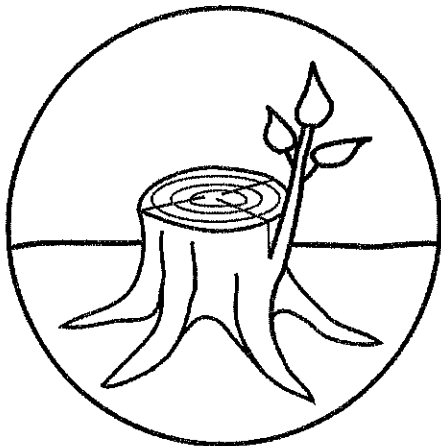
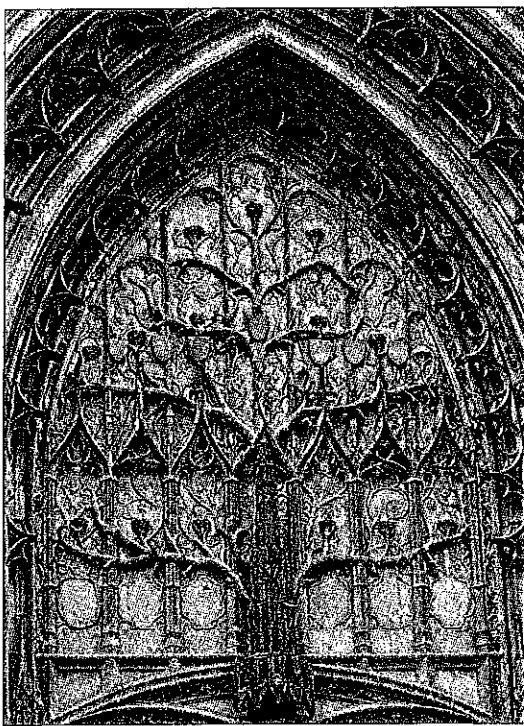


December 12: Branch of Jesse



The Israelites did not have a king to rule them, and they insisted on having a king. Samuel, the prophet, heard God tell him to anoint Saul as their first king so he did. However after Saul was king for many years, Saul disobeyed God's commands and lost God's favor. Samuel then sought a king from among the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. Samuel examined seven of Jesse's sons and determined that "The Lord has not chosen these." He asked Jesse if he had another son. Jesse said that David, his youngest son, was tending the

sheep. Samuel asked for David. When he came the Lord said to Samuel, "Rise and anoint him, this is the one." Samuel anointed him without Saul knowing, and later David did become the king of Israel. David is like a branch from the family tree of Jesse.



Tree of Jesse, Beauvais Cathedral



1 Samuel 13:13-14. ¹³Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of Yahweh your God, which he commanded you; for now Yahweh

would have established your kingdom on Israel forever. ¹⁴But now your kingdom will not continue. Yahweh has sought for himself a man after his own heart, and Yahweh has appointed him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept that which Yahweh commanded you."

Isaiah 11:1-9. ¹A shoot will come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit.

²Yahweh's Spirit will rest on him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh.

³His delight will be in the fear of Yahweh. He will not judge by the sight of his eyes, neither decide by the hearing of his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and decide with equity for the humble of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; The calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear will graze. Their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

⁹They will not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea.