

# Romans 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

## Analysis

**And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse** (καὶ πάλιν Ἡσαΐας λέγει· Ἔσται ἡ ῥίζα τοῦ Ἰεσσαί, kai palin Ēsaias legei· estai hē rhiza tou Iessai)—Paul's fourth quotation, from Isaiah 11:10, climaxes the scriptural proof. The 'root of Jesse' refers to the Messiah from David's (Jesse's son's) line. Rhiza (root) can mean either source or descendant; here, Messiah springs from Jesse's lineage but also supersedes and grounds it—Christ is both David's son and David's Lord (Matt 22:41-45).

**And he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust** (καὶ ὁ ἀνιστάμενος ἄρχειν ἐθνῶν, ἐπ' αὐτῷ ἔθνη ἐλπιούσιν, kai ho anistamenos archein ethnōn, ep' autō ethnē elpiosin)—Anistamenos (he that rises) carries resurrection overtones: Christ rose to reign. Archein (to reign, rule) indicates sovereign kingship over the nations. Elpiosin (shall hope, trust) shows Gentiles placing saving faith in the Jewish Messiah—the central scandal of the gospel. Isaiah 11 envisions Messiah's reign extending beyond Israel to encompass all nations; Paul sees this fulfilled as Gentiles trust in Christ.

## Historical Context

Isaiah 11:1-10 is a classic messianic prophecy describing the ideal Davidic king who will judge righteously and bring universal peace. Verse 10's reference to Gentiles seeking the 'root of Jesse' was understood messianically in Judaism. Paul's

application to Jesus and the Gentile mission was therefore grounded in accepted messianic texts, though his reading was distinctively christological.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's identity as both 'root of Jesse' (Jewish Messiah) and ruler of the Gentiles challenge ethnic or cultural exclusivism in the church?
2. What does it mean practically for you to 'hope in' or 'trust in' Christ as the risen, reigning Lord?
3. How should the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in the inclusion of the Gentiles shape Christian attitudes toward OT prophecy and its interpretation?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	πάλιν	Ἡσαΐας	λέγει	Ἔσται	ἡ	ρίζα	τοῦ
<b>And</b>	<b>again</b>	<b>Esaias</b>	<b>saith</b>	<b>There shall be</b>	G3588	<b>a root</b>	G3588
G2532	G3825	G2268	G3004	G2071		G4491	
Ἰησοῦ	καὶ	ὁ	ἀνιστάμενος	ἄρχειν	ἔθνη	ἐπ'	αὐτῷ
<b>of Jesse</b>	<b>And</b>	G3588	<b>he that shall rise</b>	<b>to reign over</b>	<b>the Gentiles</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>him</b>
G2421	G2532		G450	G757	G1484	G1909	G846
ἔθνη	ἐλπιούσιν						
<b>the Gentiles</b>	<b>shall</b>						
G1484	G1679						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 11:10** (Parallel theme): And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

**Isaiah 11:1** (Parallel theme): And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

**Matthew 12:21** (Faith): And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

**Revelation 22:16** (Parallel theme): I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

**Revelation 5:5** (Parallel theme): And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

**1 Corinthians 15:19** (Parallel theme): If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

**Genesis 49:10** (Parallel theme): The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

**Daniel 7:14** (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.