



## 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?  
[As a kid, we also went to the Christmas tree lot to pick out a real tree that was already cut. We'd see the Christmas tree man](#)

one time a year and yet he knew my Dad by name every year. Now I had to fend Carissa off from putting up the tree before Thanksgiving. That's way too early! ☺

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.

[At his Baptism the Holy Spirit descends on him as a dove. Jesus went out into the desert in the power of the Holy Spirit. He returned and went around preaching also in the power of the Holy Spirit. He was anointed to preach good news to the poor.](#)

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.

[Isaiah lists seven descriptions, the Spirit of the Lord, of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, the fear of the Lord. This seems to describe the Holy Spirit with “7”, the number of completeness and may be what Revelation is talking about when it says the seven spirits before the throne.](#)

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.

[The Righteous Branch will bring justice and righteousness for the poor and the needy.](#)

[Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who weep.” He does not rule over a kingdom of the high and mighty, but the poor and lowly sinners of the earth.](#)

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?

Death was never meant to enter the world. It wasn't until after the fall into sin that anything died, including the animals. The man and woman were given all the plants and trees to eat from. Animals did not become part of the diet until God gave the animals to them for food, after the flood. Now we can hardly think of lions that don't kill for their meat snakes that don't bite. The picture and idyllic and natural perfection is what creation will be restored to by Jesus the Righteous Branch. He makes all things new. Creation was subjected to frustration and groans with the pangs of child birth, but will be liberated from its bondage and longs for the new heavens and the new earth. Romans 8:18-23.

us the right to eat from the tree of life one again, the tree which we had been banished from in the garden. This Jesus the Righteous Branch gives us life forever, heals the nations, and rules over the new heavens and the new earth at last.

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.

It certainly did not seem like Jesus was drawing all men to himself as he was lifted up on the cross with a banner above his head that read the "king of the Jews". Yet the message of Christ crucified has gone out through the ages and brought people to believe in the one who truly saves.

Christ redeems us from the curse by hanging on a tree. "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree." So he took our curse upon himself, and went to death. Yet he did not return to dust as the curse demanded. His body did not see decay and he rose the dead, breaking the curse forever.

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?

Mankind fell into sin by eating from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The righteous Branch came to restore perfection once again. He died so by bearing the curse of sin and the tree of the cross. In doing so, he has washed us with his blood and gives