

Pit Señor!



I. A LOOK AT THE THREE READINGS

FIRST READING (Is 9:1-6)

¹The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. ²You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. ³For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. ⁴For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. ⁵For a **child is born** to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name **him** Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. ⁶His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From 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 FOCUS: A Child is Born

COMMENTARY

Observe the many parallelisms:

- The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; // Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
- You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, // as men make merry when dividing spoils.

- For the yoke that burdened them // the pole on their shoulder, and // 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 flames.
- For a child is born to us, // a son is given us; **Observe also the contrasts:**
- Darkness vs. great light (v.1). Land of gloom vs. light has shone (v.1).
- The yoke / pole / rod of the enemies vs. dominion of the Child (vv. 3 and 5).
- The dominion of the enemy: darkness, gloom vs. the dominion of the child: vast and forever peaceful.

REFLECTIONS

Christian tradition applies this child to Jesus, although the author refers to a child of King Ahaz of Judea. _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 98:1, 2-3, 4)

**ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE
SEEN THE SAVING POWER OF GOD.**

SECOND READING (Eph 1:3-6,15-18)

Praises to God who acts through Jesus

³Blessed be the God and Father of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, ⁴as he chose us **in him**, before the

foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love ⁵he destined us for adoption to himself through **Jesus Christ**, in accord with the favor of his will, ⁶for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

Thanksgiving prayer for the believers

¹⁵Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of **our Lord Jesus Christ**, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. ¹⁸May the eyes of (your) hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones.

THE FOCUS: Christ Makes Things Happen

COMMENTARY

- The actions of God through Jesus are the following: blessing with every spiritual blessing (v.3); choosing us to be holy and blameless (v.4); destines us for adoption (v.5); granting us praise of the glory (v.6).
- Paul thanks God because of the Christians’ faith in Jesus and their love for the holy ones.
- Paul prays for the following intentions: that God may give spirit of wisdom and revelation, that your hearts may be enlightened and that you may know what is hope.

REFLECTIONS

Christ is a mediator between the Father and us the believers.

GOSPEL READING (Mk 10:13-16)

¹³And people were bringing **children** to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this he

became indignant and said to them, “Let the **children** come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a **child** will not enter it.” ¹⁶Then he embraced **them** and blessed them, placing his hands on **them**.

THE FOCUS: Children

COMMENTARY

- There are three parties who are focused on the children: 1) the people bringing children; 2) the disciples who rebuke, and 3) Jesus.
- Take note what each of them does to the children. Why?
 - People bring children for Jesus to touch.
 - Disciples rebuke, no reason why.
 - Jesus allows them to come, to teach the people about the kingdom of God, allows to experience his affection by embracing them.
 - Jesus blesses them, giving them positive energy through his hands.
- The second focus of the Gospel Reading may be the kingdom of God. The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs two times (vv.14-15).

REFLECTIONS

To Jesus, the children represent a state of being or conduct which allows one to enter the kingdom of God.

II. TYING THE THREE READINGS TOGETHER TO DEVELOP YOUR SHARING/HOMILY

The child brings about dramatic changes in the life of the Israelites (First Reading).

Jesus brings about blessings from the Father (Second Reading).

By becoming like children, we enter the kingdom of God (Gospel).

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