

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 28**  
**The Angel with the Little Book (Revelation 10:1-4, 8-11)**

**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 prophetic 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. In Chapter 10, those in the churches of the Reformed are treated of here, what they believe concerning the Lord as being God of heaven and earth. As to His Humanity being Divine, this isn't received. As long as the dogma of faith alone is seated in their hearts, it can be received only with difficulty. (APOCALYPSE REVEALED, "Chapter 10 - The Spiritual Sense.")
- E. The little book in the angel's hand is the Word as to some essential idea it contains. This idea is the essential itself of the New Church: that the Lord is the God of heaven and earth, and that His Human is Divine. Only those who acknowledge the Lord as God of heaven and earth can be admitted into heaven. (AR 469)
- F. John's not writing what was in the open book means in the spiritual sense that the ideas contained in the book (i.e. the essentials of the New Church) are not committed to the heart and are not received by those in faith alone.
- G. It wasn't until the time of the Lord's second coming, when He called Swedenborg into the other world to see and hear wonderful things, and to write them down, that the words cried loudly by the angel could be made known on earth. Swedenborg learned from the Lord what the angel had said, which John was not permitted to write, and he wrote it down in THE DOCTRINE OF THE LORD.
- H. Basic correspondences:
  - 1. Angel = Lord in His Divine majesty and power
  - 2. Open book = the Word as to this point of doctrine

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### II. Story Circle

#### A. Introduction

1. Who was the man who wrote down the book of Revelation? (John, the apostle [or disciple] whom the Lord had loved most when He was in the world)
2. Where in the Word do we find the book of Revelation? (At the end)
3. The book of Revelation is a book of prophecies from the Lord about what was going to happen to the Christian Church and about the beginning of the New Church.
4. Today we'll talk about another vision that the Lord showed to John. This vision teaches us an important lesson about the New Church.

#### B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Rev. 10:1-4, 8-11 in its entirety.

#### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. John saw an angel coming down from heaven. Can you describe what the angel looked like? (Clothed with cloud, rainbow on head, face like sun, feet like pillars of fire)
2. What was in the angel's hand? (A little book, which was open)
3. Where did the angel set his feet? (Right on sea, left on land)
4. What did the angel's voice sound like? (A lion roaring)
5. When the angel cried out, what sound was heard? (7 thunders)
6. What happened when John was about to write what the seven thunders had said? (A voice from heaven told him to seal up the things which the 7 thunders had said and not to write them.)
7. What else did the voice from heaven tell John to do? (To take the little book from the angel)
8. When the angel told John to eat the little book, what did he say it would taste like? (Sweet as honey in the mouth, but would make his stomach bitter.)
9. After John ate the book, what did the angel tell him he must do? ("You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.")

#### D. Further Ideas

1. The Little Book
  - a. When we talked about John's vision of the scroll sealed with seven seals, we said the scroll was like a book, and that it was the Word.
  - b. What do you think the "little book" was? The Word - but not the whole Word. The little book had in it one special idea from the Word that's very important to the New Church, and

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that idea is this: The Lord is the God of heaven and earth. Another way of saying this idea is: Jesus and God are the same person.

2. The Lord/Jesus is Divine
  - a. Did you know that some people think that Jesus was just an ordinary man? They say He wasn't Divine and that He wasn't the Lord. This wrong idea about Jesus is one of the reasons why the Lord had to begin the New Church. In the New Church we know and believe that Jesus and God are just different names for the same person, and we call that person the Lord.
3. Sweet in Mouth, Stomach Made Bitter
  - a. You might wonder why the little book tasted sweet as honey in John's mouth, but then made his stomach bitter (sick). There is an inner meaning to this that teaches us something important about the Word.
  - b. The Word has many stories you like to hear: Noah and the ark, Moses and the burning bush, Daniel in the lions' den, and many more. You like to listen to these, and they seem sweet to you.
  - c. The Lord uses these stories to teach you what is right and what is wrong. When the evil spirits try to get you to do something wrong, and you remember that the Lord has taught in His Word not to do it, then His teachings don't seem sweet to you. They seem to keep you from doing what you really want to do. And then the teachings of the Word seem bitter.

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

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

#### B. Activities: "Sweet in the mouth, stomach made bitter"

1. Have children think of good things they know from the Word that they love (that are sweet to them), and a situation when this good teaching keeps them from doing something wrong that they wanted to do (and is therefore bitter to them).
2. [If needed, ideas to get them rolling: Stealing is wrong: You wouldn't take candy from a store when no one is looking, even though you really want the candy. "Do unto others as you would have them do

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unto you": When you're angry with a friend, you don't do something nasty to get even.]

### C. Project: THE ANGEL WITH THE LITTLE BOOK - Stained Glass Window

1. Materials: tracing paper, felt tip markers, pencil and eraser, poster board or construction paper, tape, roller glue or contact cement
2. Preparation
  - a. Have frames for windows (construction paper or poster board) made ahead of time.
  - b. Draw light pencil guidelines within which picture must be kept to avoid having some of it hidden by the frame.
3. Steps
  - a. Cut tracing paper to fit frame.
  - b. Older children should make pencil copy first.
  - c. Draw, or go over pencil copy, with black felt tip marker.
  - d. Color in "window panes" with bright colors.
  - e. Center and tape window into frame.
  - f. If making frames from construction paper, the finished product would be a bit sturdier if the window were glued between two frames.
4. Guiding the Students
  - a. Before embarking on the drawing, remind students of the lesson's visual details about the angel:
    - Clothed with cloud (What color(s) are clouds?)
    - Rainbow on his head
    - Face like sun
    - Feet like pillars of fire (Where was right foot? left foot?)
    - Little book, open, in hand

## IV. Teaching Aids

## V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *John in the Isle of Patmos*, "The Angel With the Little Book," (Rev. 10), pp. 75-79.
- B. *Apocalypse Revealed*, "Chapter 10— The Spiritual Sense" (between nos. 463 and 464— about 2 pages).