

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

"Unto Us a Child is Born"

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, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and 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 forever. —

Isaiah 9:6-7

The prophets of the Old Testament times were holy men of God, mouth-pieces of Jehovah God in uttering divine messages entrusted to them, and as such were messengers. They did more than merely prophesy, or declare the will or purpose of God. They were the moral and religious teachers of their times, exposing the emptiness of religious formality, the perfunctoriness of merely offering sacrifices and performing religious rites. Being highly developed spiritually, they could see with spiritual vision sufficiently to read in the Memory of Nature and describe the coming conditions.

The above prophetic utterances of Isaiah, one of the four major Biblical prophets, come to us during the hallowed Christmas season, "soft as the voice of an angel," alight with blessed hope and promise. He is describing the time when the Religion of the Son, the second help which humanity now has in its evolutionary journey, will have become established on Earth. The Christian Religion will have enabled man so to purify and control his vital body that he will have attained to union with the Christ Within. Our hearts well with reverence and devotion as we contemplate the sublime promise of this exalted message and pray for the day when "of peace there shall be no end."

Nor should we allow present conditions of war and strife to affect our attitude of faith and optimism. Unfortunately, sorrow and suffering seem to be the only teachers most individuals and nations will hear, and thus the necessity for such severe experiences and lessons. Viewing life through the perspective of the Western Wisdom Teachings, life unending in its course through the visible and the invisible worlds, we are undismayed by the so-called "loss of life" which takes place in parts of the world.

Those who are killed will be born again, and because of the anguish of their experiences, they will function in their next physical incarnations from a higher state of consciousness than they do now. The precepts of peace and brotherly love taught by the gentle Christ will then appear to them in their proper light as the natural basis for man's social and economic life, and war will be a thing of the past. Truly, "the government shall be upon his shoulder," for out of humanity's travail will come a new birth to things spiritual, a more complete dedication to the spiritual way of life.

In the coming Kingdom of Christ, or the New Galilee, man will have evolved to an exceedingly high stage. He will function in an etheric body on an etheric Earth. Through pure and unselfish living, he will have brought about the union of the higher and the lower self, and will thus have established the Kingdom of Christ within his own heart — "with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever."