

Lesson XIII.

THE CHARACTER OF THE MESSIAH December 24, 1905

Isaiah 9: 1-7. Commit to memory v. 6. Read Isaiah 11: 1-10.

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 Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee 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.

Revised Version—But there shall be no gloom to her that was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land: but in the latter time hath he made it glorious by the way of the sea: Omit in; dwell; thou hast increased their joy; Omit and; Put "thou hast broken" after "oppressor"; all the armour of the armed man in the tumult, and the garments; Omit but this; establish; be for burning, for; Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; of; establish; uphold; righteousness; shall.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Vision of Joy, 1-3.

II. A Vision of Peace, 4, 5.

III. A Vision of Christ, 6, 7.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The character of the Messiah, Isa. 9: 1-7.
T.—The Branch, Isa. 11: 1-10. W.—The Deliverer, Isa. 42: 1-8. Th.—The Comforter, Isa. 61: 1-6.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—734 to 732 B.C.; Jerusalem, the home of Isaiah.

Connecting Links—For our Christmas Lesson we go back about three hundred years in the history of Israel, to the time when Isaiah saw clearly that the Assyrian was to be God's instrument in bringing desolation on his country. But a great Deliverer shall arise, bringing hope and joy to an oppressed people.

I. A Vision of Joy, 1-3.

V. 1. *There shall be no gloom* (Rev. Ver.). The trials that had already been suffered (ch. 8: 21, 22), and the continuous fear of further attacks, are represented under the figure of gloom and darkness of the night (compare Ps. 30: 5). But the prophet sees a bright dawn approaching. *To her that was in anguish* (Rev. Ver.); that is, Israel. The horrors of war are terrible under any circumstances, but doubly so when our own country is the battle-ground. *In the former time he* (God) *brought into contempt the land* (Rev. Ver.). From earliest time Jehovah had allowed this district to be exposed to, and

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.

P.—The King, Psalm 72: 1-17. S.—The Redeemer, Isa. 59: 16-21. S.—The Saviour, John 3: 5-16.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 96-102. **The Question on Missions**—49. What is a zenana? A zenana is a private portion of the home, in which the women and children live. Our lady missionaries, both doctors and teachers, visit the zenanas, ministering to the sick and teaching gospel truth.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 520; 438 (Supplemental Lesson); 26; 30; 32 (Ps. Sel.); 34 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY).

suffer indignity at the hands of, heathen invaders. *Zebulun and Naphtali*; "Lower and Upper Galilee." A short time previously Tiglath-pileser, King of Assyria, had carried away captive the people of this territory, 2 Kgs. 15: 29. *In the latter time hath he made it glorious* (Rev. Ver.); that is, brought honor to it, since a new and glorious day is to be ushered in. Because they had suffered even more grievously than the rest of Israel, their rejoicing in their deliverance would be correspondingly greater. Three portions of these same regions are now named: (1) *The way of the sea*; "either in the direction of the Mediterranean Sea, or the region along the west side of the Sea of Galilee." (Cambridge Bible.) (2) *Beyond Jordan*; the land east of the upper Jordan. (3) *Galilee of the nations*; so called because of its mixed population of Israelites and other peoples. It was situated in the northernmost corner of Upper Galilee. These districts had suffered most in the frequent wars with Syria (1 Kgs. 15: 20), and afterwards with Assyria, 2 Kgs. 15: 29. The sufferings of the past are to be outweighed by the glory of the future. Matt. 4: 12-16