



ISRAEL'S ONLY HOPE

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Isaiah 9:1-7*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

The first prophecy regarding the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was in the book of Genesis when the serpent deceived Eve. *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"* (Genesis 3:15). When Jesus was born, the prophecies of old came to past. *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me"* (John 1:29-30). Jesus, the Messiah, had come to bring hope to all mankind.

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (I Peter 1:3).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. Jesus is the Messiah (*Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:30-33*).
2. Jesus is the Light of the world (*John 9:5*).
3. Salvation and true peace comes through Jesus Christ (*Romans 5:1; Hebrew 2:10*).
4. Our blessed hope is in Christ Jesus (*Titus 2:13*).
5. Jesus is coming soon to rapture His Bride (*Revelation 22:7, 12, 20*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

During the reigns of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Heze-

kiah, the Children of Israel (the Jews) strayed further and further from the Lord. The Lord compared them to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. The prophet Isaiah was chosen by the Lord to intercede on their behalf, and bring a message of hope: the coming Messiah would bring peace to the entire world. *"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace"* (Ephesians 2:13-15). Jesus is the Light and Beacon in a world full of evil and darkness. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

LESSON SUMMARY:

The Children of Israel were God's people because they worshiped the one true God. The problem was that the Children of Israel constantly turned away from the Lord, sinning and worshipping other gods. However, God loved them so much He always gave them a way to return to Him. God's final display of true love for the Children of Israel was when He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved"* (John 3:16-17). Jesus is the Messiah that the Children of Israel were waiting for, but they chose to crucify Him instead. When they rejected Jesus, the door of salvation was opened to the Gentiles and through Christ, found the promise of heaven and everlasting life (*John 3:5, 16; Acts 10:34-35*). As a child of God, we must try to continue to live a life that is acceptable to God, and not to man. We no longer need to search for a blessed hope for we have found it in Christ Jesus.

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