

## LESSON XIII.

## CHRIST'S COMING FORETOLD

December 24, 1899

Isaiah 9: 2-7. Commit to memory vs. 6, 7. Read Isa. 11: 1-10

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, <sup>2</sup> 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 David, 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.

**Revised Version.**—1 Dwell; 2 Thou hast increased their joy; 3 Transfer thou hast broken to follow oppressor; 4 For all the armour of the armed man in the tumult, and the garments rolled in blood, shall even be for burning, for fuel of fire; 5 Omit the; 6 Establish; 7 Uphold; 8 Righteousness.

## GOLDEN TEXT

"Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 11.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—Isa. 9: 1-7. Christ's coming foretold.

T.—Isa. 11: 1-10. Prince of Peace.

W.—Jer. 23: 1-6. The Lord our righteousness.

Th.—Isa. 40: 1-11. Good tidings.

F.—Psalm 72: 1-17. A blessed reign.

S.—Acts 3: 18-26. A Prophet.

S.—1 Peter 1: 1-12. Testified beforehand.

## TIME

Probably written during the reign of Ahaz in Judah during the Syro Ephraimitish war, B.C. 735-34.—Driver, in "Peloubé's Notes."

## PLACE

"It was delivered in Jerusalem, the prophet's home, to Judah, the prophet's people."—Prof. George Adam Smith.

## CATECHISM

Review questions 41-62.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—30, 53, 29, 520, 28.

## LESSON PLAN

## I. Darkness, 2.

Sinful and suffering.

## II. Dawn, 2-5.

The Lord coming to the rescue.

## III. Sunrise, 6.

The "Sun of Righteousness" appearing.

## IV. Day, 7.

His rule of righteousness and peace.

## INTRODUCTION

The saints of the Old Testament looked past the kings, the prophets and the priests of their time to One greater than all, who should be the true Prophet, Priest and King. (See Shorter Catechism, Questions 23, 24, 25, 26.) The lesson is from Isaiah, who saw more clearly than any this coming Messiah.

## EXPLANATION

2-5. The people that walked in darkness; the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali after the ravages of the Assyrian army. (See Matt. 4: 15, 16). A type of Galilee at the time of Christ and of the world at all times. Have seen a great light. In verses 2-6 the prophet speaks as if the events had already happened, so clearly does he see the future. Of the shadow of death; the darkness of sorrow and solitude because of the ravages of the Assyrian army. Hath the light shined; the great light of the coming king (Comp. Is. 60: 1). Multiplied the nation; under the beneficent rule of the Messiah the nation would grow. And not increased their joy; better, as in Revised Version, "Thou hast increased their joy," the nation more numerous and more prosperous. Before thee: that is, before God. The joy in the harvest; the merriest of the harvest home. Divide the spoil. After battle the dead were stripped and the spoil divided, amidst great rejoic-

ings. Such would be the victorious joy of the people under their new king. The yoke of his burden; the yoke that Assyria had put upon the neck of Judah. Christ frees from the yoke of sin. The staff of his shoulder; the staff by which beasts and slaves were beaten over the back and shoulders. Assyria was the staff with which Israel had been beaten. The rod of his oppressor; "The rod of him who drives him." The rod or goad was used in urging beasts (Acts 9: 5). The day of Mid'ian; when God gave Israel the victory over Mid'ian by the hand of Gideon (Judges 7: 1-23). For every battle, etc.; See the Rev. Ver. for the true sense of this passage. It means that everything connected with war shall be swept away.

6. For unto us; to the nation and to the whole world. A child is born; Compare ch. 7: 14; Luke 2: 11. A son is given; a royal male heir to the throne of Judah. (Compare John 3: 16). And the government.