

The man is become as one of us." In John 12: 40, 46, it is said the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, was the Lord who spoke the words we read in vs. 9, 10. In Acts 27: 25, we are told it was the Holy Spirit who spake by Isaiah. What does this mean but that the divine three in one and one in three was the Lord, from whom he received his call and commission—"Go and tell this people." "Go" is a little word, but it has a tremendous meaning. It denotes energy to move forward. It is the key-word of duty for every disciple of Christ. If we are not willing to "go," it is because we lack cleansing and power. A foul tongue cannot present a pure Gospel.

Where shall we go with the message God has given us? "Go" to your own home, to the members of your own family. "Go" amongst your friends and comrades, and in your social circle, that they may take knowledge of you that you have been with Jesus, and that they may be captivated by your reflection of His grace and purity. "Go" to your shop, your office, your daily post of duty, your daily toil, and everywhere and always, by word and deed, "tell this people" the message that God bids you—a message of warning and reproof (v. 9-12), of mercy and hope (v. 13).

LESSON 5.—OCTOBER 30, 1898.

Messiah's Kingdom Foretold.

(Lesson Text: Isa. 11: 1-10. Memory Verses: 2-4.)
(Read the chapter, and also Isa. 2: 2-4, 9: 1-7.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."—Isa. 11: 9.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: Isa. 11: 1-10. Tuesday: Isa. 9: 1-7. Wednesday: Isa. 42: 1-12. Thursday: Isa. 61: 1-6. Friday: Psa. 24. Saturday: Isa. 35. Sunday: John 18: 33-40.

The Heart of the Lesson.

Isaiah had been known in Judea as God's prophet for many years before he uttered the words of this lesson. The nation was surrounded by perils. The power which had destroyed the Israelitish nation was approaching Judea, and the hearts of the people sank within them. Isaiah was instructed by vision and commissioned by God to speak to the king and the people for their encouragement. Their Assyrian foes (Isa. 10: 34) were represented as towering cedars which, when cut down, can never revive and can have no future. The kingdom of Juda, though apparently as utterly destroyed as the Assyrians, was represented by the vine which, cut down and pruned to the very root, puts forth new shoots and grows and flourishes, becoming more mighty, beautiful, and fruitful than the original tree or vine. "There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse: a branch shall grow out of his roots." Thus seven hundred years before Christ came, he predicts that a child should be born, whose parents were related through all the families that have come between, to Jesse, the shepherd of Bethlehem, and his son, King David, though the people thought the family stock had died out, and that the family line was lost. As a new shoot grows out of the old root, so the child Jesus came "as a rod out of the stem of Jesse." This Son of David, says the prophet, shall be full of wisdom, goodness, and power, because He will be full of God. This promise was repeated in chap. 42: 1, and 61: 1, and was fulfilled (Luke 4: 18-21).

The perfect power of the Holy Spirit was His. He used it subject to His Father's authority. He had full knowledge so as to make His judgment infallible. He was to show special favor to the poor and humble, but to rebuke and punish the cruel who oppress others and will not obey His wise and gentle rule. Just as a man binds a girdle round him to hold

all his clothes in their place, so this "Rod," this Ruler, was to have Righteousness as His girdle, to hold up His whole life and rule, firm and strong, in goodness and truth, the strength and honor of His kingdom.

Jesus' rule in the heart, the home, and the nation is the best, the kindest, the holiest thing the world has in it. It is making the world better and happier every day, changing the hearts and lives of cruel, selfish, and wicked men. The natural result of such a Ruler and such a government is to bring in the golden age (v. 6-9)—a figurative description of the universal quietness and harmony, flowing from the wisdom and righteousness of His reign. It indicates a change in the world as great as if the fierceness of wild beasts were to disappear. "In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground; and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down in safety." Cruelty to animals for fashion, for sport, or gain, that crying shame of the world to-day, shall become impossible, for lovers of this King would never stoop to such a wrong. "A little child shall lead them," literally submit to the control of a child, for man will still retain superiority over the lower animals. This may refer to the "Babe of Bethlehem" and the power of the Christ-child over the world. It may mean the child God has "set in the midst" of your home.

Themistocles, when greeted as the ruler of Greece, replied, "I rule Athens; Athens rules Greece; my wife rules me, and my little boy rules her; in him, then, recognize the ruler of the state." The large-souled, tender-hearted Thomas Binney, once said, "Every child comes into this world like a delegated prophet, the harbinger and herald of good tidings," whose office is "to win the hearts of the fathers to the children," and to draw "the disobedient to the wisdom of the pest." A child softens and purifies the heart, warming and melting it by new feelings, and awakens within it what is favorable to virtue. It is a beam of light, a fountain of love, a teacher whose lessons but few can resist. They lead us from much that engenders and encourages selfishness, that freezes the affections, roughens the manners, indurates the heart; they brighten the home, deepen the love, invigorate exertion, infuse courage, and verify and sustain the charities of life. With all my mind and heart I endorse this witness,

"It often happens that a child

Can make us think of what we were,

And back the happy season bring,

When we were free from guilt and care."

The light and grace of the Gospel of love and kindness, peace and truth, shall prevail everywhere, without leaving a patch or corner, length or breadth or depth unblest, "as the waters cover the sea." This change is being wrought, not by destruction, but by transformation, bringing discordant natures into harmony. This should prompt us to pray "Thy kingdom come," etc.

Twenty-six centuries have passed since this prophecy was spoken. Has it been fulfilled? Not absolutely. But the final consummation is approaching. In the winter our land, snow-clad and frost-bound, gives little sign of harvest. Yet, all unconsciously to itself, it is being swept on into spring and summer. And not less truly, the silent and secret impulse of the God we adore is advancing the world toward the day when love shall perfect man's institutions and civilizations, and "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."