

## LESSON 29

## PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH

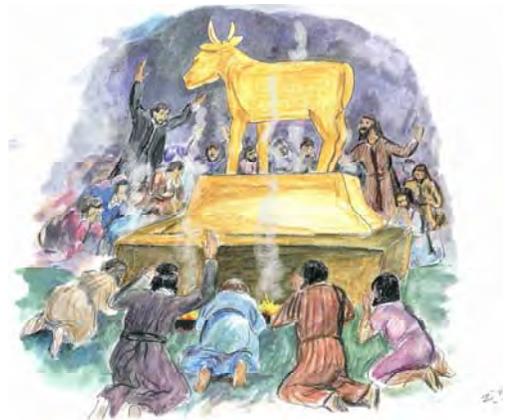
Isaiah 7:13-16; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Isaiah 40:1-5

**“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;  
and the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**  
(Isaiah 9:6)



### The World Just Before the Lord’s Birth

One of the most important events in the history of human beings is the birth of the Lord on earth as an infant. This event was essential for the continuation of human life on earth. The state of the human race had been declining ever since the people of the Most Ancient Church had fallen from complete obedience to the Lord, represented by the story of Adam and Eve. Worship of the Lord eventually was replaced by the worship of idols and false gods.



By the time the Lord was actually born, no one on the earth was able to choose goodness over evil. The truths of the Word had been lost or perverted. The priests, who were meant to represent the Lord, were using the temple as a place to trade and make money. People who wished to be good did not have the means to truly choose such a life on earth. On top of that, the Romans had taken over the land that was once Israel and had brought their own false religion to the area.

### The World Is Prepared for the Lord’s Birth

In the first lesson, you were reminded of the role prophets played in the Word. In succeeding lessons, you read how the prophets took on more important roles in Israel, providing the link between the people and the Lord.

*What has been the essential message of the prophets in the books of Kings?*

The prophets taught the people to worship and obey the Lord alone or else something evil would befall them and the kingdom. Although we do not read of it in I and II Kings, the prophets were also telling people that the Lord was going to come on earth, giving them hope.

The book of the Word that immediately follows I and II Kings is Psalms. Other books that follow are named for the prophets that lived and prophesied during the lives of the

kings of Israel and Judah and up until the Lord's birth. When you read them, you will learn more about the lives of the kings and the state of the world when the Lord was born. All of these books contain prophecies about the coming of the Lord and His life in the world. There were prophecies of the Lord's coming or "Advent" in previous books of the Word as well, but Psalms and the books of the prophets have most of them.

### Early Prophecies

In the first book of the Word, the Lord said that He would be born into the world.

**"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15)**

The Heavenly Doctrine tells us what this prophecy means. The Lord was talking to the serpent who tempted Eve. The serpent and his seed represent the powers of hell. The Seed of the woman means the Lord. Bruising the serpent's head means that the Lord would overcome the powers of hell. The serpent bruising the heel means that the forces of hell could only hurt the most external parts of the Lord and the Word (feet are a very external part of the body). The forces of hell could not hurt the Lord's soul or the good and truth deep within the Word.

A beautiful prophecy of the Lord's coming is found in Numbers, a book of the Word that tells us about the life of the children of Israel after the Ten Commandments were given and before they entered the Land of Canaan.

**"I see Him but not now; I behold Him but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult." (Numbers 24:17)**

*Do you know what the Lord was telling people in this prophecy?*

The Lord was telling people that He was coming, but not for a while. He was prophesying about the Star that the wise men would see at the time of the Lord's birth—not as an actual star in the sky, but as a promise that the Lord would bring new knowledges of good and truth for His Word. The Scepter stands for the Lord who was to be King and who would restore the true meaning of the Word to people.



### A Virgin Shall Bear a Son

**"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)**

The Lord's coming on earth was the greatest miracle He ever performed. He was born as a baby with a human

mother and Himself as Father. Mary was not married before she conceived Jesus and was amazed that she was to have a baby. However, when the angel told her that she was to give birth to the “Son of God” she was a willing servant and accepted the role with humility and gratitude. Mary was to call the baby “Immanuel” which means God with us. The prophecy in Isaiah told people that it was God Himself who was to be born.

### **For unto Us a Child Is Born**

One of the most beautiful prophecies of the Lord’s birth might be very familiar to you. The words from this prophecy have been used in many Christmas hymns.

**“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, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)**

Each of the names used in this prophecy tells us something about the Lord and His work on earth. He was to be born as a “Child” because He is innocence itself—the willingness to be led to the Lord. While He was on earth the Lord followed the Ten Commandments. The “Son” is not a being separate from the Lord, but the Lord Himself in respect to His Word—His truth. The word “Wonderful” holds many ideas, among them the concept of someone with the power to do miracles. He was to be called “Counselor” because He teaches people how to live a good life, and “Mighty God” (Hero) because He stands up for and protects everything good and true. The “Everlasting Father” is the Lord who has always existed, and the “Prince of Peace” is the Lord as the source of all peace and joy.

### **A Rod from the Stem of Jesse**

Jesus was to be born to the house of David, the son of Jesse. All kings stand for the Lord’s Divine truth, but David did especially because he was a mighty king who made Israel a powerful nation. You can trace the genealogy of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew and the third chapter in Luke.



**“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, and the spirit of Wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1, 2)**

If you continue reading this chapter of Isaiah you will find a wonderful description of the work the Lord would be doing during His life on earth. It describes what would happen both on earth and in heaven as the Lord fought temptations, taught new truths, and restored people’s ability to choose heaven.



### Prepare the Way of the Lord

The prophecies concerning the birth of the Lord prepared for His coming. There was also a man prepared who was born a only few months before Jesus, who was to prepare the way for the Lord on earth. His name was John the Baptist. The following prophecy told of the important work John was to do to help people receive the Lord and His teachings.

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)

These words are taken from the final reading for this lesson. John was the one who would be crying in the “wilderness”, which referred to the complete ignorance of the Lord’s Word that people were in at the time of His birth. John’s words were to alert people to watch for and pay attention to Jesus, to let them know that He would make the world a better place.

### Prophecies Fulfilled

Each one of the prophecies in this lesson and all of the others throughout the Old Testament were fulfilled while the Lord lived on the earth. When you read the New Testament you can recognize the fulfillment of some of the prophecies in events that happened. Other prophecies were fulfilled in heaven, while some prophecies were about events that would take place in heaven and on earth at the same time.

We can also read the prophecies as messages to each of us. Although the Lord is with us from the moment we are born, He is not truly within us until we make a place for Him to dwell. We need to prepare that place. As the prophecy said, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

We prepare a place for the Lord first by recognizing that He wants to dwell within us—just as He wanted to come on earth to bring peace and hope to people. Then we need to get rid of those thoughts and feelings that make our minds unwelcoming to the Lord. The Lord has given us His Word and caring people in our lives to help us recognize what is evil and false and replace them with what is good and true. Finally, we must make those good and true things our own by living according to them. Then the prophecies concerning the Lord’s birth will be fulfilled in us as He makes His coming within our own lives.



# ACTIVITIES

## LESSON 29: PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH

### ❖ REFLECTIONS ON GEMS FROM THE WORD

**“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** (Isaiah 9:6)

1. The Lord was born as a child rather than suddenly appearing as God. Write about why you think He chose to come on earth this way.
2. We know that the Lord did not take on any earthly governmental role. What do you think the words, “and the government shall be upon His shoulders” really mean?

### ❖ ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

#### ❖ CHART OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Look over the line of kings from David through Judah. Then look at the genealogies in the first chapter of Matthew and the third chapter of Luke and see how many people there were between the last king of Judah and Jesus. Why so you think one prophecy referred to the Lord as a Rod from the stem of Jesse?

#### ❖ QUALITIES OF THE LORD

The purpose of this activity is to think more deeply about the names of the Lord given in Isaiah 9:6 and the qualities they represent.

#### ❖ THE WOLF SHALL DWELL WITH THE LAMB—CHALLENGE

This activity can help you understand the kind of peace the Lord was promising in Isaiah 11:6-9.

#### ❖ PROPHECIES OF THE LORD’S COMING MOBILE

In this activity you will become familiar with more of the prophecies of the Lord’s birth and life on earth and create a decoration for the Christmas season. The instructions are in this book. A template for making the mobile pieces is in your Activity Packet.

## QUESTIONS—PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH



1. In your own words, describe what the world was like when the Lord was born on earth.
2. How did the prophets help to prepare the way for the Lord's coming?
3. Who else helped people prepare to receive the Lord? How?
4. Where in the Old Testament was the first prophecy concerning the Lord's coming given?
5. The prophecies concerning the Lord's life on earth told people what kind of "person" He would be. What were some of the words used to describe Him?
6. Some of the prophecies seemed to say that the Lord would come as a king. What sort of King were they referring to?
7. Some of the prophecies talk about Jesus' lineage—the people from whom He descended. Who were some of His ancestors according to the prophecies?
8. The purpose of the prophecies was to prepare people for the coming of the Lord on earth. Write about some ways that you can prepare for the Lord to come into your life.

## Kings of Israel and Judah - Signs of Righteousness

(Jacob's Ladder Level Six – The Lord Is Prophet and Preserver of the Covenant)

Fill in the details of each king as you learn about them. Use the information on Saul and David as samples on how to fill out the chart. Leave out details you cannot find.

### The Kings of the Israelites

	Father	Reigned	# Sons	Worshiped	Wealth	Wisdom	Building	Health & Death	Righteous?
Saul	Kish	40	?	Jehovah	Some	✓ -	Kingdom grew	Depression/fell on sword	In beginning
David	Jesse	40	Many	Jehovah	More	✓	Kingdom grew	Good/old age	Most of life
Solomon	David								

The kingdom is divided into two kingdoms - Israel and Judah – about 930 B.C.

Kings of Israel										Kings of Judah									
King	Father	# Years Reigned	# Sons	Worshiped	Wealth	Wisdom	Building	Health & Death	Righteous ?	King	Father	# Years Reigned	# Sons	Worshiped	Wealth	Wisdom	Building	Health & Death	Righteous ?
Jeroboam										Rehoboam									
Nadab										Abijam									
Baasha										Asa									
Elah										Jehoshaphat									
Zimri										Jehoram/Joram									
Omri										Ahaziah									
Ahab										Athalia (woman)									
Ahaziah										Joash/Jehoash									
Jehoram/Joram										Amaziah									
Jehu										Azariah/Uzziah									
Jehoahaz										Jotham									
Joash/Jehoash										Ahaz									
Jeroboam II										Hezekiah									
Zechariah										Mannasseh									
Shallum										Amon									
Menahem										Josiah									
Pekahiah										Jehoahaz									
Pekah										Jehoiakim									
Hoshea										Jehoiachin									
										Zedekiah									
Fall of Israel - 721 BC										Fall of Judah – 587 BC									

## QUALITIES OF THE LORD

**“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6)

Choose one of the names given for the Lord in this quotation above and write a paragraph about the qualities of the Lord you associate with this name.

The Lord is called \_\_\_\_\_ because He is...

Choose a different name from the quotation above and explain why you think He is called by that name.

Choose any name from the quotation that creates special feelings in you when you hear it. Describe those feelings and explain why you think hearing or reading that name evokes such emotions.

Choose a different name from the quotation and, on a separate page, draw/paint a picture of the Lord that reflects that name. (*e.g.* For *Father* you could draw a picture of the Lord with children or a group of people of all ages.)

## THE WOLF ALSO SHALL DWELL WITH THE LAMB—CHALLENGE

Isaiah 11:6-9 continues one of the prophecies of the Lord's coming. It is full of images that seem impossible on this earth. Read through the Prophecy and then list or sketch those images.

Do you think such things could ever occur again on this earth? Why or why not?

What do you think the Lord is describing in these verses?

The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that these words are referring to heaven, where innocence and peace are always present. The words are also referring to the state of the church after the Lord came into the world. At its very beginnings the Christian Church was to be innocent and peaceful. However, we know from history that the early Christians did not have a peaceful worldly existence. The prophecy is describing something spiritual. How do you think a church or a person could have spiritual peace in a non-peaceful world?

These verses in this quotation are also telling us that when a person is in innocence and peace, evil things can't hurt them. How do images like a wolf dwelling with a lamb illustrate this?

Why do you think a person in innocence and peace cannot be harmed by evil? Remember that innocence is a willingness to be led by the Lord.

Can you think of two or three more images that would give the same message as the one in this prophecy?

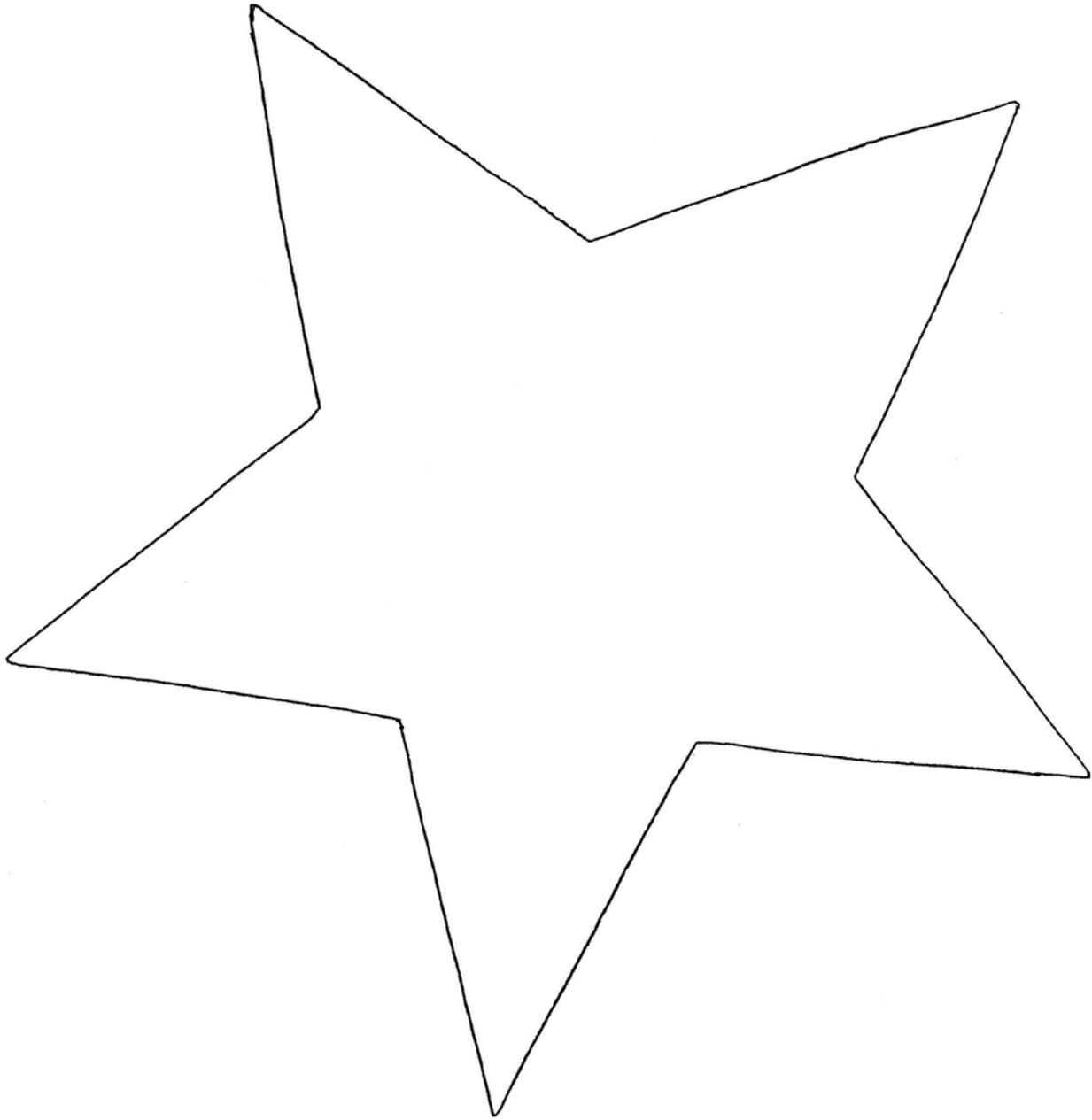
## PROPHECIES OF THE LORD'S BIRTH MOBILE

1. Using the star template from your Activity Packet, trace and cut out at least five stars on paper of your choice.
2. On one side of one star write the “star” quotation at the top of this page. Write one of the prophecies given below on each of your remaining stars, with the chapters and verses on the back of each.
3. Punch a hole in the top of each star. You could put gold glitter around the edges of all the stars, if you wish.
4. Find 2 sticks and tie them together in the middle to form a cross. Tie a string to the center where they cross to hang the mobile up.
5. Put strings in the holes in the stars and hang them on the sticks with the star quote somewhere prominent—maybe in the center on the string holding the mobile. Adjust the stars for balance.

**A star shall come out of Jacob; a scepter shall rise out of Israel.  
(Numbers 24:17)**

- ❖ And His kingdom shall be exalted. (Numbers 24: 7)
- ❖ God brings Him out of Egypt. (Numbers 24:8)
- ❖ He bows down, he lies down as a lion. (Numbers 24:9)
- ❖ I see Him, but not now, I behold Him but not near. (Numbers 24:7)
- ❖ Prepare the way, take the stumbling block out of the way of my people. (Isaiah 57:14)
- ❖ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord. (Isaiah 40:3)
- ❖ Every valley shall be exalted and every highway shall be made low. (Isaiah 40:4)
- ❖ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. (Isaiah 40:5)
- ❖ Behold the Lord God shall come with a strong hand. (Isaiah 40:10)
- ❖ He will feed His flock like a shepherd. (Isaiah 40:11)
- ❖ He will gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom. (Isaiah 40:11)
- ❖ Lift your eyes on high, and see who has created these things. (Isaiah 40:26)
- ❖ I will go before you and make crooked places straight. (Isaiah 45:2)
- ❖ Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation. (Isaiah 45:8)
- ❖ They shall see the glory of the Lord. (Isaiah 35:2)
- ❖ All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:10)
- ❖ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. (Isaiah 9:6)
- ❖ And the government will be upon His shoulder. (Isaiah 9:6)
- ❖ There will be no end upon the throne of David and over His kingdom. (Isaiah 9:7)
- ❖ But His hand is stretched out still. (Isaiah 9:12)

# PROPHECIES OF THE LORD'S BIRTH MOBILE – STAR TEMPLATE



## LESSON 29

## PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 7:13-16; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Isaiah 40:1-5

## OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

- The World Just Before the Lord's Birth
- The World Is Prepared for the Lord's Birth
- Early Prophecies
- A Virgin Shall Bear a Son
- For Unto Us a Child Is Born
- A Rod from the Stem of Jesse
- Prepare the Way of the Lord
- Prophecies Fulfilled



## THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

The theme of prophets and prophecies runs throughout the lessons for Jacob's Ladder Level Six. Sometimes, we think that the primary kind of prophecies were those that foretold the Lord's coming on earth. Actually, compared to the ones that warned the people to follow the Lord or face bad consequences, prophecies of the Messiah are few and far between. However, they are the ones most of us know and love because they relate to the incredible miracle of Christmas.

Young people usually have a strong affection for anything to do with Christmas. As your child reads this lesson, he or she will see that most of these prophecies are not so much about the birth of the Lord, but about His life on earth and the things He would accomplish during those thirty-three years—in particular the salvation of the human race. Although the story of the birth of a baby touches our hearts, it is important that we help young people to see that Christmas was just the beginning of the Lord's mission on earth.

- Many Bibles have a chart listing the messianic prophecies, what they were about and when they were fulfilled in the Lord's life. You and your child might enjoy looking at such a chart usually found in the back and discussing how amazingly accurate the prophecies were. Note: If you do not have a Bible with such a chart, they can be found on the Internet.

## From the Word

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; He shall trample upon thy head, and thou shall bruise His heel.” Everyone is aware that this is the first prophecy of the Lord's advent into the world; it appears indeed clearly from the words themselves, and therefore from them and from the prophets even the Jews knew that a Messiah was to come. However [up until now] no one has understood what is specifically meant by the “serpent” the “woman” the “serpent's seed” the “woman's seed” the “head of the serpent which was to be trodden upon” and the “heel which the serpent should bruise.” By the “serpent” is here meant all evil in general, and specifically the love of self; by the “woman” is meant the church; by the “seed of the serpent” all infidelity; by the “seed of the woman” faith in the Lord; by “He” the Lord Himself; by the “head of the serpent” the dominion of evil in general, and specifically that of the love of self; by to “trample upon” depression, so that it should “go upon the belly and eat dust;” and by the “heel” the lowest natural [the physical body], which the serpent should “bruise.”

*(Arcana Coelestia 250)*

As regards ‘peace’, this means in the highest sense the Lord Himself, and from this in the internal sense His kingdom. Peace is also the Lord's Divine affecting inmosty the good which governs people there.

*(Arcana Coelestia 3780:2)*

The Lord Himself is called a “little one” or “child”, because He is innocence itself and love itself, and in the same passage He is spoken of as “Wonderful, Counselor, God, Hero, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace.”

*(Arcana Coelestia 430)*

That David might represent the Lord in respect to Divine truth, the Lord was willing to be born of the house of David, and also to be called “the Son of David,” “his Root and Offspring,” also “the Root of Jesse.” But when the Lord put off the human from the mother, and put on the Human from the Father, which is the Divine Human, He was no longer David's son.

*(Apocalypse Explained 205:6)*

“The wolf will dwell with the lamb...and a little child will lead them.” This refers to the Lord's kingdom and to the state of peace and of innocence there. “The wolf” stands for those who are opposed to innocence, “the lamb” for those in whom innocence is present.

*(Arcana Coelestia 3994)*

**READING THE STORY FROM THE WORD****1. Pre-reading Activities and Questions**

- ❖ Ask your child to recall any prophecies of the Lord's birth and life on earth that he or she remembers from past Christmases or religion lessons.
- ❖ Ask your child what the primary message of the prophets was? (Worship the Lord and obey His commandments.) Ask your child to explain how this message would prepare the way for the Lord.
- ❖ Vocabulary—Please review any words that might be difficult for your child to read and/or understand.
  1. Curds—the solid part of sour milk
  2. Equity—fairness
  3. Iniquity—injustice or immorality
  4. Messianic—belonging to or related to the Messiah—the Lord on earth
  5. Scepter—staff/rod used as a royal emblem
  6. Tumult—a violent and/or a noisy commotion (confusion)

**2. Read the Word**

Please help your child as needed with the reading of the text.

- ❖ First reading—Isaiah 7:13-16
- ❖ Second reading—Isaiah 9:6-7
- ❖ Third reading—Isaiah 11:1-5
- ❖ Fourth Reading—Isaiah 40:1-5

**3. Ideas to Discuss Together Following Reading the Word**

If your child is working independently, you might want to give him or her the following ideas to think about. They are not designed for students to answer on paper.

- ❖ Of the prophecies you read, which one(s) do you think would have meant the most to you if you had lived during the dark years before the Lord came on earth?
- ❖ Of the prophecies you read, which one do you think best describes the Lord as He actually was while on earth?

**WORK IN THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOK****1. Reading the Lesson**

- ❖ Your child should now read the lesson in the Student Activity Book. You may wish to read with your child sometimes.
- ❖ You might like to discuss the questions that appear from time to time during the lesson.

**2. Activities**

Your child may need some guidance deciding which activities to choose. He or she might also need some assistance finding materials not provided with the lessons. Some additional notes for each activity are provided below.

❖ **REFLECTIONS ON GEMS FROM THE WORD**

You may wish to discuss the quotation with your child before he or she writes a response, using the suggestions for this lesson found in the Student Activity Book.

❖ **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. Answers will vary; 2. They told of His coming in a variety of ways and warned people about the evil of their ways; 3. John the Baptist told people of the Lord's coming, called people to repent, and baptized people in the Lord's name; 4. Genesis; 5. Answers will vary; 6. A heavenly king; 7. Jacob, Judah, David, Jesse; 8. Answers will vary

❖ **CHART OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH**

In this lesson, your child is asked to look over the line of kings from David through Judah. Then he or she is to look at the genealogies in the first chapter of Matthew and the third chapter in Luke and see how many people there were between the last king of Judah and Jesus. Your child is asked to think why one prophecy referred to the Lord as "a Rod from the stem of Jesse." A "Rod" in the prophecy signifies the power of the Lord. The Lord is said to come from the "stem of Jesse" because Mary and Joseph were both descendants of the house of David, who was Jesse's son. Although, Joseph was not the Lord's biological father, he did take on that role legally.

❖ **QUALITIES OF THE LORD**

The purpose of this activity is to think more deeply about the names of the Lord given in Isaiah 9:6, and thus more deeply about the Lord Himself. You might enjoy doing this activity with your child and sharing your answers.

❖ **THE WOLF SHALL DWELL WITH THE LAMB—CHALLENGE**

The purpose of this activity is to help your child understand the kind of peace the Lord was promising in Isaiah 11:6-9. This activity takes a lot of independent thinking, so you might like to work with your child as he or she forms answers.

❖ **PROPHECIES OF THE LORD'S COMING MOBILE**

The purpose of this activity is to help your child become familiar with more of the prophecies of the Lord's birth and life on earth and to create a decoration for the Christmas season. The instructions for the mobile are in the student book. A template for the mobile pieces in the Activity Packet.

Help your child decide which prophecies to use as he or she creates the mobile. Discuss what each quotation is saying about the Lord and His work on earth or about what things will be like when His work is done. You might suggest that your child group the prophecies according to what they say. *e.g.* Prophecies of the birth of the Lord, of His salvation of the human race, of what He will be like on earth, etc.