



+ **YOU**

Sermon Series: Irrefutable: Prophecies that Point Us to Jesus

To be used with: Session 2: The Light in the Darkness

Sermon Title Possibilities: The Perfect King

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study *Irrefutable: Prophecies that Point Us to Jesus*, these sermon outlines will follow the same theme as the small group study, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit.

The Point: Jesus shines His light into a dark world.

Introduction: Adrian Rogers used to tell of a conversation he once had with a man on a plane. The man asked him about what he read. Dr. Rogers named a few books and publications, but he said he mostly read the Bible. The man asked him how he could deal with so many of the world's problems if his reading was that narrow. Dr. Rogers said, "Man only has three problems." The man disagreed. He was sure there were more problems than that. Dr. Rogers insisted there were only three. The man said, "There are a lot more than that." Dr. Rogers said, "Just three: sin, sorrow, and death." The man still didn't believe him, so Dr. Rogers told him, "Name a fourth." The man thought it over for a while, and then he said, "You know, man only has three problems...."

Was Dr. Rogers oversimplifying? Not at all! Most problems in this world would lose their significance if they did not involve sorrow and death. Even war would be a small matter if it did not involve sorrow and death. As Dr. Rogers pointed out, sorrow and death are both the result of a fallen world, so when you get right down to it, people really have one problem. I submit to you that only one Person can fix the problem of sin, and that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah wrote about Jesus over seven hundred years before He was even born. Isaiah spoke of a perfect King who would someday come and reign. This King would be a descendant of King David, but He would be much greater than David, and His kingdom would be free from sin, sorrow, and death.

I. His perfect wisdom.

- A. God promised new growth from "the stem of Jesse".
 - 1. He was going to reduce Israel to a stump ("stem").
 - a. The Northern Kingdom would be destroyed by the Assyrian Empire (this happened in Isaiah's own lifetime).
 - b. The Southern Kingdom would face a similar fate if they persisted in their rebellion toward God.
 - 2. David's lineage would be cut off, but not completely destroyed.
 - a. Someday God would raise up a new King from David's descendants.
 - b. Like David, He would become King simply because God chose Him.

- Why did God refer to the “stem of Jesse” instead of the “stem of David”? The Bible doesn’t specifically say, but judging from the context, it was probably because David’s line would be reduced to insignificance. The new King would be a descendant of David, but that would not be the primary reason for His kingship.
- B. What would this new King be like?
1. The Spirit of the Lord would rest on Him.
 - a. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus when He was baptized.
 - b. Scholars note this is one of the few passages that mentions all three Persons of the Trinity.
 2. He would have great wisdom.
 - a. Israel had a long line of very foolish kings (the Southern Kingdom had a few godly kings, but the Northern Kingdom had none).
 - b. Even wise kings are imperfect (David and Solomon, for instance), but this new King would have perfect wisdom.
 3. He would have “the spirit of counsel and might”.
 - a. This means He would be absolutely trustworthy.
 - b. Earthly leaders will fail you, but King Jesus never will.
 4. He would have “the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord”.
 - a. “Fear of the Lord” means we’re conscious that God is watching us, and therefore we strive to please Him.
 - b. No one understood this better than Jesus.

II. His perfect justice.

- A. He would not judge on the basis of sight or sound.
1. Your eyesight and hearing are not always reliable.
 - a. Appearances can be deceiving.
 - b. People will lie to you.
 2. Unlike earthly judges, our Lord has perfect knowledge.
 - a. People can fool earthly judges, but they cannot fool our Lord.
 - b. He is not swayed by false evidence.
- B. He would be absolutely impartial.
1. In biblical times, the justice system was not always fair to the poor.
 - a. Judges were often corrupt, so they would rule in favor of whoever offered them the largest bribe.
 - b. Even well-meaning judges are not immune to their own biases, so they can make mistakes.
 - I’m not running down our justice system or promoting any kind of “social justice” agenda. I’m simply saying our justice system is imperfect because it is run by imperfect human beings.
 2. Our Lord will serve equal justice to the rich and the poor.
 - a. He cannot be bribed, because He already owns it all.
 - b. He can destroy the wicked simply by the word of His mouth.
 - c. A “girdle”, or belt, held a soldier’s weapons. The Messiah’s weapons would be righteousness and faithfulness.

III. His perfect kingdom.

- A. The Messiah would change the very order of nature.
 - 1. Animals that normally hate each other will dwell together.
 - a. Wolves would dwell with lambs, leopards with goats, etc.
 - b. “A little child shall lead them” – In our current natural order, it’s not safe to put a small child among wolves, leopards, and lions!
 - c. Small children would have no reason to fear poisonous snakes.
 - 2. Obviously, this part of the prophecy has yet to be fulfilled.
 - a. Some believe he was speaking of the Millennium (Rev. 20:4).
 - b. Isaiah seemed to be talking about eternal peace, so he was probably talking about the new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25; Rev. 21:1-4).
- B. The King Himself would be “an ensign of the people”.
 - 1. The main attraction of the new earth will be Jesus.
 - a. It will not need a temple (Rev. 21:22).
 - b. It will not have a sun or moon (Rev. 21:23).
 - c. It will include people from all nations (Rev. 21:24).
 - 2. Why is this important?
 - a. We can rest assured that our best days are ahead.
 - b. The hope of heaven enables us to endure the trials of this world.

Conclusion: When I was a teenager, I read Mark Twain’s famous novel, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*. The narrator is named Hank Morgan. He gets hit upside the head with a crowbar, and when he wakes up, he finds himself in King Arthur’s court. He doesn’t like it much at first, but before long he begins to adapt. With his knowledge of science and technology, he makes people think he has supernatural powers. For instance, he tells people he’s going to make the sun go dark. In fact, he knows a solar eclipse is going to happen that day, but he makes people think he caused it. Later he rigs up a lightning rod and some gunpowder in a tower, and when lightning hits it, it explodes into a pile of rubble. He makes people think he did it through a magic spell. Before long, he’s pretty much running the place. However, he’s a benevolent dictator, and he introduces ideas such as free enterprise and rights and liberty. At one point in the novel, he admits a dictatorship isn’t so bad if the right person is in charge.

I agree to a certain extent. A dictatorship would be fine if the dictator was trustworthy. However, I do not trust anyone with that kind of power. Even well-meaning leaders can be corrupted by power. The church was at the height of its power during medieval times, but that was also when it was most corrupt. Lord Acton was correct: power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. However, there is one Ruler who will never be corrupted, and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the perfect King, and one day He will take us to His perfect kingdom. Do you know Him today?

Ken Jones is the pastor of Worsham Baptist Church in Farmville, Virginia. He holds a B.S. in history from the University of Tennessee at Martin and an MDiv. from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Celia Carroll Jones, is an associate professor of government at Hampden-Sydney College.