

Isaiah 7:14; 11:1—16

Emmanuel, the Branch of Jesse

I. GOD WITH US (7:14)

- a. The Promised Emmanuel is the core of all thought about Christ is the OT
- b. He Himself is the coming to be with us is the only way that anything good could ever come out of humanity
- c. His entry into the world is such that we know that God alone is the cause
- d. It is the restoration of all that was lost in the garden

II. GOD RESTORES US (10:33 - 11:1)

- a. The end of cedars
The cedar of Lebanon was the symbol of Assyrian power. It was a poor symbol. Looked at

botanically, it very vividly represented the passing pomp of a pagan empire. It is a pine, and sends out no suckers, and when it is cut down it is gone.

b. The root of oaks

The oak is the symbol of Israel's power, and though it be cut down it grows again — “there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots” — out of the very lowest stump that is left in the ground. While this prophecy speaks of the restoration of David's line and throne, it is also true of us - What is the symbol of our power? Is ours an influence that can be cut down and never revive? or are we so rooted in the Eternal that though persecution may impoverish us, and we may suffer great deprivation and depletion of every kind, yet we shall come up again in eternal power and life?

c. The branch of Nazareth

The word translated “Branch” is in the Hebrew Netser. The word is said to be derived from a

root which means “bright” or “verdant.” And this agrees with the character of the valley in which the town of Netzer or Natsoreth (Nazareth) stands. “The bushes and aromatic shrubs, and especially the brilliant wild flowers, take away from the bleakness of the landscape.” It is from this title, then, Netzer or the Branch, that Matthew makes his play on words when he says, “He shall be called a Nazarene”

III. GOD AMONG US (11:2-3)

a. Spirit of the Lord rests upon Him

b. Wisdom

The spirit of wisdom.” He had wisdom in full measure. He had a perfect comprehension of God in His nature, qualities, attributes, works, and Ways; He had a thorough understanding of the only method by which wretched man could be saved; He knew what was in the mind of man, for He answered the Pharisees and Sadducees, and

knew the difficulties and doubts of His disciples, even before they gave them utterance in words. How wise were all His provisions for His Church! How wise to win souls was Jesus Christ! And remember He has wisdom for you.

c. Understanding

“The spirit of understanding.” This is enlarged on in the following verse. The Savior had a quickness in understanding what might be for the glory or dishonour of His heavenly Father. No tinsel could hide from Him the foul deformity of sin; no hypocrisy could yell from Him the pride and corruption of the Pharisee. When Satan came with his temptations, and baited his snare with all the kingdoms of the world in all their glory, Christ instantly understood the deceit, and, “Away with you, Satan,” was His indignant language.

d. Counsel

“The spirit of counsel.” “This,” says our prophet, “is the name whereby He shall be called, Wonderful Counsellor.” Christ is able to give the

wisest counsel in the kindest manner. He has advice suited to every case. He counsels the sinner. He says to the Church in a Laodicean state, “I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich.” He counsels the Christian warrior how to maintain the fight against sin with persevering faith.

e. Might

“The spirit of might.” He is a Lamb in meekness; He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah in strength. His work required a very undaunted spirit, and He never quaked with fear, nor trembled with alarm. And He has the spirit of might for you also.

f. Knowledge

“The spirit of knowledge.” In Christ dwells all knowledge — the knowledge of Jehovah, His heavenly Father, of His holy will, His righteous claims, the blessedness of knowing God as Father. And this same knowledge of His Father He is able to impart to you.

g. Fear of the Lord

“And of the fear of the Lord.” “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” and it is also one of the highest attainments of wisdom, and one of the best effects of the Holy Spirit on the heart.

IV. GOD IN US (11:4-9)

a. With the Righteous He Judges

b. The change of nature that produces a change in life

c. All of life is made better when God dwells here

d. The knowledge of God filling us all, makes us all dwell together in peace.

V. GOD FOR US (11:10-16)

a. The plans of the Lord have long been laid

- b. The plans of the Lord have Israel's restoration promised
- c. The plans of the Lord bring in the chosen of the Gentiles
- d. The plans of Lord are triumphant
- e. The plans of the Lord are FOR OUR REDEMPTION
- f. The plans of the Lord are SURE