animals were herbivores, these verses indicate a reverse of the curse –*

"Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. (Genesis 1:30 NKJ)

- B. *This means great peace –*

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, ...

- C. *This means great knowledge and salvation -*

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:8-10 NKJ)