

Isaiah 11:1–10

1 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.

**Psalm 72:1–7**

1 Give the king your justice, | O God,*
and your righteousness
to the | royal son!

2 May he judge your people
with | righteousness,*
and your poor with | justice!

3 Let the mountains bear prosperity
for the | people,*
and the hills, in | righteousness!

4 May he defend the cause of the poor
of the people, give deliverance
to the children of the | needy,*
and crush the op- | pressor!

5 May they fear you while the | sun endures,*
and as long as the moon,
throughout all gener- | ations!

6 May he be like rain that falls
on the | mown grass,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!

7 In his days may the righteous | flourish,*
and peace abound,
till the moon | be no more!

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,

and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,

even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Matthew 3:1–12

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."