

as delivered? What does the phrase, "the staff of his shoulder," mean? Who is "the oppressor" or taskmaster here spoken of? What is signified by "the day of Midian"? Explain the usage of the word "day." What is the thought of v. 5? Why are the "armor" and the "garments" consumed?

Vs. 6, 7 form a paragraph. What is the subject of the paragraph? Who are the persons to whom the child is born? Was the child born at the date of the prophecy, or is the prophet speaking from the standpoint of the Messianic age, subsequent to the destruction of the Assyrian? How are the names borne by the Messiah to be understood? What is the meaning of "Wonderful"? "Counselor"? Skill in counsel is a kingly quality. What is the meaning of the phrase, "Mighty God"? What second quality distinctive of the king is now added to wisdom? Had the prophet any anticipation of the truth that the Messiah was to be the Son of God? Point to the margin of the Rev. Ver. for the literal translation of the words "everlasting Father," and ask in what sense is the Messiah "Father of Eternity." Is this because He always acts as a Father, or because He possesses the attribute of eternity? The Messiah is wise and strong; His rule is fatherly. What new attribute is contained in the title, "Prince of Peace"? What is the main thought of v. 7? Is the Messiah regarded as descended from David? Commend judgment and righteousness as the true foundation of a throne. What is meant by the "zeal" of God?

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

The atmosphere of this Lesson will dwell longer with the scholars than the bare, hard facts. Does any scholar know the passage by heart? Do the class know it? Let them "say" it together. Wouldn't it be worth while also to have bits from Luke, chs. 1 and 2, read or recited. The prophecy here and the narrative there harmonize perfectly, as two instruments tuned to the same note. And why not? for does not Luke record what Isaiah, by the Spirit of God, foresaw?

The Revised Version, as given along with the lesson text, helps out wonderfully in today's passage. Keep it in sight all through.

Who was Isaiah, who spoke these words? A prophet of Judah, when the kingdom of Israel was soon to be carried captive for its sins, and Judah was hurrying fast along the same road. His message from God was to warn and cheer.

Find Zebulun and Naphtali on the map (see HOME STUDY QUARTERLY OF TEACHERS MONTHLY, for October). That is where the Assyrians had devastated like a horde of locusts, "in the former time," v. 1 (Rev. Ver.). "In the latter time," God will "make it glorious"—will bring deliverance, v. 1. Such is the historical situation. And in vs. 2-5, there is a description, like the sound of trumpets and the roll of drums, of the march of the delivering army. The Exposition (p. 529) will help in explaining in detail. The great truth is—God is watching over, and will deliver, His people.

Then go on to those wonderful verses 6 and 7. "The prophet," says Cheyne, "is unrolling a picture of the future." "There has only one Child ever been born," says another, "to whom the description will apply." Who is He? The scholars will delight in repeating and explaining His names one by one, v. 6. The table given below illustrates the growth of Christ's kingdom on earth up to 25 years ago. The past quarter of a century has vastly increased the figures. When will the growth of the kingdom cease? "No end," is the prophet's answer here. Isa. 11:9 (last clause) says the same thing in another way. Our Christmas Day will be the happier, if, by word or gift, we help to spread that blessed kingdom and reign of Messiah, the King, a little further still.

GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY

A.D.	CHRISTIANS	AVERAGE	AVERAGE GAIN PER YEAR
1000	50 millions	50,000
1500	100 "	Doubled in 500 years	100,000
1800	200 "	Doubled in 300 years	450,000
1880	415 "	Doubled in 80 years	2,688,000