

General Church Education



The Throne Room of Heaven

Revelation 4

Lesson 35

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN

REVELATION 4:1-8, 10-11

Our next two lessons focus on the book of Revelation. We will learn about some of John's wondrous visions in the spiritual world, while he was captive on the Island of Patmos. In these visions, the Lord is seen as King of heaven and earth.

Earlier, we learned about Emanuel Swedenborg and about the second coming of the Lord as revealed in the Heavenly Doctrine. The fantastic scenes in Revelation are prophecies about events that were to take place in the spiritual world at the time of this second coming. These events occurred *in the spiritual world* at the time Swedenborg was publishing the Heavenly Doctrine *in the natural world*. The fulfillment of these prophecies in 1770 was the sign of the birth of the New Church (*True Christian Religion* 790 and 791).

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We see the dramatic vision of the Lord on His throne in heaven. As children mature, they can be led to accept the power of the Lord's truth to judge as it exposes the reality of evil and falsity.
- The Heavenly Doctrine is clear about our need to have a picture of the Lord's Divine Human. We can foster the birth and development of this concept with our children as we focus, with them, on the image of the Lord. We can help them to begin to see that developing this vision is a lifelong task and is central to being a part of the New Church.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The description of the throne of the Lord's glory is used to depict Divine Truth which goes forth from the Lord. See *Arcana Coelestia* 5313

In the Word the word "throne" is used many times, and in reference to the Lord it represents in general, heaven and in the abstract, Divine truth proceeding from the Lord, since this is what makes heaven. For this reason "throne" also implies judgment, since all judgment is brought about by truths. *Apocalypse Explained* 253

The Lord never judges anyone except from good, for His will is to lift all men, however many these may be, up to heaven, indeed if it were possible, up to Himself. For the Lord is mercy itself and good itself, and mercy itself and good itself cannot possibly condemn anyone. It is man who, in rejecting good, condemns himself. As a person has fled habitually from good during his lifetime, so in the next life he flees from it, and therefore from heaven and the Lord. *Arcana Coelestia* 2335

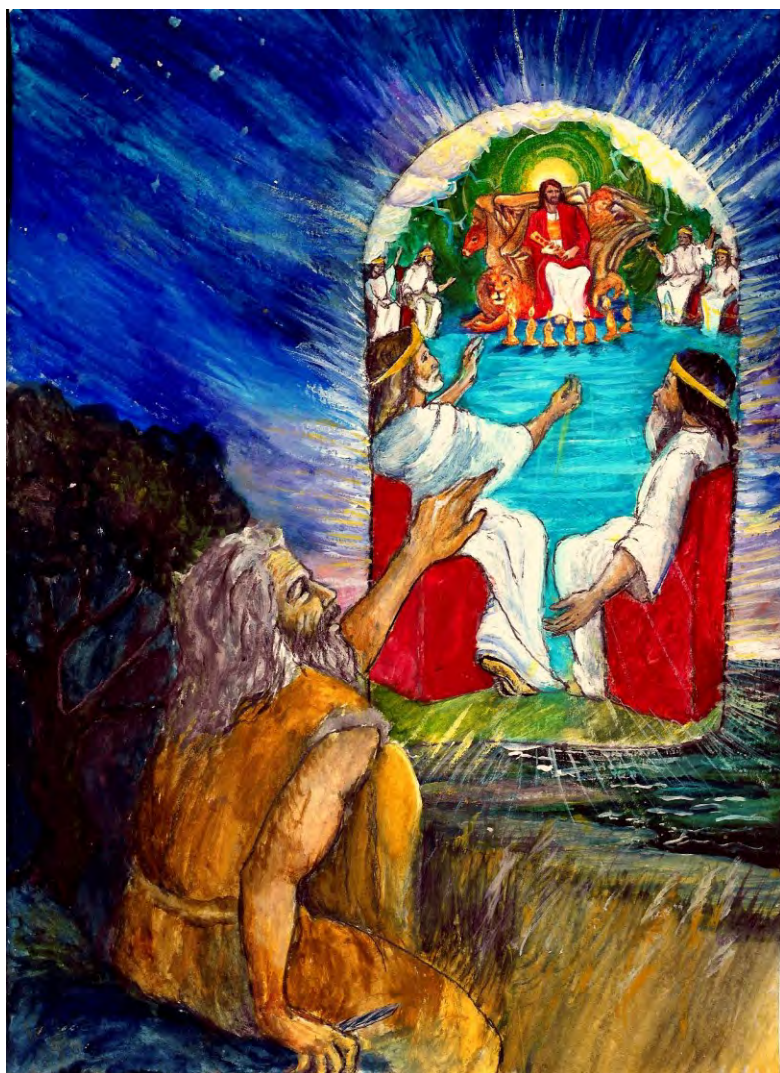
THE THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord is King of heaven and earth.

John's visions on the Island of Patmos show things that would happen in the world of spirits to get ready for the second coming of the Lord.

The Lord promised in His Word that He would come again and that this second coming would begin a New Church. The New Church would help people see Him more clearly than ever before, and it would help people know how to live a good life that leads to heaven. These promises helped people to have hope as they waited for the Lord to come again. The Lord kept these promises.



The Lord's beloved apostle, John, was an old man living on an island called Patmos when the Lord opened his spiritual eyes and showed him many visions about the birth of the New Church that would happen at the time of the second coming. He saw visions that showed how the Lord was going to bring order to the spiritual world as He got ready to come again. He also saw visions of the New Church coming down from heaven. John wrote these visions in the book of Revelation.

Some of the visions John saw were strong and beautiful. These things showed the power and love of the Lord. John also saw

visions of evil, ugly monsters cast down in battle by strong, brave heroes. In the vision we are going to read today, we see the Lord ready to use His Divine power as King and Judge to put aside any who were opposed to His second coming. As we read, hear how the Lord called John to see this vision. Read Revelation 4:1.

Can you imagine a voice like a trumpet calling you to come and see things in heaven that would happen in the future? John could see through the door into heaven because the Lord opened his spiritual eyes. As you listen, pay attention to the details of the Lord's throne room. There are some very unusual things in the vision. Read Revelation 4:2-8.

In ancient times kings sat on their thrones to rule and to judge. John saw the Lord doing this in heaven. The Lord rules all things. He also protects His kingdom. We learned about how the Lord protects us by sending powerful angels to be with us at all times. He also protects us by giving His Word so that we will have truths to fight against evil spirits. These truths have many eyes like the beasts around the throne of the Lord. The truths in the Word can protect our spirits from harm by helping us see how to choose to follow the Lord.

The beasts John saw were continually praising the Lord. Read Revelation 4:10 and 11.

The elders around the Lord were people who loved the Lord and His truths. We can think of them as angels. They wore crowns because they were wise. They fell down and worshipped the Lord and placed their crowns before Him because they were humble and to show that everything comes from the Lord. He is the Creator of all. The words of praise by the elders are the words of the recitation for this lesson.



DISCUSSION

- You may want to read the description of the throne room again. (Revelation 4:2-8) As you read, talk about the unusual things in this vision of the throne room of the Lord. See if you can find them in our picture. Are there things missing in the picture? (*The elders on their thrones.*)
- The Book of Revelation tells about the events in the spiritual world at the time of the birth of the New Church. What do you think the New Church is? Where do you think you might find it? Is the New Church a special building? Can you find it on a map? (*No, the New Church is not a building or a place.*)
- If you can't find the New Church on a map, where is it? (*The New Church is inside the hearts and minds of everyone who loves the truth of the Heavenly Doctrine. When we live our lives by this truth, the Lord lets the New Church be born inside each one of us.*)
- Our next lesson will tell about a baby in great danger. We will learn how the Lord takes care of this baby and protects it.



THE THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN | Activities

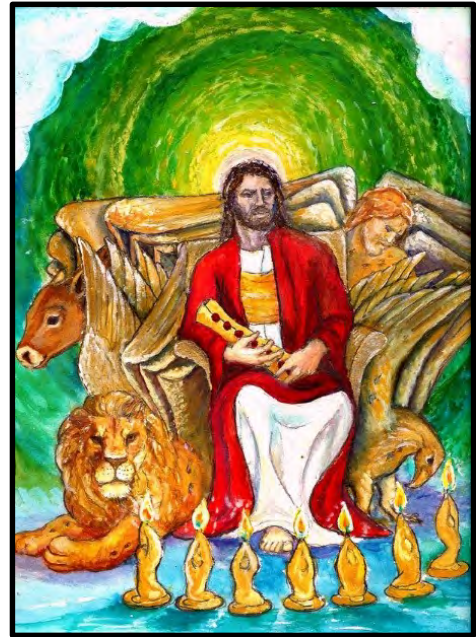
Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and are
created.

Revelation 4:11

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Song

- Holy, Holy, Holy
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-holy-holy-holy/>

Project

- The Throne Room in Heaven

The Throne Room in Heaven

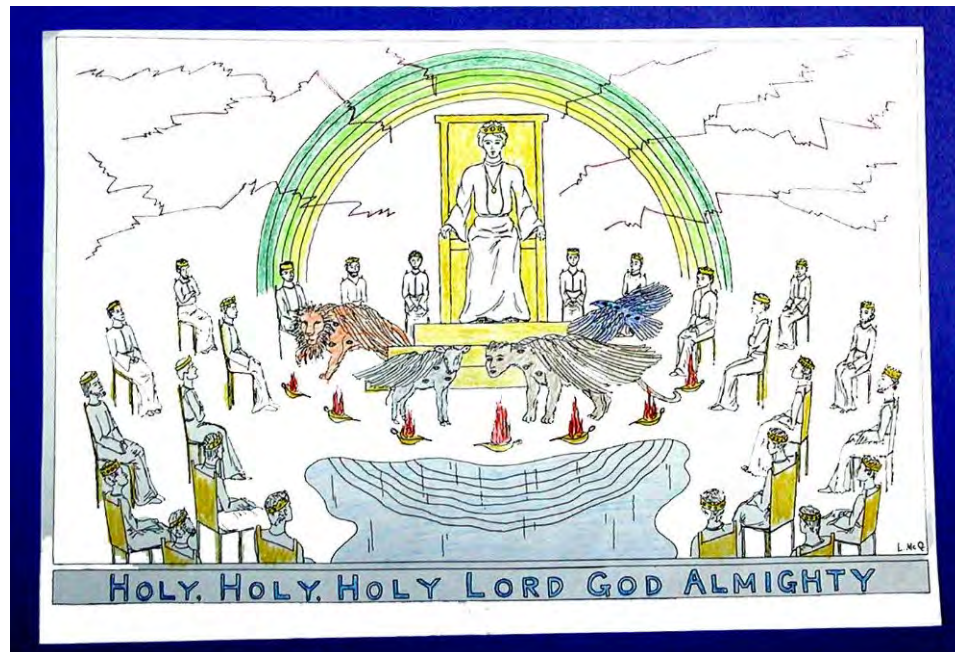
Help children remember the incredible vision of the throne room described in the Book of Revelation.

Supplies needed

- 1 sheet blue paper approx. 9"x12" (23cm x 30cm)
- *Throne Room in Heaven* picture printed on stiff paper approx. 8½"x11" (21cm x 28cm)
- colored pencils or crayons
- silver glitter
- glue

Directions

1. Using colored pencils or crayons, color the images in the picture of the Throne Room in John's vision. Go back to the Book of Revelation to check out the details if you like. For instance, this was not an ordinary rainbow above the throne. What color was it?
2. Spread glue on the sea and sprinkle glitter on the glue to make the "crystal sea."
3. When the glue holding the glitter is dry, glue the picture to blue paper to form a frame around it.





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