

LESSON NINE

The Path of Scripture Leading us to Jesus Christ - His Gospel - His Church - And Beyond

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16).

"Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up (Jeremiah 18:15).

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Title: "The Peaceable Kingdom of the Lord"

Standing Text: (Jeremiah 6:16; 18:15)

Lesson Texts: (Isaiah 11:1-11)

1. REVIEWING AGAIN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SERIES:

- A. As the Series texts suggest, there is a Path, Trail, or a line which starts very early in Scripture which leads us to Jesus Christ as well as His Gospel and His Church. It is the purpose of this study to follow the directions given as well as the Landmarks (Prov. 22:28) which will appear as we take this Journey. The way will be clear for it is Lighted by scripture itself (Psalm 119:105). As we make this journey, let us be sure to walk in the light and acknowledge the +----- Landmarks.
- B. Today's Lesson is entitled "The Peaceable Kingdom of our Lord." The purpose of this Lesson is to not only see in prophecy that there is a kingdom coming in the future from Isaiah's time but to see the reaction of those within this kingdom in relation to each other. If we can see in the fulfillment of this prophecy those who are living at peace as citizens of that kingdom, then we can be sure that they are, indeed, in that kingdom.
- C. A Word of Caution: We must not think as some do that this "Peaceable Kingdom" is a distinct period of time lasting for a specific amount of years rather than the perpetual characteristics abiding in the heart and mind of each citizen in every period of existing time. (In other words, it has reference to their lifestyle as they follow in the footsteps of Christ. (1st Peter 2:21)

2. READ THE TEXT - (Isaiah 11:1 - 11):

Scripture: *"1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And 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; 3 And 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: 4 But 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. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6 The 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. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 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. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. 11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea."

3. DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

A. General:

- (1) "Instead of the text predicting a period of time when the world will enjoy universal peace, these passages describe the character of those who accept the Messiah as their ruler." (Gospel Advocate Series).
- (2) The words "*they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain*" (Verse 9) mean that those within the kingdom will not have a spirit of arrogance but rather "*the Spirit of Christ*" (Rom. 8:9) within them.
- (3) As is true with the physical so it is with the spiritual, none are not without certain imperfections and as a little babe they have to grow until they reach maturity. The "*born again*" citizen must also grow in God's grace and favor always striving to reach that level of spiritual maturity where love and forgiveness will reign supreme. (See 2nd Peter 3:18) .

B. "Hungering and Thirsting after Righteousness" Should be Their Constant Pursuit:

- (1) The Bread of Life which is Jesus (John 6:48) must be the preferred "staple" in their diet.
- (2) Jesus becomes their "Master Teacher." (John 3:2).
- (3) They will not be swayed by "*every wind of doctrine*" (Eph. 4:14), but they will always "*be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*" (1st Cor. 15:58).

4. EXPOSITION OF CERTAIN VERSES WITHIN THIS CHAPTER:

A. Comments by Commentators:

- (1) **Matthew Henry:** (On verses One thru Five) - "The Messiah is called a Rod and a Branch. The words signify a small, tender product, a shoot, such as is easily broken off. He comes forth out of the stem of Jesse, when the royal family was cut down and almost leveled with the ground, it would sprout again."
On Verses Six thru Nine:: "When the gospel should be publicly preached, the Gentiles

would seek Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and find rest of soul. God can soon turn gloomy days into glorious ones."

- (2) **George DeHoff**: (On Verses Six thru Nine) - "This highly figurative and beautiful language picturing wild beasts growing tame and animals which are natural enemies sleeping peacefully together represent the peace, harmony, and tranquility which Jesus Christ would bring to those people who served Him. In His church there is no place for a spirit of rivalry and destruction but the lion and the lamb must learn to lie down together."
- (3) **E. M. Zerr**: (On Verses Six thru Nine) - "The reader will certainly understand that none of these dumb beasts will literally have anything to do with the kingdom of Christ. The situation with such creatures was used to illustrate the spiritual peace and safety to be enjoyed by the citizens of that kingdom."
- (4) **The Gospel Advocate Commentary**: (On Verses Ten and Eleven). "The day referred to is that day when the root of Jesse (Christ) appears. This refers to the "shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." There are three things said that shall come to pass in that day. The first is that this root of Jesse shall be an ensign (a guide on) for the people. The second is to be that around which people gather and to which they give their loyalty. The third is that the 'nations' refers to the Gentiles. Isaiah was not so narrow and nationally selfish that he could not see beyond the Jewish people (their) nation."

5. APPLYING THESE THOUGHTS WITH NEW TESTAMENT DIRECTIVES:

A. The Role of Jesus In the Arena of Peace:

Scripture: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).*

- (1) From his birth he was declared by Isaiah to be the *"prince of peace"* (Isa. 9:6).
- (2) However, even as the *"prince of peace"* there can never be peace in the world or peace individually until the teaching of Jesus is put in practice.
- (3) Going further, there can never be peace in the church even among members until we can all learn the lessons of *"The 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. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den"* (Isa. 11:6-8).
- (4) It is only through the acceptance of Jesus and His Gospel can we ever have peace; but what a peace that is according to the following: *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:7).
- (5) Only the promised Messiah can bring peace! *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27).

B. The Role of Jesus in the Arena of Forgiveness:

- (1) Before we look at scriptures on this subject, let us return to Isaiah 11 and consider the following:

- (a) All the creatures mentioned in that text represent natural enemies.
- (b) This means at one time they were not at peace with each other.
- (c) This also means (figuratively) that becoming a part of that "Peaceable Kingdom" necessitated their making peace through the avenue of forgiveness.

(2) May we refresh our minds and purify our hearts in compliance with the words of Jesus and others:

Scripture: *12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. 14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:12-15).*

Scripture *"21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:21-22). (I take this as unlimited times).*

Scripture: *"31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:31-32 - See also Col. 2:13).*

C. The Role of Jesus in the Area of Unity:

Scripture: *"20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me" (John 17:20-23).*

Scripture: *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph.4:1-3).*

6. THE FINAL APPLICATION OF OUR TEXT:

A. Something to think about:

- (1) If Isaiah Eleven paints a picture which is even figuratively describing the "Peaceable Kingdom" or the "Peaceable Reign of Jesus," I am afraid that many of us may never make it.
- (2) I do believe that our Lord would truly love to see us all lying down in peace and harmony with those who might have "*trespassed against us*" but now, because of the sincerity of our hearts, we have forgiven them.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psa 133:1)!

