

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**

**Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 24**

**Introduction; John Sees the Lord Amongst the Golden Lampstands (Rev. 1:10-20)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The book of Revelation is a book of prophecies about the state of heaven and of the church near the end of the Christian Church when the Last Judgment takes place. (AE 5)
- B. Every particular recorded in the book of Revelation, as well as every particular in the prophetical parts of the Word elsewhere, has an internal sense. (AE 87)
- C. John's visions recorded in Revelation can be divided into two groups:
  - 1. First: pictures or symbols of how the Christian Church was doing in the world and in men's hearts, and how it was going to fare in the future.
  - 2. Later: how the Lord would build up a new church.
- D. John represents the good of love or of charity. The Lord chose John to receive the revelation of the Apocalypse because revelation out of heaven can be made only to those who are in the good of charity or of love. (AE 8)
- E. John's vision of the Lord in Chapter I gives us a complete picture of the risen and glorified Lord who is the one God of heaven and earth.
- F. Basic correspondences:
  - 1. Golden lampstands = divine truth loved
  - 2. Two-edged sword = truth defending good and destroying evil
  - 3. Golden band = divine love

**II. Story Circle**

- A. Introduction
  - 1. The Book of Revelation
    - a. Today we're beginning a series of 12 lessons on the book of Revelation. Does anyone know where in the Word we find the book of Revelation? (At the end)
    - b. The Word is made up of the Old Testament, which is fairly long, and the New Testament, which is much shorter. Can anyone name the 5 books of the New Testament? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Revelation) [It is helpful to hold up a copy of the Word to show the children the proportions

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of the Old and New Testaments and the position of Revelation in relation to the rest of the Word.]

- c. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called "the 4 gospels." Gospel means "good news." What good news are the 4 gospels telling about? (The things that the Lord said and did while in the world that made it possible for people to go to heaven.)
  - d. The book of Revelation is not one of the gospels; it's not telling us about the Lord's life on earth. Instead, the book of Revelation is full of prophecies. Does anyone remember what a prophecy is? (A prediction of something that is going to happen in the future) And what is a prophet? (Someone who speaks for the Lord and tells what is going to happen in the future)
2. John - A Prophet for the Lord
- a. John, one of the Lord's 12 apostles, wrote the gospel of John. John was the apostle whom the Lord loved most.
  - b. After the Lord ascended to heaven, His apostles preached and taught about Him, and they gathered together people who believed in the Lord and worshiped Him. These people were the beginning of the Christian Church. And John became a very important leader in the Christian Church.
  - c. But the Roman rulers at that time, like the scribes and Pharisees, wanted to destroy the Christian Church. The Christian Church was growing so fast that the rulers were afraid of its power. So they sent out a decree (like a law) that Christians should stop worshiping the Lord, or they would be banished. John disobeyed the decree and kept on worshiping the Lord, so he was arrested, put on trial, and banished— sent away all by himself to an island called Patmos in the middle of the sea. John was an old man by this time.
  - d. But he kept on believing in the Lord and worshiping Him. So the Lord did a wonderful thing: One Sunday, He came to John on the Isle of Patmos, and He opened his spiritual eyes so John could see into the spiritual world. And the Lord told John to write in a book all the things he saw. The book John wrote is called the book of Revelation.
  - e. Now we'll read part of the first chapter of Revelation to find out what the first thing was that John saw in the other world.

### B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Rev. 1:10-20 in its entirety.

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### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Do you remember what day of the week it was when John heard a loud voice like a trumpet? (The Lord's Day - Sunday)
2. Do you know what John means when he says he was "in the Spirit"? (His spiritual eyes and ears were opened so he could see and hear things in the spiritual world.)
3. What did John hear first? (Loud voice, as of a trumpet)
4. And whom did he see? (The Lord)
5. What did John see around the Lord? (7 golden lampstands)
6. What was the Lord holding in His right hand? (7 stars)
7. What did the Lord say about Himself? ("I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.")
8. What did the Lord tell John to do? (Write all he saw and heard in a book)

### D. Further Ideas

1. Every detail of John's vision has a correspondence, a special spiritual meaning. When the angels read the book of Revelation, they understand this special meaning. And we can learn a little about this special spiritual meaning, too.
2. Stars give light, and so do lampstands. Everything in John's vision of the Lord was a form of light and brightness. Can you remember some of the other light or bright things about the vision? (White head and hair, feet of brass, eyes like flame, countenance [face] shining like the sun)
  - a. Light is like true ideas from the Lord that show us the way in our lives.
3. In our reading, the Lord explained to John what the 7 stars and the 7 lampstands meant. Can you remember what He said? (7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches; 7 lampstands are the 7 churches)
4. Lampstands give light, and the Lord said the 7 lampstands are the 7 churches. What does it mean that a church is like a lampstand, and that a church gives light? (A church gives us true ideas from the Lord to help us see how to live a good life. So a church gives us light in our minds, while a lampstand gives us light for our eyes.)

## III. Enrichment Activities

### A. Music

1. "Revelation," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side 2, first song. (Words attached.)

### B. Activities

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### C. Project: MAKE YOUR OWN PUZZLE

1. Buy blank puzzles from a school supplies place, or provide children with a piece of shirt cardboard, white poster board, or as stiff a white paper as you have available (about 5" X 8" or a little larger).
2. Have children draw the Lord's right hand holding 7 stars; they can use their own hands for tracing around. Felt markers work well. If they have the patience to color in the background with a nice contrasting color, the puzzle will be that much more attractive.
3. Encourage children to fill as much of the space as possible.
4. If there is time, children could do a picture on the reverse side of the puzzle also: John praying on the Lord's Day or the Lord amongst the 7 lampstands.
5. When children are finished drawing, if they do not have ready-made puzzles, they can cut their pictures into about a dozen pieces (don't let them cut the pieces too small!). Any extra class time could be spent putting their puzzles together; children may enjoy swapping and trying out each other's.

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Map - Show Isle of Patmos (off coast of Asia Minor, near the island of Rhodes, north of Crete)
- B. Pictures from Rev. Fred Schnarr's 8th grade course on Revelation (8 1/2 X 11), or, if unavailable
- C. Pictures from "The Book of Revelation— Forty-Nine Pictures," a coloring book available from Immanuel Church Swedenborg Center in Glenview or General Church Book Center in Bryn Athyn. (Cost— about \$1)

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *John in the Isle of Patmos* by George de Charms, pp. 1-11.
- B. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 6, "John's Vision— Revelation I," pp. 168-182.
- C. The Sower, Vol. VI, Lesson 44— Revelation I, pp. 321-329.

## REVELATION

### Chorus

Blessed are those that read aloud, and blessed are those that hear,  
And blessed are those that keep what's written therein, for the time is near.

**Verse 1)** I saw in the right hand of Him 7 seals on a book,  
And no one in the earth or heaven could open it and look.

**(CHORUS)**

**Verse 2)** A lamb with 7 horns and eyes, as if it had been slain,  
Was worthy to unseal the book, to take the throne and reign!

**(CHORUS)**

**Verse 3)** I saw a mighty angel coming, wrapped up in a cloud,  
One foot on land, one foot on sea; His lion voice was loud.

**(CHORUS)**

(LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side 2; Rev. 1:3; 5:2-3, 6-9; 10:1-3)

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