

December, 24. 2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (the Fourth Advent)

Messenger: Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: “The One Whom the Spirit of the Lord Rests On”

—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

1. Today we are celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday. We really give thanks to God for “Christmas Worship,” and the birth of Jesus Christ.
  - This year is almost drawing to an end. How did you spend this year? We have heard various stories around us. “Beautiful stories” and “success stories” have moved us. However, there have also been “unsuccessful stories.” No one becomes a success without failure, but they can learn a lot of lessons through these mistakes.
2. It is not too much to say that the Israelites, the people of the Bible, had their own special history which was a sequence of failures, disbelief, and unfaithfulness. And we can learn important and helpful lessons from their history.
  - The Israelites had been terribly beaten in war and had experienced great sorrow. However, God gave them hope and promise through Isaiah the prophet. One of the prophecies is the prophecy about Immanuel.
  - “Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.”  
(Isaiah 7:14)

Immanuel ⇒ It means “God with us.”

Then, what will happen when the One who is called Immanuel comes to this world? ⇒ Many new things will begin.

- Celebrating Christmas today, we would like to study the Word of God spoken by Isaiah the prophet. There are two main points.

### **Main Points**

#### **1 . Blessing of “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.
- My friends, if they continue cutting down trees, the forest will become nothing but a stumpy field. Is there any hope in such a field? However, God said that a shoot would come up from desperation. This was called “the Stump of Jesse.” Jesse was the name of a man who was unknown in the days of Isaiah.
- Then, what does “the Stump of Jesse” mean?

The first book in the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew, records the genealogy of Jesus Christ. The name “Jesse” appears there.

**1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,**

**1:6 and Jesse the father of King David.**

- We understand that Jesse was the father of David, the great king of the Israelites. David was the youngest one of Jesse’s eight sons. The genealogy records Jesse, David, and Jesus Christ. We learn three things from “the Stump of Jesse” as below —
  - 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)  
The birthplace of the promised Messiah was also Bethlehem.
  - ③ “The son of Jesse” was scorned because of his low position. (1 Samuel Chapter 22:7,8)
- God fulfilled a miraculous work for the family of Jesse through Isaiah. He made a shoot come up from the stump and bear fruit, even though it looked

nearly dead.

## 2) “A branch” will bear fruit.

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

- Here we see the prophecy that this unknown family would prosper under God’s grace: “A shoot will come up; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit”. This gives hope. However, they needed “faith” to receive it, for the prophecy concerned future events. God does miraculous things, so people have “hope” in God even if they are in a hopeless situation.
- My friends. Let’s look the history of Israel now. God really did make a shoot come up and a branch bear fruit from the hopeless “Stump of Jesse.” This prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The birth of Christ is the light which gives hope in a chaotic and dark world. This is the message of Christmas.
- Our world is confused and dark. Many people are seeking true peace. The true light of hope is here in the birth of Christ.

{Example}{Illustration}

- On February 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, the Russian army invaded small Ukraine and unfortunately the invasion has not ended yet though 22months has passed. They don’t see any solution and the victims are the people.
  - I heard following story; the Ukrainians’ spiritual conditions have been changing day by day since the war started. People who didn’t go to church started to go to church and they are asking for the Bible.
  - They are considering if they can survive this battle or not, and they have no time to discuss about small opinions, they are seeking for something sure, eternal life.
  - They are seeking for the Christian church and the Bible and asking for help.
- The Bible says the following:
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts,**
- Right now they don’t have enough Bibles in the city of Butscha, and about 600 people are coming to the Christian church instead of 150 people, because the Bible can give people “true light.”

- My friends, human beings are seeking “the true light” which is true hope. The Bible prophesied through Isaiah as below—

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

- It is true that Jesus Christ who is the Messiah was born. God gives promises and hope to those who have faith in Him. We celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. Then, who is the Messiah? Isaiah prophesied as below—

## **2. The Spirit of the Lord will Rest on Him.**

**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.**

- “on Him (the Messiah)”  
⇒ He is Jesus Christ who is the Messiah.

### **1) The Spirit of the Lord Will Rest.**

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

**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 verses show that the Spirit came down and remained on Jesus. It was the very prophesy that Isaiah prophesied.

### **2) The Works of the Spirit of the Lord**

- Isaiah 11:2 records 6 works of the Spirit from three aspects about appearance of “the Spirit of the Lord.” “The Lord” refers here the God the Father. Let’s study about these three works.

① **“the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding”**

- “Wisdom”(hokmah) originally means “to judge”.“  
Man needs “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

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 of our understanding. It was given from God above.
- “Understanding” (*binah*) is “to set apart” and “to distinguish”. It refers to discerning the truth of things. “The Spirit of wisdom and understanding” are given from God above. Politicians, educators and ourselves, we all need “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding”.

\* Those who have received “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding” are thankful and 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. This term is also translated into “the Counselor” (Chapter 9:6). When we must take appropriate actions and make decisions, we need “to take counsel” and make well-planned actions and find a good advisor.
- “Power” (*gebrah*) means “power” and “strength”. This is the quality we really need. “Counsel and power” are given by God above.

\* Those who have received “the Spirit of counsel and its power” are thankful and blessed.

### 3. “The Spirit of knowledge about the Lord and of the fear of the Lord”

- Knowledge about the Lord (*daat*) is not a literal knowledge, but rather a deep and personal relationship of trusting in the Lord and relaying on Him.

The writer of Psalms praised God as below

- **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 these 6 characteristics would be revealed in the Messiah. When we read verse 2 carefully, we see something interesting. ⇒

- ① “on Him” (the Son of God),
- ② “the Spirit” (the Holy Spirit),
- ③ “of the Lord (God the Father)

- The bible scholars point out that here we have a clear example of the Trinity.

- “The Stump of Jesse” is ⇒ just a stump of a tree which was cut down and left in the field. It looks worthless. However, the Spirit of the Lord spoke prophetically through Isaiah. As a result, Jesus Christ, who was the Branch from the Stump of Jesse, has completely fulfilled the prophecy.

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

This is the work God has achieved. Halleluiah!

- The Gospel According to Matthew, Chapter 3

**3:9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father. I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.**

- This is the message of hope! Jesus Christ was born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, a humble town in Israel. He who has faith in Him is saved

and begins to live a life with the help of the Lord. ⇒ This is the Gospel (Good News) God has given.

### {Example}

- It is impossible for us to force other people to change. The Bible records about Paul who was a committed Jew and persecuted the early Christians. Then one day while on his way to Damascus, Paul was hit by a light from heaven and fell to the ground. He heard the voice of Jesus Christ in the light and was blind for three days.
- After Paul received his sight back, his life completely changed because he had met Jesus Christ. He worked hard for preaching the Gospel in the days of the early church.

• My dear friends. What made him change?

⇒ The God of the Bible changed him.

He was changed because he had met the Messiah (the Savior) who came up from “the Stump of Jesse.” All of them who were saved share common life experiences such as

- ① their sins were forgiven by the Messiah (Jesus), and
- ② those who were forgiven were changed so that they could also 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 home town 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. Let’s examine our faith again today during this Christmas service, and let’s pray for an ever-growing trust in the God of the Bible. Those who trust in God are truly thankful and blessed.

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: “The One Whom the Spirit of the Lord Rests On”  
—The Stump of Jesse—

- Today we give “Christmas Worship” on the fourth Sunday of Advent. We have worshiped these previous weeks, as we anticipate celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Isaiah had prophesied through the

Spirit of God in 8 B.C. that the Messiah would come up from the stump of Jesse in God's appointed time.

- So, who is the Messiah (the Savior)?
  - 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? Do we have faith in the Messiah? The One the Bible teaches of is the real Savior. If you trust in the Messiah, you will receive power to lead a blessed life.

\* God Bless you!