



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### A Branch to Hang Your Hopes On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### *Isaiah 11:1-10*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— <sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

1. What is your tradition for finding and decorating your Christmas tree? How early? Real or fake? Special sequence?

2. Isaiah prophecies that the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him. How does this prophecy come true? Look up these passages: Isaiah 61:1, Luke 3:22, Luke 4:14, Luke 4:18.

3. There seems to be a connection between Isaiah 11:2 and the “seven spirits” talked about in Revelation 4:5, and 5:6. How might Isaiah 11:2 direct us to the understanding of a “sevenfold spirit” of God.

4. How does Jesus pick up on the theme of Isaiah 11:3 in his Sermon on the Mount discourse? Look up Luke 6:20-26 and Matthew 5:3-10.

5. There’s an old joke about the beauty pageant contestants all wishing for “world peace”. Though they can’t do much about it, God has the same item on his agenda. How will the Righteous Branch bring “world peace” back to the world?

6. What is the day the Root of Jesse was raised as a banner for the people? See John 3:14, 12:32, 19:18-20? How does he redeem us from the curse of creation? Galatians 3:13.

7. How might you summarize the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation using these four trees: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the shoot from the stump of Jesse, the tree of the cross, and the tree of life?