

Series: Isaiah 1-39
Lesson: Isaiah 11-12 - Joy to the World
Author: Harold Shank



Theme: The song *Joy to the World*, written in 1719 by Isaac Watts captures the positive theme in Isaiah 11-12 that looks beyond Judah and beyond the 8th century to a better world. Indeed God “comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.”

<i>Joy to the world, the Lord is come!</i>	<i>No more lit sins and sorrows grow,</i>
<i>Let earth receive her King;</i>	<i>Nor thorns infest the ground;</i>
<i>Let every heart prepare Him room,</i>	<i>He comes to make his blessings flow</i>
<i>And heaven and nature sing</i>	<i>Far as the curse is found,</i>
<i>And heaven and nature sing</i>	<i>Far as the curse is found,</i>
<i>And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.</i>	<i>Far as, far as, the curse is found.</i>
<i>Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!</i>	<i>He rules the world with truth and grace,</i>
<i>Let men their songs employ;</i>	<i>And makes the nations prove</i>
<i>While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains</i>	<i>The glories of His righteousness,</i>
<i>Repeat the sounding joy,</i>	<i>And wonders of His love,</i>
<i>Repeat the sounding joy,</i>	<i>And wonders of His love,</i>
<i>Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.</i>	<i>And wonders, wonders, of His love.</i>

- I. Isaiah 11:1-9 - Joy to the World: *Let earth receive her King* (righteous leadership)
 - a. List the qualities of a new ruler (1-5)
 - b. Jesus fulfills this expectation (1-5)
 - c. How does Isaiah describe a reconciled world? (6-8)

- II. Isaiah 11:10-16 - Joy to the World: *Let every heart prepare Him room* (restored peoples).
 - a. The line from the song is a fitting summary of one of the first “homecoming” passages in Isaiah.
 - b. The plan of homecoming (10-14)
 - c. The power behind homecoming (15-16)
- III. Isaiah 12:1-6 - Joy to the World: *Let men their songs employ* (the remnant at worship).
 - a. Isaiah calls the survivors to two responses to God’s work:
 - i. Worship
 - ii. Evangelism
 - b. Isaiah 12 returns to a God-centered focus.
 - c. How does Isaiah 12:4-6 offer a succinct summary of Isaiah 1-12?