

CHRIST'S COMING FORETOLD

Lesson XIII.

Isaiah 9: 2-7—Memory Verses, 6, 7

December 24, 1899

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

Long ago, before the first Christmas day, there lived a man called Isaiah.

He was one of the prophets, and God showed him many things that were to happen long afterward.

Isaiah was so busy writing and speaking God's messages that he had no time to talk much about himself, and nobody knows exactly the name of his mother, or if he had a brother or sister, only that his father's name was Amoz.

When Isaiah was not writing in his book or listening to God's messages, he spent his time warning the Jews against their sins and encouraging them to be holy.

Every day Isaiah saw God's people praying to idols. They believed, too, in ghosts and

fortune-telling, and fought with their Heathen neighbors.

At last they were so badly beaten by these enemies, and were so afraid of the harm they might yet do them that Isaiah called their country, "The land of the shadow of death."

The people themselves were so wicked that now they hardly knew the difference between right and wrong; so Isaiah said, "You are blind and sitting in great darkness." "But God has sent you a message," said the prophet, "that shall cure your blindness and scatter your enemies."

Then he told the Jews of the glad Christmas day that would sometime come, and of Jesus the little babe, who should be born to save people from their sins.

Now the Jews always gave their babies names with a special meaning.

Isaiah told the people five of the names that would be given to Jesus.

His name should be called *Wonderful*, to show that he is both God and man; *Counsellor*—because there is none so wise as He; *The Mighty God*—because of His power to make the world and keep everybody alive; *The Everlasting Father*—because He came to show the love of the Heavenly Father to His children.

But the name that the Jews liked best was one that meant no more war or fighting, but happiness and joy and quiet rest. It was *The Prince of Peace*.

