

Lesson XIII.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

December 25, 1904

Isaiah 9: 1-7. Commit to memory vs. 6, 7. Read Luke 2: 1-20.

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 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 dwelt 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 Midian.

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 of 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.

Revised Version—1 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; 2 dwelt; 3 thou hast increased their joy; 4 Put; 5 thou hast broken; 6 all the armour; 7 armed man in the tumult; 8 the; 9 Omit but this; 10 even be for burning; 11 for; 12 Omit the; 13 of; 14 establish; 15 uphold; 16 righteousness; 17 shall.

DAILY READINGS

M.—The Prince of Peace, Isa. 9: 1-7. T.—The Lord our righteousness, Jer. 23: 1-6. W.—Fortold, Acts 3: 18-26. Th.—The manger, Luke 2: 1-7. F.—The angels' song, Luke 2: 8-19. S.—Simeon's song, Luke 2: 25-35. S.—The wise men, Matt. 2: 1-11.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment? A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is, That whoever

the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Great Light, 1-3.

II. A Great Deliverance, 4, 5.

III. A Great King, 6, 7.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 26: 30; 32 (Ps. Sel.); 549; 520 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 34.

EXPOSITION

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

Connecting Links—The Lesson points to a great deliverance. The sore need is set forth in ch. 8: 21, 22. Already the northernmost regions of Israel have been invaded by the Assyrians. The whole land is threatened. But the prophet sings in joyful strains of a deliverance at hand.

I. A Great Light, 1-3.

V. 1. *Nevertheless*. Only Jehovah could have spoken this word of cheer. *There shall be no gloom* (Rev. Ver.). The night of distress will soon be past, and there is a morning of joy ahead. *To her that was in anguish* (Rev. Ver.) See Connecting Links. *In the former time he brought into contempt* (Rev. Ver.). Ever since the time of the Judges these territories had been specially exposed to heathen influences and liable to subjection by heathen enemies. *Zebulun... Naphtali*; Lower and Upper Galilee. *But in the latter time hath he made it glorious* (Rev. Ver.). The "morning dawn of glory" will there appear first. Matt. 4: 13-16 tells how this prophecy was fulfilled when Christ came. Three portions of the same regions are now named. (1) *The way of the*

sea; the strip of land lying west of the Sea of Galilee; (2) *Beyond Jordan*; the land east of the upper Jordan; (3) *Galilee of the nations*; here only the northernmost corner of Upper Galilee. It was claimed by the Israelites, but its population was greatly mixed. It was these districts that had suffered most in the frequent wars with Syria (1 Kgs. 15: 20), and afterwards with Assyria, 2 Kgs. 15: 29. Theirs will be the greater glory. The sudden change of style is remarkable; all at once the prophecy breaks into a strain of rapturous and animated poetry, which is sustained to the close.

V. 2. *The people... in darkness have seen a great light*. The perfect tenses in the Lesson picture the future as already fulfilled. Soon this prophecy would become, in some measure, a reality, when the two kings feared by Israel (ch. 7: 1, 2) would be destroyed, ch. 7: 14-16. But the complete fulfilment lay in the future, when Jesus, the "Sun of Righteousness" (Mal. 4: 2), the "Light of the World" (John 8: 12), should appear. *Land of the shadow of death*. Compare Ps. 23: 4. The darkness is like that of the under world.

V. 3. *Thou hast multiplied the nation*. In the coming age of glory God will again make