

## Easter 2020- A Man Called Branch

### Matthew 2:21-23

21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, 23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

The name Nazareth comes from a Hebrew word (Netzer) with an interesting meaning: "root-branch."

### Isaiah 11:1

11 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

A root-branch is considered a useless weed, as they grow from the roots at the base of a good tree.

Image 1

Nazareth: exile refugee founding; Nathaniel "Could anything good...."; Jesus could do few miracles

The implications were that the Messiah would be considered a good-for-nothing, and be despised by men.

He would be underestimated, undervalued, and therefore, rejected by many- all as a part of God's Master Plan!

### Psalm 118:22-23

22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.

23 This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

### Isaiah 11:1-5

11 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;  
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Jesus the Branch went about doing God's will, springing up and bringing life wherever He went!

By the Jordan, Jesus sprang up, so that John declared "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!"

Jesus entered the synagogue, full of the Holy Spirit, He took the scroll and sprang up, reading from Isaiah

As Jesus was at the Feast, He sprang up, and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let Him come to me!"

As Jesus was dying, He was lifted up and cried out, "Father Forgive them! And It is Finished!"

At the last, Jesus the Branch was cut down by the religious leaders of His day, and cast away as rubbish.

What they didn't know is that the Branch thrives most when the tree is cut down, and comes back stronger than before!

### John 20:15-22

<sup>15</sup> Jesus \*said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she \*said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus \*said to her, "Mary!" She turned and \*said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus \*said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene \*came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and *that* He had said these things to her.

<sup>19</sup> So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and \*said to them, “Peace *be* with you.” <sup>20</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Now Jesus the Branch, cut down for our sakes, brings forth a whole host of Branches through His Resurrection!

**Isaiah 60:21-22**

21 “Then all your people will be righteous; They will possess the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified. 22 “The smallest one will become a clan, And the least one a mighty nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.”

**Ephesians 2:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Image 2

Image 3

Jesus is not looking for the best, wisest and most desirable; He is seeking broken branches, extending a simple promise.

**John 14:19**

<sup>19</sup> After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.

Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

