

December 24, 2017

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The Forth Advent Worship)

Title of the Message: "The One the Spirit of the Lord Rests Upon"

— The Stump of Jesse—

Text: Isaiah 11:1~2

11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.

Introduction

- Today we are celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent. We really give thanks to God for *Christmas Worship*, the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Here I have a book entitled "Eine Familie mit 700 Kindern" which means, "One Family with 700 children". This German book was written by my friend, Gerhard Hamm, who used to belong to the Baptist Underground Church in the former Soviet Union (Russia). He was born in Russia and was a wonderful internal evangelist for the Baptist Church. Many people were saved by his messages. God used him as His wonderful instrument.
- His only son is Rev. Viktor Hamm who is now vice president of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the USA. He is also my good friend. I got this book from Gerhard Hamm in 1993. At that time, there were already 758 children from his grandfather named Abraham Hamm.
- It passed almost 24 years since then, and now there must be more than 1500 children. Most of Abraham's children were and are Christians. So Rev. Hamm was proud of his family tree.
- You know, family trees are usually written from the past to present. But Jesus' family tree was different, it was written about the future. Isaiah prophesized about the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, in the 8th century BC.

11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

- We can see three characteristics of the messiah:
 - ① There comes forth a Rod
 - ② We see a branch
 - ③ It grows out of his roots
- Now, who is the man who was prophesized so many years ago?
We want to know him better today with these two points.

Main Points

1. Messiah Will Come up from the Stump of Jesse.

11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

1) <The Stump of Jesse>

- I have seen a picture of many trees which were cut down in a certain forest in Indonesia for *disposable wooden chopsticks*. It will take many decades for those trees to grow again. This has become a serious environment problem. It was a

painful picture. If they continue cutting down trees, the forest will become nothing but a field of stumps. Is there any hope in such a field?

⇒ The situation looks hopeless from a human viewpoint.

(Much like the situation of the Israelites)

- However, God foretold that a shoot would come up from desperation(hope). This was called *the stump of Jesse*. Jesse was the name of a man who was unknown at first.
- Isaiah didn't say *the stump of David* of the royal family, but he did *the stump of Jesse*. He didn't name King David, who was the great king of Israel, who lived about 300 years before Isaiah. Isaiah named *Jesse*, who was unknown in the days of Isaiah.
- Then, what is *the stump of Jesse*?

The Gospel according to Matthew records the genealogy of Jesus Christ. The name *Jesse* appears there. It means,

- ① *Jesse* is recorded in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. It tells the origin of the Messiah who was promised to the Israelites.
 - ② *Jesse* was a shepherd of Bethlehem. (1 Samuel, Chapter 16)
 - ③ *The son of Jesse* was scorned because of his low position. (1 Samuel, Chapter 20:27, 22:7, 8)
- ⇒ Jesse was from the low position, not from the royal family. What an amazing plan of God!

11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

- When a shoot comes up and a branch comes after that, it will surely bear fruit. This gives us hope. However, people need *faith* to receive it. God does miraculous things, so people have *hope* in God even if they are in a desperate situation.
 - For example, Jerusalem was taken by the Romans in around AD 70. Since then, the Jewish people have dispersed to all parts of the world. However, the State of Israel was founded in 1948 and they began to return to Jerusalem as God foretold. It was the miracle that was an unbelievable happening through the world history. God does miracles.
 - Let's look the history of Israel! Isaiah prophesied the greater plan of God. It was *the hope*, the coming of Messiah.

2. The Spirit of the Lord will Rest on the Messiah.

11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.

- 1) **“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him”** means that the Spirit of God is poured on Him. He is the One who is filled with the Holy Spirit of God. He is *the One anointed by God*. When kings, priests and prophets were ordained, the Israelites had held a religious ceremony and these people were *anointed with olive oil*. In the original language, *he who was anointed* is the word *masiah*. The term *messiah* (the savior) is derived from this word.
 - Isaiah had prophesied that He (the Messiah) would be anointed, not with olive oil, but with *the Spirit of the Lord* (God's Spirit). 700 years later, Jesus Christ was indeed born, exactly according to the prophecy.
- The Gospel According to John records as below –

1:32 Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from

heaven as a dove and remain on him.

1:34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

- The Spirit came down and remained on Jesus. It was the prophesy that Isaiah spoke of. Isaiah continued his prophesy.

2) Isaiah Chapter 11, verse 2 records three aspects about appearance of *the Spirit of the Lord*.

① The Spirit of Wisdom and of Understanding

- *Wisdom* (hokmah in Hebrews) originally means *to judge*.

We need *wisdom* to judge things correctly. For example, Solomon had a reputation as *a man of wisdom*. We come to know how great his judgmental knowledge was from the verses below:

1 Kings

10:1 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions.

10:2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind.

10:3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her.

- Like this, the wisdom of Solomon was great, far beyond our understanding. It was given from God above.
- *Understanding* (binah in Hebrews) is *to set apart* and *to distinguish*. It refers to discerning the truth of things. *The Spirit of wisdom and understanding* are Superhuman natures. Politicians, educators and we all need *the Spirit of wisdom and understanding*.
- * Those who seek the Spirit of *wisdom and of understanding* are blessed.

② The Spirit of Counsel and of Power

- *Counsel* (ezah) refers to strategies, methods and ideas which are prepared beforehand to successfully carry out plans. *Counsel* (ezah in Hebrews) is also translated into *the Counselor* (Chapter 9:6). When we must perform appropriate actions and decisions, we need *to counsel* with well-planned actions and a good adviser. The original meaning of *power* (gebrah in Hebrews) means *strong*.
- This is the quality we really need.
- * Those who seek *the Spirit of counsel and of power* are blessed.

③ The Spirit of Knowledge about the Lord and the Fear of the Lord

- Knowledge about the Lord is not a literal knowledge, but rather a deep and personal relationship of trusting in the Lord and relying on Him.

Psalm 9:10

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you."

"The Spirit of the fear the Lord" is not simple fear, rather an attitude of trust, faithfulness and awe towards God

- Like this, Isaiah prophesied that the natures of the Savior would be revealed in these three aspects.
The stump of Jesse is ⇒ just a stump of a tree which was cut down and left in the field. It looks worthless. However, Isaiah prophesied, being filled with

the Spirit of the Lord as below—

11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

It was the work of God!

- This is the message of hope! He is Jesus Christ who was born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, a humble town in Israel. Those who have faith in Him are saved and begin to live with the help of the Lord.

This is Good News.

{Illustration}

- **A man attacked a school in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and shot dead many school children in autumn, 2006. The assailant (Charles Robert) committed suicide. It was a terrifying event. Agriculture and dairy farming are active in rural areas in Lancaster County. People who are called Amish form a community there. They are very religious people. Mrs. Ruth Power, who is my friend in the community, sent me a letter describing the situation just after the event.**
- **The incident was broadcast in all of America and was big news. One of the reasons was that Amish people, whose children were attacked, attended the assailant's funeral. No one heard such an unprecedented deed. Mrs. Ruth Power knows victim's grandparents very well. Amish people forgave the assailant's great sin. This news was widely delivered by newspaper and mass media. People in all of America were greatly impressed by *forgiveness* of Amish people.**
- **My friends! There is nothing more difficult than to *forgive people* in our society. Counselors came from Colorado to care for the children. Every counselor said, "**We have cared for many people who were mentally damaged. However, we never experienced *forgiveness* of Amish people.**" The faith of Amish people encourage them to live in the present and future, not only in the past. It is the correct way of life that the Bible teaches.**
- **Mrs. Ruth Power visited victim's grandparents and school after a week of the event. She saw children and their parents welcome Charles Robert's parents with warm hearts. Children assembled in the school hall. There was the Scripture hung on in front on the hall.**

Psalm

56:3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

56:4 In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

- My dear friends. What made them change?
 ⇒ The God of the Bible changed them.
 They were changed because they had met the Messiah (the Savior) who came up from *the stump of Jesse*. They first experienced that their sins were forgiven by the Messiah (Jesus) and then, those who were forgiven were changed to forgive other people. This is the work of God.
- The One who came up from *the stump of Jesse* is Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah. Jesus was born on Christmas Day in Bethlehem the hometown of Jesse. He is the great and powerful One on whom *the Spirit of the Lord* rests. We are forgiven if we just trust in him. Those who trust in God of the Bible are really blessed.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "The One the Spirit of the Lord Rests Upon"
— The Stump of Jesse—

• Today we give Christmas Worship on the fourth Sunday of Advent. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Isaiah had prophesied who was the Savior (Messiah) through the Spirit of God in the 8th century BC.

1 . The Messiah will come up from *the stump of Jesse*.

2 . The Spirit of the Lord will rest on the Messiah.

• How was today's message?

The One the Bible teaches of is the real Savior. If you trust in the Messiah you will receive power to live.

* God Bless you!!