

LESSON FOR SABBATH, APRIL 4, 2015

THE PREFACE FOR THE BOOK OF REVELATION, THE INSCRIPTION

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:1-3 and John 1:6-14.

Golden Text: Psalm 25:9.

The Revelation begins with an inscription, a salutation and a statement of the theme of the Book. It means an "Unveiling" or a "disclosure of facts." Isaiah 46:8-10.

1. What was the command given to John concerning the things to write? Revelation 1:19 and 1
2. How did Paul receive his knowledge to write to the different churches? Galatians 1:12; 2:2; Romans 16:25, 26; Ephesians 3:3.
3. As ministers preach should it also be by revelation of the Scriptures? Amos 3:7; Psalms 25:14; Proverbs 3:22.
4. What did Daniel testify to King Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 2:28.
5. What words did Jesus use at a certain occasion as He prayed? Matthew 11:25.
6. What encouragement did Jesus give His disciples? Luke 8:10; Matthew 13:10-13.
7. Through whose testimony are we enriched? 1 Corinthians 1:4-6; 2:1.
8. What did John, the servant of Christ, attempt to perform? Revelation 1:2. Compare this with 2 Timothy 1:8.
9. What beatitude is for our benefit as we study the Book of Revelation? Revelation 1:3.
10. How does Peter describe his revelation? 2 Peter 1:15-18. But what was of more value to Peter than the vision of glory? 2 Peter 1:19-21.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, APRIL 11, 2015

THE SALUTATION

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:4-8; 1 Peter 4:1-11.

Golden Text: Revelation 1:3.

1. To whom is the book of Revelation addressed? Revelation 1:4, 11, 19, 20.

NOTE: The verses indicate that the whole Book is to be sent to each of the seven churches. Together they represent the Churches of God everywhere.

2. Why was this Book so necessary to go to the Churches of God? Revelation 1:3; 22:10; 1 Peter 4:7.
3. How did other writers express themselves concerning the "time being at hand?" Philippians 4:5; James 5:8, 9; Proverbs 8:32-35.

4. From whom do the words that John is going to write to the Churches come? Revelation 1:4, 5; John 8:14; Revelation 4:5; 5:6; Zechariah 4:10.
5. To whom will be given dominion and glory? Revelation 1:6; Matthew 25:31, 32; 1 Peter 4:11; 5:11; Romans 11:36.
6. How far down to earth does Jesus come at His first phase of His second coming? Revelation 1:7 (first clause); Revelation 14:14, 15; Matthew 24:30; 26:64.
7. How else is Jesus identified as the authentic King of Saints Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13; 15:3.
8. Is He the same in the Old Testament? Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12.

NOTE: Christ's return is affirmed in words similar to Matthew 25:31-34; 13:30; derived from Daniel 7:13. He will come with His reward for the saints and to catch them all up into the clouds and so shall the saints ever be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, APRIL 18, 2015

THE THEME [and Initial Vision]

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:9-20.

Golden Text: Luke 17:21.

1. What does John bring together here in verse 9 of Revelation chapter 1? The tribulation is a present experience for every saint, as is also the Kingdom, but it is also a future hope. Only those with "patient endurance" will enter into its fullness. Mark 13:13; 2 Timothy 1:8.

NOTE: Paul, John, Peter and others in the Church of God felt that suffering for Christ was part of their mission and a condition for entrance into the kingdom of God. Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 2:12.

2. Even though we are in the world is it possible to get victory over it? John 16:33; 1 John 5:4, 5, 19, 20.

3. Where was John when he received the vision of the Revelation of Jesus? Revelation 1:9. He was sent to Patmos for preaching the Word of God, an island off the coast of Ephesus; also for the testimony of Jesus. John 3:31-36; Revelation 19:10; Hebrews 11:5.

4. What other prophet experienced such a vision? Ezekiel 3:16-21. John had to send his vision to the seven churches, while Ezekiel was to go personally to a rebellious people. 1 Chronicles 2:3-5.

5. A voice spoke to John, he turned and what did he see? Revelation 1:12, 13; 2:1. Natural light was always excluded from the tabernacle and temple. The candlestick is a type of Christ the light of the world. Exodus 25:37; Zechariah 4:2; John 1:4-9; Hebrews 1:9.

6. What else does the candlestick represent? Isaiah 11:1, 2; Revelation 5:6; Isaiah 49:5-7. The Lampstand stood for God's Chosen people. Now the lampstand symbolizes the Church of God. Christ is the Light. John 8:12; 1 John 1:5-6; John 12:36; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5, 6.

7. Where is Jesus in connection with the candlestick? Revelation 1:13; Matthew 18:20. The saints are to let Christ's light shine in order to glorify Christ. John 12:36; Ephesians 5:8; Matthew 5:14-16.
8. How does Paul explain these thoughts? 2 Corinthians 4:6.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, APRIL 25, 2015

THE LORD'S DAY [In General]

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2.

Golden Text: Revelation 1:10.

1. What will happen just prior to the coming of the Lord's Day? Joel 1:15; 2:1, 30, 31; 3:12-16.
2. When John was given the Revelation of Jesus was he not shown all these things coming to pass? Revelation 6:16. To prove that what he saw was all done during the Lord's Day? Isaiah 2:19; Malachi 4:1; Micah 5:10-13.

NOTE: The Lord's Day is a day of judgment. It begins with the Reaping of the saints, with the pouring out of the indignation [wrath] of God, the wedding of the Lamb and then the warring phase followed with the Judgment days of the millennium.

3. How can we prove that the above statement is true according to the Scriptures?
 - A. The reaping phase. Psalms 91:10-12; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:14-16.
 - B. The Wedding of the Lamb. Zephaniah 1:7; Revelation 19:7.
 - C. The wedding garment. Zephaniah 1:8; Matthew 22:11, 12; Revelation 19:8, 9.
 - D. The warring phase. Zechariah 14:1-3; Joel 3:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 16:16-19.
 - E. Setting up the Kingdom for judgment. Joel 1:14, 15; Zechariah 14:16, 17; Zephaniah 3:7-9; Isaiah 32:1; Revelation 17:14; 19:16.
4. What happens to the wicked on the Lord's Day? Malachi 4:1-3; Isaiah 2:12, 17; Micah 5:10-13.
5. What will the saints experience at the time of the second coming of Christ? 2 Corinthians 1:14, a time of rejoicing. The saints will then be totally blameless, 1 Corinthians 1:8.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, MAY 2, 2015

THE LORD'S DAY [For Israel]

Scripture Reading: Romans 11:1-25.

Golden Text: Revelation 11:3.

1. What has happened to Israel at the time of the Acts? Acts 28:28-31; Romans 11:9-11; Psalms 69:21-28.

NOTE: Israel will remain blinded until the Lord's Day comes. The elect of Israel are the 144,000 that are sealed, the rest of Israel are blinded. Romans 11:5, 7, 25. The blindness will be removed from Israel at the end of Gentile times. Luke 21:24; Romans 11:7, 25. It will be started with the Lord's Day. Zephaniah 3:14-17.

2. Who is going to come and deliver Israel from their blindness? Romans 11:26-28; Malachi 3:3-6; 1:5; Micah 4:6-8; Zechariah 13:1.
3. Where will the Lord physically arrive in Israel? Acts 1:10-12; Isaiah 52:6-8; Zechariah 14:4, 5.
4. What is happening in the world today as we see the approaching Advent of Jesus? Zechariah 12:2, 3; Revelation 16:13-16.
5. How will Israel be made ready to repent and accept their Saviour at the beginning of the Lord's Day? Revelation 11:3, 4, 7, 8, 13; Zechariah 4:11, 13, 14.
6. What Day will be the beginning of the defence of Israel? Zechariah 12:6-9; Ezekiel 34:22-26; 36:23-28, 33, 35, 36.
7. The Lord's Day will come and Israel will repent and be saved. Micah 2:12, 13; Zechariah 13:8, 9.
8. What prophecy will then be fulfilled? Acts 15:14-18; Amos 9:11, 12; Romans 11:26, 27. Let us thank the Lord for His great DAY. Zephaniah 1:14, 15; Isaiah 59:20, 21; 60:18-22.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, MAY 9, 2015

JOHN'S VISION OF JESUS CHRIST

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 1.

Golden Text: Revelation 1:14.

1. What was the glory that Jesus had before His birth at Bethlehem? John 17:5; Matthew 16:28; 17:1, 2; 2 Peter 1:17, 18; Colossians 1:15-17.
2. Was this the glory that John saw in Revelation 1:14, 15; Ezekiel 43:1-6; Matthew 17:2, 5-8.
3. What happened to John and other saints that saw such great glory? Revelation 1:17; Luke 5:8; Ezekiel 1:28; 2:1, 2; Daniel 8:17, 18.
4. What was the appearance of Christ? Revelation 1:16, 17. In Christ's attire we can see innate dignity. He is a Prophet. Luke 24:19; John 4:19; 6:14; He is now a Priest. Hebrews 7:17; 8:1; Exodus 28:2, 3; He is a judge. Acts 17:31; Isaiah 11:3; 1 Corinthians 4:4; He is King. Psalms 24:7-10; Jeremiah 23:5; Revelation 17:14. Jesus is King of Saints with one crown on His head. Revelation 15:3; He is King of Kings with many crowns on His head. Revelation 19:12, 16.

NOTE: The "Long Robe" shows authority; Christ will judge men and nations. The "Golden

Girdle" suggests His priestly work. The "White" head symbolizes purity, wisdom, divinity. His "flaming Eyes" denote penetrating vision and judgment. His "bronzed Feet" suggest strength to overcome opposition. His voice like "the sound of many waters" means his irresistible power and fullness. Ezekiel 43:2. The "two-edged sword" is His judicial power. His "face is like the sun" Matthew 17:2. The glory of God is on the face of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 4:6.

5. When the Kingdom is established how will the Son of Man rule? Psalms 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15.

6. Why must the Son of Man rule? 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Psalms 110:1-6.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, MAY 16, 2015

THE KEYS OF HELL AND DEATH

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 32:1-29.

Golden Text: Revelation 14:13.

1. What is the consequence of sin? Genesis 3:19; Romans 6:23; Genesis 2:17.

2. How does the Apostle Paul state this fact? Romans 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

3. Who then was able to save mankind from this curse of death? Romans 5:16, 17.

4. Jesus became the living ONE. This gave Him the keys to the grave (hell, Hades) and death. He had the victory over the grave and death. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; 2 Timothy 1:10, 11; Hosea 13:14; Isaiah 25:8, 9.

5. What is meant by the gates of Hell? Matthew 16:18; 10:28. These two verses and most others that contain the word "Hell" mean "Hades" in the Greek and "Sheol" in the Aramaic. These two words mean "The place of the dead." This is anyplace where the dead are laid to rest, such as a: Mound, Crypt, a ground grave, a Mausoleum, even in a space capsule, and an urn. Jesus is the first-born from hades. 1 Corinthians 15:20.

6. What was Job's testimony concerning the grave and death? Job 19:25-27; 14:2, 5-14; 17:13-16.

7. What are the words of Jesus concerning all that are in the graves (Hell)? John 5:24-29. Compare Daniel 12:2; John 11:11.

8. What is the "Lake of Fire" the Hell that we read about? NO! Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 15; Matthew 25:41, 46. It is - "A furnace of fire." Revelation 9:2; Matthew 13:30, 42, 49, 50.

NOTE: The words "forever" or "everlasting" mean for the "age of ages." Revelation 1:6. The furnace of fire will be burning for 1000 years. Matthew 13:41; Malachi 4:3. It will continue to burn with the wicked as they are put into the furnace. The first ones to be put into the Furnace are the Beast and false Prophet. Rev. 19:20. The last to be put into the Furnace is Satan. Revelation 20:10; 21:8. Then what also happens to "Death and Hell?" Revelation 20:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:26.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, MAY 23, 2015

EPHESUS [The active church, Sound in Doctrine but deficient in love.]

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:1-7 and Acts 20:17-21.

Golden Text: Revelation 1:1.

NOTE: Christ addresses the seven churches as a true pastor and shepherd. He does not close His eyes to either the good or the evil. He commends them wherein they have been faithful and condemns them wherein they have failed. Christ knows the particular needs of each. Appropriately each letter ends with an eternal blessing at the Parousia. Ephesus was the foremost Port City of Asia Minor.

1. What seventh wonder of the ancient world stood in this city? Acts 19:35. It was called "The Market of Asia" and the "Vanity Fair." Acts 19:18, 20.
2. Beside the evil crafts that were practiced what else did the Ephesians do? Acts 19:23-27.
3. How does Christ encourage the Ephesians? Revelation 2:2-3; 1 Peter 1:5; Psalms 1:6.
 - A. Their good works and labours. Romans 2:13; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Galatians 6:4.
 - B. Their patience. Luke 21:19; Ecclesiastes 7:8, 9; Romans 5:3.
 - C. Their Spirit of discernment. 1 Corinthians 12:10; Malachi 3:17.
 - D. Their resistance to false teachers and false leaders. Acts 20:29-31; 1 John 4:1. No one could falsify the original twelve Apostles, but by this time many of the originals had been in their graves and new ones had to be proven. Every time you have true apostles, false ones will also appear.
 - E. Hated evil deeds. Psalms 26:5; 139:22, 23; 2 John 9; Revelation 2:15.
4. What happens to those that are over comers? Revelation 2:7. Each individual is asked to hear and respond accordingly. Matthew 11:15-17; Proverbs 11:30; Revelation 22:14.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, MAY 30, 2015

SMYRNA [Poor but rich church.]

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:8-10; Isaiah 41:1-14.

Golden Text: Matthew 10:22.

Smyrna was the largest city in the Land of Ionia, 40 miles North of Ephesus. It and Philadelphia are the only two churches which were praised and commended without any condemnation.

1. What was the physical and spiritual state of the Smyrna Church? Revelation 2:9; James 2:5; Luke 12:21; 1 Timothy 6:18. They were mostly slaves.

2. In contrast look at the Laodicea Church. Revelation 3:17, 18; Isaiah 65:16; 2 Corinthians 1:20. Laodicea was rich in temporal things but poor in the things of God.

3. How many of Israel were sealed? Revelation 14:1, 4; 7:4; Isaiah 41:10 (Compare Matthew 27:42 with Luke 23:37).

4. What happened to the rest of the Children of Israel? Romans 11:7, 8, 25; Isaiah 26:10, 11.

5. What happens to those that call themselves Jews? Revelation 2:9; 3:9. If We Gentiles call ourselves Jews are we not also blinded? Romans 11:20-24. The name Jew is the same as Israel in the Bible. Nehemiah 11:20; Ezra 5:1; 6:14-18. Ever since Babylonian captivity Israelites were also called Jews, the whole house of Israel Ezekiel 37:11; 39:25.

6. If we call ourselves Jews we must also do that which is required of Jews? Galatians 5:1-4; 4:6-10; Acts 3:11, 12.

7. What was the Smyrna church commended for? Revelation 2:9, 10. When the Church stands for Christ it will suffer persecution, but by the power of Christ it will be victorious. John 16:33; 1 John 5:4-6.

NOTE: The expression "ten days" signifies a limited period. The following references will confirm this thought. Genesis 24:55; Daniel 1:12; Acts 25:6; Jeremiah 42:7.

8. If we are faithful what will be the result? Revelation 2:10, 11. The crown of eternal life is the best reward we can receive. All who die once in Christ will receive it. The wicked receive the second death. 1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 20:6, 14, 15; 21:8; James 1:12.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, JUNE 6, 2015

PERGAMOS [The Heretical Church].

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:13-17 and Jude 11 :19.

Golden Text: Numbers 31:16.

Pergamos is a religious and educational training City. It was the Lourdes of the ancient world. It had shrines for Zeus, Athene Dionysus, and Asklepios. It introduced emperor worship to Europe.

1. Whose seat and habitat was in Pergamos? Revelation 2:13. It was the first attempt to bring over Babylonian doctrines into the Church of God. What had become deeds in the Ephesian Church became doctrines in Pergamos. Revelation 2:6, 15.

2. Who was the founder of the Nicolaitanes? Acts 6:5,6; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7; 1 John 2:18-23.

3. How does Satan affect each Child of God? Zechariah 3:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 2:18.

4. What other doctrine was being taught in this city church? Revelation 2:14. The Nicolaitanes are comparable to Balaam. Idolatry of any sort results in immorality of some kind. Man cannot turn from God without expecting to pay for it in one way or another. Galatians 6:7-9; Job 4:8;

Luke 16:25; Romans 2:6.

5. What other bad habit did some of the Pergamos people have? Revelation 2:14. This had definitely been settled at the Jerusalem Council in 50 A.D. Acts 15:19, 20, 28, 29; 1 Corinthians 8:8-13.

6. What is inferred would happen because of the toleration of these wicked practices? 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 10:19-22. Christ will judge those that tolerate sin in the church more than the sinners. V. 15; Psalms 26:5; 139:22, 23; 2 John 9.

7. When will we receive the new name? It will be at the entrance of eternal life. Revelation 2:17; Psalms 25:14; 36:8; John 4:32; 6:48-51. The white stone is an emblem of purity and victory over sin. This new name may be that of Christ or of the Father, which shows that the saint is now a part of the eternal Kingdom. Nahum 1:14; Zephaniah 3:9; Revelation 3:12; 19:12, 13. Only the Saints will know the name of the Great, True Father in Heaven. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, JUNE 13, 2015

THYATIRA [The church of the false prophetess].

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:18-29.

Golden Text: Revelation 2:25.

Thyatira is the smallest of Church cities and was known for its textiles and dying business. The Church was established by Paul during His extended stay in Asia. Acts 19:10; 16:14, 15. This city was also noted for its "trade guilds." Each guild had its own God and form of worship. The-believers could not join in with these trade unions and therefore were ostracised and boycotted. Many saints were tempted to compromise their faith.

1. What kind of a spiritual leader did the church tolerate at Thyatira? Revelation 2:22-24. Perhaps she was the pastor's wife as some translations put it?

2. What is the picture we get from this Jezebel? 1 Kings 16:31; 1 Kings 21:25; 2 Kings 9:7.

3. What is a New Testament expression for this kind of action? 1 Corinthians 10:19, 20.

4. What kind of a woman did we study about in Revelation 17:1-6?

5. What was the end result of each of these two wicked women? 2 Kings 9:30-35; Revelation 18:8, 9, 10.

6. How does Christ remind us of what He can do? Revelation 2:23; Jeremiah 17:10; John 2:24, 25; Acts 1:24.

7. What encouraging words did Christ tell the faithful of Thyatira? Revelation 2:24, 25; Acts 15:28; Revelation 3:11.

8. Revelation 2:26, 27 tells us what the faithful saints will do at the Parousia. Revelation 3:21; 20:4; Matthew 25:20, 21; Luke 16:10-12; 19:17.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, JUNE 20, 2015

THE BREAK BETWEEN SARDIS AND THE FIRST FOUR CHURCHES

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.

Golden Text: Matthew 24:44.

With the third chapter of Revelation we noted a distinct break between the first four Churches of God and the last three. The progress of evil seems to have ceased. (2:24). Nothing can go beyond the "depths of Satan." In Sardis we found a new direction toward repentance.

1. What were the saints of Sardis to do more than anything else? Revelation 3:2 (first two words) If they did not watch what would happen? V. 3 (sec. sentence) Truth was rediscovered and unbiblical practices were exposed.
2. How does the Prophet Isaiah say these words? Isaiah 11:1-5; 32:15-17.
3. What happens to a Church that is not watching? Hebrews 10:36-39; Revelation 3:3; Habakkuk 2:2-4. To a watching church comes the response of a vision. The first four churches departed from Christ and the last three churches are looking to Christ, and are watching. Romans 13:11; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6.
4. What must the child of God do every day? 1 Peter 5:8-10; 1 John 3:2, 3, 8-10.
5. Those who identify themselves with Jesus are they in a majority? Matthew 7:13-14; Revelation 12:17; Luke 12:32.
6. If souls are to be rescued from the clutches of Satan who must do this job? Revelation 3:4; Jude 20-25; Romans 7:18-21; 8:22-25. The Sardis letter is the first one to not refer to an assailant. For each of the first four there was a menacing foe. Why? A sleeping church does not need an assailant. Satan leaves them alone in their false security. Children of God beware. Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 5:14-17.
7. "By being nearer in our salvation" what does that mean? Romans 1:16, 17. Salvation is the great inclusive word of the gospel.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, JUNE 27, 2015

SARDIS [The dying Church]

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:1-6.

Golden Text: Jude 23.

Sardis was a morally degenerate city. It was the oldest of the seven. It existed seven centuries before Christ. The expression, "As rich as Croesus" came from its wealthiest of all kings. Cyrus of Persia destroyed this "impenetrable" City. Later in 17 A.D. the City was destroyed by God through an earthquake. Tiberius rebuilt the City during the destruction of Jerusalem, making it a Roman provincial court.

1. What does Christ wish to remind the Sardinean Church of? Revelations 3:1-3; 5:6.
2. How else can they be described? 2 Timothy 3:2-6; 1 Timothy 5:6; 6:20-21.
3. What else are the Sardineans to remember? Revelation 3:3; Ephesians 2:4, 5; 5:14-17. The whole Church was weighed and found wanting. Daniel 5:26, 27. Their works and spiritual life lacked much. But a few had not "soiled their garments." The soiled garments does not mean they were commandment breakers. They were saints but yielded to the many temptations of the worldly city. Matthew 22:1-14.
4. What are the garments worn in heaven before the throne? Revelation 4:4; 6:11.
5. Who else will be dressed in white robes? Revelation 7:9, 13.
6. How are the Wedding guests of Jesus' wedding dressed? Revelation 19:7-9; Romans 5:17-21; 1 Corinthians 1:30.
7. If the people of the Church refuse to awaken from their stupor, what has Christ promised to do? Revelation 3:3; 16:15; Matthew 24:43, 44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; 2 Peter 3:10.
8. What promise and assurance was given to the faithful of Sardis? Revelation 3:5. The Book of Life is first referred to by Moses. Exodus 32:32. The Bible is replete with the thought of the Book of Life. Psalms 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:3. A saint will be clad in a white robe, and Jesus will confess his Name in heaven and earth. 2 Corinthians 5:3-5.