
Study Questions for the November 28, 2021 Sermon:
“Reclaiming Christmas: Hope”
Isaiah 11:1-10, Revelation 1:12-20

1. The fearsome portrayal of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-16 is in contrast to the helpless baby we see in the Christmas story. The Revelation portrayal is also different from the gentle Jesus we see speaking to the woman at the well. How would you reply to someone who views these various descriptions of Jesus as evidence that the scriptures are inconsistent?
2. What do you believe is the symbolism of the following elements from Revelation 1:13-16? When possible, use scripture to support your interpretation.
 - a. Seven golden lampstands.
 - b. Clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.
 - c. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow.
 - d. His eyes were like a flame of fire.
 - e. His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace.
 - f. His voice was like the roar of many waters.
 - g. In his right hand he held seven stars.
 - h. From his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword.
 - i. His face was like the sun shining in full strength.
3. In Isaiah 11:1, we see the Messiah compared to a shoot coming out of a tree stump. The tree stump. The roots of the stump represent Jesse, the father of David. Why wouldn't Isaiah say that the roots represent David, the king, instead of Jesse, the King's father?
4. Isaiah 11:2 states that the coming Messiah will possess wisdom, understanding, power, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. Consider that final quality. Why would Jesus have "fear of the Lord".
5. Some argue that: *The Old Testament messianic prophecies portray a mighty Leader, bringing peace to the nations. Christians say that Jesus reconciled them to God and brought peace to their hearts. He obviously did not bring peace to the nations. Therefore, Jesus did not fulfill the messianic prophecies.* How would you answer that argument?

6. Pastor Paul said there was a relationship between the righteousness and justice described in verses 3 to 5 and the reconciliation of historical enemies described in verse 6-9. Summarize that relationship.
7. What are some of the ways society would be different if there were no human or animal predators?
8. Pastor Paul said as we get closer to Christ, we free ourselves from the need to protect our hearts. How does that work?