

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 216 The coming of the Messiah



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES:** Isaiah 11:1-4a

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 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— 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; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Ruth 4:17; Matthew 1:5-6; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 42:6-7; John 1:14; John 14:3

### What does the Bible passage tell us?

The book of Ruth gives an account of Ruth's marriage to Boaz. The descendants of Ruth and Boaz are Obed, Jesse and David who you will find listed in the genealogy (ancestry) of Jesus in Matthew 1:5-6.

Jesse is described as the stump of the tree from which a shoot will come - namely Jesus, the Messiah. In the preceding chapters to this passage, Isaiah has prophesied difficult times for God's people. Here, Isaiah prophesies their rescue, and this includes everyone from all nations. (Isaiah 42:6-7). The shoot will become a Branch (notice the capital B). This Branch, God Himself, came in the form of a human baby. 'The Word became flesh (Jesus) and lived among us.' (John 1:14)

This passage continues to describe the characteristics of the Messiah. As we carefully look at the life of Jesus in the New Testament Gospels, we see that these became a reality.

Most of us have heard the expression 'hindsight is a wonderful thing,' meaning we are wiser after an event happens. Consider the fact that what Isaiah writes in our passage actually happened hundreds of years later and he never saw it for himself. We can take great comfort from the fact that we can know that these things happened just as he said they would. Isaiah acted with faith, believing what God was telling him would actually happen. We have faith in Jesus and His coming again; we believe what He has said although it hasn't happened yet.

This Christmas, may we experience the thrill of hearing again the prophet's words about Jesus from the Old Testament. We know that they did come to pass and can be assured that Jesus will return for us, just as He has said in the New Testament. (John 14:3).

### Reflections

- As God is our Father, through Jesus we are part of His family tree. What does this mean for you?
- Write down some of God's promises that are particularly special to you. Thank God that His promises to us are true and He keeps them all!

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.

