



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

Isaiah 11:1-13 ESV

- 11** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2** And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- 4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6** The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7** The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- 9** They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the
remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros,
from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of
the sea.



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

- ¹² He will raise a signal for the nations
and will assemble the banished of Israel,
and gather the dispersed of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.
- ¹³ The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart,
and those who harass Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah,
and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

As we have been moving towards Christmas this year we have stayed in the book of Acts. I was wanting this year to forgo an Advent series not because they are not nice but because what God was teaching us in Acts was so important and relative to the day and age in which we are living. We still did our best to tie in the themes of Advent Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace while staying true to our passages in Acts 4. Here's what we walked away with:

The **Hope** of Christmas is the Resurrection, and it is our responsibility to **speak it.**

Acts 4:1-2; 12

4 And as they were **speaking** to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming **in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.** ... ¹² And there is **salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The **Love** of Christmas, for Christ, is displayed through our **Boldness.**

Acts 4:18-20

¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ **for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**

The **Joy** of Christmas exists because of God is Sovereign over all bringing us an underserving **Peace.**



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

Acts 4:29-31

²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all **boldness**, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit**

Psalms 135:6-7 ESV

⁶ Whatever the LORD **pleases**, he **does**,
in heaven and on earth,
in the seas and all deeps.

This brings us to today and we find ourselves in a very special moment where we actually get to celebrate Christmas on a Sunday; it is a double dosing of God's favor to be able to celebrate this Advent, with extended family, on the Lord's Day. I also like it when God reminds us He is near, by way of divine circumstances, because the text I was starting to focus on is what we read in our plan together this week, that talks about Jesus as being the promised Messiah that would come with divine Sovereign power, the same power we discussed in last week's sermon.

You see, what we learned in Acts was the church's confession that Jesus was the demonstration of the Sovereign power of God displayed. He had been the one that not just the Jews, but the entire world had been waiting for to set things right, to bring Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. The prophet Isaiah had prophesied it 700 years before the first Advent, 2,700 years ago.

Now as we close out our year with our last sermon for 2022, I want us to revel in the Lordship of Christ. I want us to remember this year that the baby is now a man, and is an eternal man, that is our eternal king, eternally delivering us from the power of darkness. So, as we head into 2023 let no one fear but take heart, for **Reign of Jesus** is in full swing. We are not waiting till the second Advent for His reign to begin, it has started with His first appearance, and today we are looking at **4 different gifts that Jesus brings to us in His Reigning Over US:**



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

- His reign will bring justice for all
- His reign brings an end to strife
- His reign brings recognition of our sin and His love
- His reign brings people together

1. His Reign Brings Justice for All!

11 There shall come forth a shoot from the **stump of Jesse**,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the
LORD.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' – 2 Sam 7:13 & 16 (Read Dec. 6)

Ok so right out of the gate the “**stump of Jesse**” means that the line of the kings was over until JESUS! That’s important for you to know because

Salvation for God’s people comes not through your work but through the work of our King! The Davidic Covenant baby! (**2 Sam. 7:13&16 Forever Established**)

This is a **super charged king** (v.2), He has the **Spirit of the LORD** Yahweh Himself! Mat 3, at His BAPTISM, we saw the Spirit descend on Jesus and in Luke 4:18 Jesus told us, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, that the “*Spirit of the Lord was upon Him!*”

Look at what the HS brought to Him: v.2 -

Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding - to Govern

Spirit of Counsel and Might - for War

Spirit of Knowledge and Fear of the Lord - To Lead us in Spiritual matters/and because He has it, He cannot fail. - **Prophet, Priest, King**

No other King before Him or Since Him has had the total package like He did. Jesus established a Kingdom that keeps growing and effects the world - **the**



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

church!

Jesus has set up to taking back hostages from the enemy and those that the Father gives Him none can be taken away (John 6:37-39).

And look at this last statement in v. 3 "His delight is in the Fear of the Lord", that is He's not out to get for Himself He's out to get what the Father wants.

He can govern, He can war, He can counsel, AND He does it all to how the Father wants, making Him the perfect KING! And that's good because the Kings responsibility is to **JUDGE rightly**. Unless you have been living with your head in the sand for the last 4 years, I am suspecting that we are all ready for someone who can lead us with fairness, equality, and grace, that's Jesus!

- He shall not **judge** by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
4 but with **righteousness** he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
~~and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.~~
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

This King judges by the unseen scales of righteousness, not by the physical world, not by how the world judges, but by a heart that can't be bought by anything in the world! And when he makes a decision, we see that whatever He decides He can enforce that decision, v.4 "**and with the breath of His lips he shall kill the wicked**".

(v.5) His righteousness has become the belt that holds his kingly ensemble together and his faithfulness is strapped right there with it so that we are told he always will make the right call! **Finally, a governing leader we can trust!**

I can't say that enough in here today. Some of us in this room are going to run head long in 2023 not trusting Him. If we have not put Jesus on the throne and we have not prepared Him room in our hearts, we will take back that seat and as soon as we don't feel good enough about our lives and we will try and



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

make ourselves happy again. Then 2023 becomes the year of repeating mistakes!?

2023 doesn't have to be the year of bad decisions but it can be the year of one big great decision, **put Jesus on the throne in your life and let Him lead you with Justice and let the scripture tell you how to live.**

When you trust Him, look at what that will bring you:

2. His Reign brings an end to STRIFE!

- ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

That's some vivid and extraordinary pictures there.

This great vision is actually Isaiah looking past all the future Christmases to come and he looks to the end of time, and he sees that under the Reign of our King brings an end to all strife. **Enemies finally get along whether through reconciliation or by their defeat...**

We are reminded in the pages of scripture and history that no political/religious/social leader can bring lasting peace, but Jesus will bring a message that is permanent that makes effectual change in the soul; **He is a messenger that brings a solution through a change of heart first.**



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

This verse reminds me of Jesus being our great shepherd, look at how Isaiah sees how Jesus will be for us.

Isaiah 40:11 ESV

¹¹ He will tend his flock **like a shepherd**;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Jesus is the type of King that brings peace by keeping you and caring for you, that's how our King ends strife for us right now, He reigns by supporting you. For the injured sheep it seems that life has got you beat, you are tired and in pain, but often we fail to believe that **forward progress is never hampered for Jesus is carrying us Himself**. He always goes after His sheep, you can trust Him, that's what makes His Reign different.

Perhaps this year when things are tough instead of giving in and giving up, thank Him that He won't leave you behind. Try putting faith in the future delivery instead of putting faith in your immediate defeats. **He works all things to the good of those He has called – Rom. 8:28.**

It is important for us to remind each other of these truths for there is a time in the future, that Isaiah also sees, where our King will bring an end to strife by any means necessary:

⁴ and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

As king David testifies to himself in his Psalm:

Psalm 145:18-20 ESV

¹⁸ The LORD is **near** to all who **call on him**,
to all who call on him in truth.
¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
²⁰ The LORD **preserves** all who **love him**,



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

but all the wicked he will **destroy**.

Let that just be a reminder to keep speaking boldly into the lives of those around you, for our Lord WILL bring an end to strife.

In 2023 we may not see the end to your earthly strife, but it may be the year where God begins to show us, like Isaiah, past the horizons of limited understanding and begins to fuel us with an eternal hope for a better day. That is something we all need, a better picture of tomorrow fueling us with the fire for today! Then like Paul we can say, **“I have learned to be content in all things” (Phil.4:12)**

Jesus is bringing an end to Strife and in our lives as a church this year it is important to see how He will do this, so you know how to recognize this work of His Reign.

3. His Reign brings recognition of our Sin and His Love.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a **signal** for the peoples—of him shall the **nations** inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

¹¹In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

Verse 10 is the message of Christmas itself. - The root of Jesse will stand as a signal (**banner**) for the peoples/nations (**gentiles**) and his resting place (**church**) shall be glorious.

Just so you know Jesus connects Himself with this verse in Rev. 22:16 *“I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”* And He made that claim after the completion of His Work: John 12:32 Jesus knew what the signal would be *“when I am high and lifted up”*.

Jesus, the King, signals to all those that are His people, and He calls them home with this: **The Fire of His life, the Beauty of His Death the Reality of the Cross, and the Glory of His Resurrection!** It will call the Gentiles and all



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

His scattered people to Him as a banner.

The death of a common man can generate sympathy but the death of an innocent king that wears a belt of steadfast Righteousness/Faithfulness causes our hearts to break for us to question the horror of it! The Apostle Peter retells of the horrific site:

1 Peter 2:24 ESV

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Peter quotes Isaiah 53 remembering this is no normal man but his king, this king bears His love on His people by offering His life for them so that we His people may live in His righteousness. The message of Isaiah 11, was fulfilled in Acts 2 when Peter preached his first sermon at Pentecost:

Acts 2:36-38 ESV

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel (those tribes in v.11 that were from all over Palestine but celebrating Pentecost in Jerusalem on that day) therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This has been the same message for the church for 2,000 years, repent, be baptized and receive the gift of the HS that seals you with eternal life. Perhaps Christmas has never been that big of a deal for you, that may be because you have never come to the realization that you are a sinner in need of what Jesus can bring to you today by His Reign. Want a better 2023, then ask for forgiveness, seek Baptism, and start off 2023 on the right foot.

When we have recognized our sin and have received His love here is the last thing that His reign over us brings.

4. His Reign brings People together.



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

- 12** He will raise a **signal for the nations**
and will assemble the banished of Israel,
and gather the dispersed of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.
- 13** The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart,
and those who harass Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah,
and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

This **Signal declares to His people, I have paid the price you can come back home!**

We can either chose to return to our King or we stay away in rebellion. But we can't have any part of His kingdom in any way if we think we have anything to do with our Salvation. If we recognize Him as Savior, then we must recognize that this King died in our place, and He has called us to put away jealousy with our common man and family, put away your arguments, put away your coveting, and He calls us to be family.

This is the Davidic Covenant being carried out. The King lived the life we were supposed to live, and it saved us – THEN – the King took our place for judgment, and He saved us. And because the king, unlike none before Him, fulfilled the covenant, THEN by His earned righteousness He was granted the right to bestow to His people the **gift of Peace with God**. This Messenger brought the Solution, a perfect Sovereign Reign that only a King could deliver, SO we must all understand **that as a King, we take a knee, and we receive Him!**

How will we treat Him now? Does He not demand the seat of honor in all of our hearts? **Not to give Him the throne in our lives is treasonous.**

This King is demonstrating the strong hand of Power and a huge heart of love. No other King before Him ever lived in such a way to earn my freedom, only Jesus has loved me like that, only Jesus has loved you like that! To receive His reign is to fully accept His love for you. I pray that is your story in 2023.



Christmas 2022
The Sovereign King Has Arrived!
By Pastor Jody May 12/25/2022

Jesus knows what this will do. The great commission in Matthew 28 is not given as a test to see if it will work, the King knows it will work! He knows that those we share this story with will be affected by it. It will either condemn the rebel or it will set the captive free.

My prayer for 2023 is that we all come to know fully the Solution of the Savior, to bend the knee to Jesus, respect His wishes, embrace His gift of **Loving Sovereignty** and pass on the good news to those around us through proclamation and deed.

Will you pray with me to bring the Reign of Jesus in this ear for 2023...

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BLESSING]

Go in the name of the Father, that sent His only Son, that those believing in Him would have eternal life.

Go in the name of the Son, that rules and reign bringing Justice, equity, and peace for those that love Him.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that causes our hearts to see our sin and empowers our repentance so that we may live for Him.

Merry Christmas!