

LESSON FOR SABBATH, OCTOBER 3, 2015

PHILADELPHIA

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:7-13; Heb. 13:1-9.

Golden Text: Revelation 3:11.

1. What does the word Philadelphia mean? Hebrews 13:1; Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22. 2 Peter 1:7 reads like this, "And to Godliness Philadelphia, and to Philadelphia Charity."
2. How is the Philadelphia church described? Revelation 3:8. The Church was small in numbers and poor financially.
3. Wherein did the Philadelphia's Church strength lie? "They kept God's Word." This is more than believing. James 2:19, 20; 4:17; Romans 2:13.
4. What is the test of being a Child of God which the Philadelphians practiced? James 1:22-26; 1 John 2:13, 14.
5. Today we have been asked to abandon the Scriptures. 1 Timothy 6:20, 21; Titus 1:16; John 5:39.
6. What did the Lord mean by saying, "I have set before thee an open door." (Revelation 3:8)? It means to make things available for the Truth. Colossians 4:2-4; Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9. You have God's Blessing to do certain things. Acts 16:6-10; 2 Corinthians 2:11-13; Acts 21:4 compare with Acts 21:31-33. The Challenge given the Philadelphia church is given to us also. Let us put our trust and work upon Christ Who opens and shuts doors for us.
7. The Church of Philadelphia went in the door of salvation, now they would go out of it for salvation. John 10:7, 9; Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 3:7. The key to David is understanding Psalms 22, 23, 24, a great trilogy. The Good Shepherd gives his life for the sheep, thereby then they can go through the door. He then is brought from the dead (Hebrews 13:20). Then He becomes the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

LESSON FOR SABBATH, OCTOBER 10, 2015

LAODICEA

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:14-22.

Golden Text: Revelation 3:19

NOTE: This last letter from the Lord is the saddest of them all. Christ has nothing commendable to say, only a strong denunciation of complacency. It is very wealthy and had great financial success. Pride, luxury and smugness were the features of this the wealthiest of the area. "Laodicea" means, "Rights of the People."

1. How does Jesus introduce Himself to Laodicea? Revelation 3:14.

"Amen" means "The Truth." John 14:6. When Jesus said, "Verily, verily," (John 1:51; 3:3, 5, 11;

5:19, 24, 25) it was the same as saying "Amen and Amen..." "The Truth, the Truth." 2 Corinthians 1:20.

2. When Jesus called Himself "The Truth," what did the people say? John 7:40-46.

3. How did Jesus state this to Pilate? John 18:37.

4. How did Jesus teach the people? Matthew 7:29. He was the "faithful and true witness" to Laodicea. (Revelation 3:14). This was the explanation of the title "Amen."

5. How did the Lord present himself finally to the Church at Laodicea? (Colossians 2:9) He was the beginning of God's Creation. John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15, 18; Hebrews 1:1-3.

6. What was the delusion under which Laodicea laboured? Revelation 3:17. Compare this with Judges 16:20.

7. What was the prognosis of the Laodicea Church? Revelation 3:15, 16; Compare with Matthew 10:42. Hot or cold water is palatable. Lukewarm is an emetic. It is this figure the Lord used for Laodicea. They were nauseating to Him. The church said. "I am rich, I need nothing." Jesus said, "You are wretched and poor, distressed." Galatians 6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:19; Romans 7:24; 1 Corinthians 2:14.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, OCTOBER 17, 2015

THINGS WHICH MUST BE HEREAFTER

Scripture Reading: Revelation 4.

Golden Text: Revelation 4:1.

1. What two things did Jesus promise to the Believer? Revelation 3:20; John 14:23. This is not an appeal to the sinner but to the saint. The thought of Jesus is not the sinner's UNION but the saint's COMMUNION.

2. If Jesus comes into our heart now, where will we be able to sit in the future? Revelation 3:21; Matthew 19:28-30; Luke 18:28-30.

3. What parable did Jesus give concerning saints entering into the Kingdom? Matthew 25:1, 2, 10-13. One day soon Jesus is returning for His saints. Many will call to Him but Jesus will refuse to answer. People will seek Jesus but will not be able to find Him. The day of grace will have run its course.

4. Our Lord's appeal is to you as an individual, you must make the choice where you will sit with Jesus or your own seat of enjoyment? Read Proverbs 1:24-31.

5. What was the good part, Jesus said, was chosen by Mary? Luke 10:38-42.

6. What else did Jesus say a saint must strive for? Luke 13:24-29. To "Sup" also suggests that it is even time and darkness is approaching. What else does it tell us? James 5:9; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Matthew 24:33.

7. What does John first see as he looks into the heaven? Revelation 4:2, 3. Who is the person on the throne? Revelation 5:6, 12, 13; 4:11. Jesus is willing to share this glory, and honour, and throne with all obedient saints. The saints are going to be caught up. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The Reaping takes place to see who follow Christ and who do not. Then the Master shuts the door. Here is Matthew 25:11-13 and 7:22, 23 fulfilled.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, OCTOBER 24, 2015

THE SEVEN SEALED BOOK

Scripture Reading: Revelation 5.

Golden Text: Revelation 5:2.

1. What did John see before the throne of God? Revelation 4:6
2. Where have you read the same words "Clear as crystal?" Revelation 21:11. What is this thing "clear as crystal?" Revelation 21:9, 10.
3. Who is standing on this sea of glass which looks clear as crystal? Revelation 4:6; Revelation 5:6. What is another name given for "clear as crystal?" Revelation 21:21, 18; 15:2.
4. After seeing the Lamb of God on the throne what else did John see next? Revelation 4:3; Ezekiel 1:28.
5. A rainbow is seen. Genesis 9:11-15. This is proof that the Father has not forgotten the earth and is showing His eternal pledge. Psalms 89:37; Isaiah 54:9, 10.
6. What proceeds out of the throne of the Lamb of God? Revelation 4:5. The throne is dressing itself for judgment of the wrath of God. Revelation 8:5; 11:19; 16:18-21. Each time similar language is used showing the increase in the portions of God's wrath.
7. Now who are the 24 elders sitting on thrones around the Lamb's throne? Revelation 4:4, 10; 5:8, 9; 7:15. Then after seeing the Sea of Glass (Revelation 4:6) what appears next? Revelation 4:6; 5:6. The 24 elders and the 4 beasts sing united. Revelation 4:9, 10; 5:9, 10. The elders represent the saints caught up to the Sea of Glass. Revelation 19:4-6.
8. Where else did we read the expression: "Kings and Priests?" Revelation 1:6. It denotes the Kings to rule the creation, and priests to lead the worship of God. In Chapter 4 the saints are already crowned priests. The saints are on the Sea of Glass.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, OCTOBER 31, 2015

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9; 53:1-6.

Golden Text: Revelation 5:9.

1. How many beasts were around the throne of glory? Revelation 4:6, 7, 8; Ezekiel 1:5, 10, 11.
2. These creatures are cherubim. They have either two or four faces. Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:19, 22.
3. What other type of creatures do we read about that glorify God continually? Ezekiel 9:3; 10:3-6.
4. For what reason were these creatures created? Revelation 4:11; Hebrews 1:2; Ephesians 3:9.
5. Do all creatures have the same glory to glorify the Father and the Son? 1 Corinthians 15:38, 40. Revelation 4 and 5 are very intimately connected. We have had a glimpse of heaven and of the "Throne Sitter." In His right hand he holds the "Title deeds of Earth." Revelation 5:1; Ezekiel 2:9, 10; Isaiah 29:11; Daniel 12:4.
6. To whom was the sovereignty of earth first given? Genesis 1:26, 28; Genesis 2:19, 20; Romans 5:12-14; Daniel 7:9, 10.
7. To whom then is the second sovereignty given? Romans 5:15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22. This sealed scroll symbolizes the deeds or sovereignty of the world. How did God ordain the repurchase of land? Leviticus 25:25-30. It is customary to have a sealed scroll (book) rolled up and sealed by the redeemer of property. Jeremiah 32:11, 12, 14, 15; Ephesians 1:13,14.
8. In Matthew 13:44 what does Christ purchase?
9. When the Book, (scroll) is taken from God the Father by His Son (the Lamb) what happens? Revelation 5:12-14.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

THE SEVEN SEALS

Scripture Reading: Revelation 6.

Golden Text: Zechariah 1:10.

1. When does Christ prepare Himself to possess His Kingdom? Psalms 24:7-10; Daniel 2:44, 45; 7:26; Zechariah 6:11-13.
2. Jesus receives His claim from the one on the throne who hands him the sealed book. This is His appointment to rule. This is told in Luke 19:12-14, 27.
3. What was John to "Come and See?" Revelation 6:2; Zechariah 1:8-11. The first horse was white. What was the second? Revelation 6:4; Zechariah 6:1-5. What was the third? Revelation 6:5, 6; Zechariah 6:6, 7. And what was the fourth? Revelation 6:7, 8. Compare Ezekiel 14:21; Leviticus 26:22.
4. When Jesus takes the book what climactic acts begin to take place in the earth? Ezekiel 14:21. The four horses and riders are judgments. Revelation 4:5; Revelation 8:5; Psalms 110:1-6. The tribulation begins with the white horse. It emerges gradually and increases in intensity until the sixth seal. We are living in the latter part of the fifth seal. Matthew 24:29.

5. With the opening of the seals what else takes place? Matthew 24:4-8; Revelation 6:2-4; Mark 13:5-8. The times of trouble certainly are here. With the first seal (after chapters 4, 5) comes the time when war is for the whole earth. Each seal portrays a greater war and more slaughter on the earth. They begin with World War 1, followed by World War 2 and the atomic wars, with the awful shedding of blood in Korea, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Thailand, etc.

6. What is a definite sign of the four horsemen working today? 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 6:4, 5, 9, 10; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-4; Ezekiel 38:18, 19; 39:4. In these four seals we saw the result of the sword, (4), famine (6), plagues, pestilences, diseases (8). This all comes before the seven last plagues, the wrath of God. Revelation 6:16, 17. The saints escape the wrath of God but go through the tribulations of the seals. Matthew 23:28-35. Do you see now that the drift of the entire seals is found in the catastrophe of the sixth seal?

NOTE: The seals usher in the Seven Last Plagues.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

JUST BEFORE THE WRATH OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:1-19.

Golden Text: Luke 21:11.

1. What is one of the natural forces that God uses to call upon man's attention? Isaiah 29:6; Nahum 1:3-7.

NOTE: In these days we read and see the many natural disasters coming on the whole earth. It is letting the people know that this age is soon coming to an end. Ezekiel 38:19-23.

2. These natural catastrophes are called God's judgments. Isaiah 13:13, 14; 24:19-23; Luke 21:25-28.

3. What happens as King Jesus takes of the 6th seal from the Book? Revelation 6:12, 13; Psalms 60:1-3; 18:12-14; Mark 13:8.

NOTE: Earthquakes have been used by the Lord with formidable results to show His displeasure. Numbers 16:31, 32; Matthew 27:51; Zechariah 14:4, 5; Acts 16:26.

4. What prominent incident takes place during this sixth seal? Revelation 6:14. The heaven opens to let the New Jerusalem come down from God out of heaven. Revelation 21:10; 22:11, 12; Hebrews 12:22, 23.

5. What are some other examples of God using natural forces to punish the wicked? Genesis 7:21-24; Genesis 19:24, 25; Leviticus 26:16, 17, 25; Isaiah 34:8-10; Joel 2:10, 31, 32.

6. What will God send during the first and second woe? Revelation 11:13. Here again you read where an earthquake came to punish wicked men and for God to be honoured and praised for His great power.

7. When will the greatest earthquake of all times take place? Revelation 16:18-21. This is the seventh

plague and the end of the wrath of God.

8. What happens to the wicked men when they see the Lord coming in the clouds? Revelation 14:10, 11; 6:15-17; Isaiah 13:6-9; 2:19-21; Zephaniah 1:14-18.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, NOVEMBER 21, 2015

SEALING OF THE 144,000

Scripture Reading: Revelation 7:1-8.

Golden Text: Revelation 14:1.

1. What is holding back the world's destruction and punishment? Revelation 7:1, 3; Daniel 7:2.
2. Who are the servants of God to be sealed? Revelation 7:9-10; 15:2-4.
3. How many did John hear who were already sealed? Revelation 7:4; 14:3.
4. In what order did God reveal His program? Romans 2:9, 10.
5. Unto whom was the gospel first presented? Acts 11:19; Matthew 10:5-7; 15:24-28.
6. What did the Israelites attempt to do to Paul? Acts 20:2, 3, 17-19.
7. Is the Gospel and the Author of it just for Israel? Romans 3:27-31.
8. To what conclusion did the Apostle Paul come while in Corinth? Acts 18:5, 6.
9. What was Paul's final pronouncement concerning Israel? Acts 28:23-28.

NOTE: God called out 144,000 Children of Israel and sealed them unto the day of redemption. They are the remnant of Grace. (Romans 1:5). Jesus and Isaiah gave this prophecy. Matthew 13:13-14; Isaiah 6:9, 10. Paul helped to bring about its fulfilment. God has counted all of Israel in unbelief, and when the Deliverer comes out of Sion, He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. If it were possible for the Gentile Christians of today to convert Israel, there would be no reason for God to do it at the second coming of Christ. Let us in closing this note read Zechariah 13:1: "In that day (the second coming of Christ) there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." So we see they are to be saved as it is written, and this is how it is written.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, NOVEMBER 28, 2015

WHO ARE THE 144,000

Scripture Reading: Revelation 14:1-12.

Golden Text: Romans 11:7.

NOTE: There are very many different ideas of who the 144,000 are. The Bible tells us exactly who they are and we must believe this.

1. Who does the Bible say the 144,000 are? Revelation 7:4; 14:4. How many tribes of Israel are there? Deuteronomy 1:23; Exodus 24:4; Revelation 21:12.

2. Of how many tribes did Paul say were Children of God? Acts 26:7 (at that very time).

NOTE: There are people that say ten tribes of Israel were destroyed and lost. Why would the Father lose His chosen People? Did He not say (Jeremiah 31:28) that He watches over them?

3. To whom did James address his epistle? James 1:1. James said they were scattered abroad and then calls them first fruits in v. 18. Compare Revelation 14:4; 1 Corinthians 15:23.

4. Where were the 12 tribes? 1 Peter 1:1. They were scattered as Peter and James said they were. But they were not lost. Notice Peter calls them "Elect."

5. What does the Apostle Paul call the 144,000? Romans 11:5, 7, 8.

6. What happened to the rest of the Children of Israel? Romans 11:7 (last clause) v. 25.

7. When will the blindness be removed from the twelve tribes that are not sealed? Malachi 1:5; 1 Corinthians 3:13; Isaiah 35:4, 5; 33:17-20; Romans 11:25 compare with Luke 21:24. The name Jew and Israel are used to mean the 12 tribes. They are exchanged throughout the Scriptures. Ezra 7:7-9 tells us that Israel came out of captivity. (vv. 11, 13) Philippians 3:5.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, DECEMBER 5, 2015

A MARRIAGE FOR THE SON

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:1-14.

Golden Text: Matthew 22:2.

1. What is the required apparel for a saint at the time when Jesus comes? Revelation 7:9, 13; Matthew 22:11, 12.

2. How do you get your wedding garment clean and white? Isaiah 1:18; Revelation 7:14.

3. Besides having a wedding garment to go to the marriage of the Lamb what else is necessary? Matthew 25:1-4.

4. All alike have lamps. All slumbered and slept. All trimmed their lamps. What then was the difference between the ten virgins? Matthew 25:8, 12.

NOTE: Oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9.

5. If we are left alone what becomes of our garments? Psalms 14:3, 4; 53:3-5

6. What are our ideas called and does the Lord want our philosophy? Isaiah 64:6; Zechariah 3:3, 4.

There is no worth in man that we can worship God as we read in Revelation 7:9-12. How does the Apostle Paul present this thought? Romans 7:18-22.

7. Besides washing our garments what protects them and keeps them white? Romans 4:13; 10:4-6.

NOTE: As to the method of selecting us for the garment of righteousness, "Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." 1 Corinthians 3:13, 14. All that is done through the power of the Holy Spirit will be rewarded. This is the way to put on the "Righteousness of Christ." Philippians 3:8, 9.

8. With what is the Bride of Christ adorned? Revelation 19:7-9.

9. Who has prepared this marriage for the Son of God? Ephesians 1:3-6. The Father in heaven chose us to be with the bride of the Lord Jesus even before we were born. All those that accept the righteousness of Christ will be invited to the marriage of the Son-Jesus. Christ presents us to His bride at the time of the catching up of the saints. Ephesians 5:25-27.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, DECEMBER 12, 2015

OUR GODLY CALLING

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2.

Golden Text: Philippians 3:14.

NOTE: We should become thoroughly familiar with our scripture reading. The Apostle Paul wrote this portion to his young friend, Timothy, whom he called "my dearly beloved son" in 2 Timothy 1:2. Timothy was Paul's son in the faith. It was Paul who led Timothy to the Lord. Therefore, it becomes an intimate and personal bit of instruction to all of God's "sons" in the faith. In this chapter, the child of God is seen in different characters.

1. The child of God is called as a son. 2 Timothy 2:1.

a. The adopted sons of God have the same spirit of Christ in their hearts. Galatians 4:5-7.

b. As sons, the children of God are to grow in grace. 2 Peter 3:18.

2. The child of God is a good soldier.

a. A good soldier learns to endure hardness. 2 Timothy 2:3; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

b. A good soldier of our Lord avoids worldly entanglements. Romans 12:1-2.

3. The child of God is an athlete.

a. A good athlete must strive to obey the training rules. 1 Corinthians 9:25.

b. A good athlete obeys all moral rules. 1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

4. The child of God is a husbandman.
 - a. The husbandman must labour before reaping fruit. 1 Corinthians 3:8.
 - b. The husbandman must have patience and labour on. James 5:7.
5. The child of God is a workman. 2 Timothy 2:15.
 - a. The workman must study to be an approved workman. 2 Timothy 3:14-17.
 - b. The workman must rightly divide the word of truth. 2 Peter 1:12.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, DECEMBER 19, 2015

GOD'S NAME IS IN HIS DEEDS AND ACTIONS

Scripture Reading: Psalm 37.

Golden Text: Psalm 8:1.

NOTE: First let us all read Micah 4:5. Note that every person on earth will walk in the name of his god. This shows to us that the word "Name" means reputation or fame. God the Father revealed Himself by His power, might and action.

1. Why did God bring the plagues upon Egypt? Exodus 10:2; 9:16.
2. Why did Elijah call upon the Lord when He asked for fire to come down on the altar? 1 Kings 18:36-39.
3. Why was Israel protected so many times by God? Nehemiah 1:8, 9; Jeremiah 7:7-16.
4. Why did Israel cross the Red Sea so miraculously? Isaiah 63:12.
5. What specific instructions were given to Moses concerning the angel of the Lord. Exodus 23:20-22. Note that the NAME OF THE LORD was IN THE ANGEL. This proves that the name of the Lord is His greatness.
6. What does Isaiah say is the name of the Lord? Isaiah 48:1-9.
7. If the Psalmist says we must "praise God according to His name," then His name is action and deeds of loving kindness to mankind. Psalms 48:10-14.
8. By what name are we to be called? Isaiah 43:7; 63:19; James 2:7; Isaiah 43:9-12.

LESSON FOR SABBATH, DECEMBER 26, 2015

WHAT GOD'S WORD DOES FOR US

Scripture Reading: Psalm 40.

Golden Text: Revelation 20:12.

1. By what channels does the Word of God come to us Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1. Through faith we believe God's Word.

NOTE: People believe a certain thing without any foundation for that belief. Mark 4:24; Acts 8:12; 2 Timothy 2:15.

2. What is revealed to man in God's Word? Romans 1:16. The Word of God brings us this knowledge. John 20:31; Romans 10:17, 18; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

3. It is the source of our Spiritual Light. Psalms 119:105, 130. It gives light now and our future life. Daniel 9:2; John 5:39; 2 Kings 22:8, 11, 13; 1 Peter 1:1-5.

4. It is the source of our Spiritual life. John 6:63. Where the Word is received there is life. Psalms 19:7; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23.

5. It is the source of our leadership and perseverance. Acts 20:22, 23. The early Church lived and moved and had its being by the Word. 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; James 1:21-25.

6. It is the standard by which we shall be judged. John 12:47, 48; Revelation 20:12-15; 2 Peter 3:18.

NOTE: The Word of God will judge us now. Then it will not have to judge us in the kingdom when the sixty-six books of the Bible will be opened for judgment. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; James 2:12; Romans 2:12; 1 Peter 1:25.