

watching, the light from heaven, the angel's message, the heavenly choir, the babe in the manger. Then back 700 years to Isaiah and what he foresaw.

Take the Lesson Plan in order.

I. DARKNESS. 2. Take pains to bring out the blackness of the darkness of that time, a monster upon the throne, true religion almost dead, the kingdom eaten up by alien armies, the people wretched. Mark the figures, "walk in darkness," "dwelling in the land of the shadow of death," and show how the description applies to the time of Christ's coming and to the condition at all times of those who forsake God and are living without God and without hope in the world.

II. DAWN, 2-5. A glimmering of light. Promises of deliverance; count them one by one (1) To multiply; the nation. Increase in numbers, large households, and thronging villages and cities, this was the highest ambition of the Jews. (2) To increase the joy (Rev. Ver.); national prosperity. The figures are vivid, the joy of the harvest home, and of victorious warriors. (3) To set them free, the "yoke," the "staff," the "rod" broken. (See Exposition.) The "day of Midian" gives a fine opportunity to rally a weary class, Gideon's triumph. (See Exposition). Explain verse 5 as in the Revised Version, a highly figurative description of how war itself should be destroyed.

III. SUNRISE, 6. The promise of a deliverer now becomes definite. He is to be a "child," i.e., of the human race; a "son," i.e., of the royal seed. (Compare ch. 7:14.) He is to be "given." (John 3:16.) The "government" is to be "upon His shoulder." (Matt. 28:18; John 5:17.) His name, "Wonderful" (the miracle of the Incarnation), "Counsellor" (in the courts of Heaven. John 8:38), "The mighty God" (John 10:30), "The everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace." (Luke 2:14.)

IV. DAY, 7. The prophecy and promise of the glories of Christ's kingdom. Analyse the verse: increase of dominion; a deeper and

profounder peace as the ages roll on; the throne of "Great David's greater son" ordered and established in righteousness forever. Very marvellous words, fulfilled in their completeness only in the Christ.

Does the fulfillment seem to come slowly? Mark the last words of v. 7 and have faith in God, who never forgets and where strength fails not.

Study Questions

Juniors

2, 3. Who are referred to? What did they see? Who said, "I am the light of the world"? What does the light bring with it? (v. 3.) What was the angel's message when the Savior came? (Luke 2:10, 11.) What was the song of the heavenly host? (Luke 2:13, 14.)

4, 5. What nation was the "yoke" and "rod" of Israel? To what does the "day of Midian" refer? What sort of yoke is Christ's? (Matt. 11:30.)

6, 7. Whose birth foretold? By how many titles known? Name them. What was Christ's chief work? What are the two distinct natures of Christ here brought out? Who announced the birth of Christ? To whom? (Luke 2:11.)

What does Christ want from each scholar? What will He do for all who trust Him?

Seniors

2, 3. Who saves men from the darkness of sin? (John 8:12; 1 Pet. 2:9.) For whom is the Gospel intended? (Rom. 1:16; Col. 1:5, 6.) By what other names is it known? (Eph. 3:2; 1 Pet. 4:17; Rom. 1:9; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 2:16.)

Who is the great deliverer from sin? How may we obtain deliverance? What kind of joy is meant? Under whose rule? What is said will befall the implements of war? (Revised Version.) What other promise of a similar sort does Isaiah make? (Ch. 2:4.)

6, 7. By what words is Christ's human nature here brought out? His divine na-