

November 17, 2013

Lesson 11: Isaiah

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

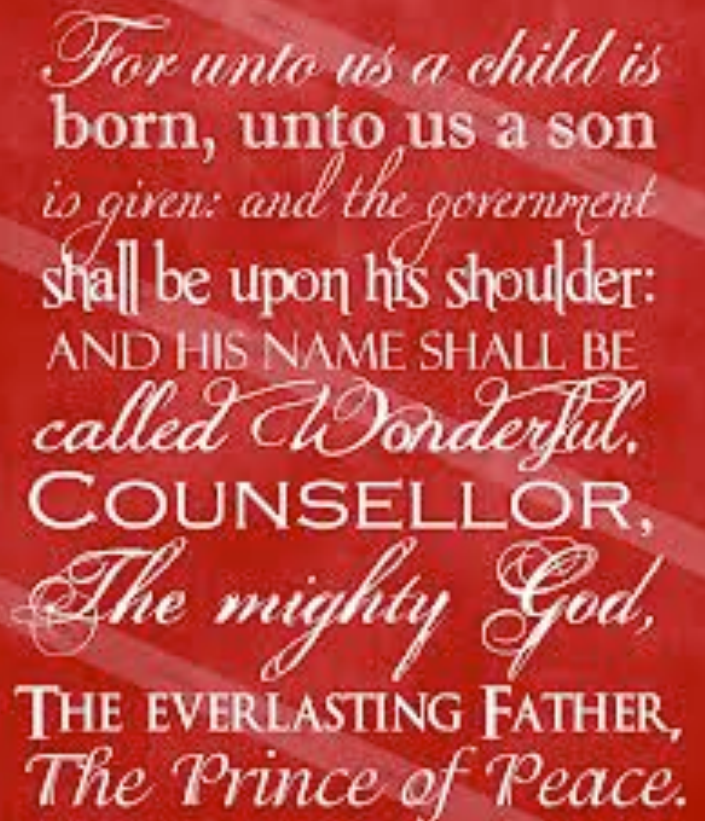
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



*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.*

Isaiah

Isaiah 9:1-7

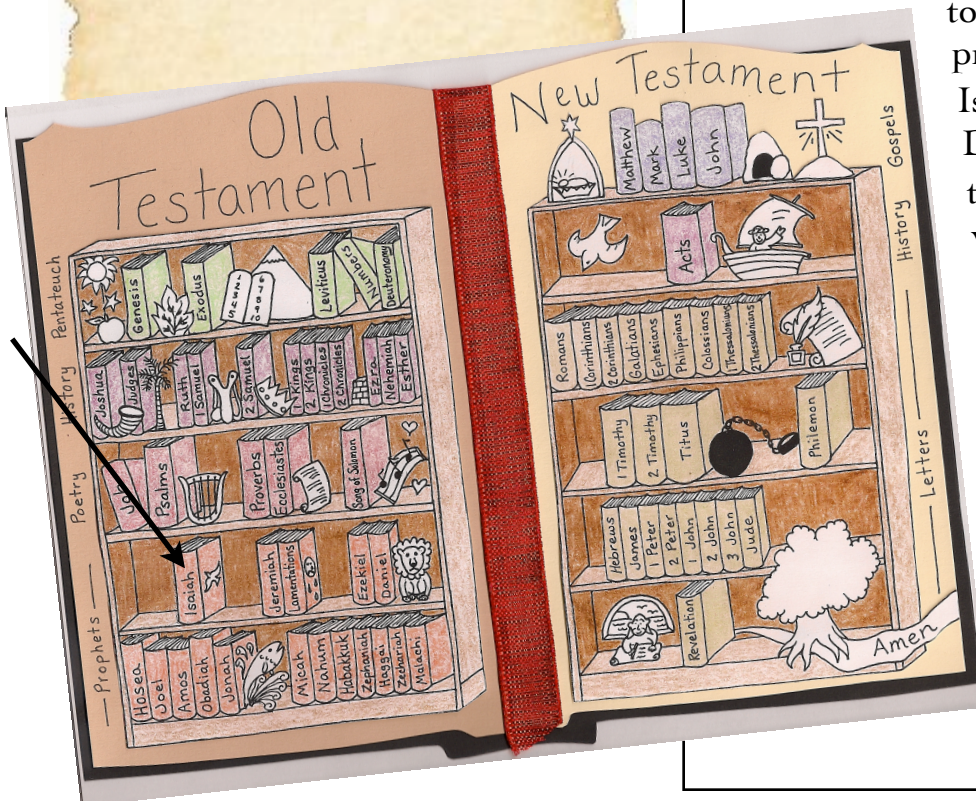
“For a child has
been born for
us, a son given
to us”

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The Big Story Truth: Just as God provided for the people of Israel good news of a king that would bring freedom and peace, God gives us that good news too! Our heavenly king, Jesus, is that savior God promised us!

About This Scripture Passage: Those of us Christians who hear this passage today immediately hear this passage and think - JESUS! But we're not to that part of scripture quite yet. Slowing down a little to look at this passage reveals a couple of things. First of all, this is a birth announcement. A child has been born. It's a son! But no ordinary son. All the names given here are the same names that people would use at the coronation of a king. Specifically they come from the tradition of an enthronement of a Pharaoh in Egypt. Israel used similar language and wording to talk about their kings as being adopted by God. The context and all the language in this passage point to this being the celebration of the birth of a crowned prince. This is a big deal, because it

is a sign that God is being faithful to his promises. Remember the promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And then to David God gave the promise that one of his descendants would rule forever. This birth is a celebration that God continues to keep the promise. This understanding of this text adds to our own celebration when we do think about how Jesus' eternal kingship fulfills all God's promises even better than any earthly king ever could!



Making the Connection: Most of us are familiar with the musical version of this passage that we hear around Christmas time. It's different to think about how this passage relates to the expectation of the birth of an earthly king in David's family line. Both to those hearing this passage in the Old Testament and to us, though, this passage announces good news. This passage announces God's faithfulness in sending the "anointed one" we have been waiting for!

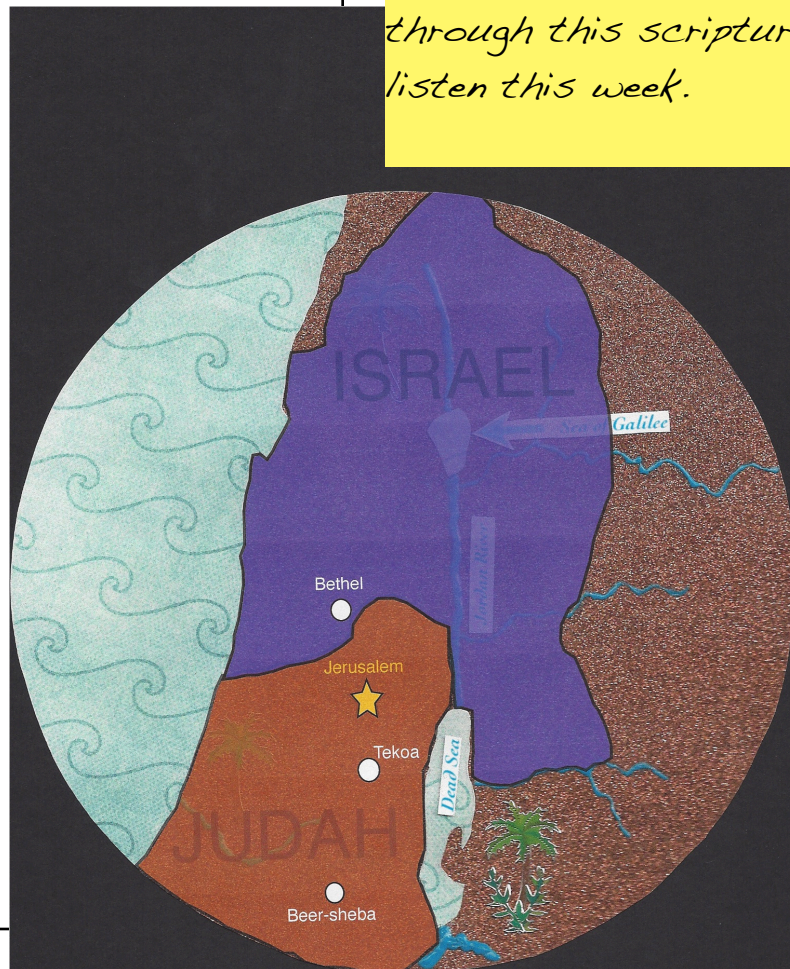
We are quickly approaching the season of advent. We won't have regular classes during advent so that we can work on our Christmas program. So this is a good time to talk with your classes about the weeks leading up to Christmas as a time of waiting... not just for presents but for God's gift of Jesus. Kids know how hard it is to wait. But if you can capture with them how it feels when a long wait is over, then that's the mood of today's text!

Where in the World Are We? The territories mentioned in this passage are in northern Israel.

For Your Reflection:

Do you remember when you first heard these words set to music? Did you ever sing this piece in choir or attend a live concert where it was sung? How do you feel when you hear this piece of music performed?

See if you can find a copy of Handel's "Messiah" to listen to around home or in the car as you are going about your activities this week. Ask God to speak through this scripture as you listen this week.



Large Group Gathering

Greet the kids with party hats and noise makers. Say: **Welcome! It's good to see you all this morning! Welcome to the party! Have you heard the news! A prince has been born! Well, we'll talk about that a little later. For right now, let's get to our Family Faith 5. Let's have one representative from each family come up to get your Faith 5 sheets. Remember, if your family isn't able to be here, any of the other groups would love to have you jump in! Give the family groups time to do their Faith 5. Then dismiss the adults to the adult class.**

Say: **Can you think of a time when someone has given you a promise? What was that promise? Give anyone who would like to time to answer. Do you remember any Sunday School stories we've learned so far this year about a promise God gave someone? God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a big family. God promised Jacob the same thing too, didn't he! And we didn't talk much about it, but do you remember the little boy David that Samuel anointed to be king? God promised that someone from David's family would ALWAYS be king! That's a cool promise, isn't it!**

You know, things looked pretty bad for Israel for a long time. The kings didn't listen to God. They started worshipping fake gods. The kingdom was divided into two and because of their sin, their enemies conquered them. But God gave the people a wonderful gift. Even though the kings messed up, God sent a prophet (another messenger of God) to the people with some important news. Isaiah told the people a baby will be born in David's family who will be a great king and who will rule with justice forever! How awesome is that!

You know what, God kept his promise. The people had to wait a long time... but eventually there was a very special baby born who will be our king forever! And whose justice and kindness and love will never end. Do you know who that baby was? Jesus! You're right! Let's watch what happened. Listen especially for the song about the baby!

Watch What's in the Bible volume 6: A Nation Divided, Episode 2: The End of Israel.

ALTERNATIVE LESSON PLANS:

(If you are not able to have all your classes watch the movie today, choose from the following alternative lesson plans).

Preschool- Celebrate the promise God kept by throwing a big Jesus is King party. Ask kids to come up with the ideas for what is needed for a party. Have the kids decorate with streamers, make a royal snack, and come up with a game to play. Talk about Jesus being different than other kings. Jesus is a king who wants us to love and care for others. And when Jesus throws a party, everybody is welcome! Take the kids on a tour of the church, inviting anyone and everyone they can find to come to their Jesus is King party!

Early Elementary- Make a review game relating to this and previous lessons by writing questions on index cards (1 question per card). Place a number of paper crowns (like those you get from Burger King) on the ground. Put one card in each crown. Have children take turns tossing a bean back into the crowns. When they make it in, that child gets the first chance to answer the question in that crown. Questions can be replaced as kids answer correctly (or the game can simply end when the question in each crown has been answered.)¹

Upper Elementary- Next week is the week that we celebrate Christ the King Sunday in worship. Invite your upper elementary class to make a banner to be used in worship next week. Talk with your class about what symbols would be used to represent Jesus' kingdom. How would these be different than an ordinary earthly king?

Middle School/High School- Ask kids what music/songs they play when they are in a mood of celebration. If your kids have mp3 players with them, have them play their songs. (Insist that these be church appropriate!) Play Handel's *Messiah*, particularly the section containing today's passage from Isaiah. Then work together to make a playlist of their favorite celebration songs and include The Messiah among the others. Talk with the pastor/musicians about having the kids share their playlist during the prelude before church next Sunday as part of the church's Christ the King Sunday celebration.

¹ It's Not Junk: It's Resources! By Tina Houser

Family Faith 5

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1. Each person shares their high and low (the best and worst things that happened this week.)
2. Read together this Bible Verse:
“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.”
3. Talk about how the Bible verse relates to your highs and lows.
4. Pray aloud for one another’s highs and lows.
5. Bless one another. Make the sign of the cross on each other’s heads and say these words: _____, God will keep all his promises for you!