

# Stem of Jesse-Answers From Isaiah Doctrine and Covenants 113



*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 11:10*



**Suggested  
Hymn: #6  
Redeemer  
of Israel**

# Background

The opening of the year 1838 can best be told in the language of Joseph Smith. He writes:

"A new year dawned upon the church in Kirtland in all the bitterness of the spirit of apostate mobocracy; which continued to rage and grow hotter and hotter, until Elder Rigdon and myself were obliged to flee from its deadly influence, as did the apostles and prophets of old,...



... the 12th of January, about ten o'clock, we left Kirtland, on horseback, to escape mob violence, which was about to burst upon us under the color of legal process to cover their hellish designs and save themselves from the just judgment of the law...

...On the 14th as we were about entering Far West, many of the brethren came out to meet us, who also with open arms welcomed us to their bosoms."

***But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another:  
Matthew 10:23***

# Questions About the Writings of Isaiah

March 1838



The Prophet included in his history some answers from the Lord to questions on the book of Isaiah. It is not known who asked the first questions—it may be that the Prophet asked them on his own behalf. The final questions came from Elias Higbee.

Section 113 was first published in the 1876 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Student Manual

# Elias Higbee

He was born October 23, 1795, at Galway, New Jersey to Isaac Higbee and Sophia Somers

His wife was Sarah Elizabeth Ward and they had 12 children

He joined the Church in Ohio and moved his family to Missouri, where he held various Church positions

He was elected judge in Caldwell County and was a leading officer in the Church's Missouri militia

While in office he issued an order for the sheriff to call out the militia to disperse the mobs acting against the Saints and the Battle of Crooked River was the result

He asked the Prophet, Joseph Smith, to explain some passages of Isaiah

Having been forced by mobs to leave Missouri, he moved to Illinois and continued his ecclesiastical and civic duties

He accompanied Joseph Smith to Washington D.C. to seek redress from President Martin Van Buren for the acts committed against the Saints

He was on the committee for the Nauvoo Temple, and died of cholera on June 7, 1843, and buried at the old Nauvoo burial grounds



# Jesse

*pronounced yee-shaw-ee, which meant to hold out, as in to extend*

He was of the line of Judah's son, (son of Leah and Jacob) Pharez, the elder of the twin sons of Judah with his former daughter-in-law Tamar (Genesis 29:32-35)

Grandson of Ruth (Ruth 4:18-22)

Son of Obed

From Bethlehem (1 Samuel 17:58)

Father of David, the boy who would slay Goliath and become King of Israel

Jesse became renowned throughout the land because of David's heroic act

His direct line of descents leads to Christ (Matthew 1:5-6)



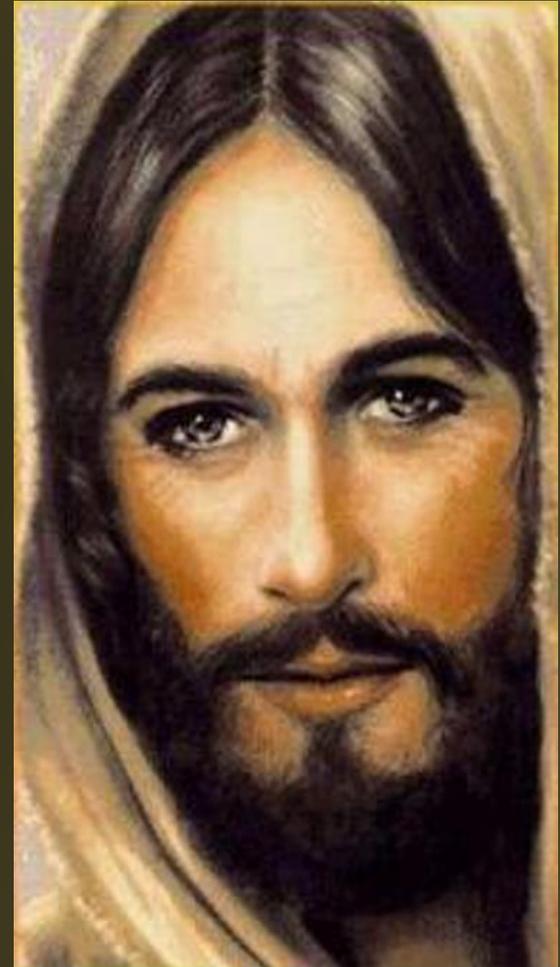
# Question 1—The Stem

Who is the Stem of Jesse spoken of in the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th verses of the 11th chapter of Isaiah?



Stem—Stock, the remains in the earth after the tree is cut down

Stem of Jesse—Hebrew word for stump  
(Root word—geza)



Mario Aureio Rodrigues

# Question 2—The Rod

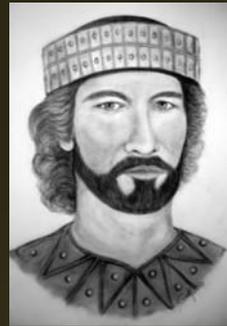
What is the rod spoken of in the first verse of the 11th chapter of Isaiah, that should come of the Stem of Jesse?

This branch will be a man of great power—a servant of Christ



Rod—shoot or branch coming out of the stem

Branch—Hebrew—  
nazar—a word found in:  
Daniel 11:7  
Jeremiah 23:5-6  
Hosea 3:5



*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*



Rod=The great prophet of the Restoration- a servant in the hands of the Lord

McConkie and Ostler

# Question 3—The Root

What is the root of Jesse spoken of in the 10th verse of the 11th chapter?



One who has a great mission to gather the remnant of Israel and who holds the priesthood and the keys of the kingdom

Improvement Era

Descendant of Jesse



Descendant of Ephraim, of the house of Joseph. A man who rightly hold the keys

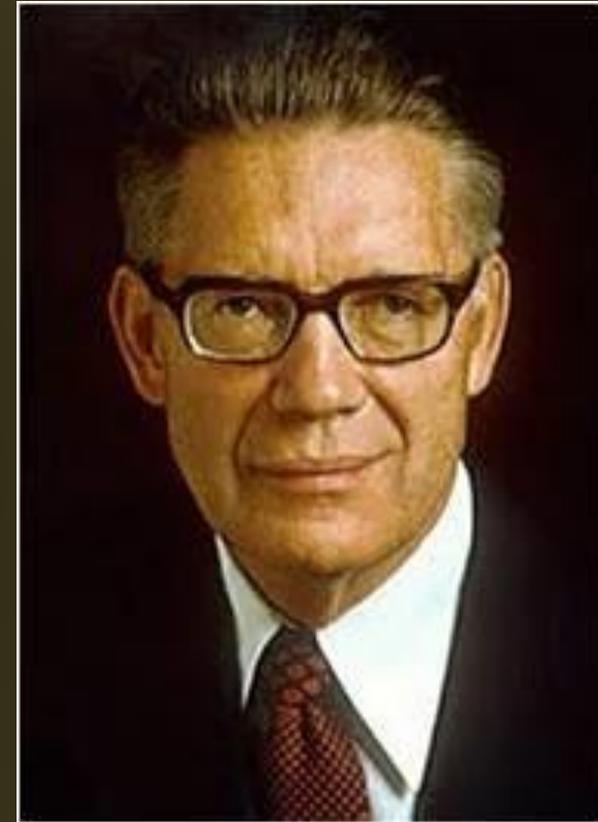
**Joseph Smith received the keys of the kingdom for the gathering of Israel in the last days.**

“Are we amiss in saying that the prophet here mentioned is Joseph Smith, to whom the priesthood came, who received the keys of the kingdom, and who raised the ensign for the gathering of the Lord’s people in our dispensation?

And is he not also the ‘servant in the hands of Christ, who is partly a descendant of Jesse as well as of Ephraim, or of the house of Joseph, on whom there is laid much power’?

Those whose ears are attuned to the whisperings of the Infinite will know the meaning of these things.”

Elder Bruce R. McConkie



# Question 4—Elias Higbee

What is meant by the command in Isaiah, 52nd chapter, 1st verse, which saith: Put on thy strength, O Zion—and what people had Isaiah reference to?

“Foretells a triumphant time when the people of Zion and Jerusalem will be restored to power, particularly priesthood power, and will be free from oppression through the redeeming powers of Christ.”



“...Promises connected to priesthood blessings, especially associated with the temple.

“...Putting on the power and authority of the priesthood.”

**The authority of the  
priesthood is the strength of  
Zion.**



# Question 5

What are we to understand by Zion loosing herself from the bands of her neck; 2nd verse?

"...scattering remnants of Israel returning to the Lord."



During its long history, Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times.

The oldest part of the city was settled in the 4th millennium BCE, making Jerusalem one of the oldest cities in the world. Wikipedia

"...not just a literal freeing from their political captors, and scattered condition but also the *spiritual* freeing of all mankind through the atonement of the Savior."



"It is only through the Savior's complete and infinite sacrifice that such sin-indebted souls can be redeemed."

## Sources:

### History of the Church Vol. 3 pgs. 1-2

*Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual Religion 324-325 Section 113*

*Doctrine and Covenants Who's Who* by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pgs. 45-46

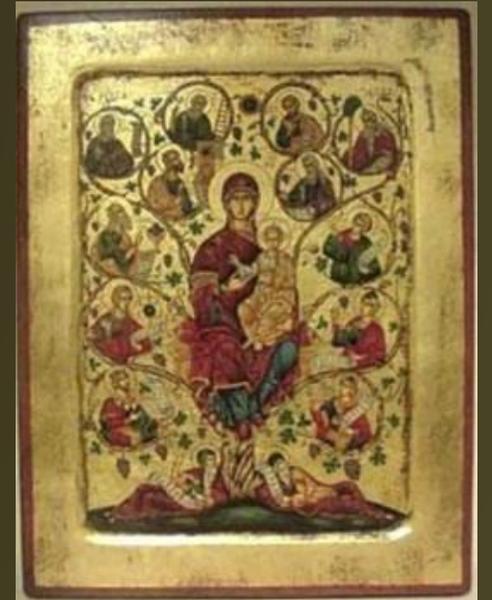
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Improvement Era Oct. 1966 pp. 869, 914-15

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig J. Ostler *Revelations of the Restoration* pg.911

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (*The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man*[1982], 339–40).

Victor L. Ludlow *Unlocking Isaiah in the Book of Mormon* pg. 234-35



### The Rod:

One might assume “that the ‘rod’ was Joseph Smith, believing that the Prophet, out of modesty, hesitated to name himself directly. None of us would question that Joseph was destined to become a great ‘servant in the hands of Christ’. Moreover, if we assume that he was the ‘rod’ or ‘servant’, observe how very well such an identification fits in with Moroni’s mission of explaining to the latter-day Prophet his part in Isaiah’s great vision of the future. As the ‘rod’ or ‘servant in the hands of Christ’, Joseph Smith fits naturally into Isaiah’s prophecy, and it is easy to understand why Moroni quoted and explained Isaiah 11 to him. [See JS—H 1:40.]

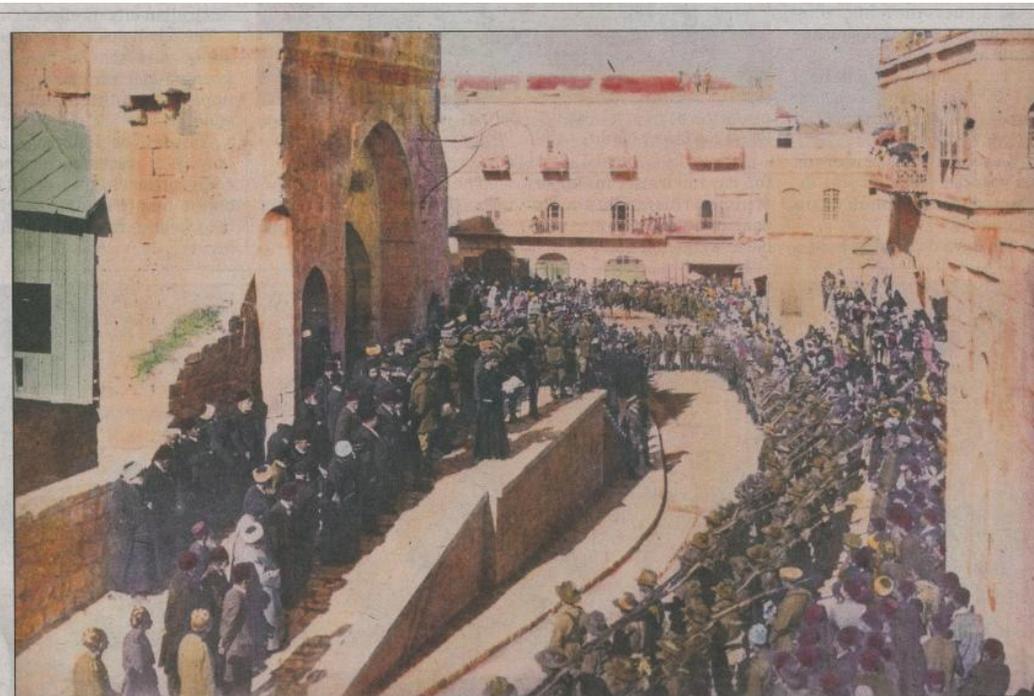
### David:

“Although David was a king, he never did obtain the spirit and power of Elijah and the fullness of the Priesthood...the throne and kingdom of David is to be taken from him and given to another by the name of David in the last days.”

Joseph Smith Church History 6:253

### The Root

The explanation of Isaiah 11:10 given in Doctrine and Covenants 113 implies that while Christ is the root of David, he is not the root of Jesse mentioned by Isaiah. There are two reasons for this conclusion. First, the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith in verse 2 identifies Christ as the stem of Jesse; he does not identify Christ as the root of Jesse. Second, verse 6 indicates that the root of Jesse is a servant of Christ to whom keys are given “in the last days” to gather Christ’s people. Student Manual section 113



This slide, originally taken on December 11, 1917 in Jerusalem, shows the official surrender of the city.

Picture: Kelvin Crombie

## Jerusalem an ideal sister city

WA HISTORIAN Kelvin Crombie wants Albany and Jerusalem to be sister cities, he announced to the crowd at an Anzac history talk held in Albany last Friday.

Mr Crombie was supported by City of Albany Mayor Milton Evans, who wants to establish a link between the cities because the Australian 10th Light Horse Regiment – made up entirely of WA men – was Australia’s only connection to the capture of Jerusalem.

The Desert Mounted Corps memorial on Mt Clarence acknowledges the efforts of the Light Horse.

The hand-painted slide (left) was found by Mr Crombie in an attic in England and was taken on December 11, 1917 from the roof of Christ Church, Jerusalem.

“It’s the official surrender of the city with the British commander general Allenby,” Mr Crombie said. “Half of that semi-circle were members of the Light Horse unit from WA, some from the Albany region.”

This series of battles was successfully fought by the British Empire's XX Corps, XXI Corps, and the Desert Mounted Corps against strong opposition from the Yildirim Army Group's Seventh Army in the Judean Hills and the Eighth Army north of Jaffa on the Mediterranean coast.

As a result of these victories, British Empire forces captured Jerusalem and established a new strategically strong fortified line. This line ran from well to the north of Jaffa on the maritime plain, across the Judean Hills to Bireh north of Jerusalem, and continued eastwards of the Mount of Olives. With the capture of the road from Beersheba to Jerusalem via Hebron and Bethlehem, together with substantial Ottoman territory south of Jerusalem, the city was secured. On 11 December, General Edmund Allenby humbly entered the Old City on foot through the Jaffa Gate instead of horse or vehicles to show respect for the holy city. He was the first Christian in many centuries to control Jerusalem.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jerusalem)