

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1



PROPHECY OF THE KINGDOM

Scripture Texts: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:2-7; Isaiah 53:2; Isaiah 7:14-15; Daniel 2:34-35; Daniel 2:44-45

For God to bring into being something as great as His everlasting kingdom there must be prophecy concerning its coming. To discover roots of the Christian religion, we must go into the Old Testament, mainly, the Prophets.

In this lesson the main emphasis falls on Christ, the King. Isaiah, writing in the dark days of wicked King Ahaz, foretold that the coming King would shine brightly. So we think of Him in terms of light. Wherever on earth that darkness prevails, light is greatly needed.

MEMORY VERSE: *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* — **Isaiah 7:14**

A Victorious King

Genesis 3:15 Here we go back to the first prophecy. The very first Prophet was God, here prophesying that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head, and that the serpent would bruise his heel, her seed being Christ.

The Almighty King of Light

Isaiah 9:2-7 Here Isaiah prophesies of a great light shining on a people walking in darkness, people dwelling in an impossible condition with the very shadow of death hanging over them. Isaiah's long career as a prophet in Judah had taken him through some of the darkest days known to God's people. These were the years when King Ahaz ruled. It was during this dark time in history that God moved on Isaiah to prophesy of a coming Light who would light His people's way into freedom and liberty from the oppressor. That Light is Christ (**John 1:4-5**). What great hope must have stirred within them when they heard Isaiah's words in **Isaiah 60:1-4**! What our dark world needs today is light from the Source of Light.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: This was God's way of sending the King of righteousness. He was born of a woman unto us, and He was given by God to reign over us, but we must receive Him. And the government shall be upon his shoulder: God laid the key to His kingdom upon the shoulder of Christ and gave Him an eternal throne (**Isaiah 22:22-23**). How much of this the prophet understood, who can tell? Moved by the Holy Spirit, doubtless he spoke more wisely than he knew. Even today, we find in his words new depths and heights we have not attained to. But we behold enough to cause us to bow down with admiration to the King of the everlasting kingdom—Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings.

And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God. Today men need to seek and find the wisdom of this Wonderful Counselor. If man's wisdom would have been enough, God would not have needed to send His only Son to counsel His people. Earthly wisdom would fail miserably in the kingdom of God.

The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Christ's seed provides everlasting life for an everlasting kingdom (**Daniel 4:3**). Christ alone can bring peace. The only peace that man will ever know is that which Christ places in the heart of individuals. The nations of the world will never know a universal peace. Christ came to bring peace in earth not on earth.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. . . . With every soul that is saved this kingdom is increased. When Christ was on earth He could be at only one locality at a time, but after He went back to the Father, He could be, through the Holy Spirit, everywhere in His kingdom. (**John 14:12**).

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The Root

Isaiah 53:2 Here Isaiah tells of the coming King, not only coming in a dark time, but a dry time also. **And as a root out of a dry ground—the root out of the stem of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-2, Isaiah 11:10)**. After the tree had been cut down, a shoot would spring up from what seemed to be barren, dry soil and bring forth fruit worthy of Heaven. Remember, no word had been sent from God for over four hundred years when Christ was sent. Dry ground indeed!

A Sign From the Lord

Isaiah 7:14-15 Certainly Isaiah had a keen spiritual insight into the coming kingdom of God. Here he tells of the most infallible sign to be given, the sign of the Lord. This concerned the virgin birth and even what He would be named.

Daniel 2:34-35; Daniel 2:44-45 Here is a prophecy of the power of the everlasting kingdom of God. We are shown here how that the kingdom of God, the Stone, would be cut out without hands and would break down all other kingdoms of this world. In these Scriptures, alone, are many messages of truth concerning the kingdom of God.

The zeal of the Lord. . . This means His love stirred to action by concern for His beloved children . . . will perform this.

JUST A THOUGHT

Trust God, Christ rules.

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