

# CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

### **1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Waiting in Hope**

December 1, 2020

Text: Isaiah 11:1-10

Meditation:

This week we are focusing on “Waiting in Hope”. Hope is familiar to all of us through these months of the pandemic: -Hope in worldly terms is a wish, -wishing this virus would be over, -wishing for a vaccine, -wishing we didn’t have masks, but in the Bible to Christians, hope is more than a wish; it’s confident expectations of God’s promises and strength in his faithfulness. Read the selected Scripture entirely.

Our text begins in Isaiah 11:1 with the early prophecy of Jesus, the Messiah - “a shoot from the stump of Jesse, David’s father. Think about the simple planting of a seed/ seedling and the hope of its growth into so much more than can be seen at first.

The Messiah will come, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to waiting believers with hope of delivery from slavery and exile, the Messiah. Verses 2-5 tell of the characteristics of the Spirit of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord all with righteousness and equity.

Verses 6-9 describe transformations that will take place as God’s kingdom is established on earth. “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as waters cover over the sea”.

We are waiting people as believers; reading throughout the Bible of fulfillment over and over of God’s promises. We hope for things we cannot see knowing God is faithful, he can do the impossible and so we hope with an optimistic attitude and look to the future knowing it is in God’s hands.

Question #1

Do you see the difference in a worldly hope and a Bible understanding of Hope?

Does this make a difference for you in waiting?

Question #2

How might sharing this text with others help you and others with patience in waiting through these uncertain times.

Prayer: Help us Lord in these challenging times to remember the prophecy of the Messiah - “a small twig from an old stump” -- a small babe born in Bethlehem - Savior of the World! Amen.