

NARRATOR:

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

In this reading,  
the prophet Isaiah addresses a people who are gloomy,  
who walk in darkness.

Isaiah was encouraging the people  
with the promise that God will give them a new king, who would  
drive out their enemies  
and unite them.

For us, with the benefit of hindsight,  
there is a deeper meaning,  
which is especially meaningful at Christmas.

Our Christian tradition understands  
that this Prince of Peace in Isaiah's prophecy  
is none other than Jesus the Christ  
who proclaims himself "the Light of the World."

Paula Penepent:

*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