

## Lesson XIII.

## THE CHARACTER OF THE MESSIAH December 24, 1905

Isaiah 9 : 1-7—Memory Verse, 6.

**Golden Text**—Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matthew 1 : 21.



1 Nevertheless the dimness *shall not be* such as *was* in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebu'lun and the land of Naph'tali, and afterward did more grievously afflict *her by* the way of the sea, beyond Jor'dan, in Gal'ilee of the nations.

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light : they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, *and* not increased the joy : they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, *and as men* rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Mid'ian.

5 For every battle of the warrior *is* with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood ; but *this* shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given : and the government shall be upon his shoulder : and his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of Da'vid, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

The prophet to whom God revealed most about the work and coming of the Saviour was Isaiah, who lived at a time when Israel was passing through some of the darkest years in her history. As a punishment for the wicked acts of the cruel King Ahaz, who had shut up the doors of the temple and established idol-worship throughout the land, God had allowed the Assyrians to overrun the country, so that Isaiah now spoke of his beloved nation as a people walking in darkness and dwelling in the land of the shadow of death.

But in these troublous times, Isaiah was able by God's Spirit to point forward to a time not far away, when God's people should be released from the power of the heathen Assyrians, and when, being delivered from their enemies, the little Jewish nation should increase and multiply, until it should become the chief means in God's hands of establishing His kingdom in the world.

But the good news Isaiah brought his countrymen concerning the defeat of their present enemies and the joy that should come to them when they won back their fields and lands, was as nothing to the joyful tidings which he brought them of the certain coming of the great Saviour Himself, whom Isaiah now foretold should one day be born as a little child.

Not only did Isaiah foretell how Christ should come, but he was able hundreds of years beforehand to write the five names or titles by which He should be known to His people. Each of these names had a meaning, by which the prophet tried to show what the work and character of Christ should be. First He shall be both God and man; Counsellor, for by His perfect wisdom He controls the world, and everything in it; the Mighty God, for He shall save His people from their sins. Last of all Isaiah speaks of the coming Messiah as the Everlasting Father and the