



Who is Yeshua the Messiah?
Part 26: The Metaphors, Part 5
“The Right Hand, Arm, Branch”
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{NOTE: The actual oral sermon and video recording may vary significantly and even materially from these notes, but this “transcript” gives you a general idea of the direction of the message.}

{Title slide—1} Shabbat shalom, brothers and sisters. Today in Part 26 of our sermon series, “Who is Yeshua the Messiah?,” we’re going to cover a few more Scriptural metaphors that help explain our LORD Yeshua and then move on next week to another topic. If you’re joining us for the first time, you’ll want to go back and survey the other parts of this series to grasp the complex unity of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as well as the many ways God has sent His prophetic Word to explain Himself and His desire to relate with those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Today’s message assumes you’ve already integrated some core concepts that we’ve previously detailed, and so if that’s not the case, please take notes but also go back and study the other topics. Last week, during the midst of Passover, we covered the “suffering servant” metaphor the Holy Spirit presented through a chiasmic literary structure in Isaiah 52-13-53:12. We spent a good deal of the time on ancient apologetics that demonstrated a predominant understanding of the passage as a messianic prophesy. We then studied this “Gospel According to Isaiah” and some of its New Testament parallels that were fulfilled in Yeshua’s earthly ministry as well as those prophecies that Yeshua Himself promised to fulfill when He returns. Today, we’re going to start in the same area of Scripture to introduce imagery of Messiah Yeshua as “the Arm of the LORD” who now sits at the “right hand” of the Father. It was indeed God’s “right hand” of power that also grew a tender Branch out of the stump of David’s lineage, and now we must be grafted-in to this Branch in order to bear fruit for God’s Kingdom. These are related metaphors that present Messiah Yeshua as a vulnerable heir and an invincible deliverer, the one who now stands victorious at the throne of God.

{Next slide—2} Getting to it then, you'll notice in Isaiah 53, verses 1-2, that these metaphors are intricately linked with Messiah Yeshua's redemptive ministry, which He has already accomplished on the Earth. We read: "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the Arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him." Observe that the Arm of the LORD was revealed to those who believe the report of salvation through Messiah Yeshua's earthly ministry, death on the cross, and resurrection to the throne on High. And those who truly believe this report have a knowledge of God without doubting that delivers salvation. We studied the mystery of this passage last week; that God Himself would humble Himself. Though the eternal Son of God, Yeshua didn't come in the flesh as a conquering king, but as a suffering servant—one who would even allow Himself to be disgraced through execution on a tree. He came as a vulnerable and tender shoot, one Who would be cut off. But He would also be raised up. He would enjoy the glory that He had with the Father before the world was created. He would grow up into the Arm of the LORD that would hold up everyone who trusts in Him to the glory of God. He would become a True Vine that sustains all the other branches bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. With that, it's of critical importance that we also remember Isaiah 42, verses 8-9, which explain that Yahweh shares His glory with no one; God does not share His glory with another. And so, when we read in John 17:5 that Yeshua Himself said He shared God's glory before creation, and that this same glory would be restored to Him upon His death and resurrection, we ought to understand this as a consistent statement of deep spiritual Truth. This is a core statement of Yeshua's identity as Yahweh; He is One in Being with the Father. God had declared new things through His prophets, and then He declared their fulfillment when He came in the flesh with no form or comeliness and no beauty that would attract those focused on the attractions of this world. Only those who believed the report of God's suffering servant would be saved. Paul explained in Romans 10:17: "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." In other words, a man of God knows Yeshua through the Word of God and its accurate interpretation through the Holy Spirit. Earlier in verses 9-10, Paul explained that we ought to confess with our mouths that Yeshua is LORD, which is to say "Kyriion"—a Greek substitution for Yahweh. And, He wrote, we ought to believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead, and then we will be saved, regardless of whether we are Jews or Gentiles. This good news of the Gospel was revealed in Yeshua, the Arm of the LORD.

{Next slide—3} With that being said, I want to take you back a chapter to Isaiah 52, where the LORD explained the Salvation He would bring to all the earth before the

Last Days. If you read the passage itself, there is a mixture of Messianic Kingdom imagery and suffering servant imagery, and it's only in Messiah Yeshua that the distinction is revealed. It's all there—the first coming and the second coming of Yeshua, the Holy Arm of the LORD that would be revealed to all the nations. First, in verse 7, we read: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims Salvation, Who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” This is precisely what Yeshua did when He came in the flesh. We even read in Mark 1, verses 14-15, “Now after John [the Baptist] was put in prison, Yeshua came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’” Belief in Yeshua’s identity, His mission, and His accomplishments leads to salvation and an eternal relationship full of demonstrable faith in the King, who now reigns on high at the right hand of God, helping us. This is the Gospel, the “good news” of God that He sent through His suffering servant Yeshua. When our LORD rose from the dead and first appeared to His disciples, according to Luke 24:36, His first word to them was “Shalom!” Translated to English, that is: “Peace to you.” And then He went to sit at the right hand of God on High. Remember what He said in Matthew 28:19: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” With that, the good news is this: Our God reigns! He has proclaimed peace to us. He has brought good news: All who call upon His name will be saved. Continuing in Isaiah 52:10, the prophet unveiled another new thing for God’s people to expect. There we read: “The LORD has made bare His Holy Arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the Salvation of our God.” Before we further analyze this verse, I want to show you the end of Paul’s epistle to the Romans, in chapter 16, verses 25-27, where we read this: “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Messiah Yeshua, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Messiah Yeshua forever. Amen.” There are so many other examples throughout the Apostolic writings of statements like this, but this one will suffice today. God is able to establish us in the glad tidings of good things that He brought to all the nations through faith in Messiah Yeshua, and God made His Salvation well known through the prophetic Scriptures and His commandments in Torah. We who are obedient to Messiah will bring glory to God through our faithfulness to Yeshua. This Arm of the LORD has been made bare; it has been revealed in the Salvation of our God. And we are invited to take part in it as one of God's holy people.

{Next slide—4} When we look closer at Isaiah 52:10, we can see that Yahweh would bare His Holy Arm—His Zeroah [זְרוֹעַ]—in the eyes of all the nations. And all the ends of the Earth would see the Salvation—literally, the Yeshua—of our God. The word for “Salvation” here is presented in its feminine form—Yeshuat [יְשׁוּעַת]—perhaps to balance the masculine power of the Zeroah—I want to remind you that God made Man in His image, male and female He made them. Recall also the idea of the feminine “Wisdom” that we covered in Proverbs 8, which also pointed to Yeshua. These are mysteries of God’s complex nature and God’s plan kept secret until the appointed time for them to be revealed—when Yeshua the Messiah literally fulfilled them. And the text can be interpreted literally—God saves His people, but it can also be interpreted prophetically—God sends Yeshua to save His people, and He demonstrated the Arm of His strength by raising Him from the dead for the propitiation of our sins. He did this in the eyes of all the nations. That being said, recall also from our Passover Seder last week when we spoke about the “Zeroah,” which refers to the shank bone from a lamb that has been traditionally displayed on a Passover Seder plate. This Zeroah was meant to represent the lambs slain in Egypt, which protected the firstborn among those who believed. After the blood of these lambs was spread on the doorposts, the death of the firstborn among the scoffers in Egypt who did not trust the blood led to the believers in God’s Word walking free out of their bondage. This is a historic parable meant to demonstrate the principle of substitutionary atonement, which God would later fulfill through His Son. The death and resurrection of God’s firstborn would free all people from bondage to sin and death; He would take upon Himself the sin of us all. This Right Arm of the LORD would be sacrificed for the salvation of all people who put their trust in Him so that now when two or three are gathered in the name of Yeshua, He comes to dwell in the midst of us. The Zeroah of the LORD—the power of God’s strength—His Holy Arm—is with us when we trust in Him and therefore do what He commands us to do. God has been explaining this Truth to us since the beginning. Consider Psalm 44:3, which was about the people of Israel who were caught up in Egypt. We read: “For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your Right Hand, Your Arm (Zeroah), and the light of Your countenance, because you favored them.” The power of God working through His yet to be revealed Holy Arm brought salvation through grace for those who believed, and those who believed and therefore obeyed God’s will were able to enter the promised land. The word “favored” here, from the Hebrew *ritz’ot* (רִצְיֹת), means to graciously accept or to propitiate. In context, it’s clear that the people could not do anything to secure their salvation from the Egyptians. Rather, it was God’s Zeroah—His Arm, that saved them from their enemies so they could follow Him through the wilderness into the Promised Land. Earlier, in Exodus 14:13, as the Egyptians closed

in on Israel when they were trapped up against the Red Sea, Moses said to the people: “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today.” That is, stand see and see the Yeshua of Yahweh, for it is the grace of God through Yeshua that saves the people of God. The Salvation of the LORD was revealed even in the parting of the Red Sea. Even then, God was making His Holy Arm bare in the eyes of the nations, and all the ends of the earth saw the Salvation of our God, but this Arm would not be fully revealed until He came in the flesh. As Paul said in 1st Corinthians 5:7, “For indeed Messiah, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” The Zeroah of the LORD was revealed in both His death and resurrection, for He came both in weakness as a tender Branch, and in Strength as the Resurrected Arm of Power and glory, and now He sits at the Right Hand of God, interceding for us.

{Next slide—5} We can see this reality even in the announcement of Yeshua’s birth in the flesh by the Heavenly Host to the shepherds watching their flocks by night. Note Luke 2:10-11, where we read: “Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Messiah the LORD.’” While this announcement was surely literal, and the long-promised Savior was being revealed even by God’s Heavenly host, we should not skip over the prophetic meaning of this passage. Think about this: These shepherds were in the field watching their flocks by night. This is an image of the Last Days, when pastors will be guarding God’s sheep from false prophets as the world fades into total depravity. In the darkest hour, Yeshua will send His holy angels to bring good news to both the Shepherds and the sheep that they’re guarding—the Savior Yeshua, who is the Messiah and LORD, is coming to gently rule His people according to the righteous Way of God. All the ends of the earth will see the Salvation of our God and the Holy Arm of Yahweh will be revealed again. Every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. It’s all right here. This message from the angels to the shepherds was both an announcement of Yeshua’s first coming, in the flesh, through which He brought salvation from sin and death, and a prophesy of His second coming, in the spirit, when He will bring all people to Himself. Take a look at an earlier prophesy in Isaiah 40, verses 9-11, where we can deduce even more about Yeshua, who is the strong Arm of God now ruling at His right Hand from the throne in Heaven. We read: “O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’ Behold, the LORD GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a

shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young." Here we can see that the Arm of the LORD is God, the one who would come to rule His people. The verse says explicitly: "Behold your God." He would feed His flock like a shepherd with the Word that would come out of His mouth. He would gather His lambs with His arm and carry us in His bosom. He would lead us gently, especially those of us new to our faith. And He would send His shepherds to feed us from His Word of Truth.

{Next slide—6} This is Yeshua, the one who said Himself in John 10, verses 14-18: "I am the Good Shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own." The Arm of God has indeed come to gather His lambs with His arm. Continuing, Yeshua said: "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." Yes, Yeshua offered up Himself for the salvation of His sheep, and importantly He did this not just for Israel, or the sheep that are of "this fold," but also for other sheep that are "not of this fold" of Israel. Indeed, Yahweh has made bare His Holy Arm in the eyes of all the nations. Indeed, all the ends of the earth would see the Yeshua of God. Continuing, Yeshua said, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." Because Yeshua came to save all who believe the good news, He continued, saying: "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again." The Father loves His humble servant who would do His will without any variation; the one who would fulfill His Word in perfect righteousness. This final section is where we can see the Power of God working through Yeshua, our God who came with a strong Arm to rule His flock. He brought His reward with Him—the Salvation of our God. Consider, then, the power of God that Yeshua expresses as this passage in John Chapter 10 concludes. We read: "No one takes [My life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This command I have received from My Father." Can you see it? "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the Arm of the LORD been revealed?" It's clear. He's been revealed to His lambs whom He has gathered together gently by the power of His Holy Arm—the lambs who hear His voice—and He now intercedes for us at the right hand of God. Anytime we see the Right Hand or the Arm of God in Scripture, we ought to understand that the passage refers to both the power of God and the Yeshua of God. God, our God, showed His greatest power by humbling Himself and coming in the form of a man, so that through His death and resurrection, He might raise up His people caught in bondage to sin and death with Himself. He now rules His people from the right hand of the throne of power with gentleness, and His sheep hear His voice.

{Next slide—7} In Isaiah 41:10, the LORD spoke to the children of Israel, and said: “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” These sayings are no longer a mystery for those of us who know Yeshua, because Yeshua is our righteousness. He lived out the Word of God flawlessly, showing us how to live, and He invited us to do the same. He indeed holds us up on account of His victory over sin and death, and He calls on us to stand with Him in faithfulness. Prior to His crucifixion, Yeshua told the Chief Priest, the Scribes and the Pharisees who were questioning Him, “Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.” This was also prophesied and then revealed in Yeshua. Consider this Psalm 110, of David, verses 1-3, where we read: The LORD said to my LORD, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.” Today is the day of His power. He literally sits at the right hand of God right now. He rules in the midst of His enemies, who have not yet been removed from the earth. He intercedes for us, and we literally wield the power of God through our faith in Him when we follow His example and seek His will in our lives. We are literally dwelling in “the womb of the morning,” for it will not be until the Last Day that the earth will give birth to her dead. The LORD declared in Isaiah 26:19, “together with my dead body they shall arise.” Linking the prophecies, Isaiah wrote: “your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.” We can turn to 1st Corinthians 15, where Paul explained Yeshua was the firstfruits of the resurrection and Yeshua’s faithful would follow Him afterward at His coming—that is, at His return. He rules from the right hand of God today, and His volunteers serve Him in the day of His power. Our God reigns! He's coming back to bring us into the intimacy of His Kingdom.

{Next slide—8} Here’s another witness in Acts 2, verses 29-36, where Peter explained David’s prophecy to his fellow Jews in Jerusalem at Shavuot/Pentecost, after many believed in Yeshua and received the Holy Spirit of God. He said: “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Messiah to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Yeshua God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David

did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my LORD, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Yeshua, whom you crucified, both LORD and Messiah.'" Our LORD and Messiah—our God and our King—who was also David's LORD—Our Yeshua reigns at the Right Hand of God. His ministry began when He was but a tender Branch coming forth from the stump of David—when all Israel had left was the hope of His promise. He had "no form or comeliness," meaning that he was not in any way stately or splendid in the flesh. He didn't come with an appearance that His people expected, and so He was despised and rejected by those Men who held the reigns of power on the earth—He was even put to death as an offering for sin. And yet He would not see the corruption of His flesh, but would rather be raised up by the power of God to sit at God's right Hand. The pleasure of the LORD would prosper in His hand. Before we move on, I want you to consider what God has made available to you and me through Messiah Yeshua. Through faith, when we act according to the Will of God and the Word of God, there is absolutely nothing that is impossible. We need to have such faith without doubting. Yeshua said we could move mountains into the sea if we had faith the size of a mustard seed. We have to ask: Is there any stronghold in our lives keeping us from moving forward on the straight path toward God's Kingdom? Is anything holding us back from victory? It certainly is not Yeshua. The Messiah has obtained victory. All power in heaven and earth have been given to Him. He sits at the right Hand of power. There is nothing He cannot do. All things are possible with God. Only our faith limits what we can accomplish for the Kingdom of God. My encouragement to all of us today is belief. Pray to the LORD: "Increase my faith." Pray persistently and without doubting. He is ruling all things from the throne on high. There is NOTHING that can separate us from the love of God in Messiah Yeshua except our own doubting. The Arm of the LORD has been revealed, and all of His enemies are being gathered together to be crushed under His feet. He shows favor to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

{Next slide—9} Now, there are other facets of the Hand of God and the Arm of God that we could explore, but I'm going to stop here for today and move on. There are actually many anthropomorphic metaphors in Scripture prophetically used to describe God's attributes, and of course, most of them—if not all of them—also point to Yeshua. God's face is often used to describe His presence, for instance, His eyes denote His favor, and His nostrils often signify His judgment. Remember that Messiah Yeshua has been described as the Head of the Body, something we've touched on in previous messages. The hand, which we referenced in today's message, not only signifies the protection or salvation of God, but also His covering and preservation. The arm of God,

while certainly reflects His power and strength, also can be used to execute judgment. God's finger represents His Holy Spirit's work in the world, which of course works through His Hand, which is attached to His Arm, and all of this is controlled by His invisible Mind. There are many other metaphors that we could study both as attributes of God and foreshadows of Messiah Yeshua, but I'll leave them to you to further explore. I want to present one more metaphor that actually relates rather well to how we've discussed God's Hand and His Arm today, but the Branch metaphor turns us toward horticultural imagery rather than imagery of the body. A good transitional passage can be found in Psalm 80, which explains both the rise and the fall of Israel. In verses 8-11, we read: "You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it. You prepared room for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land. The hills were covered with its shadow, And the mighty cedars with its boughs. She sent out her boughs to the Sea, And her branches to the River." What we're reading here is concerning the nation of Israel and its early success in the Promised Land. Surely, during the days of David and Solomon Israel flourished and bore fruit for God. Israel spread throughout the land that God gave to the people and they prospered there for a time. Earlier, the LORD had promised David, according to 2nd Samuel 7:12, "'When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.'" We covered this to some extent in our message about the Seed metaphor. David believed his son Solomon was the "seed" God prophesied. To some extent, Solomon was the short-term fulfillment, but as Scripture continues to archive the life of David's sons, we'll see that the line of succession did not continue forever in the earthly kingdom. It was at the end of David's life that we read this account in 1st Kings 2, verses 1-4 relative to the Psalm 80 prophesy: "Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His Word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" Now, as a quick aside, I simply want to point out that if you want to be a Might Man, this is what it's going to take. If you want to be a Woman of Valor, this is your calling. We have to answer this call to be grafted-in to the Branch.

{Next slide—10} Back to the message of Psalm 80. God promised an eternal Kingdom to the Son of righteousness, but Solomon would not be that son promised to David. In

fact, it was precisely because of Solomon's sin and apostasy, that Israel and Judah split into two nations during the reign of Solomon's son Rehoboam. In 1st Kings 11, verses 11-13, we read the following: "Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, 'Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.'" The northern tribes of Israel turned toward idolatry right from the beginning of this split, and this northern nation was ultimately conquered by Assyria in 722 BC. Meanwhile, the eternal line of David continued all the way until Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered the southern kingdom of Judah in 586 BC, and at that time he burned the city, the temple Solomon had built, and took the king of Judah and all his men into captivity. There would never again be a king from the Tribe of Judah to sit on the throne in physical Jerusalem, but there would still be a king who would fulfill the prophesy that God gave to His servant David. Our God reigns on His throne today! As Psalm 80 continues into verses 14-19, the text prophetically recognizes this future for the nation. Starting in verse 14, we read: "Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see, and visit this vine and the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, and the branch that You made strong for Yourself. It is burned with fire, it is cut down; they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance. Let Your Hand be upon the Man of Your right hand, upon the Son of Man whom You made strong for Yourself. Then we will not turn back from You; revive us, and we will call upon Your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!" Here we can see several of our metaphors coming together, and this is why I brought you here. The Psalmist, looking at the captivity of Israel and Judah, could see that Israel and Judah had been cut off from the Land. The branch of Israel had been cut down and burned. The Psalmist prayed for the LORD to return the nation home, and God would indeed return Judah to Jerusalem in a short-term fulfillment of this prophesy. But again, while God had mercy on Judah and returned the people to Jerusalem, no king of Judah would ever sit on the physical throne again. Many look at this and say the prophesy was not fulfilled, but the reality is that Yeshua completely fulfilled it before the temple and city were destroyed again by the Romans in AD 70 and AD 135 respectively. The Branch would come out of the cut-off stump in the days of Messiah Yeshua. Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 detail the heritage of Yeshua, who had descended as the literal Branch from the original Davidic line. And as it pertains to this prophetic Word in Psalm 80, Yeshua would be the Man of God's right Hand, the Son of Man whom God made strong for Himself. God would

put His hand upon this Son of Man, and He would literally be the promised Branch from the severed and burned out vine that the LORD would make strong for Himself. Like a tender shoot comes forth from a tree stump that has been cut off, because the Root is strong, Yeshua would be the Branch that would fill the whole Earth in fulfillment of this prophesy. He has done this and is doing this now.

{Next slide—11} When we turn to Psalm 89, “A Contemplation of Ethan the Ezrahite,” we can see that God did not forget His promise to David; He would fulfill it, but not in the way Jewish leaders might have expected. Here’s verses 1-4, where we read: “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, ‘Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens.’ ‘I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’” The psalm continues to express this promise to David, that His Son would be exalted to rule over all the earth forever, and even that God’s Arm would hold Him up. What I want you to see here is that God’s faithfulness was established in the heavens, not on the Earth, and He affirmed, even during a dark time, that David’s Seed would endure forever. Later on in the Psalm, specifically verses 19-24, we read this: “Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, and said: ‘I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him, With whom My hand shall be established; also My arm shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, Nor the son of wickedness afflict him. I will beat down his foes before his face, And plague those who hate him. But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him, and in My name his horn shall be exalted.” At the time of this writing, King David was dead and buried. The psalmist isn’t referring to David here, but to David’s Son, the anointed one—Messiah Yeshua. The Messiah Son of David is the one whose horn—whose power—would be exalted in the Name of Yahweh. He would defeat God’s enemies and execute God’s mercy and faithfulness upon God’s people. The Arm of the LORD would strengthen Him—in other words, by the power of God, He would be resurrected from the dead.

{Next slide—12} When would this happen? According to Zechariah 3:8, the LORD told Joshua the high priest that He was bringing forth His Servant the BRANCH in the days to come. Joshua was high priest in Jerusalem after the people returned from captivity in Babylon. This BRANCH, who was coming, was likened to a Servant, just like the suffering servant metaphors of Isaiah 53. He would grow up as a tender plant and as a root out of dry ground, and while He would be rejected, He would still prolong His days

and see the fruit of His works. We get a little bit more detail about this Servant the BRANCH in Zechariah 6, verses 12-13, where we read: “Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”’ Yeshua, the King of kings and LORD of Lords, and the eternal High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek, fulfills this role as priest on the throne of God. And as we’ve also discussed, He is building the temple of God in His body of believers. As we discussed earlier, He bears the glory of God, just as He had in the beginning. Remember that Yeshua said in John 15:5-8, and I didn't put his on the screen: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." You see, Yeshua is THE Vine, or THE BRANCH, we we as His followers grow out from what He has accomplished. When we abide in Him, which is to trust in Him fully—the work He has done for us and the path that He has shown for us—we can bear fruit for His Kingdom. We become a part of the Branch that fills the whole earth. This prophesy isn't ambiguous. It's quite clearly pointing to Yeshua and the people He was building for Himself in the world.

{Next slide—13} Jeremiah also prophesied about this BRANCH that was coming. According to Jeremiah, Yeshua was coming to replace the false prophets of Israel who were leading the people astray toward lawlessness. Rather than feed the sheep of God with His Word, they were not attending to God's people and were adding to and taking away from God's Word, just as Yeshua said in Matthew 23. Remember, for instance, Yeshua said in Matthew 23, verse 15, where we read: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. Now take a look at Jeremiah 23, verses 1-6, where we read: “‘Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: ‘You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,’ says the LORD. ‘But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they

shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,' says the LORD. 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS'" For the record, the text in all caps on the screen is also in all caps in the original Hebrew. I want you to understand that the Branch from David would be called Yahweh Tzidkeinu—literally Yahweh our Righteousness. This Branch, who would be called according to the Name of God, would replace the false shepherds of Israel with new shepherds who would feed His sheep. He would be a King would would reign from on High and prosper, as well as a priest who would save His people from their sins. He would bring Judah and Israel together in His name. This Branch is none other than our Yeshua, who sits at the Right Hand of God. He has set up His disciples as leaders over the remnant of His flock, and they have fed the sheep bountifully in their folds, now all over the known world. All who are truly walking in faithfulness in Yeshua have been fruitful, and we are multiplying in the Earth. Those who know the Branch are lacking in nothing. We are only waiting for the King to return and bring us into His New Heaven and His New Earth, which will replace the present fallen world.

{Next slide—14} As we move toward the end of today's message, let's take a look at Isaiah 11 for a passage that provides one of the clearest pictures of our Branch who would be realized in Messiah Yeshua. It's important to note that this prophetic Word is co-mingled with two different fulfillments—the first when Yeshua came as the suffering servant to save His people through His sacrifice as well as His victory over sin and death in the resurrection, and the second when He would return as the conquering king to bring us into a kingdom that is free from sin and death completely. Remember, from Isaiah 53: "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as as a tender plant and as a root out of dry ground." The LORD would only reveal the fullness of His plan when Yeshua came to explain it to us. He had to accomplish His work on the cross before He could reveal the rest. Thus, the truth of Yeshua's two advents is hidden in these words, but with the Holy Spirit, we can see it there. Take a look at Isaiah 11, starting in verse 1, where we read: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the

earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.” Indeed, it was through His Word and His example that Yeshua would slay wickedness and lift up the humble. He now rules by this very same Word which He taught us. This part of the prophesy has been accomplished.

{Next slide—15} As we move into verses 6-12, we can see parts of the prophesy that are still set out in the future. However, both advents are also represented quite powerfully here, and I want you to see this. We read: ““The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” If we understand that these animals represent unclean Gentiles walking together as one people with believing Jews, God's set apart people, then this part of the prophesy has also been fulfilled. God's Holy Spirit is available now to all flesh—to everyone who believes. There is no part of God's Salvation that is currently held back from anyone who breathes on the earth. And yet this prophesy also speaks to a peaceful Kingdom to come where there will no longer be any sin or death, and yes we're meant to see this vision also. Continuing in the text, we read this critical section about these days: “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.” This is today's reality, which is how we know that the first section has a dual meaning. The Root of Jesse, the BRANCH of David, is indeed the Banner that we all hold up as we go to war in this life. The name Yeshua is salvation for all who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. His resting place is glorious! He sits at the Right Hand of Power in the Kingdom of God! Next we read this: "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His Hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.” Do you see that it's all here?!?! Yeshua is coming a second time! He's going to bring all of His people, from the nations, from Israel, and from Judah, and He's going to bring us together into His Kingdom. This is also what He said when He walked upon the Earth. He said He was going to prepare a place for us,

so that where He is we can be also. In the meantime, He instructed us in Matthew 28:18-20, where we read: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." It's our job to walk together with all of God's people, whether Jew or Gentile, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Yeshua. And we also will walk next to those who are not with us, but we were instructed: "love your enemy." "Pray for those who persecute you." This is the very world described in Isaiah 11 as we wait for the second appearance of our LORD. We're to instruct all people in righteousness by living it ourselves and teaching everyone with ears to hear about the Salvation that has come up from the Root of God's Kingdom and has grown in to a Branch that is filling the whole Earth. This is a Branch that will never be cut off.

{Next slide—16} To close today, I want to read you a message from the Apostle Paul in Romans 15, verses 1-13, for He explains how we ought to functionally do what I've been describing to you. What's great about this passage is how the Apostle ties many of the prophetic writings we've been covering together. Addressing his disciples, who include you and me, Paul wrote: "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. [We ought to be those shepherds who feed the sheep with God's Word, rather than scatter them with worldly ideas.] Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. [We edify one another using the Word of God and the example that Yeshua showed us. And He continues:] For even Messiah did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.' For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Messiah Yeshua, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our LORD Yeshua Messiah. Therefore receive one another, just as Messiah also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Yeshua Messiah has become a Servant to the circumcision for the Truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: 'For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.' And again he says: 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!' And again: 'Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!' And again, Isaiah says: 'There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.'" And as Paul closed out this section, I will close out today's sermon. We read: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy

and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Indeed, when we believe in the report that the "Arm of the LORD" has been revealed, that the Branch of David has grown from its tender beginnings into a Vine that fills the whole Earth, we understand that we are now living in a time where the banner of Yeshua flies in Victory above us. It doesn't matter what happens to our bodies in this world, not even our lives, for our life is guaranteed in Messiah Yeshua, in the Kingdom to come, so long as we live in the victory over sin and death that Yeshua has secured for us. As He has risen Himself from the dead, so too will He raise us up, and the coming Kingdom, without sin or death around us, is tomorrow's promise that is more certain than anything we can see or hear with our physical senses. Our God is invincible and He has invited us to join with Him in His perfection forever. So help us God. Shabbat shalom.