

THE TREE THAT WOULD NOT DIE – Isaiah 11:1

Isaiah 11:1 “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

The California redwoods and the Sequoias are remarkable trees for age and size. Some of them measure up to 350 feet in height and are 15 to 18 feet in diameter. You can drive your car through the base of several of these trees, and in one a room has been carved out. The General Sherman tree is one of the largest, and it is estimated to be about as old as the pyramids of Egypt. If these trees could talk, what history they could tell us!



These gigantic trees appear to be indestructible but they are not. Many a tree among them lies flat on the ground, a victim of fire or lightning, or some other cause. Eventually they will all topple over and die.

However, our text speaks of a tree that would not die, an indestructible tree, one that appeared to be dead yet today is growing stronger and larger than ever before.

THE TREE THAT WOULD NOT DIE

1. IT GREW

Jesse is mentioned in our text as the seed from which the indestructible tree grew. He was of the tribe of Judah and lived in Bethlehem with his eight sons. He was known and respected as an upright man of God.

The seed of Jesse became a sapling in this manner. When king Saul rejected God and His Word, God rejected him and chose another king. David the youngest son of Jesse was a faithful shepherd of his father's sheep and under the Lord's directions; he was privately anointed to be the next king of Israel by the prophet Samuel. Thus the sapling of Jesse began to grow into a tree.

At first Saul was pleased with David but his attitude toward him soon changed. Because his life was in danger David became a fugitive until the

death of jealous Saul. After Saul's death, David became king of all the tribes and strengthened the kingdom inwardly and drove out the invaders from the land. He was truly a man of God and as such he was the author of many beautiful Psalms. Jesse became a strong and spreading tree through his son David.

However this mighty tree did not remain upright very long.

2. IT WAS FELLED

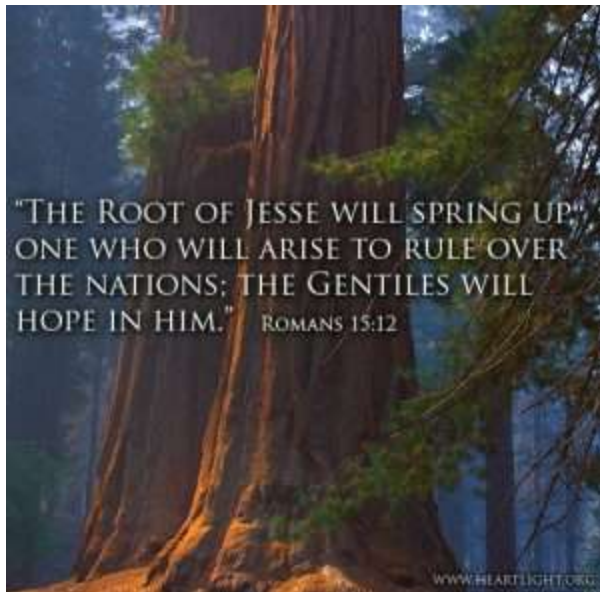
Men, as instruments of God's judgment upon Israel, began hacking away at this great tree. The tree suffered a serious blow when ten of the twelve tribes renounced their allegiance to Rehoboam and so were forever lost to the house of David. The ax cut still deeper into the tree when the Jews and David's descendants were carried away into captivity.

If you hack and chop at a tree long enough it will fall. This is what happened to the house of David. Foreign powers began to overrun the Holy Land and at the time of Christ the Romans held sway and set up their own rulers over all the land. All that was left of the great tree of the house of David was a stump. The Hebrew word translated "stem" actually means a "stump."

For years the stump of this fallen tree appeared to be dead. Mary and Joseph were of the house and lineage of David and, like the stump, were poor and lowly people with all the pomp and power of a former age gone. Now we shall see the great miracle which took place in the apparently lifeless tree or stump.

3. IT REVIVED

Out of this dormant stump there came forth a sprout as God foretold it would in our text, "A Branch shall grow out of his roots." From the virgin Mary who was of the house and lineage of David there came forth a sprout, a tender little branch, when Jesus our Lord was born of her on Christmas. Many other passages of the Bible verify that statement. In [Romans 15:12](#) Paul quotes Isaiah, "There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust." In Rev 5: 5 we read of Jesus that He is "the Root of David," and again in [Rev 22:16](#) the Savior Himself says, "I am the root and offspring of David." Even at the annunciation the angel said, "The Lord shall give unto him the throne of his father David," [Luke 1:32](#).



Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, came into this world to suffer and die and thereby pay for the sins of the whole world. By faith in His cross we all can have eternal life. This Gospel message gives the revived tree its power and glory far surpassing anything of the past ages. Preaching Christ crucified, the New Testament Church suddenly began to grow rapidly until its branches are now spread out over all the earth. How vast this tree has become is even hard to imagine. Sitting upon the throne of His father David, Christ the Lord rules this vast Church with His gracious Word. What a powerful tree this has become growing out of a stump of a tree. Today the kingdom of Christ, or His Church, has become the mightiest of trees, spreading out to every nation and kindred and tongue. Truly we have witnessed a tremendous miracle! David's kingdom was but a very small part of the earth, in a little nation, over a few people. But the "rod of Jesse" spreads over all the earth, among all nations, over countless numbers of people.

This revived tree will last until the end of time because it is God's indestructible tree. How often in the past have not men, by persecutions and bloodshed, tried to chop down this tree and have failed because it is the tree that would not die. The redwoods and Sequoias and all other trees may and will fall and die, but not this Miracle Tree of God.

God has brought us to faith In Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit and thereby has made us branches on this wonderful tree of life. Let us not allow the storms of life to tear us from our Savior for the dead and fallen branches and the broken off leaves will be raked up and burned forever.

May we also, by our good works show that we are living twigs and leaves which are connected to the living tree by faith.

Even our Christmas trees should remind us of this amazing tree; the greenness representing its durability and life and freshness; the tree lights should remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world; and the ornaments and decorations should suggest to us that we, by our good works, are to beautify and adorn the marvelous tree of our text.

This is more than just a surviving tree or a tree that would not die. It is the Tree of life, eternal life, for every human being who will have it. It is the only possible way for us to be those who are before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands” [Rev. 7:9](#). AMEN.

PRAYER. Dear Lord, in this Advent season, as we are preparing to meet Thee, help us to cling to Thee as true twigs and leaves. The wonderful promises found in Thy Holy Word strengthen our faith and trust in Thee. The nearness of Thy approach sets our hearts aglow with joy and anticipation. We, too, hail Thee as the Root of David and are trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, for full salvation. Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. AMEN.