

What Should the Messiah Do?

International Bible Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-8

Sunday, December 19, 2010

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“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:2).

The Hebrew Scriptures describe the type of person the Messiah would be and what He would do, so when He appeared people could recognize Him and ignore the pretenders who would mislead them. Through the prophet Isaiah, God said His presence and power would rest on the Messiah. The spiritually discerning would recognize that God was working through the Messiah in all He did. When He taught, He would share the wisdom of God, wisdom greater than King Solomon's. A descendant of King David, the Messiah would overcome temptations and do what was right in every situation, even though some would not understand the reasons for His actions. He would demonstrate knowledge of what people thought and intended in the secrets of their hearts, as well as what a person truly needed. He would teach facts about God consistent with the Scriptures. By His way of life, He would reveal the truth about God and His character. He would reveal the intentions of God and some of God's plans for the future. He would show and tell the best way to live through trusting God, prayer, and obedience. He would have the power to do whatever any situation required. To save those in trouble, He would be able to quiet a raging storm or cast out a legion of tormenting demons. His relationship with God would lead Him to reverence God and not fear people. Moreover, He would seek to do God's will no matter what the personal sacrifice. When we read the New Testament, we see how Jesus perfectly fulfilled the prophecies from Isaiah.

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