

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, 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 seal 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 9 : 11.

DAILY READINGS

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

T.—Isa. 11 : 1-10. Prince of Peace.

W.—Jer. 23 : 1-4. The Lord our righteousness.

Th.—Isa. 40 : 1-11. Good tidings.

F.—Psalm 72 : 1-17. A blessed reign.

S.—Acts 3 : 18-24. A Prophet.

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

TIME

Probably written during the reign of Ahas in Judah during the Syro Ephraimite war, B.C. 735-722.—Driver, in "Peloubet'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 Psalms—90, 51, 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

A lesson on the coming of Christ is timely for the season. It is a fit ending, also, to the lessons of the past two quarters. The world, Jews and Gentiles alike, needed such a deliverer. The pious longed for Him. The prophets foretold His appearing. This prophecy was made three hundred years before Malachi's time, or more than seven hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. It was a dark and sorrowful day. The wicked Ahas was king of Judah. True religion was almost dead. The kingdom had been despoiled, first by the armies of Syria and Israel, and then by the Assyrian hosts who had been called in to help Judah against its other foes. The Philistines and Edomites also poured into the now desolated land to consume what was left. Darker days could scarcely have been. But Isaiah saw light and spoke words of cheer such as our lesson contains. (For the history of Isaiah's time, see 2 Kings, chs. 16-21, and 2 Chron., chs. 26-33.)

EXPOSITION

I. Darkness, 2.

2. The people that walked in darkness; the inhabitants of Zebulun and Naphtali, who suffered most from the scourge of the Assyrian army (v. 1 and ch. 8 : 21, 22). There was the darkness of oppression and irreligion. This is a not inapt description of Galilee at the coming of Christ (Matt. 24 : 15, 16.);

a description too, of the Church in the time of defection and gloom, and of the world at any time. (Isa. 59 : 9; John 8 : 12.)

II. Dawn, 2-5.

Have seen a great light. So clear to the prophet's mind are the coming events that he speaks of them as already accomplished.