

THE LORD IS OUR BANNER, PT. 2 (ISAIAH 11-12)

Last week we went over **Isaiah 11**, which I'll read for us again today, as it flows beautifully into the next chapter, **Isaiah 12**, and is then an awesome followup to our understanding of Jesus being our Lord, God, and Savior, and what that means for us, how we then respond to Him as He is our Creator, as our Lord, God, and Savior, our Heavenly Father, here in the present and then forever into the future. **Isaiah 11** tells us that He/God sets a Banner over us, as children of God. That's an illustration, similar to Jesus saying, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (**John 15:5**) God setting a banner over us does not mean that He sets an inanimate object above us that just flutters in the wind above our heads. It is God's proclamation of His sovereignty over His creation, yet also His love for us, as we are of His creation, and the victory He has given to us, through Christ Jesus, so that we may be children of God. His Word then is that banner, that is, by looking to Jesus, as being the Christ, the only begotten Son of God who was sent to be our salvation, and is therefore the author and the finisher of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**) We are believing on and then receiving Him into our hearts, that is, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, to be, as Jesus put it, "born-again" (**John 3:3**). We are led by the Holy Spirit to also repent of our sins against God. As the Apostle Paul tells us, "For godly sorrow produces repentance [metanoeo] leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." (**2 Corinthians 7:10**)

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people were pleaded with to return to Him and stop following after other gods, false gods, and to follow Him and His ways. To Zechariah, the prophet, He said, "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Return to Me," says the Lord of hosts, "and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts.'" (**Zechariah 1:3**) The prophet Hosea said similarly of God as being the Lord of hosts, saying HE IS "the LORD God [YHWH/Yehovah Elohim] of hosts [tsaba: which implies those who wage war or serve together, collectively]. That speaks to what we looked at last week, of how, as we are in a spiritual battle together, collectively, we are told, as being of God's host, through Christ Jesus, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**)

Isaiah 11 prophesied of God's salvation, of the coming Messiah, that would be a branch from the root of Jesse, the father of King David, and of which we now know, as it has been revealed to us by the Word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, who gives us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to receive, that the Messiah, the Christ

was and is Jesus, of whom we can read the gospel accounts of His life in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. John spoke of Jesus, by referring to Him as the Word/Logos, saying "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**) Jesus is Iesus from the Greek, Yeshua in the Aramaic, and then Yehoshua in the Hebrew, which means "Yahweh, or Jehovah/Yehovah is salvation". And we learn from His Word that He is who He is. HE IS our Creator, "In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1:1**), and then everything else, including us, as He said on day six of His creation, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (**Genesis 1:26-27**). The Apostle John said of the creation, "In the beginning was the Word [Christ Jesus/Logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." (**John 1:1-3**). Likewise, the Apostle Paul tells us in **Colossians 1:16**, "For by Him [Christ Jesus, the Word] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

He is our Creator and HE IS our salvation! Then, as God (Elohim) said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." "eh-YEH" or "haw-YAH" "asher" "eh-YEH" or "haw-YAH". The LORD [Yehovah/YHWH] is His memorable name." (**Hosea 12:5**) Again, Yehoshua means "Yahweh, or Jehovah/Yehovah is salvation", and He is the Christ/Messiah, the Anointed One of God, who came to this earth to bring the gospel, that is, the good news of God's redemptive plan for mankind. Jesus read, in the synagogue, part of **Isaiah 61** that says, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has **anointed Me** to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." (**Isaiah 61:1-3**) That good news, or good tidings, is that Jesus died on a cross for our sins against God, meaning He took our place and our punishment as He bore our sins upon Himself. He then died on that cross, yet **He conquered death, sin, and evil**, as He rose from the grave on the third day, of which He has made a way for us too, to overcome, that sting of death, and sin, and evil, and we are promised to have eternal life in Him! And then, His banner over

us is LOVE, His love, for us. (Song of Solomon 2:4)(John 3:16-17)
More than that, in the words of the Apostle Peter, as children of
God, we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who
called you **out of darkness into His marvelous light**" (1 Peter 2:9) He
also gives us a "**garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**".
(tribulation=thlipsis, the sin, evil, and darkness that surrounds us)

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Isaiah 11 (The Reign of Jesse's Offspring)

There shall come forth a Rod [choter: shoot, branch] from the stem
[geza: trunk, stump] of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his
roots. [That is where we reside (John 15)]. 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 of the **fear**
of the Lord. [Christ Jesus is all of those things for us and speaking
of the fear of the Lord, that is to have a humble reverence toward
God, for "There is **no fear in love**; but **perfect love casts out fear**,
because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made
perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)] His delight is in the fear [humble
submission and reverence] of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the
sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with
righteousness [His Righteousness] He shall judge the poor, and decide
with equity [fairness/just] for the meek of the earth ["Humble
yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James
4:10) "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that
He may exalt you in due time". (1 Peter 5:6)]; He shall strike the
earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He
shall slay the wicked. **Righteousness** shall be the belt of His loins,
and **faithfulness** the belt of His waist. The wolf also shall dwell
with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the
calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child
shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones
shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned
child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor
destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be **full of the**
knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. And in that day
there shall be a Root of Jesse, **who shall stand as a banner to the**
people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall
be glorious.

["The Hebrew word "nes", which is the root of "nissi" primarily
refers to a banner or standard that is lifted up as a signal or
rallying point. It is often used in the context of military or
communal gatherings, serving as a visible sign **to guide or unite**
people. In a broader sense, it can symbolize a divine sign or
miracle, **representing God's intervention or presence.**¹ "They shall
call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Matthew

1 <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/5251.htm>

1:23) After the Israelites victory over the Amelikites, "Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner." (Exodus 17:15) YHWH-Nissi. And His banner over us is love. Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23) It is then, as we obey Him, we experience the blessed fellowship with God our Father and our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, to where we can have that wholeness and completeness in Christ as He is the Prince of Peace (shalom/eirene), which implies we have wholeness/completeness within ourselves (the peace of God that supasses all understanding that "will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"-Philippians 4:7), with God, and with others.]

It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, [Christ Jesus] and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. [One in Christ] But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; Together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them. The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people [you can read about the highway of holiness in Isaiah 35.] who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt. [It is then no coincidence that what follows Isaiah 11, where we are told, that the Christ, Christ Jesus "shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious", that we then have in:]

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Isaiah 12 (A Hymn of Praise)

And in that day you will say: "O LORD [YHWH/Yehovah], I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God [El] is my **salvation**, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the LORD [YHWH/Yehovah], is my **strength and song**; He also has become my **salvation**.'" Therefore with **joy** you will draw water from the wells of **salvation** [Yeshua, He is our salvation!]. And in that day you will say [of which we can say even now]: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

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Immanuel, God is with us!!! While this prophesy spoke of a day to come, that day HAS COME and is COMING! HE IS OUR SALVATION! PRAISE THE LORD! HE IS OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR! HIS BANNER OVER US IS LOVE! Therefore, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for GOD IS LOVE." (1 John 4:7-8) We are now, as children of God, living according to the New Covenant that is in Christ Jesus and we are not under the Mosaic law but the "law of liberty" (James 1:25), the "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:2). Jesus said that the whole of the law and of the prophets hangs on us loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then to also love others as ourselves. (Mark 12:30-31) We are not following the Mosaic law of the Old Covenant, we are following the doctrine, or teaching of Jesus. As the Apostle John tells us, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." (2 John 1:9) Jesus tells us this, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 14:23)

His banner over us is love, the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. By Jesus giving us the Great Commandments of God and His Great Commission we are then sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus! It is then, as we obey Him in that, we experience the blessed fellowship with God our Father and our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, and we can experience wholeness and completeness in Christ as He is our Savior and Prince, Prince of Peace to have wholeness/completeness within ourselves with God, and with others. It is then that we can have great comfort in knowing that "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) Jesus tells us, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" [He's telling us and we're telling others] And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:12-17) Praise the Lord! The Lord is our Banner and His Banner over us is love!