

Lesson XIII.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

December 25, 1904

Isaiah 9 : 1-7—Memory Verses, 6, 7.

Golden Text—His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9 : 6.



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 times in which Isaiah lived were indeed gloomy and disheartening. Everywhere about him, he saw both rulers and people destroying themselves with every kind of wrong-doing. In vain had the prophet warned them to return and obey the Lord.

As a punishment for their sins, the Assyrians had come upon the land like a swarm of bees, and the Israelites became their slaves and servants. So great was Israel's distress, that Isaiah now spoke of his nation as a people who walked in darkness, dwelling in the land of the shadow of death.

But in the midst of so much discouragement, Isaiah had a wonderful vision of a bright future for his nation. By God's help, he was the first of all the prophets to get a clear picture of God's great plan for saving His people. What Isaiah now saw, was nothing less than a bright foreshadowing of

that first far-off Christmas Day, when God should send His Son to be born as a little babe in Bethlehem. Speaking of that glad time, Isaiah said, "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."

Not only was Isaiah certain that a Saviour would come, but God told him also to what family Christ should belong, promising that He should be the greatest of all the descendants of David, and that His kingdom should have no end. Also Isaiah was told five of the names by which the Holy Child should be called. These were Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. From the meaning of these names, Isaiah and his discouraged people were able, hundreds of years beforehand, to know much about what the work of Jesus should be.