

Jeremiah 33:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

Analysis

In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. The Hebrew tsemach ("Branch") is a technical Messianic term appearing prominently in Isaiah 4:2, 11:1, Zechariah 3:8, and 6:12, consistently pointing to the coming Davidic king who would restore Israel. The verb atsmiyach ("cause to grow up") emphasizes divine initiative—God Himself causes this Branch to sprout from David's line.

The phrase "Branch of righteousness" (tsemach tsedaqah) identifies this coming king's essential character and mission. Unlike the corrupt shepherds who led Judah to ruin (Jeremiah 23:1-2), this righteous Branch will execute mishpat utsedeqah ("judgment and righteousness")—establishing justice in legal affairs and covenant faithfulness in relationships. This parallels 23:5-6, creating a deliberate echo that reinforces the prophecy's Messianic nature.

Christ fulfills this prophecy as the descendant of David who perfectly executes God's righteousness. His earthly ministry demonstrated justice and righteousness in His teaching, healing, and confronting religious hypocrisy. His atoning death satisfied divine justice while establishing the righteousness believers receive through faith (Romans 3:21-26). His future return will consummate this reign of perfect justice. The Reformed tradition emphasizes Christ as Prophet (revealing

God's righteousness), Priest (providing righteousness through sacrifice), and King (ruling in righteousness).

Historical Context

This prophecy directly responds to the failure of Judah's last kings. Zedekiah (597-586 BCE), under whom Jeremiah prophesied this word, would soon have his eyes gouged out after witnessing his sons' execution (Jeremiah 39:6-7; 52:10-11). The tragic irony is profound—the current Davidic king would end in darkness and death, yet God promises a future Davidic Branch who would reign in perfect light and life.

The genealogical implications are significant. Jesus' lineage through both Mary (physical descent) and Joseph (legal descent) established His Davidic credentials (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38). Early Christians recognized this prophecy's fulfillment in Christ, as evidenced by the New Testament's frequent use of Davidic imagery for Jesus. The historical gap between promise (587 BCE) and fulfillment (circa 4 BCE) demonstrates God's patience and perfect timing in redemptive history.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's perfect execution of justice and righteousness differ from earthly rulers' imperfect attempts?
2. In what ways do you see Christ functioning as Prophet, Priest, and King in your own life?

3. How should the certainty of Christ's future righteous reign affect your response to injustice in the present?

Interlinear Text

בְּיָמֵי יוֹם	הָהֵם	וּבַיּוֹם ת	הָהֵ יא	אֶצְמֵ ים	לְדָוִד
In those days	H1992	and at that time	H1931	to grow up	unto David
H3117		H6256		H6779	H1732
אֶצְמֵ יוֹם	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת
will I cause the Branch	and righteousness	and he shall execute	judgment		
H6780	H6666	H6213	H4941		
וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת	וּבַיּוֹם ת
and righteousness	in the land				
H6666	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 4:2 (Parallel theme): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Zechariah 3:8 (Parallel theme): Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Revelation 19:11 (Righteousness): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Isaiah 53:2 (Parallel theme): For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isaiah 42:21 (Righteousness): The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

Isaiah 9:7 (Righteousness): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Psalms 45:7 (Righteousness): Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Psalms 45:4 (Righteousness): And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

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