

NARRATOR:

The Second Lesson: Isaiah's prophesy of a new-born king is fulfilled in Jesus Christ

In this reading, written centuries before Christ's birth, the prophet, Isaiah, speaks of a people walking in darkness, who suddenly see a great light.

Isaiah describes a people burdened by oppression, war, and sin.

Today, we can rejoice that this promise of a great light is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem.

He is the Wonder Counselor who guides us,

the Mighty God who saves us,

the Prince of Peace who reconciles us.

This prophecy of Isaiah is not just ancient poetry—  
it is the living Word that points us to the heart of Christmas."

Marlene Davis:

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

**The people who walked in darkness**

**have seen a great light;**

**Upon those who lived in a land of gloom**

**a light has shone.**

**You have brought them abundant joy**

**and great rejoicing;**

**They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest,**

**as they exult when dividing the spoils.**

**For the yoke that burdened them,**

**the pole on their shoulder,**

**The rod of their taskmaster,**

**you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.**

**For every boot that tramped in battle,**

**every cloak rolled in blood,**

**will be burned as fuel for fire.**

**For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;**

**upon his shoulder dominion rests.**

**They name him Wonder-Counselor,**

**God-Hero,**

**Father-Forever,**

**Prince of Peace.**

**His dominion is vast**

**and forever peaceful,**

**Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom,**

**which he confirms and sustains  
By judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!**

**“The word of the Lord.”**

—Isaiah 9: 1-6