

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 109. Turning the world upside down



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Isaiah 11:1-9

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. (v6)

The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put his hand into the viper's nest. (v8)

For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. (v9b)

**LOOKING FURTHER:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

The writer Isaiah was a prophet; someone who passed on what they heard from God about current and future events. In this passage, he uses some powerful pictures to talk about the coming of Jesus and the impact He would have. Of course, Jesus did not reverse the laws of nature. Wolves still attack lambs, and a goat would not stand a chance against a leopard. We cannot grab hold of a venomous snake without being bitten, perhaps fatally.

However, when Jesus came into the world as a man, He challenged some of the fundamental norms and expectations of society. He took ordinary fishermen and transformed them into the first leaders of the Christian church. He laid hands on people who had been unable to walk or see from birth and healed them. He taught His followers to set aside the old principles such as 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' and instead show love, compassion and forgiveness. He showed that we are all precious to God, regardless of our position in society.

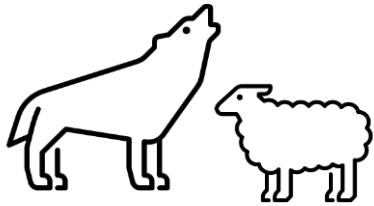
Just as it would be if venomous snakes suddenly stopped being harmful, the new way of living that Jesus taught had a dramatic impact on people. In older translations of the Bible, Jesus' apostles are described as 'the men who turned the world upside down.'

Of course, some people welcomed Jesus and His teaching, but others rejected it, perhaps because they felt threatened by it. Isaiah looks forward to the time when 'the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' That part of the prophecy has not come true yet. But we can play a part in helping that day to come, as we expand our own knowledge of God and take opportunities to share our experience of Him with others.

### Reflections:

- Isaiah describes how the coming of Jesus can transform life. Reflect on what Jesus has done in your life and thank Him for it.
- In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul talks about the transformation we can experience when he says that if we are in Christ, we are new creations. How might this affect you in the way you feel, the way you behave, and in your relationships?
- Change comes through the 'knowledge of the Lord.' Take opportunities to read the Bible, listen to Christian radio and attend Bible study groups or chapel services when available.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

