

Notes:

Sermon Text

Subject

Spiritual "To Do List"
(things God has shown me today)

The Root of Jesse

It may be recalled that the Jews during Jesus' time were aware of certain prophetic clues that would help them understand who the promised Messiah was and when he would arrive. That the Messiah would come from the root, or 'stump of Jesse,' is one such example.

Jesse was the father of King David (Ruth 4:22, 1 Samuel 16). God promised a savior as early as Genesis 3:15. Later, the promise was refined and of the 12 tribes of Israel, Judah was selected (Genesis 49:10). This prophecy in Isaiah narrows it further, to one family within the line of Judah: Jesse's. And Jesse's line was no ordinary line. His was a royal line, the line of David.

By the first century, Jews were on the lookout for signs of the Messiah, and it was emphasized that Jesus met the requirements. For example, the importance of Jesus' lineage and birthplace are given positions of prominence in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 1-2).

In AD 70 Jerusalem and its temple was destroyed and there followed a great dispersion of the Jews. In a Divine Irony, this monumental event wiped out many of the ways the Jewish people could have recognized the Messiah. One wouldn't be able to verify that someone was in the line of Judah, or from Bethlehem, etc. There can be no other candidates for the Messiah because their credentials can't be tested. If it is not Jesus, it is no one.

Many Jews today no longer look for a warrior-king, but have different ideas. For example, some suggest that the state of Israel itself could be the Messiah.

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