

Teacher's Guide

The
ANSWER



LESSONS 105-117

CAN HEAVEN WAIT?

**THE
Answer**

www.apostolicfaith.org

A Bible study resource for use at home and church.

SEARCH



Lessons 105-117

Table of Contents

Note: At times, the lessons are taught out of sequence to coincide with holidays. See the accompanying datesheet for the current lesson schedule, which is also available online at www.apostolicfaith.org.

| Lesson | Answer / Search Title | Page |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| 105 | Chapter One / Christ the Cornerstone | 7 |
| 106 | Chapter Two / Historical Israel | 11 |
| 107 | Chapter Three / Signs of the Times | 15 |
| 108 | Chapter Four / Be Ready | 19 |
| 109 | Chapter Five / The Rapture..... | 23 |
| 110 | Chapter Six / The Marriage Supper | 27 |
| 111 | Chapter Seven / The Antichrist | 31 |
| 112 | Chapter Eight / The Tribulation Plagues | 35 |
| 113 | Chapter Nine / The Revelation of Christ and Armageddon..... | 39 |
| 114 | Chapter Ten / The Millennial Reign | 43 |
| 115 | Chapter Eleven / The Great White Throne Judgment..... | 47 |
| 116 | Chapter Twelve / Worthy Is the Lamb | 51 |
| 117 | Chapter Thirteen / The New Heaven and New Earth..... | 55 |

Teacher's Guide

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Lessons 105-117

Apostolic Faith Church

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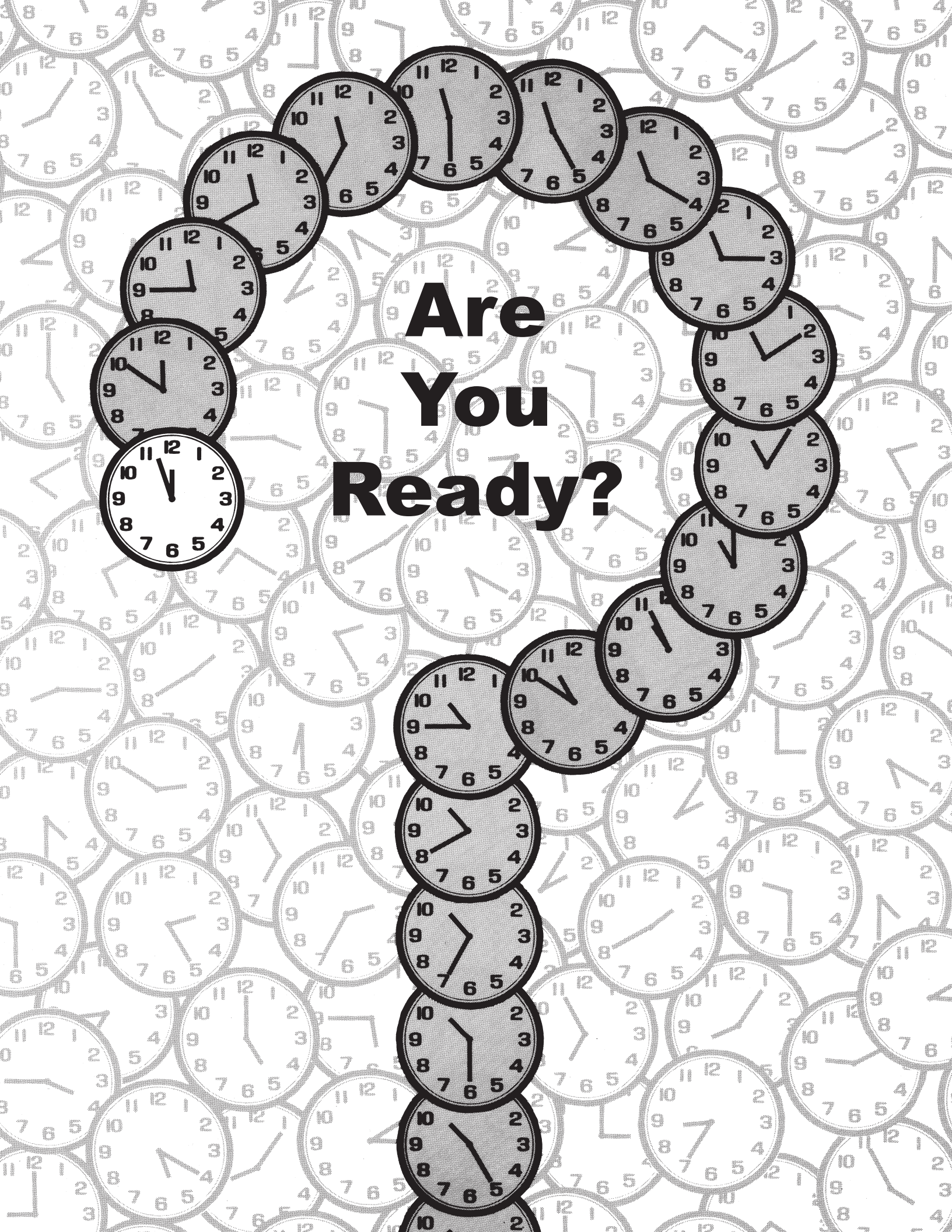
The Teacher's Guide has been written as a help for you—the teacher. This guide is a resource of background information, supplementary Scriptures, responses to SEARCH questions, supplemental questions, plus other information that will be helpful.

This guide is for those who teach either junior or senior levels. You may not find it practical to use all the material provided for each lesson. Each one must choose what would be applicable to his or her class. In addition, we hope the suggestions for each lesson will help stimulate your thought processes toward lively discussion within the class.

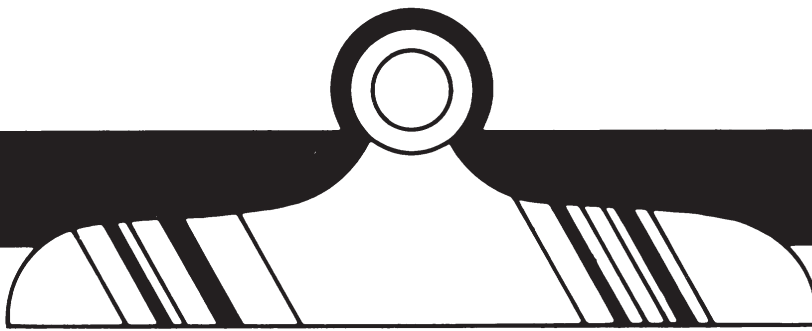
In order to be prepared for junior-level teaching, it will be necessary to obtain the students' book. This will enable you to relate the text to the story given in The ANSWER.

Included in the material covering each lesson will be space for filling in your opener, additional discussion notes, and your wrap-up. A vital part of your teaching is being prepared before class starts. The students can tell if you have come unprepared.

This guide should be taken to your Round Table and also to class to assist you in your teaching. It is not a substitute for your own research of the lesson, but it is to enhance your study each week. May God bless you as you endeavor to help others SEARCH through the Scriptures to find the ANSWER.



**Are
You
Ready?**



Theme Thoughts

Time is running out! The human race today is facing a crisis that is literally unimaginable for most people. But indicators in God's Word reveal that the dramatic events happening all around us signal the end time is at hand. In this quarter we will be delving into these events and their meanings in light of prophecy. In the heart of every true believer is the assurance that Jesus Christ will come back to earth and deal with the insurmountable troubles that face this globe, and will establish His dominion here upon earth.

This quarter revolves around the statements made by a group of ancient Hebrew prophets, whose predictions and statements have the stamp of divine authenticity. Much of what they prophesied is yet to come. But we can have confidence in their predictions. All of their prophecies, whose time for fulfillment has already come, have been literally fulfilled with 100 percent accuracy. The events detailed by John in the Book of Revelation are interwoven with these earlier prophecies.

The first lesson focuses on Christ. By establishing the validity of prophetic statements concerning Him, we provide a basis for the remaining lessons in the quarter and for our faith that seen the end-time prophecies will be fulfilled.

The second lesson moves on to explore prophecies concerning the nation of Israel which have already been fulfilled. The third lesson, Signs of the Times, establishes where we now stand on the time-line of history. Succeeding lessons move on into events prophesied which are yet to come.

The purpose of this quarter is to help us understand the events we are facing in this world, and to recognize the urgency of being ready for the most exciting and glorious event of all—the Rapture of the Church.

It is suggested that those who teach from the SEARCH utilize the continuous story from the ANSWER as a supplement to your weekly lessons for this quarter.

TEXT Isaiah 28:16 — I Peter 2:6,7
 Psalm 118:22 — Acts 4:8-12
 Isaiah 7:14 — Matthew 1:18
 Isaiah 53:3 — John 1:11
 Isaiah 53:12 — Matthew 27:38
 Isaiah 9:7 — Matthew 1:1
 Zechariah 12:10 — John 19:34
 Psalm 34:20 — John 19:33
 Psalm 16:10 — Matthew 28:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:19-22

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to tell that the cornerstone or foundation of all prophecy and of all Scripture is the Lord Jesus Christ. They will be able to explain that the fulfillment of the many prophecies concerning His birth, life, death, and resurrection, prove the validity of the prophets' statements concerning events yet to transpire.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. — Psalm 118:22

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. — I Peter 2:6

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter One

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

Christ the Cornerstone

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The foundation of the Christian religion is Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 3:11). Peter refers to Isaiah 28:16 in which God speaks through the prophet, "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation." The cornerstone is the principal stone used in the foundation of a building and is of great importance in binding the sides of a building together. Surely a description of Christ as the cornerstone of Christian faith is correct, for He binds into one building all believers, Jew and Gentile alike. He

has been "tried" to an extremity that man will never fully comprehend. He is "precious," not only to the Father in Heaven but to all those who have found redemption through His Blood. He is "sure," for He never fails.

Isaiah the Prophet: Generally regarded as the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. He was a prophet of the southern kingdom, Judah, at the time the northern kingdom, Israel, was destroyed by the Assyrians. He prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, during a period of time from about 740 B.C. to

(continued on page 10)

YOUR OPENER

Christ the Cornerstone

TEXT:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Prophecy | Fulfillment |
| Isaiah 28:16-18 | I Peter 2:6,7 |
| Psalms 118:22 | Acts 4:8-12 |
| Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1:18 |
| Isaiah 53:3 | John 1:11 |
| Isaiah 53:12 | Matthew 27:38 |
| Isaiah 9:7 | Matthew 1:1 |
| Zechariah 12:10 | John 19:34 |
| Psalms 34:20 | John 19:33 |
| Psalms 16:10 | Matthew 28:9 |

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:19-22

KEY VERSE: Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. — I Peter 2:6

What is going to happen next? Today as never before people are striving to find out what the future holds. If one makes the claim that he understands prophecy, people will flock to hear him. Many are turning to fortune-tellers, astrologers, and the occult to find answers. In our lessons for this quarter, we are going to study what God inspired some of the old-time prophets to write concerning the days in which we now live. Since they also foretold Christ's birth, death, and resurrection with 100 percent accuracy, we can believe that their predictions of the present time and of coming events will certainly happen.

1. The dictionary definition of the word prophet is, "one who declares what will happen in the future, one inspired by God to teach His will to men and to announce future events." How is it that seers, specialists in the occult, etc., of our day, appear to be correct in some cases?

2. What are the qualifications of a true prophet? How can we determine if the words of a prophet in our day are true or false?

3

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

RESPONSES

1. As your students discuss this question, they will likely bring out that Satan does have limited ability to foretell events. Just the law of averages would tell us that some of the "prophetic" words will be true. At other times, perhaps false prophets are allowed to deceive people because they have rejected truth. See II Thessalonians 2:8-12.

2. A true prophet will be 100 percent accurate (Jeremiah 28:9). The students should realize that there are false prophets and they are warned to beware of them (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:20-22). In answering the second question, your students' comments should lead to the conclusion that all prophetic utterances should be within the framework of God's Word, if they are to be believed.

3. In Matthew 21:42, Jesus refers to Psalm 118:22. Why do you think He made this reference?
4. Read Acts 4:11, Ephesians 2:20, and our key verse. What do these Scriptures have in common?
5. Genesis 3:15 is the first prophetic reference to Jesus in the Bible. How do you think the salvation of a sinner “bruises” the head of Satan?
6. Which Scripture in our text foretells the virgin birth? How does the fulfilling Scripture in the New Testament confirm it?
7. Isaiah 9:7 tells of Jesus upon the throne of David. Matthew 1:1 confirms that He was of the lineage of David. How long will Jesus actually sit on the throne of David? See Luke 1:31-33.
8. In Psalm 34:20 there appears an isolated prophecy concerning the crucifixion of Jesus. How does John 19:32,33 confirm this?
9. Read Isaiah 53:3, then define the words despised and rejected. Using John 1:11, with these definitions in mind, write your own description of how the Jews received Christ.
10. In the study of this lesson we have seen how the prophecies about Christ have been fulfilled with complete accuracy. What does this reveal to you concerning the prophecies of the future?

4

3. Your students may make several suggestions in response to this question. Help them realize that Jesus was helping the people of His time to focus upon the fact that He was the true cornerstone. In so doing He referred to prophecies that had been given. Lead the class in discussing that all Scripture is inspired of God.

4. These Scriptures all bring out that Jesus Christ is our cornerstone—our spiritual foundation—not Peter, as some claim. Ask your class why there can be no other foundation for their hope of eternal life. I Corinthians 3:11.

5. Allow time for your students to offer their suggestions. The point of this question should be to bring out that when a sinner is saved and continues to walk a victorious life through Christ, Satan no longer controls that life. The salvation of man could only be brought about through the death of Christ. Thus, when a man is saved, Satan’s head is bruised through Christ—a fulfillment of the prophecy in Genesis 3:15. See also Romans 8:21.

6. Isaiah 7:14 foretells the virgin birth. Matthew 1:18 confirms it by stating that Mary was found with child before she came together with Joseph. See also Luke 1:26-35. Help your class realize that the fact that Jesus was born of a virgin was dramatic proof that He is indeed the Son of God.

7. The text given in Luke brings out that He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. This verifies the fact that Christ has been, is, and always will be.

8. John 19:32,33 tells us that the soldiers found no need to break the legs of Jesus—a common practice in order to hasten death—because He had already died. This confirms the prophecy in Psalm 34:20.

9. Allow time for several volunteers to share their answers, focusing on the fact that Jesus was looked down on with disfavor and contempt, was scorned, and was not acknowledged, believed, or received by His own people.

10. Your students’ responses to this question should bring out that these future prophecies also will be fulfilled. Use this question as a springboard to stimulate the interest in your class for the events to be studied during this quarter.

YOUR WRAP-UP

(continued from page 7)

approximately 681 B.C. Rabbinic tradition has it that his father, Amoz (not the prophet), was a brother of King Amaziah. This would make Isaiah first cousin to King Uzziah and grandson of King Joash and thus of royal blood. Isaiah made many prophecies concerning Christ. Since all that pertained to Christ's first coming were fulfilled in exact detail, we can readily believe that any reference to future events will also come to pass.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does the word "focus" mean in regard to our Christian walk?

What is meant by "... we esteemed him not" in Isaiah 53:3?

What is a cornerstone? How is Christ our cornerstone in the Gospel?

What is prophecy?

Give an example of a prophecy concerning Christ.

Are there any prophecies concerning Christ that have not yet been fulfilled? If so, name one.

In our ANSWER story, whose team won the quiz? Why did they decide to have a quiz on prophecies concerning Christ?

THINGS TO DO

Bring a large jar of pennies. Mark one, and stir it into the jar. Then blindfold a student and tell him he has one chance to locate the marked penny. (You could let each student try if time permits.) Using this as an illustration of the law of probability, discuss with your class how very remote is the possibility of all the prophecies concerning Christ being fulfilled by chance.

Play a guessing game. Ask questions to which the children are not very apt to know the answers, but that they could know by general knowledge. Give each student the chance to answer at least one of the questions. Then point out how unlikely it would be that they would

have the answers to these questions just "by chance," and how much more unlikely it would be that what the different prophets said about the Messiah would come to pass, unless the prophecies were dictated by the Almighty God.

Use a camera or binoculars and let the students take turns focusing in on an object. Explain how turning to the left or right will make Christ out of focus. We must keep Him at the center of our lives.


Take a field trip to examine the foundation of a building, have a building contractor come to class to explain the need of a sure foundation for a building, or have a picture of an office building. Talk about the importance of the foundation, especially the cornerstone. Build around this, explaining the importance of Christ in our lives.

Answers for ANSWER

It Did Happen!

Old Testament prophecies indicated that God's people were to look for a Messiah. The New Testament tells of the fulfillment of those prophecies in Jesus. Look up the Old Testament prophecies given and draw a line from each one to the New Testament Scripture that tells how it was fulfilled.

| OLD TESTAMENT | NEW TESTAMENT |
|-----------------|---|
| Psalms 118:22 | Matthew 1:1 Jesus was in the direct bloodline of King David. |
| Isaiah 53:12 | Matthew 1:18 Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary. His own Jewish people rejected Him. |
| Psalms 34:20 | John 1:11 He was crucified with the transgressors. |
| Isaiah 9:7 | Matthew 27:38 Not one of Jesus' bones were broken. One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side. |
| Zechariah 12:10 | Matthew 27:59-60 He was buried in a rich man's tomb. |
| Isaiah 53:9 | John 19:33 Jesus' soul was not left in Hell. He rose again! |
| Isaiah 7:14 | John 19:34 Jesus became the chief cornerstone. |
| Psalms 16:10 | Matthew 28:9 |
| Isaiah 53:3 | Acts 4:10-12 |



TEXT Genesis 22:15-18 — Promise to Abraham
 Deuteronomy 28:64-66; Ezekiel 37:21,22 — Dispersion and restoration of people
 Leviticus 26:27,31-33; Ezekiel 36:8-11,29-35 — Desolation and restoration of land
 Leviticus 26:42-46 — National identity

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Genesis 13:16; Jeremiah 16:10-13; Hebrews 6:13,14

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate a number of events which show that from the time God chose Abram and promised to make of him a great nation, through to Israel's position in the world today, the events in their history are a significant prophetic fulfillment.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations. — Nehemiah 1:8

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For thus saith the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them. — Jeremiah 32:42

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter Two

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

Historical Israel

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The nation of Israel began with a promise God made unto Abram when He called him out of Ur of the Chaldees. God promised to make of him a great nation (Genesis 12:2). The name "Israel" was given to his grandson Jacob, when Jacob needed an answer from God. After wrestling with an angel, Jacob was told that his name would be called Israel, for as a prince he had power with God and man. This name was Yisra'el in Hebrew, and meant, "He strives with God and prevails."

The Children of Israel were the descendants of Jacob. The first record in the Bible of their being called Israelites is in Exodus 9:7. The term Israelite was used by the Israelites themselves, while Hebrew is the name by which they were known to foreigners (Genesis 14:13). The name Jew was first used to identify the Children of Judah

from the northern kingdom of Israel (II Kings 16:6). After the captivity, it received a larger application and is still used with reference to the Children of Israel today.

In a period of about ten generations, God increased their numbers from a clan of several hundred to approximately 3,000,000. In 2019 there were about 6,451,000 Jews in Israel and 14,511,000 worldwide.

In Israel's history there have been many times of great persecution and anti-Semitism threatening their very existence. In their early history, envy and fear moved the Egyptians to enslave and persecute them. In Hitler's Germany millions were persecuted and exterminated. However, God has remembered His covenant with Abraham and the people have not been completely annihilated.

YOUR OPENER

Historical Israel

TEXT: Genesis 22:15-18 — Promise to Abraham

Deuteronomy 28:64-66; Ezekiel 37:21,22 — Dispersion and restoration of people

Leviticus 26:27,31-33; Ezekiel 36:8-11,29-35 — Desolation and restoration of land

Leviticus 26:42-46 — National identity

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 13:16; Nehemiah 1:8; Jeremiah 16:10-13; Hebrews 6:13,14

KEY VERSE: For thus saith the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them. — Jeremiah 32:42

The nation of Israel began with a promise to Abraham. Its name was taken from that of Abraham's grandson, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. In later years the twelve tribes were dispersed in fulfillment of earlier prophecies. When they were restored to their land and became a nation in 1948, they named their country Israel.

1. In reference to our text, what were the promises God made to Abraham?

2. How were all the nations of the earth blessed through the seed of Abraham? See Matthew 1:1,21.

3. Ten tribes of Israel went into captivity to the king of Assyria and were dispersed according to the prophecy in Deuteronomy 28. Why and how did this occur? See Deuteronomy 28:58 and II Kings 17:6-8.

5

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

RESPONSES

1. A number of promises were given to Abraham. After your students recount these, direct their attention to the promise that through his seed all the nations of the earth were to be blessed. God's promises are nearly always conditional upon obedience, but the promises mentioned here are unconditional. Ask your students why they think this was so. Bring out that Abraham had proved his willingness to obey God in the most extreme circumstances and God rewarded him for doing so.

2. The Scriptures given in Matthew 1:1,21 show that Jesus was of the lineage of Abraham, and is the One through whom salvation is provided for mankind.

3. Because Israel sinned against God and His commandments to them, they were carried away by the king of Assyria in a fulfillment of the prophecy in Deuteronomy 28:64-66. Discuss with your class the danger of ignoring God's warnings. It is not only Israel that will be punished. Read Psalm 9:17.

4. Jeremiah 25:1,11 tell us that the kingdom of Judah (which included the tribe of Benjamin) would go into captivity for seventy years. The name of the king who would order their return to Jerusalem was prophesied some two hundred years earlier in Isaiah 44:28. Read II Chronicles 36:22,23, and tell how these verses show a fulfillment of both of these prophecies.

5. The destruction of the Temple, as foretold by Jesus, occurred when the Roman general, Titus, captured the city in A.D. 70. However, Jews continued to live in the land of Israel until A.D. 135. The Roman emperor, Hadrian, decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, make it a Roman colony, and build a temple to Jupiter on the former site of the Jewish Temple. The Jews revolted and were defeated and scattered over all the world, not having a nation of their own until 1948. What prophecy does this fulfill?

6. For over 1800 years the Jews were without a homeland. Why, in spite of all their persecution, were they not completely destroyed?

7. God told the Children of Israel that their land would be desolate if they disobeyed. Other than by the dispersion, how did God accomplish this? See Deuteronomy 28:23,24.

8. What other events in today's history verify that Ezekiel's prophecy is coming to pass? Bring some documentation to class from current encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, etc.

4. II Chronicles 36:22,23 details how Cyrus, the name mentioned in Isaiah, released the people of the kingdom of Judah, thus fulfilling the prophecy in Jeremiah. The point should be made that these prophecies were fulfilled, even as spoken.

5. This fulfills the prophecy given in Leviticus 26:27,31-33.

6. The Jews were not completely destroyed because of God's covenant with their ancestors, as shown in Leviticus 26:44. Discuss with your students just what this tells us about the covenants of God, focusing on the fact that they are infallible.

7. The land became desolate because of the withholding of rain. For some 1800 years the land of Israel had scant rainfall, and for this reason became an arid, unproductive, and relatively unused portion of land. It might be interesting to discuss with your students why God chose to make the land itself desolate. Would it not have been sufficient just to disperse the people? Talking over this point will bring out that because the land was not desirable, other nations did not move into the area. You might also wish to point out that in Leviticus 25:1-6, God commanded that the land be allowed to rest for specified periods at regular intervals. The people of Israel did not obey this command, and perhaps this was also part of the reason God permitted the land to remain uncultivated for so long a period of time—to make up for the years when it was not allowed to rest.

8. Your students may bring out that as well as the increased rainfall over the territory of Israel, other verifications may include: the fact that Israel now grows seventy-five percent of her own food; because of the rainfall and irrigation Israel exports grapes, citrus fruits, olives, flower bulbs, etc.; her cities are again inhabited; the population is growing.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What did God promise to do to Abraham's seed because he followed Him?

What does the key verse mean, and to whom is it referring?

Does God keep His promises? Can you think of some He has made to us?

What things happening to Israel today would you say are part of God's promise?

How can we see the events of today lining up with the Word of God?

What were some of the prophecies concerning Israel mentioned in our ANSWER story?

Did Glen and his dad feel there were any prophecies concerning Israel that were yet unfulfilled? Do you agree?

THINGS TO DO

News clippings and books on World War II may provide some visual aids to portray the suffering of the Jewish nation during that time. Relate this to why the Children of Israel suffered in this manner.

Have two people act out a short situation in which one makes a promise to the other but is unable to keep it. Explain how we as humans have no control over circumstances. Then explain how God can make promises and keep them because He has all power in Heaven and earth.

Bring a present-day map of Israel. If possible, locate maps which indicate the same area in other periods of history showing who controlled it. (The back of your

Bible or books regarding Israel may provide these.) If you have access to an overhead projector this could be done very effectively with different colored overlays.

Use newspaper and magazine articles which correlate with Scripture to show fulfillment of prophecy.

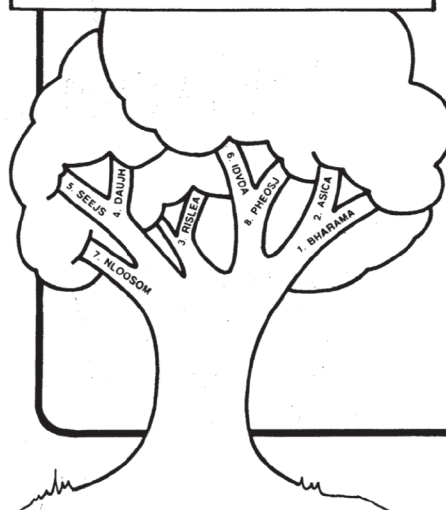
Answers for ANSWER

God Made a Promise

The main word in this puzzle is PROMISE. What was this promise and who was it for? To finish the Acrostic, look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the words. To find out some of the people who were included in this promise, unscramble the names in the "family tree." Write the names on the lines to the right of the tree.

1. "Blessed be Abram of the most high God, _____ of heaven and earth." Genesis 14:19
2. "I will bless thee, and make thy name _____." Genesis 12:2
3. "I will make of thee a great _____." Genesis 12:2
4. "In thee shall all _____ be blessed." Genesis 12:3
5. "I _____ bless them that bless thee." Genesis 12:3
6. "Unto thy _____ will I give this land." Genesis 12:7
7. "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be _____." Genesis 22:18

1. POSSESSOR
2. GREAT
3. NATION
4. FAMILIES
5. WILL
6. SEED
7. BLESSED



1. ABRAHAM
2. ISAAC
3. ISRAEL
4. JUDAH
5. JESSE
6. DAVID
7. SOLOMON
8. JOSEPH

TEXT Matthew 16:1-3; 24:3-28,32-34; II Timothy 3:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Luke 12:40; 17:22-30

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that the events of our day are positive indicators that the return of Christ is imminent.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. — II Timothy 3:1

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. — Daniel 12:4

ANSWER
TITLE:

ANSWER
TITLE: **Chapter Three**

SEARCH
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE: **Signs of the Times**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

These prophecies deal with Israel in the period of the Tribulation just prior to the return of Christ to establish His earthly kingdom, although the end of the present age will be characterized by the general conditions mentioned in Matthew 24:4-8. A comparison of these five verses with Revelation 6 gives evidence that they have particular reference to the first half of the Tribulation period when Israel herself will dwell in relative safety because of the covenant made with the “prince that shall come”—the Antichrist (Daniel 9:27). Verses

9-26 of Matthew 24 describe the events of the last half of the Tribulation after the world leader (Antichrist) has broken his covenant with Israel and forces idolatrous worship of himself. This period will be characterized by great persecution, desolation of the Temple and worship there, unbelieving Israel being deceived by false prophets, and believing Israel witnessing to the good news of Messiah's kingdom. The advent of Messiah will terminate these events.

YOUR OPENER

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Signs of the Times

TEXT: Matthew 16:1-3; 24:3-28,32-34; II Timothy 3:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Luke 12:40; 17:22-30

KEY VERSE: But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. — Daniel 12:4

RESPONSES

1. Referring to our text in Matthew 24, allow time for your students to give their answers. Discuss with them how we can see all of these in our world today, encouraging them to cite specific examples.

2. Matthew 24:5 — Following one who claims to be Christ.

Luke 21:34 — Surfeiting, drunkenness, and cares of this life.

Romans 16:18 — Deceived by good words and fair speeches.

Ephesians 4:14 — Being tossed about by every doctrine.

II Thessalonians 2:10,11 — “Received not the love of the truth,” so were sent a strong delusion.

Titus 1:10 — Unruly and vain talkers.

II John 7 — Those who confess not Jesus.

Allow time for your students to offer their responses. As the Scriptures are mentioned, discuss how the students can recognize and avoid these various types of deceit.

3. Lead a discussion as to how the events are more numerous and of greater intensity: two world wars so far in the 20th century, with smaller wars constantly taking place; the threat of nuclear holocaust at all times; famines causing the death of millions of people during the last decade and many people going to bed hungry throughout their whole lifetime; pestilences following widespread famine and earthquakes; numerous earthquakes shaking areas that have never been shaken before.

Jesus endeavored to have those about Him “discern the signs of the times.” He explained to them that by looking at the changes in the sky they could forecast what the next day’s weather might be. We have the promise of the Lord’s return, but we cannot name the exact date this event may occur. Its nearness may be known by the happenings (signs) of our time.

1. In Matthew 16:1-3, the people asked for a sign from Heaven, tempting Christ. However, He directed their attention to the signs of the times. What signs of the times mentioned in our text should we be watching for today?

2. In Matthew 24:3, Jesus’ disciples asked Him three questions. In answering them He said, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Look up the following Scriptures and write down ways one might be deceived:

Matthew 24:5

Luke 21:34

Romans 16:18

Ephesians 4:14

II Thessalonians 2:10,11

Titus 1:10

II John 7

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

3. In Matthew 24:6,7, wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes are mentioned as signs of Jesus' coming. Have any of these things happened before? What then is different about their happening in our day?
4. Verse 11 brings out the fact that in the last days false prophets shall arise and many shall be deceived by them. How is this happening today?
5. Verse 12 implies that there is a danger even for those who love God. What is that danger? What are some ways Christians can strengthen their defenses against Satan in order to guard against this danger?
6. Read verse 14, then write your reasons why you feel this is a positive indicator of the return of Christ.
7. Jesus often spoke in parables. In verses 32 and 33 of our text, He speaks of the blossoming of the fig tree and concludes with the statement, "It is near, even at the doors." What did He mean by this statement? Refer to Matthew 24:3.
8. In the text in II Timothy, we read that the last days will be marked by perilous or dangerous times. How do the signs given in this text differ from the ones given in Matthew?

4. The students will no doubt mention well-known cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, followers of gurus, and even the New Age movement. Help them to realize that those who preach eternal security, humanity of Christ, and other false doctrines, or those who preach against holiness and the baptism of the Holy Ghost or other Biblical teachings, are also false prophets and should be avoided.
5. The danger is that one's love will grow cold, causing backsliding. Help your students to be aware of the fact that the increase of iniquity or sin in this world makes an ever greater pressure upon the Christian. In discussing the second part of the question, refer your students to II Peter 1:5-10. They may also suggest such things as: be faithful in the study and observance of God's Word; be careful always to pray and commune with God; don't neglect church services, as it is a place where we can encourage one another; choose friends who will help to spiritually strengthen and edify you.
6. Through worldwide efforts to distribute Bibles, through Gospel publications and literature, through missionary efforts, through radio and television programs, the Gospel is being preached and distributed in unprecedented volume. The Wycliffe Translators are reducing the remaining unwritten languages of the earth to written languages, using Scriptures in this work.
7. The students should recognize that this was part of the answer to the questions asked in verse 3. Lead in the discussion of the various signs mentioned in this chapter having been fulfilled and that this should cause the believer to know the time of the end is very near.
8. As the class discusses how in the last days there will be perilous times, bring out that the signs mentioned in II Timothy speak of men or individuals who have characteristics that are against God and things proper, rather than the affairs of nations or physical phenomena. Discuss why these things could be perilous or dangerous.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Tell of some of the signs of the times we are living in. What does the warning in the ANSWER key verse mean?

The Bible tells us nation shall rise against nation. Have you heard of anything like this? Where? When?

What was the "sign" in our ANSWER story?

When is the exact time that Jesus will come again? Do we know from the Scriptures? How shall we know, then, the approximate time when He will come again?

Why do you think that it was so important that the disciples realize the signs of Jesus' Second Coming and the end of the world? How important is it that we should know these signs today?

Discuss the signs of Jesus' Second Coming and discuss how many of these signs have been fulfilled in the recent past. See Matthew 24:3-28.

Knowing that these signs are coming to pass, what should we be doing to be ready when Jesus comes?

When you hear of the terrible things that will come to pass and you see that some of them have already been fulfilled, how do you feel?

Why do you think it is so hard for people of the world to believe that the news events that happen today are positive signs that are pointing to Christ's Second Coming?

THINGS TO DO

Have each student draw an outline of a road sign. On the sign have him write one of the signs of the times, each student doing a different sign. Put the signs on the class bulletin board for everyone to see. Each student could also explain the meaning of what his sign says.

Take a kitchen timer to class, setting it for several minutes. Comment on how you can all watch the timer, seeing it come closer to the time when the buzzer or bell will ring, though you don't know the exact second. Use this to parallel how we can all be watching the indicators God has established, seeing that the time of His returning is coming ever closer.

Use a pair of binoculars to discuss the role of a forest ranger. Emphasize how important it is that a forest

ranger watch constantly for signs of fire, fire hazards, or of people in danger. Show the class that being a Christian can be like being a forest ranger. We are always watching out for any signs that will indicate the coming of the Lord. We have to be ready to meet the Lord at any time.


The following statements are signs we see all the time. Make a chart or discuss verbally the signs that are given and ask the students, "How can we be ready?" Emphasize number five concerning Christ's coming.

1. Clouds thick and heavy above—looks like a possible snowstorm.
2. A couple of neighbors on your block have been burglarized—your home may be next!
3. Your very special friend from another part of the country writes that he is planning to visit you for a few days. He says to expect him any day next week!
4. Your teacher informs you that there will be a surprise test next week—in math!
5. You hear news reports of wars, earthquakes, and of famines—just like the Bible says will be the signs of Christ's coming.

Answers for ANSWER

Watch Those Signs!

The Bible tells us the things that are happening now are signs of the last days. Under the two headings below are some road signs that will complete the headings. Look up the verses to find the missing words.



People will be...

PROUD

II Timothy 3:2

UNTHANKFUL

II Timothy 3:2

LOVERS OF PLEASURES

II Timothy 3:4

There will be...

WARS

Matthew 24:6

EARTHQUAKES

Matthew 24:7

FAMINES

Matthew 24:7

FALSE PROPHETS

Matthew 24:11

TEXT Matthew 24:36-44; Hebrews 9:28

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 25:1-13; Mark 13:35;
Luke 12:40; Revelation 3:3

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to recite the requirement for being included in the Rapture of the saints: the vital necessity of living a sinless life, walking in all the Light they have, and eagerly watching for the Lord's coming.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. — Matthew 24:44

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. — Revelation 16:15

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter Four

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

Be Ready

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The illustration in Matthew 24:36-44 emphasizes the unexpectedness of the Lord's coming by showing that the individual concerned was occupied with the usual cares of life without giving thought to Messiah's return. Believing Israel is exhorted thereby to be prepared for that day.

With reference to Hebrews 9:28, the finality of Christ's sacrifice is in contrast to the earthly high priest who entered the Holy of Holies every year "with blood not his own." If Christ's sacrifice had not been final He would then have had to suffer often, since the continued sins

of men would entail repeated suffering on earth. But His sacrifice was once for all—thus there is no need for further sacrifice. Christ's coming for His own will not involve the sin question, but rather final salvation—when He delivers believers from the empire of death, reunites them with their purified souls, and brings them into His eternal glory.

The title of our lesson is "Be Ready." Ready, according to Webster, means "prepared or equipped to act immediately." How vital it is to be prepared and equipped for the immediate return of Christ!

YOUR OPENER

Be Ready

TEXT: Matthew 24:36-44; Hebrews 9:28

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 25:1-13; Mark 13:35; Luke 12:40; Revelation 3:3

KEY VERSE: Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. — Revelation 16:15

RESPONSES

1. Psalm 15:1-3 — walketh uprightly, worketh righteousness, speaketh truth. Psalm 24:3,4 — clean hands and pure heart. Matthew 5:8 — pure in heart. Ephesians 5:27 — without spot or wrinkle. Titus 2:11-13 — sober, righteous, godly. Revelation 19:7,8 — clothed in righteousness.

After your students have offered their responses to each Scripture, summarize by pointing out that a member of the Bride will have the qualities listed. Discuss whether this list makes any allowance for sin.

2. The Bible tells us that these sins are the works of the flesh, and that those who commit such shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. The sins of the people of Noah's time were very similar and received God's judgment. Discussion of this question should bring out that though people in the world practice and condone these sins, they still are not acceptable with God. The excuse that "everybody does it" will not be sufficient in the day of judgment.

Just a knowledge that we are living in the last days does not make us ready for Jesus' coming. We are commanded to watch for His coming, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13). True watching is an attitude of mind and heart, which would joyfully and quickly turn from any occupation or activity to meet the Lord. In this lesson we will consider how we can be ready. It is vital to prove by our daily living that we both know and are prepared for the most exciting event of all ages—the Rapture of the Church.

1. At Jesus' coming, the Bride of Christ will be raptured to meet Him in the air. Look up the following Scriptures and determine what qualities the Bride will have.

Psalm 15:1-3

Psalm 24:3,4

Matthew 5:8

Ephesians 5:27

Titus 2:11-13

Revelation 19:7,8

2. A number of sins are listed in Galatians 5:19-21, including adultery, fornication, witchcraft, and drunkenness. The sins listed are commonly accepted by many in the world today, even in some so-called religious circles. What does the Bible say about those who do such things? How do the above sins compare with those of Noah's time?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

3. Use Hebrews 9:28 and I John 3:2 to fill in the blanks in the following statements: The purpose of Christ's first coming was to bear the _____ with His death on Calvary. To those who look for Him, He shall appear the second time without _____ unto _____. We know that, when He shall appear, _____; for our bodies shall be changed to be like Christ's glorified body. These promises apply to those who can say, "Now are we the _____."

4. Read the parable of the ten virgins given in Matthew 25:1-13. Why were some of the virgins left behind? What will it take to be a "wise virgin"? Use I John 1:6,7 as a supplementary Scripture in formulating your response.

5. Prior to the beginning of Jesus' ministry at His first coming, John the Baptist preached, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The message of the Gospel to mankind today anticipates Jesus' second coming. Compare the responses of men in those days, with the responses of men today.

6. Compare Matthew 24:42-44 and I Thessalonians 5:6. What point do these verses make?

7. In spite of Noah's warnings for about 120 years, life continued as before, with man's attention diverted to things other than the coming Flood. List some things that you think capture the attention of people today, preventing them from being ready for Jesus' return.

8. What will be the consequences of our not being ready? See Revelation 21:8.

3. This is a good opportunity to explain salvation. If there are those in your class who are not saved, use the phrase, "Now are we the sons of God," as a springboard for a discussion of just what it means to be a son of God.

4. In reading I John 1:6,7, we understand that the Lord requires us to walk according to the knowledge He has given to us. This knowledge includes our need to be ready for His coming. Discuss with the class that if we know what it takes to be a wise virgin and we have not made preparation, then the fault is all ours and we shall have to take the blame. The knowledge of salvation has been revealed to us, a definite experience of sanctification has been taught to be essential, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a necessary gift to be received. These are parts of the Light that we must walk in if we expect to be ready for Jesus' coming.

5. Some responded and others did not. Prior to Jesus' day, Israel waited for the Hope of Israel, the coming of the Messiah. Many who were knowledgeable regarding His coming neglected to prepare spiritually, therefore were not ready when He came. This negative condition exists today. Conversely, others did prepare and were immediately receptive when the Messiah appeared. This positive condition also exists today and is necessary that the Bride might be ready. The students need to understand that each condition exists.

6. Your students' responses should bring out the necessity of watching continually because the time of Christ's coming is unknown. How does a Christian watch? Compare the preparations a Christian makes to preparations made for some important event in our physical lives; graduation, marriage, birth of a child, etc. (Choose a subject appropriate to the age level and interests of your class.)

7. The combined answers of the students will provide a good list. They will realize that it is possible to be too involved in the affairs of life. Things such as a quarrel, finances, family matters, or the cares of life can divert our attention from the most important thing in life—to prepare for the Rapture.

8. All sinners will be cast into the lake of fire. Using Matthew 25:34 as a contrast, discuss with your class the two places where eternity can be spent, one of which will be their destination. Zero in on the importance of making the right choices now, in order to be sure that we are ready to spend eternity in Heaven.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

How might we compare the days of Noah with the present time?

What good and acceptable things might still keep us away from the necessary preparations?

The Bible gives us signs, and they are in abundance all around us, that the Lord's coming is right at hand. How do you think the attitude, even of professing Christians, compares with that of people in Noah's time?

Think of the problems, disappointment, and inconvenience when you missed an appointment, a train or bus schedule. Discuss how much greater and final will be the anguish of those who miss the Rapture.

What is one of the most common attitudes for not being ready?

What does "apathy" mean? How does it relate to people today concerning spiritual things?

Bring to class some news accounts of accidents or obituaries, especially of young people, and discuss verse 44 of our text in Matthew; we don't know when our Lord will return. For those people, He has already come. The Rapture might be tomorrow; but God might call us today!

THINGS TO DO

Items needed: Balloon, hand air pump, basketball needle, tape. Attach the needle to the air pump and put the balloon over the needle. Tape it to seal against air loss. Slowly blow up the balloon. Tell the students it will pop soon, although you aren't certain of the exact moment. All you know is that the bigger the balloon gets the closer it is to popping. Liken this to the Lord's coming.

Take a calendar to class. Point out that special days are marked on it. However, one special day is not marked; that is the day of the Lord's return. We do not know exactly which day it will be. It could be today, tomorrow, or next week, so it is vital for each of us to be ready and waiting for that day.

The following may be simplified or enlarged upon to suit a review or class-time presentation:

Choose students to represent handicapped persons. The setting is the Pool of Bethesda. The sick and handicapped are waiting for the angel to trouble the waters, but they don't know when the angel will appear. As the group waits, some are praying, some talking to others about the possibility of the angel's coming today and

others saying they have waited months or years and it hasn't happened yet, some are talking about families and cares of life, etc. The emphasis must be on the need to be expecting, watching, and allowing nothing to distract you or take you away long enough to miss what is about to happen. Obviously, the numbers who made it into the pool while the waters were troubled were very few in comparison with the numbers who came to the pool, or who were there part of the time, or who hoped to make it, and who thought they were ready. When we can recognize ourselves to be so "crippled" or "handicapped" that we cannot possibly make it without the help of our Friend and will call on Him, He will help us to be ready, watching, and waiting for the sound of the Trumpet. We need not be among the disappointed ones left behind.

Tell from your own experience (or invite a visitor to speak) of the excitement felt when a loved one returned from war or military service. Often the arrival date would be unknown, only an approximate time. Emphasize preparation, anticipation, and excitement. Let students share family experiences of similar occasions. Stress that the same anticipation and preparation should be in evidence in our lives now as we look forward to the Lord's coming.

Answers for ANSWER

A Note About Being Ready

Music and song are a great way to praise the Lord and you'll be praising the Lord if you are ready. Ready for what? To find out, use the music code and complete the verses on the music sheet.



TEXT I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:20

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that at the Rapture of the Church, Christ will be seen only by those who are ready. They will be caught up to meet Him in the air, to be united with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. — John 14:3

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. — I Thessalonians 4:16,17

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter Five

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

The Rapture

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Lord's Second Coming is the main topic of the Epistle to the Thessalonians. Its mention in every chapter implies that Paul must have given it particular emphasis in his preaching at Thessalonica. Though it is commonly spoken of as the Lord's "Coming" or "Appearing," it specifically says "second time" in Hebrews 9:28. Jesus' word "again," in John 14:3 means a second time. So it is perfectly proper and scriptural to speak of it as the "Second Coming." Christ's coming is mentioned or referred to in almost every New Testament book. The chapters in which it is explained most fully are Matthew 24 and 25; Luke 21; I Thessalonians 4 and 5; II Peter 3.

The Thessalonian epistles are commonly regarded as the earliest written New Testament books. Written by Paul the Apostle, the first epistle probably originated in Corinth between 49-54 A.D. They are about the Lord's coming again. The last of the New Testament books is Revelation, of which the final word is, "I come quickly," "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Thus the writing of the New Testament begins, and thus it ends.

"Fallen asleep," is a scriptural expression for the Christian's death. It is found often in Christian epitaphs in the catacombs.

YOUR OPENER

The Rapture

TEXT: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:20

KEY VERSE: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. — I Thessalonians 4:16,17

RESPONSES

1. The definition should bring out the thought of being carried away in body or spirit. By comparing this to the text, it is clear that this is precisely what happens when the Lord comes for those who are ready.

2. The dead in Christ will rise first; then those who are alive in Christ will join them in the air. In discussing this verse, be sure that your students are aware that those who make the Rapture will then be with the Lord forever.

3. The theological definitions for these words bring out that to resurrect is “to bring back to life, or to raise from the dead.” Translate is “to convey to Heaven, without death.” It might be interesting to note with your class that we have accounts of three Biblical characters who were translated and of others who were resurrected. Ask your class if they can name any of these people. II Kings 2:11 (Elijah); Matthew 9:25 (Jairus’ daughter); Luke 7:15 (son of widow of Nain); John 11:43,44 (Lazarus); Acts 1:9 (Jesus); Acts 9:40 (Dorcas); Hebrews 11:5 (Enoch). Wrap up this discussion by bringing out that just as surely as God’s power caused these miracles to occur, He has power to rapture those who are ready.

4. Only the saints will see Him because the meeting will not be on the earth, but in the air.

According to Scripture, the Second Coming of Christ encompasses two separate events: the Rapture of the saints, experienced only by those who are overcomers; and the Revelation of Christ, when Jesus comes with His saints from Heaven to set up His Kingdom. During the intervening time, the raptured saints will meet at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, while the Great Tribulation is taking place here on earth. In this lesson we will be studying the Rapture of the Church.

1. The dictionary gives several definitions for the word rapture. Which definition best fits the event described in our key verse?

2. At the time of the Rapture, who will rise first? What happens next?

3. What is the difference between the words resurrect and translate? Paraphrase our key verse using these two words.

4. We read in Revelation 1:7 that every eye shall see Him. This is speaking of the Revelation of Christ, not the Rapture. Why are we sure that only the saints will see Christ at the Rapture?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. What is the warning implied in our text in I Thessalonians 5, as well as in Matthew 24:27 and I Corinthians 15:52?

6. The Bible teaches that there will be a great separation when Jesus comes for those who are ready. After reading Luke 17:34-36 and Matthew 25:10-12, describe the two groups mentioned in these accounts.

7. What change will take place in our physical bodies at the Rapture (Philippians 3:20,21)? Using the following Scriptures, describe the characteristics of Jesus' glorified body:

Matthew 28:9

Luke 24:31

Luke 24:41-43

John 20:19

Acts 1:9

8. In reading the following Scriptures, what conclusions can we draw as to the timing of the Rapture in regard to the Tribulation and the revealing of the Antichrist? See Isaiah 26:20,21; Matthew 24:37; Luke 21:36; II Thessalonians 2:3-8.

9. What promises do these Scriptures contain for those who look for His coming?

Matthew 24:45-47

John 14:3

Hebrews 9:28

5. Your students should conclude that we must be watchful lest the suddenness and unexpectedness of Christ's return find us unaware. Refer to Hebrews 9:28 as another instruction regarding readiness. Discuss with your class how they can be watchful, referring back to the lesson on being ready, as a reinforcement of some of the things they must do to be prepared for this event.

6. After receiving the students' descriptions, lead the class into a discussion of the requirements for being ready to make the Rapture, using our text in I Thessalonians 5:6-9.

7. We will have a glorified body. Discuss the features of Jesus' glorified body: He was recognized (Matthew 28:9). He vanished from their sight (Luke 24:31). He ate (Luke 24:41-43). He entered rooms when the doors were shut (John 20:19). He was not subject to gravity (Acts 1:9).

8. Many in our day teach that the Christian will have to go through the Tribulation. Isaiah 26:20,21 shows God's desire to hide His people from the indignation when He comes to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. Matthew 24:37 shows that we have a type in Noah's day as to how it will be at the coming of Christ. God's judgment was poured out upon the sinner and they perished in the Flood. Those who were righteous were in the ark, which was typical of God's protection, and escaped God's judgment. Luke 21:36 shows Jesus' desire that we be accounted worthy to escape all those things that shall come to pass on the earth. II Thessalonians 2:3-8 shows that the man of sin (the Antichrist) will not be revealed until the Holy Spirit (He who now letteth, or hinders), living in His saints, is taken out of the way. This indicates the saints also will be taken out of the way, as the Holy Spirit will not leave them.

9. Matthew 24:45-47 — He shall bless them and give them authority.
John 14:3 — He will receive them unto Himself.
Hebrews 9:28 — His appearance shall be without sin unto salvation.
Use these Scriptures as a springboard for your lesson wrap-up, stressing again the importance of being ready so that the Rapture will not find us unprepared.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Some teach against a literal return of Christ, saying He is already here in the hearts of believers. What text can we use to prove the Second Coming?

Many false religions teach that Christ has already come, and proclaim some guru or holy man as Christ, saying there are many christs—representatives of God—appearing at different times in history. How can we answer this?

What is meant by the term Rapture? Discuss that although the actual word is not mentioned in the Scriptures, the meaning of it is clearly seen in many instances such as I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

What takes place at the Rapture? Who will take part in it?

What was Nick's reaction, in our ANSWER story, when he realized what had happened?

THINGS TO DO

Opener: Bring a helium balloon to class to introduce the lesson. Demonstrate how someday those of us who are ready for the Rapture will be weightless, defying gravity, and will rise up to meet the Lord. This will also include those who are asleep in Christ.

As you start your class this morning, instead of talking, use flash cards to communicate with the students. Continue this for a few minutes. The object of this is to have the students attentively watching every card. On the last card put "Shhhh . . . Listen . . . Do you hear a trumpet?" For a few moments you will have the students listening intently. At this point explain to them that when Jesus comes back to take us in the Rapture, a trumpet will sound and only those who are watching and waiting will be able to hear it.

Have children pass a magnet over a paper plate which contains different objects. Some of the objects should contain pure metal that can be attracted to the magnet. Others should contain no metal, using only aluminum foil, plastic, or some other substance that will not be at-


tracted to the magnet. Point out why each non-attracted item won't cling to the magnet, then draw a parallel with our lives and what things in our hearts can keep us from hearing the Trumpet call and from going to be with the Lord at His Second Coming.

Make up a time chart showing the chronological order of Biblical events, including the prophesied events such as the Rapture, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the Tribulation. Fill in the names of each event as we study them in the coming weeks. This will definitely help the students to visualize the time order of these events in their minds. A good chart is found on page five of this Teacher's Guide.

Answers for ANSWER

I'm Going Up!

The Rapture! I want to be sure I'm ready. Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and fill in the missing words in the verses on the cloud. Put the circled letters on the proper numbered lines at the bottom of the page. What is your answer to the question?



For the Lord himself shall D¹ S² C³ E⁴ N⁵ D⁶ from

H⁷ E⁸ A⁹ V¹⁰ E¹¹ N¹² with a S¹³ H¹⁴ O¹⁵ T¹⁶ . . .

we W¹⁷ H¹⁸ I¹⁹ C²⁰ H²¹ are A²² L²³ I²⁴ V²⁵ E²⁶ and

R²⁷ E²⁸ M²⁹ A³⁰ I³¹ N³² shall be C³³ A³⁴ U³⁵ G³⁶ H³⁷ T³⁸

U³⁹ P⁴⁰ together with them in the

C⁴¹ L⁴² O⁴³ U⁴⁴ D⁴⁵ S⁴⁶, to meet the Lord in

the air: so S⁴⁷ H⁴⁸ A⁴⁹ L⁵⁰ L⁵¹ we

E⁵² V⁵³ E⁵⁴ R⁵⁵ be with the Lord.

W⁶ I¹⁰ L¹⁶ L¹⁵ Y¹³ O⁴ M⁹ A³ K¹⁷ T¹¹ H² E¹⁸ R¹⁹ A⁷ P¹² T⁵ U¹⁴ R⁸ E¹?

TEXT Revelation 19:7-9; Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 12:35-38

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES John 14:3; I Corinthians 3:14; Colossians 3:4

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that those who went up with Christ in the Rapture will be with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. At this time the rewards will be given for faithful service, and Christ himself will serve those assembled.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. — Revelation 19:9

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. — Revelation 19:7

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Chapter Six

The Marriage Supper

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The parable of the Marriage Feast in Matthew 22 portrays how Jesus was offered to the Jewish nation, but was refused. Verses 4-6 represent the repeated offer and its further rejection, the statement “all things are ready” hinting at the death of Christ and its salvation benefits. After Christ’s atoning death the Jewish nation had a chance to repent, but refused. The wedding garment is the righteousness of Christ. Many have the invitation to salvation extended to them, but comparatively few accept.

The Marriage Supper is preluded by the announcement that God Almighty reigns. It calls for honoring the Lamb,

for this event is not said to be the marriage of the Bride, but “of the Lamb.”

Among the people of this time, long white robes were worn at public festivals, and those who appeared on such occasions with any other garment were thought worthy of punishment. The person who invited the guests prepared a garment for each, and each guest received his garment when he applied to the ruler of the feast for it. It was this which made the conduct of the one who appeared without such a garment inexcusable—he could have had the garment if he had only applied for it.

YOUR OPENER

RESPONSES

1. Allow time for your students to offer the points of comparison they have come up with. Their thoughts may include: the earthly bridegroom loves his bride, and Christ loves His chosen Bride; the earthly bridegroom prepares to receive his bride, and Jesus said He went away to prepare a place for us; the bridegroom of this world expects to be loved by his bride, and Jesus expects and will receive a whole-hearted devotion and commitment from those who make up His Bride; the earthly bridegroom waits for the time when the bride will become his own, and our heavenly Bridegroom is also waiting for the time when He will receive us unto Himself.

2. II Corinthians 11:2 — chastity and virginity. Ephesians 5:27 — holy. II Peter 3:14 — unspotted and blameless. Revelation 3:4,5 — being undefiled. Revelation 19:8 — righteousness of saints.

In discussing these Scriptures, guide your students to a realization that if they are to be a part of the Bride of Christ it will be necessary to possess these attributes.

3. The king noticed the man who did not have on a wedding garment, and questioned him about it. The man was speechless. Then the king commanded his servants to take the man away and cast him into outer darkness. Your class should conclude that this parable indicates that one who is not fully prepared according to God's commandments to be at the Marriage Supper will not be allowed to be there. One may think that he has an excuse for his lack of preparation, but God knows the heart.

The Marriage Supper

TEXT: Revelation 19:7-9; Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 12:35-38

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 14:3; I Corinthians 3:14; Colossians 3:4

KEY VERSE: Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. — Revelation 19:7

We live in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. God has sent His Spirit into the world to seek a Bride for His Son. When the Bride has made herself ready, and when the time on God's clock has reached the hour that He has appointed, the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will appear in the azure above to catch away His Bride. Then the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place while the Great Tribulation is running its course here on the earth. No wonder that the text tells us, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."

1. Matthew 9:14,15 and John 3:28,29 help us understand that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, is the Bridegroom at the Marriage Supper. Draw a parallel between an earthly bridegroom and Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of those who have made themselves ready.

2. The Bride of Christ is made up of overcoming saints who have "washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." What is the significance of the white wedding apparel of the Lamb's wife as indicated in the following Scriptures?

II Corinthians 11:2

Ephesians 5:27

II Peter 3:14

Revelation 3:4,5

Revelation 19:8

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

3. In our Matthew text, we read a parable about a king who made a marriage for his son. Describe what happened to the guest who came without a wedding garment, and make a spiritual application.

4. Luke 12:35-37 tells us that at the Supper, the Lord himself will serve those servants whose lights are burning. Describe the feelings one might have realizing they are being served by Jesus, and compare them to the feelings Peter might have had when Jesus washed his feet. See John 13:6-9.

5. After the Lord's coming at the Rapture, He will reward His servants for faithful service. What are some of the rewards promised to the overcomer? See Revelation 2:7,11,17,26-28; 3:5,12,21.

6. Two of Jesus' parables in Matthew liken the Kingdom of Heaven to a marriage — Matthew 22:1-4 and 25:1-13. The requirements for being in the wedding party are very specific. If we fail to meet these requirements we will be left behind. Name some of these as shown in the following Scriptures:

Matthew 22:3

Matthew 22:5 and Luke 14:18-20

Matthew 22:11-13

Matthew 22:14

Matthew 25:6,13

Matthew 25:7,8

7. The Apostle was instructed to write, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." In Revelation 17:14, those who are with the Lamb are "called, and chosen, and faithful." In your own words, identify the called, the chosen, and the faithful.

4. As your students discuss the feelings one might have at being served by Jesus, perhaps they will bring out that they would feel unworthy, humble, or that they should serve Jesus rather than having Him serve them. These are some of the feelings Peter apparently experienced when the Lord washed his feet. You may wish to bring out that there will also be a thrill, an excitement or jubilation that one will feel as he realizes that he is included in the Bride of Christ.

5. Searching through these Scriptures in Revelation will provide an inspiring list of rewards promised to overcomers. To supplement this list, have your class look at the parable given in Luke 19:12-19, which indicates that faithful service will also result in those servants' receiving authority to rule with the Lord on earth.

6. Allow time for your students to respond, guiding the consideration of each verse to bring out the following points:

Matthew 22:3 — We must be obedient to God's call.

Matthew 22:5 and Luke 14:18-20 — We must place His call above any earthly pursuit. We must not make light of it or be indifferent to it. We can make no excuses that will be acceptable with God.

Matthew 22:11-13 — We must put on the wedding garment, the robes of righteousness.

Matthew 22:14 — We must realize that just being called is not sufficient. We must be chosen and we must be faithful. (See also Revelation 17:14.)

Matthew 25:6,13 — We must be ready at all times.

Matthew 25:7,8 — We must be sure we have oil in our vessels, God's Spirit in our lives.

Stress the fact that though these were parables Jesus gave, the requirements are all the same for being at the Marriage Supper.

7. Encourage your class to give their definitions. Discussion of this question should bring out that everyone is called and it is their response to the call which determines whether or not they are chosen. Those who endure to the end are the faithful (Matthew 24:13). These are the ones who will be present at the Marriage Supper. Sum up your lesson by stressing what a wonderful privilege and opportunity we have, and what a wonderful reward it will be to be included at this great event.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What are the two words that describe the linen? How would you explain these words in reference to our preparation for the Marriage Supper?

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells a parable of a wedding feast. What do you think Jesus meant when He said the man did not have on a wedding garment?

How do you think we can know if we have our wedding garment on?

What was Glen's feeling, in our ANSWER story, when he realized he was at the Marriage Supper?

Discuss the parallel which is made in the Scriptures of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and an earthly marriage banquet.

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? When does it occur, and who can take part in it?

Review the importance of being ready for the Lord's return and what is meant by getting ready.

THINGS TO DO

To introduce the lesson today why not prepare the table in your Sunday school class as you would the dining room table in your own home for special dinners. For example, you can cover the table with your fine tablecloth, decorate the table with a centerpiece and candles, and if you want, you can set place mats, china and silverware for each student—don't forget place cards. This will really surprise the students.

Create a special wedding invitation. The card should be large and the decorations on the outside may be simple, such as some clouds and a rainbow. On the inside, declare that God would honor the presence of anyone who attends the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Have your students, as a home project, make an RSVP card. You may want to make one in advance as a sample. These cards can be displayed in the classroom.

If you still have your wedding dress or tuxedo, bring it to class to show the students that at the Marriage Supper, we who are there will be arrayed with the best garments. (Pictures will do too.)

Bring a wedding guest book and use it to remind the students that only those who have made themselves ready and have their name in God's Book will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Bring a wedding invitation to class. Explain that this wedding is so special that you can hardly wait to get ready for it, but first you have to reply to the RSVP. Use this as your lead into the lesson about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Explain that God is calling us today and is inviting all to come into His Kingdom. Those who have answered the invitation will attend, but they have to make themselves ready.

Have the students list on a chalkboard some of the things that must be done before a person can get married. Beside this list, have the students list some of the things that we must do to be ready for Heaven and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Answers for ANSWER

We're All Invited



The following is a parable about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Somehow, as we tried to retell the story, the order of the happenings got mixed up. Please help us put this parable back in the right order as Jesus told it in Matthew 22:2-14. Use the spaces to the left of each sentence to number them in the right order.

- 7 Then the king sent his servants out into the highways to gather as many people as they could find, bad or good, and invite them as guests to the wedding.
- 1 "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son."
- 8 When the guests arrived at the wedding, the king found one who was not wearing a wedding garment.
- 5 The invited guests of the king not only refused the invitation the second time but also slew the king's servants.
- 10 "For many are called, but few are chosen."
- 2 The king sent his servants to his invited guests to bid them to come to the wedding.
- 3 The bidden guests refused to come.
- 9 The king had the man (who was not wearing a wedding garment) taken away, bound, and cast into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 6 The king was very angry and sent his armies to destroy those murderers and to burn up their city.
- 4 The king sent out his servants the second time to persuade the invited guests to come for the wedding was made ready.

TEXT Revelation 13:1-18; 14:9-11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES II Thessalonians 2:1-12

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate the fact that the spirit of antichrist will culminate in a person known as the Antichrist, who will be revealed during the Tribulation. He will deceive the nations and cause “all . . . whose names are not written in the book” to take his mark—a mark which will seal their eternal doom.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. — Revelation 13:8

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come. — I John 4:3

ANSWER
TITLE: **Chapter Seven**

SEARCH
TITLE: **The Antichrist**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The word “antichrist” comes from the Greek word “anti-christos.” The prefix anti has two meanings; “against” or “instead of.” Thus, the word antichrist may mean either an enemy of Christ or one who usurps Christ’s name and rights.

The Old Testament gives evidence of a general Jewish belief in a hostile person or power who in the end time would bring an attack against God’s people—an attack which would be crushed by the Messiah. Paul gives a full description of the working of the Antichrist, the “man of sin,” in II Thessalonians 2:1-12. The Thessalonian Christians may have been under the erroneous impression that the “day of Christ” was at hand, for Paul tells them that before that day could come two things would have to take place—an apostasy and the revelation of the man of sin, the son of perdition.

The idea of marking people has been seriously proposed. The September 20, 1973 “Senior Scholastics” magazine suggested this in an article titled “Public Needs and Private Rights—Who Is Watching You?” “All buying and selling in the program will be done by computer. No currency, no change, no checks. In the program, people would receive a number that had been assigned them tattooed on their wrist or forehead. The number is put on by a laser beam and cannot be felt. The number on the body is not seen with the naked eye and is as permanent as your fingerprints. All items of consumer goods will be marked with a computer mark. The computer outlet in the store which picks up the number on the items at the check stand will also pick up the number on the person’s body and deduct the amount from the person’s ‘Special Drawing Rights’ account. . . .” Years have passed. How much closer we are to having this idea in operation today!

YOUR OPENER

RESPONSES

1. The students, no doubt, will give the name as “Deceiver.” As you continue the discussion, bring out the fact that the object of the Antichrist is to deceive and to persuade those he can to deny Christ. Also mention that the spirit of antichrist is now working in the world to deceive those who will pay heed.

2. We can see from the Scripture references that we must have a love for the truth of God’s Word. Discuss what having a love for the truth entails. Why is this love for truth vital? Bring out that it is necessary in order to receive salvation. Encourage your students to cite specific examples of cults and false beliefs which take parts of Scripture and twist them to their own purposes. Zero in on why it is important to love and seek an understanding of God’s Word that we may be protected from “strong delusions.”

3. The students can discuss the recent groups of people who have fallen for false teachers, false prophets, and false christs. Many people will follow a spectacular leader because of sensational promises. But they forget to consider the end result which consists of standing before God alone and being judged for their actions on earth.

The Antichrist

TEXT: Revelation 13:1-18; 14:9-11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: II Thessalonians 2:1-12

KEY VERSE: Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come.— I John 4:3

The name Antichrist introduces to us one who is absolutely opposed to Jesus Christ. The spirit of antichrist is already in the world, working in the children of disobedience. As Jesus Christ is the express image of God, so it appears that the Antichrist is the culminating manifestation of Satan. Also known as the Beast, his coming is through Satan who gives him power to work signs and lying wonders. His reign during the Tribulation will be ushered in by flatteries, prosperity, and a call for peace, but he will cause all, both small and great, whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, to take a mark which seals their doom.

1. What is another name given for the Antichrist? Using II John 7 as a reference, explain the purpose of the Antichrist.

2. Since the spirit of antichrist is in the world today, how can we avoid being deceived? The answer can be found in II Thessalonians 2:10-12.

3. Using Matthew 24:24, tell how the spirit of antichrist will work, and the schemes that will be used.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. As the Antichrist gains control of the world during the Tribulation period, those who follow him will wear an identifying mark. What are the consequences of having the mark?

5. Anyone who does not take the mark will not be allowed to buy or sell. The Antichrist will have complete control of all the world’s economy: commercial, political, and religious. Name some specific aspects of your own life which would be affected by such control.

6. What role does the false prophet perform during the Tribulation period? See Revelation 19:20.

7. What will be the end of the Beast (Antichrist), the false prophet, and the devil? See Revelation 20:10.

8. What can we do each day to be accounted worthy to escape all these things and to be ready to stand faultless before the Son of Man? See Luke 21:36.

4. Ask your students to name specific consequences that will fall on those who take the mark. While discussing the finality and severity of the judgment, bring out that the most horrible of all is the knowledge of being forever separated from God and His people.

5. Allow time for your students to offer their suggestions, based on their own individual situations: in school, on the job, as a parent, etc. Help them to see that because of the complex structure of our society, it would be virtually impossible to function as a citizen under the control of the Antichrist without taking his mark.

6. He deceives many by great miracles, gives power to the image of the Beast to speak, and causes all to receive a mark in their right hand or forehead. In comparing the verse in Revelation 19:20 with our text in Revelation 13:11-17, the students should realize that the false prophet mentioned is the same as the second beast.

7. Revelation 20:10 reveals that the wicked trinity will be cast into the lake of fire. Help your students realize that this is the second death, a place of eternal torment.

8. Watch and pray. It is important to conclude this lesson with the positive thought that we can be prepared to escape the events of the Tribulation. These preparations should be made today!

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

According to Revelation 13:8 and 14:11, who will receive the mark of the Beast?

What is the end of the person who takes the mark of the Beast?

A laser tatoo, which makes an invisible mark on animals, has been developed. If this invisable method is used, will it be all right to take the mark of the Beast?

What part do you think credit cards, such as Master Card and Visa, will play in the mark of the Beast? Is there any type of store in which these are not used?

What can we do to escape the Tribulation, the time of the Antichrist, and the mark of the Beast?

The Beast (Antichrist) is going to be healed and do many wonderful works and signs. Where will he get this power?

How did Nick, in our ANSWER story, respond to the instructions for everyone to take the mark?

THINGS TO DO

Role Play: A store clerk and a father with a hungry child. The father does not have the mark and wants to buy something. Have two people take sides.

Plan to show a movie such as, "Thief in the Night," during the time your Sunday school class is studying this series of Sunday school lessons.

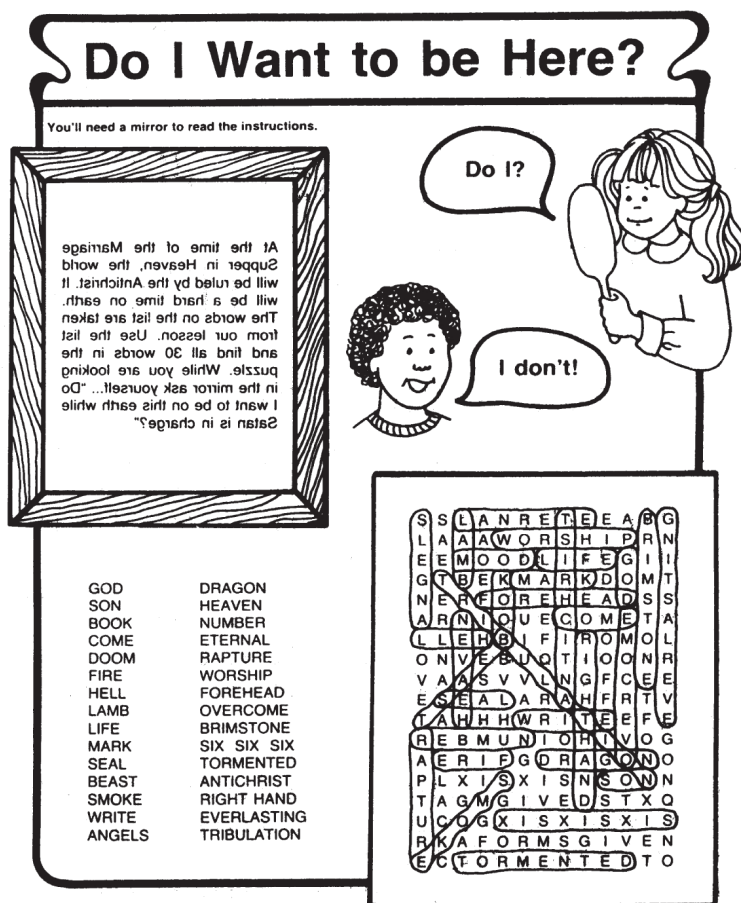
Take a credit card or UPC symbol to class and discuss how these might lead into the mark of the Beast.

Have a brainstorming session, using an overhead projector or chalkboard to record ideas regarding what restrictions might be placed on those who refuse to take the mark of the Beast. Your list might begin with not being able to buy or sell, and should move on to explore possibilities such as no privilege to attend school, travel,

or receive emergency care, or governmental benefits. The point of the exercise should be to make plain the nearly impossible situation one would face by refusing to take the mark.

Bring a baby's I.D. bracelet from the hospital, a "dog tag" bracelet giving name and address such as children wear, and an I.D. card or driver's license. Point out that those methods of identification can be lost or forged. An invisible mark on a person would be so much more efficient. Use these objects to stimulate a discussion on how logical and practical the mark will seem when it is presented to people.

Answers for ANSWER



TEXT Revelation 15:1; 16:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Luke 23:28-30; Revelation 6:15-17; 8:1-13

OBJECTIVE The students will have the ability to tell that at the Great Tribulation, the wrath of God will be poured out upon the ungodly because of their rejection of Him. This will be a time of fear, darkness, and torment when great plagues will be sent upon the earth.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved. — Matthew 24:22

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. — Matthew 24:22

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter Eight

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

The Tribulation Plagues

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Revelation was written about A.D. 81-96 by John, the Apostle who had been exiled to the Isle of Patmos because of his faith. Political prisoners were banished to Patmos and put to hard labor in the mines there. It is interesting to consider that it was during perhaps the most difficult time of John's life that God revealed to him the warnings to the churches of Asia and prophecies of events to come. It is the only Book in the New Testament that is exclusively prophetic in character.

John lived at a time of terrible persecution of the Early Church when vast numbers were crucified, burned to death, or thrown to wild animals. Peter and Paul had been put to death and possibly others of the Apostles. It is said that 40,000 Christians had suffered martyrdom. However, in that abyss of darkness and sorrow, John

received and recorded a Revelation of Jesus Christ such as none other has witnessed.

The historical interpretation of the Book considers it to be a forecast, or panorama, of the Church's trials, struggles, and final victory, as well as God's final judgments upon unbelieving mankind.

Revelation 16:1 begins with a command to the seven angels to "Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." These ministers of divine justice were ready to execute vengeance upon transgressors, but they could do nothing until they received this divine command. Nothing can be done without the permission of God; and in the manifestation of justice or mercy by Divine agency, there must be positive command.

YOUR OPENER

The Tribulation Plagues

TEXT: Revelation 15:1; 16:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Luke 23:28-30; Revelation 6:15-17; 8:1-13

KEY VERSE: Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. — Matthew 24:22

RESPONSES

1. This time of trouble comes upon the earth because of men's sins. The discussion should center around the fact that the wrath of God is being revealed from Heaven upon all those who have rejected His call and have not obeyed His Word. These are finally left to go through the Great Tribulation.

2. These are the seven last plagues. Naturally, a discussion should include other happenings in Revelation such as the opening of the seals with resulting war, famine, and death (Revelation 6:1-8); the sounding of the seven trumpets, with the locusts and other severe problems (Revelation 8:7-13; 9:1-20); the tyrannical reign of the Beast (Antichrist). It will be spiritually profitable to discuss that during this time the overcoming saints will have been caught up in the Rapture and are at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. See I Thessalonians 4:14-17; II Thessalonians 2:3-10.

During the period known as the Great Tribulation, there will be misery, suffering, trouble, and sorrow such as this world has never known. It will be a time of God's wrath upon the earth because of mankind's rejection of God's love and mercy. Human language could never paint the horrible picture that will unfold here on earth during this time. We try to imagine as best we can, using the insights that the Word of God gives us, yet it is certain that our minds grasp only a small portion of the horror that will be the experience of those who live on the earth during this fearful period.

1. After the saints are raptured, the term "tribulation" is never mentioned again in Holy Scripture. Instead, the term "wrath of God" is mentioned thirteen times from Revelation 6:16 to 19:15, during which time "they repented not," is mentioned three times. Using Romans 1:18 as a reference, tell why this time of trouble comes upon the earth.

2. What is the time frame of the plagues listed in our text, as compared to the other happenings in the Book of Revelation?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

3. The plagues spoken of in Revelation 16 are literal and are not meant to be spiritualized or symbolized. List the seven plagues mentioned.

4. Compare the reaction of Pharaoh to the plagues in Egypt (Exodus 7:13), to the reaction of the people on the earth at the time of the seven plagues.

5. Describe what takes place when the sixth vial is poured out.

6. Give the meaning of Jesus' words, "It is finished" (John 19:30), and the words of the great Voice out of the Temple of Heaven, "It is done."

3. Plague 1 — grievous sores

Plague 2 — sea became blood

Plague 3 — rivers became blood

Plague 4 — sun scorches

Plague 5 — darkness

Plague 6 — Euphrates River dried up

Plague 7 — thunder, lightning, earthquake, cities fall, islands and mountains move, hail,

Allow your students to offer their answers and briefly discuss the results of each plague. It might be interesting to parallel these plagues to those sent upon Egypt, which are recorded in Exodus, chapters 7-12. In conclusion you should help your students see that just as surely as the plagues pronounced upon the Egyptians occurred, so these plagues mentioned in Revelation will also take place.

4. God hardened Pharaoh's heart and the people on earth will blaspheme God. Discuss with your class that this reveals to us the condition of men's hearts—even in times of great distress they are unrepentant.

5. The spirits of devils gather men together to fight against the armies of the Lord. This is the Battle of Armageddon. Discuss with the students that though evil and sinfulness in the earth is more prevalent than ever before, God is indeed in control. He will cause even the ungodly to move as He gives consent for the final battle before the Millennial Reign of Christ on earth.

6. The meaning of Jesus' words was that the plan of salvation, arranged from the very foundation of the world, was now fulfilled and completed. The words of the great voice seemed to indicate that with the pouring out of the last vial, God's judgments against ungodliness were in the process of summation. An epoch of human history had come to an end. In discussing this question it should be pointed out that the last vial was poured out into the air, indicating a widespread scope. We are told in Scripture that the devil is the prince of the power of the air, thus indicating that the last vial was directed toward Satan and all his emissaries. We know that the Antichrist's influence comes to a quick close on earth following the pouring out of this last vial.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Do you think the plagues mentioned in our text are really going to happen? Explain your answer.

What is a plague?

Why do you think God will allow the Tribulation plagues?

What does the word tribulation mean?

What were some of the events mentioned in our ANSWER story? Which one had the most impact on Nick?

What other time in history did God send plagues upon wicked, unbelieving people? Who were the people and what were the circumstances?

What name is given to the battle which will be fought by all the kings (leaders) of the earth? All the forces of evil gather to fight against whom? Who wins?

What promise is given to those who read and heed the prophecies in this Book?

THINGS TO DO

Have each student name some horrible disease, natural disaster (flood, earthquake, etc.), or horrible accident, such as the sinking of the Titanic. Then ask them to imagine all these things put together at the same time, explaining how the Tribulation will be even worse.

Show the students pictures of hiding places: caves, locked rooms, behind rocks, etc. Next, compare some of the Tribulation plagues that are mentioned to the plagues on Egypt during Moses' time. The plagues of Egypt never touched God's people in the land of Goshen—God's hiding place for them. On the same order, the plagues during the Tribulation will not touch the people of God who have gone on to be with Jesus in Heaven.

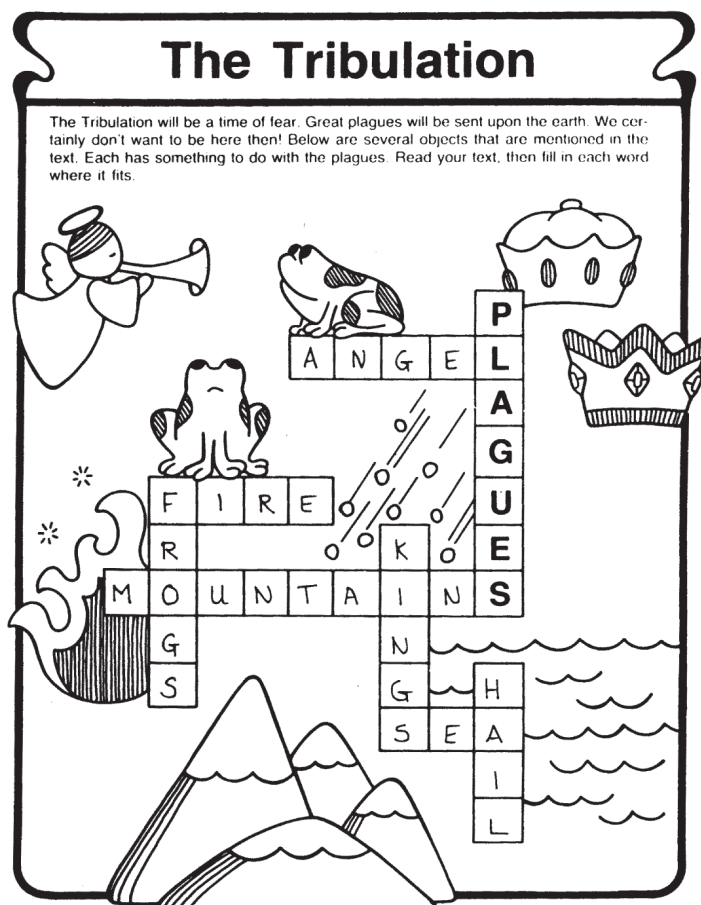
Bring a baseball. Ask if anyone has ever been hit by a baseball. Then relate it to a hailstorm. Hail will come

down, not only as big as a baseball, but weighing about one hundred pounds each! Can anyone survive? Use these suggestions to stress the importance of being ready to meet God.

Bring pictures of famine, earthquakes, destruction, wars.

Have your class make a large poster or bulletin board divided into upper and lower halves. On the upper portion, illustrate the events in Heaven such as the Marriage Supper, and saints on white horses. On the lower part illustrate the Tribulation plagues which will occur on the earth at the same time.

Answers for ANSWER



TEXT Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Zechariah 14:3-5; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 14:20

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate that at the Revelation of Christ, Jesus returns to earth with His saints following the Marriage Supper. At this time the armies of the Antichrist gather to fight against Christ and His saints at the Battle of Armageddon and are defeated.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him. — Revelation 1:7

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. — Revelation 1:7

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Chapter Nine
The Revelation of Christ
and Armageddon

REFERENCE INFORMATION

In the Battle of Armageddon, armies from all nations will gather in Palestine to war against God. In their rage, they will especially ravage Jerusalem and destroy a great part of Israel’s population (Revelation 16:14-16; Zechariah 12:3). At this point, the heavens will open and Christ will be revealed with His army of saints. He alone will wreak vengeance and judgment upon His enemies. A 200-mile carnage will result, concentrated in a place called Armageddon. That battlefield, the plain of

Esdraelon (Greek for Jezreel), was famous for two great victories: of Barak over the Canaanites, and of Gideon over the Midianites. It was also the scene of two great disasters, the deaths of Saul and Josiah. It signifies in Revelation a place of great slaughter, the scene of a terrible retribution upon the wicked. As the site of perhaps more bloody encounters than any other spot on earth, it is an appropriate place for the scene of the great conflict pictured in Revelation 16.

YOUR OPENER

The Revelation of Christ and Armageddon

TEXT: Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Zechariah 14:3-5; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 14:20

KEY VERSE: Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. — Revelation 1:7

RESPONSES

1. Similarities mentioned may be that Mt. Olivet is the location of both occurrences, saints were and will be present, and Christ departed and will appear in a cloud. Discuss with your class the probable feelings of those who witnessed and will witness either of these two dramatic events.

2. Help the students realize that all sinners will experience guilty feelings and will mourn because they were not ready to meet Christ. All sinners, rich or poor, moral or immoral, will hide themselves and will cry to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us . . ." Emphasize that those who have not prepared will be filled with the torment of guilt and fear of the final judgment to come.

3. He is riding — a white horse
His eyes are like — a flame of fire
On His head are — many crowns
His clothing was — dipped in blood
His name is called — The Word of God
Out of His mouth goes — a sharp two-edged sword
On His clothing was written — KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS
His feet were — like fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace
His countenance was like — the sun shining strongly
In summary, help your students compare the humble life of Jesus' first time on earth, with the majesty and power which will accompany His Second Coming to earth.

Something big is about to happen. Jesus Christ is coming for His Church. Once He has come and taken them to be with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the full fury of the Great Tribulation will break upon our world with the Antichrist as the world ruler. Then the climax of the Tribulation will take place when Christ returns with His saints at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

1. Jesus' ascension into Heaven is recorded in Acts 1:9-11. In Zechariah 14:4,5 and Revelation 1:7 we read of the coming of Jesus Christ as King. Note here some similarities between Christ's ascension and His return to govern the world.

2. After reading the text in Matthew 24:29-31 and Revelation 6:15-17, describe how the sinners will react to the Revelation of Christ.

3. Using Revelation 1:13-16 and 19:11-16, describe the manner and appearance of Jesus Christ as He leads His heavenly army to meet Satan's earthly army in the Battle of Armageddon. Complete the following statements:

He is riding
His eyes are like
On His head are
His clothing was
His name is called
Out of His mouth goes
On His clothing was written
His feet were
His countenance was like

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. What does Revelation 19:19 predict?

5. Where is this great battle to be fought? See Revelation 16:14,16.

6. What characterized the armies which followed Christ from Heaven? See Revelation 19:8,14.

7. During the battle, what happened to the Beast and the false prophet?

8. What happened to the army of the Antichrist?

9. Who came with Christ when He came back from Heaven?

10. How can we qualify to be a part of Christ's army when He comes back to earth to destroy the Antichrist and rule for a thousand years? See Revelation 3:5.

4. The verse predicts that the Beast (Antichrist) will gather together with the kings of the earth in preparation for a great battle.

5. The battle will be fought at a place called Armageddon. This is believed to be Mount Megiddo, the valley of which is called Jezreel. It is mentioned several times in Scripture. Discuss with your students some of the other famous battles that have taken place at this location. Gideon vs. the Midianites (Judges 6:33); Josiah vs. Necho (II Chronicles 35:20-24); Israel vs. the Canaanites (Judges 5:19). Conclude your discussion by bringing out that, as those Scriptures refer to the defeat of Israel's enemies, it seems fitting that the victory of Christ and the armies of Heaven over the Antichrist and his armies should take place here.

6. They were clothed in fine linen, which is the "righteousness of saints." Ask your students what the significance of the white linen is, leading them to the understanding that no sin will enter Heaven.

7. They were cast alive into the lake of fire. A discussion should bring out the thought that the Beast and false prophet were actual personages, and not political entities, as some have suggested. The point should be made that this was, for them, the second death. They will never return from the lake of fire.

8. They were killed with the sword from Christ's mouth. Discuss with the class that all things are under God's control. Those who serve Satan may think they can do as they please, but sooner or later the Law of God comes into force. "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).

9. The armies which were in Heaven. Using the answer to this question, discuss with your students the privileges and rewards of the raptured saints. Not only will they enjoy the Marriage Supper, they will return with Christ as the conquering army to rule and reign with Him for a thousand years.

10. We qualify by being an overcomer. Have the students look at Revelation 3:5 as a supplement to verse 14 of our text. They should see that the overcomer is one who has had his sins washed in the Blood of the Lamb and has been living a life free from sin. Wrap up the lesson by pointing your students toward the importance of preparing while there is still time.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Have you ever visited a cave—or been shut in a room or a closet—where there was no light? How long would you like to be in a place with no light? Yet verse 29 of our text says that the sun will be darkened and the moon will give no light. Add the thought of darkness to the terrors of those times and events and imagine the panic.

What do you think is meant by “powers of the heavens” mentioned in verse 29?

Compare Christ’s coming at the time of His birth, with His coming as described in Revelation 19:11.

Who are His “elect” mentioned in Matthew 24:31?

Who are the “armies of heaven” in Revelation 19:14?

What is the Battle of Armageddon and who will be at this battle?

In our ANSWER story, what outstanding event did Nick witness and how did it affect him? How do you think you would have felt in his place?

THINGS TO DO

Illustrate to your students different ways that can be used to catch everyone’s attention: A flash of bright light! A loud, booming noise! A sudden and prolonged hush! Loss of power so there is no light! God’s Word tells us that when Jesus returns to earth following the Marriage Supper, every eye shall see Him. He will be revealed and everyone will know Him. His appearing will be more dramatic than anything we can imagine.

Use a simple paper-doll figure to represent a “saint.” (Or draw an outline on posterboard.) Add pieces of “fine raiment which is the righteousness of the saints.” Talk about what Christian qualities might be a part of this “fine raiment.” Ask your students to name a few of the qualities: Honesty, Faithfulness, Love, Faith, Goodness.

Label each part of the raiment with words suggested by your students.

Using question number 3 in SEARCH, make a set of 3x5 cards for your students to match, such as:

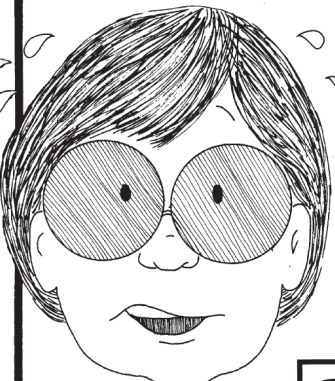
He is riding / a white horse

His eyes were like / a flame of fire

Bring pictures of other great wars, and statistics of how many were killed in each conflict. Compare this to the Battle of Armageddon.

Answers for ANSWER

Good Against Evil



A Battle! That means war! The Battle of Armageddon will be a mighty war between good and evil.

The word-find below contains several words taken from this lesson’s text. As you find the words, try to remember how Nick felt when this battle took place. How would you feel?

SUN
WAR
FOWL
KING
LORD
MOON
BEAST
CLOUD
CROWN
FLESH
GLORY
JUDGE
LINEN
MOURN
SWORD

TRIBE
ANGELS
ARMIES
HEAVEN
NATIONS
TRUMPET
ALMIGHTY
MIRACLES
BRIMSTONE
TRIBULATION
LAKE OF FIRE
WHITE HORSE
FALSE PROPHET
MARK OF THE BEAST

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | R | I | M | S | T | O | N | E | R | O | S | P | E | L | Y |
| K | B | E | A | S | T | D | U | V | L | H | S | E | L | F | I |
| N | P | K | Q | H | E | A | V | E | N | L | M | M | P | A | K |
| T | Q | U | I | G | G | N | Z | V | C | L | O | U | D | L | S |
| S | O | X | T | N | O | G | K | D | K | Y | U | L | X | S | D |
| A | R | S | R | V | G | E | O | B | R | U | R | I | V | E | E |
| E | T | R | I | B | U | L | A | T | I | O | N | N | O | P | W |
| B | R | K | B | Y | K | S | O | U | T | V | L | E | A | R | E |
| E | U | V | E | U | B | U | Q | R | O | C | B | N | L | O | R |
| H | M | Q | W | K | Q | Z | Y | X | Y | R | X | Z | M | P | I |
| T | P | I | A | O | V | O | V | K | Q | O | O | I | H | F | |
| F | E | S | R | O | H | E | T | I | H | W | O | U | G | E | F |
| O | T | Y | X | A | Z | O | Q | U | O | N | K | V | H | T | O |
| K | O | U | K | R | C | N | A | T | I | O | N | S | T | R | E |
| R | V | O | F | O | W | L | X | V | P | N | O | X | Y | U | K |
| A | R | M | I | E | S | Q | E | O | U | P | Q | O | K | O | A |
| M | B | J | U | D | G | E | V | S | W | O | R | D | V | Z | L |

TEXT Revelation 20:1-10; Isaiah 35:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:1-10

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to tell that the Millennial Reign will take place immediately after the Tribulation, how long it will last, and what life will be like for the saints during this time.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. — Isaiah 35:1

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. — Isaiah 11:9

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter Ten

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

The Millennial Reign

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Millennium is the Latin word for a “thousand years.” It is used in Revelation 20:1-15 where a certain period of a thousand years is mentioned six times. It is conjectured that this period may be the Sabbath following the six thousand years of man’s history.

During the Millennium, peace and prosperity will reign. Satan will be bound and can no longer deceive and torment mankind. All of God’s creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption. Romans 8:22 says, “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” The Millennium will be a time of

rest for God’s children. It will be a period of blessedness for all the earth. The fact that the saints will reign with Christ during this time is predicted several times. See Matthew 19:28; I Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 3:21; 5:10.

Magog (region of Gog) is a country of undetermined location, generally described as in a northerly direction from Palestine. Gog, in the Bible dictionary, means “mountain,” and Magog appears as a country or people of which Gog was the prince. These are representative of the nations that are to war against the Kingdom of God under the leadership of Satan.

YOUR OPENER

The Millennial Reign

TEXT: Revelation 20:1-10; Isaiah 35:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:1-10

KEY VERSE: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. — Isaiah 11:9

RESPONSES

1. Christ's return to earth with His saints and the armies of Heaven. The destruction of the wicked, the Beast and the false prophet at Armageddon. The confinement of Satan to the bottomless pit for a thousand years. Use this question to briefly review last Sunday's lesson and to establish that the Millennial Reign, when Satan is confined for a thousand years, occurs immediately following the Battle of Armageddon.

2. Discuss with your class what some attributes of His glorified body would be. He could go through walls, and yet His body could be felt. He had the power to vanish and appear at will. He was recognizable. See also Luke 24:41-43, which indicates that He could eat.

3. The capital city will be Jerusalem. The one requirement is that all the people living on the earth during this time are to visit the Temple in Jerusalem in order to worship the King. Ask what importance Christ as King seemed to place on worship. Zechariah 14:16-19 reveals that in this time if they do not go to Jerusalem, God will send a plague as punishment. Is worship any less important now?

4. Christ will be King and, together with Him, His saints will judge the earth. They will have been awarded cities to rule, based on faithful service while living here on earth. Use Luke 19:16-19 as a supporting Scripture.

Have you ever considered what life would be like if . . .

- every mother really wanted and truly loved her children?
- every father loved his wife as himself and enjoyed his role as the moral leader and character example for his family?
- every child loved, revered, and obeyed his parents?
- every businessman was satisfied with a fair profit?
- you could walk the streets of any of our large cities at night in safety?
- you could always leave the keys in your car, and your house unlocked?
- every judge was incorruptible and supernaturally wise?
- death was a rarity instead of an overwhelming, daily occurrence?
- the leader of every country was a direct appointee of Jesus Christ?

Would you be surprised to learn that the Bible declares that there will soon be 1000 years during which the world will be in such a condition?

1. What three events must immediately precede Christ's rule on earth? See Revelation 19:14,20,21; 20:1-3.

2. According to Philippians 3:20,21, the returning saints will have a glorious spiritual body like Christ's after He had risen from the dead. What are some attributes of Christ's glorified body? See John 20:19-29.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

3. What city will be the capital of the whole earth during the Millennium (Micah 4:2)? What is the one requirement of all people living on the earth during this time? See Zechariah 14:16-19.

4. How will the people who remain on earth be governed during the Millennium? See Revelation 11:15; I Corinthians 6:2.

5. During this time, what will happen to the deserts of the earth and what will happen to vegetation? See Isaiah 35:6,7; 41:18; 55:12,13.

6. How will animal life be changed? See Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25; Ezekiel 34:25.

7. How will length of life and health for the people with natural bodies be affected? See Isaiah 65:20.

8. From any newspaper, clip a news item concerning something which could not happen during the Millennium. Bring the clipping to class.

9. What events bring the Millennial Reign to a close?

5. Water will appear, and the deserts will blossom abundantly. Thorns and briars will be replaced by trees. Discuss how this shows that the curse on the ground, given in Genesis 3:17,18, has been lifted. The discussion should not only include the remarkable change that water makes when it appears on a desert, but it should also bring out the even more remarkable change that occurs when an individual comes into contact with the "Living Water."

6. Help your students to see what a change will be made in animal nature when God makes a covenant with the beasts of the field! The lion will be as tame as a kitten and will eat straw like the cattle. A little child will be able to lead these formerly wild animals around. The poisonous venom of the serpent will be gone, so that even a baby will be safe anywhere. All animals will dwell together in peace. They will even feed together!

7. Apparently the life span will be greatly extended during the time Satan is bound. "For the child shall die an hundred years old" (Isaiah 65:20). From this verse we understand that at one hundred years of age one will still be considered young—a mere child. This passage of Scripture also shows the possibility of death during the Millennium to those who live through the Tribulation or are born during this period. However, long life will be the rule to those who serve the Lord. Their life shall be long like the life of a tree. Some trees live for more than a thousand years. It is quite likely that many people shall live through the entire period of the Millennium. Of course, we know that those who come back with Christ with glorified, immortal bodies shall live forever. The world will be free from disease except as a punishment for sin.

8. Allow time for students to share what they have found, using their clippings to establish in terms of our daily lives how remarkably different the Millennial period will be.

9. Satan is loosed, nations are deceived, and the devil is defeated by God at the Battle of Gog and Magog. The devil is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the Beast and false prophet are. Discuss with your students how the nations will be deceived by the devil and will take up arms against Christ, even after a thousand years of peace. The followers of Satan will be devoured by fire that will come down from God out of Heaven, soon to be resurrected to face the last judgment.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What will the earth be like during the Millennium?

Will Jesus live on the earth during this period of time?

Will the earth be different or the same as it is now? How?

What will be Satan's final end?

In our ANSWER story, what were some of the things Glen and his parents commented on regarding the changes on the earth?

What happens on earth just before the Millennium?

How will the animals be different from what they are now?

What will happen to the people who are now deaf or blind?

Who will rule over the earth?

What city will be the capital?

THINGS TO DO

Have the students make a list of things that won't be on the earth during the Millennium. Example: war, famine, fear of animals, robbers.

Take pictures of lions, thistles, weeds, bugs, flowers, trees, and beautiful things. Or, instead of pictures, take some bugs in a jar, a stuffed lion or bear, toy snake, a branch from a rose bush, etc. Discuss how the world will be different during the Millennial Reign.

Divide class into two teams. Be prepared with paper and pencil for each student. In five minutes' time, see which team can cover most completely the changes to be experienced on earth during the Millennium. (The earth itself: no desert, blights or diseased vegetation,

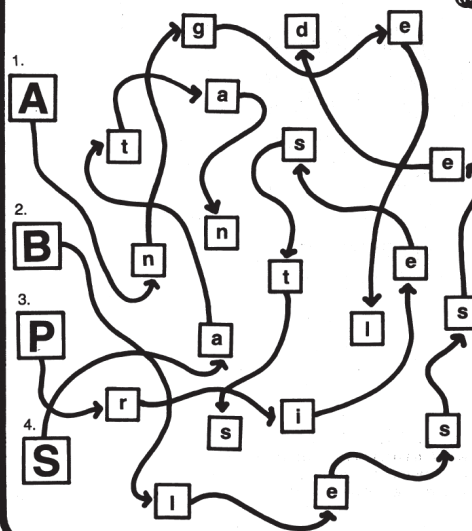
insect pests. Its godly inhabitants: no disease, sickness, crippling, blindness. Government: no need for armies, navies, munitions factories or stockpiles; only righteous laws and judgment; only one world capital—Jerusalem. Animal and plant life: no wild or carnivorous animals; no thorns, thistles, weeds, or poisonous plants.)

Bring eye glasses, hearing aid, crutches, cane, etc. Ask students to consider how many people, perhaps even in their own families, need to use one or more of these aids. Then imagine the joy and gratitude of those who no longer need to depend on these helps.

Answers for ANSWER

A Thousand Years of Peace

The Millennial Reign is the 1000 years when Jesus will be on earth again. It will be a time of total peace. The text tells of some things that will happen during that time. The maze below will help you find the missing words in the four sentences telling about those years. Use a different colored crayon and follow the arrows for each word, beginning with the numbered letter. When you have completed a word, write it on the blank line in the sentence with the same number.



1. An Angel from Heaven had the key to the bottomless pit.
2. The people in the first resurrection are Blessed.
3. The people in the first resurrection shall be Priests.
4. Satan shall be bound for a thousand years.

TEXT I Timothy 5:24,25; Revelation 20:11-15

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Daniel 12:2; Acts 10:42; 17:31; II Peter 2:9

OBJECTIVE The students will rehearse the events of the Great White Throne Judgment in the close of the Millennium, when God will finally judge all whose names are not in the Book of Life, according to their works.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. — Hebrews 9:27

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Some men’s sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. — I Timothy 5:24

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Chapter Eleven

The Great White Throne Judgment

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Great White Throne Judgment closes the Millennium. It is the greatest judgment ever held, depicting divine purity and righteousness, which characterize God’s decisions. “Him that sat on it,” is God, to whom all judgment is committed (Revelation 20:11,12).

Our text is one we ought to read often, bearing in mind that the small and the great of every age and clime will be there, and the books will be opened. The books have the records of men’s deeds; God knows even their

thoughts and motives. Nothing escapes Him or His notice. The Book of Life has the roll of the saved, those who died in the faith or who were raptured.

God’s judgment is final, as well as just. People can be of such varied nature or character that man couldn’t possibly know for sure how to judge some, but God knows the heart and He makes no mistakes. The “second death” is the final doom of all the ungodly, all those whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

YOUR OPENER

The Great White Throne Judgment

TEXT: I Timothy 5:24,25; Revelation 20:11-15

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Daniel 12:2; Acts 10:42; 17:31; II Peter 2:9

KEY VERSE: Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. — I Timothy 5:24

At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, God will assemble before Him all the unsaved, "small and great," regardless of what their status on earth might have been. The wicked dead are raised; death holding the body and Hades the soul, surrender their prisoners. In the agony and shame of their sins, they stand before a Throne which is described as "great" and "white." Each sinner is face to face with God alone, and is doomed because he did not accept God's salvation. The doom of the unsaved is a "lake of fire," the place of isolation from God for all evil and sinners.

1. When does the Great White Throne Judgment take place? What happens to the devil just prior to this time? See Revelation 20:5-10.

2. The overcoming saints will not be judged at the White Throne Judgment. Why?

3. What three words in verse 12 of our text show us that even a person who considers himself to be insignificant will be at the Great White Throne Judgment?

RESPONSES

1. The Great White Throne Judgment will take place after the Battle of Gog and Magog, at the close of the Millennium. Bring out in discussion that the devil, who has deceived so many, will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone to be tormented for all eternity.

2. The overcoming saints will have already been raptured and will have reigned with Christ a thousand years. As the key verse brings out, the redeemed have sent their sins before them to the judgment. Help your class contrast the two judgments: the location, who is to be judged, the feelings of those involved, the outcome. Note that there is no judgment for the saints, only commendations and rewards for faithful service.

3. The words are "small and great." Bring out in discussion that all the wicked dead will stand before God at this time. Continue with the thought that many people may have escaped answering for their actions in this life, but they, too, will be called into an account before God.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. How do we know that the sinner who has had his body cremated will still be at the Great White Throne Judgment?

5. What is the importance of the record kept in the Book of Life? Why do you think this book will be opened at the Great White Throne Judgment?

6. To get our names recorded in the Book of Life we must experience God's forgiveness for our sins. How can we receive this forgiveness? See I John 1:9.

7. How is it possible to have your name removed from the Book of Life? See Exodus 32:33.

8. What is recorded in the "books" mentioned in our text?

9. What is the second death? See Revelation 21:8.

4. Revelation 20:13 tells us that the sea gave up the dead, and death and Hell gave up their dead. Discuss with the students how God, who created our bodies out of dust, can surely put all the dust and ashes back together again for judgment. See John 5:26-29.

5. The Book of Life is the record of the names of the redeemed. As your students discuss the second question, the thought could be brought out that the Book of Life will be indisputable proof that the names of the wicked cannot be found therein. You may wish to amplify the discussion by pointing out that having our names included in this Book is a cause for rejoicing. See Luke 10:20.

6. I John 1:9 shows us that we must confess our sins to receive forgiveness. Use this opportunity to explain the necessary steps to receiving salvation and the importance of being saved. If the members of the class are all saved, help them to realize that we must continue to walk in God's ways.

7. If we sin against God after we have been saved, our names will be blotted out. Using Ezekiel 33:12, discuss with your class the danger of backsliding, and the vital necessity of maintaining our spiritual relationship with God. Refer also to I John 1:7.

8. The books record the everyday actions. Using Jeremiah 17:10; 23:24, help your students see that God's eyes are watching every deed, and that nothing can be hid from Him.

9. The second death is when sinners will be cast into the lake of fire. Using verses 13 and 14 of our text, generate a discussion bringing out exactly what occurs at the "second death"—the seas give up their dead, death and Hell deliver up their dead, and then death and Hell themselves are cast into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does it mean: “. . . and death and hell delivered up the dead”?

What is the second death?

How is the lake of fire different from a bonfire?

When will the Great White Throne Judgment take place?

In our ANSWER story, what went through Nick's mind after he heard his doom pronounced?

Is there anything that would make people exempt from the White Throne Judgment?

Would cremation make a person exempt from the final judgment? Why?

Who is the Judge at the Great White Throne Judgment?

What is the difference between “books” and the “Book of Life”? Revelation 20:12

THINGS TO DO

Cut out pictures of people from magazines, etc., and put them on a bulletin board. Put these captions on the board: “Book of Life” and “Lake of Fire.” Discuss with your class which people would likely fit into each category and build on the lesson from there. Be careful to let the class know that we aren't the judge!

Bring a gavel to class. Talk about its use in present-day court trials. Compare these trials with the Great White Throne Judgment—there will be no jury.

Show your students several types of books where a person's name is recorded: Baby book, Who's Who, School yearbook, Encyclopedia, Bible, etc. (If possible show them where your name is in a book.) Also tell them that names are even being recorded on computers. Information about each person is usually included along











with the name. Explain that to get your name recorded in any of these places you needed to have done something or “been someone.” This fact holds true with the Book of Life which God is keeping up-to-date in Heaven. You need to have done something (given your life to Jesus) and “become someone” (a Christian) to have your name recorded there.

Take a teacher's grade book to class. Discuss how teachers use these to keep records of a student's daily work. Use it to bring out that God is keeping books too. Our deeds will be recorded and at the Judgment Day we will have to account for them.











Answers for Answer

Time Is Running Out!

God's time for the world is running out. Is your name in the Book of Life? Use the clock code to complete the puzzle below. Find out why your name should be in God's Book of Life.

HVKDONUPLE

IGFWBTRMSAJ

And as it is APPOINTED
10:30 4:30 4:30 3:00 6:00 3:30 8:30 5:30 2:30

unto MEN once to DIE but after this the
9:30 5:30 3:30 2:30 6:00 5:30


JUDGMENT And WHO -
11:00 4:00 2:30 6:30 9:30 5:30 3:30 8:30 7:30 1:00 3:00

SOEVER was NOT found
10:00 3:00 5:30 1:30 5:30 9:00 3:30 3:00 8:30

WRITTEN in the BOOK
7:30 9:00 6:00 8:30 8:30 5:30 3:30 8:00 3:00 3:00 2:00

of LIFE was cast INTO the
5:00 6:00 7:00 5:30 6:00 3:30 8:30 3:00

LAKE of FIRE
5:00 10:30 2:00 5:30 7:00 6:00 9:00 5:30



TEXT Revelation 5:1-14; John 1:29

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES John 1:36; Revelation 7:13,14

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that it was Christ's office as the sacrificial Lamb of Calvary that makes Him worthy to take the Book and unloose the seals.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power. — Revelation 4:11

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. — Revelation 4:11

TEACHER'S NOTE: This lesson is out of order in considering a chronological sequence of the events described in Revelation. However, we felt the subject appropriate for the Thanksgiving season. The junior level story treats this occasion as a flashback. Senior teachers may wish to explain briefly to their classes the reason for the break in continuity, to avoid confusion.

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chapter Twelve

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

Worthy Is the Lamb

REFERENCE INFORMATION

This revelation was given to John, the beloved Apostle. It is thought to have been written about A.D. 96. John was an old man when he was put on the Isle of Patmos by the Roman emperor Domitian. He was put there because he gave witness to the Word of God, and "the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Christ, in the message to the Seven Churches, appeared as a warrior. In Revelation 5:5 He is called the "Lion." The Lion, when seen, is a "Lamb" (Revelation 5:6). Lion represents power, but lamb represents sacrifice. The secret of Christ's power is in His suffering. In Revelation, Lamb is the favorite name for Christ: The Lamb took the sealed Book, and opened it.

The living creatures and elders worship the Lamb.
More than 100,000,000 angels worship the Lamb.
The great day of the Lamb's wrath is come.
Multitudes from all nations worship the Lamb.
Their robes were washed in the Blood of the Lamb.
The Lamb leads them to fountains of living waters.
They overcame Satan by the Blood of the Lamb.
The 144,000 follow the Lamb.
They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.
The Lamb is Lord of lords and King of kings.
Marriage of the Lamb to His Bride is come.
The Lamb is the Temple and Light of the City.
Only those in the Lamb's Book of Life shall enter.
The Water of Life comes from the Throne of the Lamb.

YOUR OPENER

Worthy Is the Lamb

TEXT: Revelation 5:1-14; John 1:29

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 1:36; Revelation 7:13,14

KEY VERSE: Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. — Revelation 4:11

The seven-sealed book spoken of in Revelation 5 is generally thought of as a scroll or a series of scrolls, each portion being sealed with an individual seal. It is thought by many that this book has to do with the price and purchase of redemption. God's plan for the salvation of mankind from sin had to be fulfilled before the seals could be broken. As we begin our text we find this question, "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"

RESPONSES

1. Although no man in Heaven or in earth could open the book, Jesus Christ, the Lion of the Tribe of Juda, the Root of David, prevailed. Discuss with the students that in His first coming to earth, Jesus was meek and humble as a lamb, sacrificing Himself for our sins (John 1:29). But in His second coming He is to be the Lion, mighty and powerful to rule and reign. Ask the students to give a few of the titles by which Christ is known that show His rulership. They may respond with such titles as: blessed and only Potentate (I Timothy 6:15); Prince of the kings of the earth (Revelation 1:5); KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:16).

2. The students should establish the identity of the Lamb as being Jesus. Point out that John the Baptist addressed Jesus as the "Lamb of God," before He had been crucified. Read Revelation 13:8 to show how the plan for Jesus to die had been established from the "foundation of the world." Lead into a discussion of the importance of Jesus' death, and how only Jesus can forgive sins. Depending on your class, you may want to go into the subject of salvation in depth. See John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 8:32; 10:13; Ephesians 2:8; I John 1:9.

3. Verse 9 indicates the Lamb was the only One in Heaven or earth worthy to open the Book and the seals thereof, because He was slain for our redemption. Only the sacrifice of Jesus, God in the flesh, could avail for the redemption of mankind, because He knew no sin. Jesus died on earth as a man, but He rose again, the triumphant Son of God, to ascend into Heaven. Only He is worthy.

1. In reference to the seven-sealed book in Heaven, John wept when the strong angel proclaimed that "no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon." He then was comforted by an elder who assured him that there was One who was worthy. One who prevailed. Who was worthy? What is significant about the name which the elder used as a title for Him?

2. In Revelation 5:6, John speaks of seeing a "Lamb as it had been slain." Who is the "Lamb," and what is the significance of the Lamb to the Christian?

3. Why was only the Lamb worthy to open this Book and the seals?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. After we are redeemed, it is important to offer our thanksgiving and praise through prayer. Verse 8 tells us that these prayers are not wasted. Explain, using our text and Revelation 8:3,4.

5. In Revelation 4 and again in this lesson, the description is given of twenty-four elders and four beasts (or living creatures). What is their position in Heaven (Revelation 4:4,6), and how did they arrive at this exalted state?

6. What was the theme of the “new song” sung by the four beasts and the elders?

7. In our key verse, we read that mankind was created for God’s pleasure. How can mankind live to please God (Hebrews 12:14)? Find at least two additional Scripture references which give other ways to please God.

8. Verses 11-14 speak about the universal worship of the Lamb in Heaven. What are some ways we worship the Lord while we are still on earth?

4. Include in the discussion that some of our prayers and praises on earth stem from glorious victories that God has given, while other prayers are the results of sore trials, hardships, or severe pain. Regardless of the reasons for the prayers, the truth should be emphasized that God values all sincere prayers to the point of preserving them in golden vials in Heaven.

5. The position of the twenty-four elders is around about the Throne of God, seated in twenty-four seats. The four living creatures were situated in the midst of the Throne and around about the Throne. Our text tells us that all these were redeemed out of the earth through Jesus’ Blood. Bring out through discussion that it may not be our lot to be exalted to such a degree, yet the Scriptures reveal that the redeemed shall be near to God and have a voice in the universal praise due to Him. See Revelation 7:9-17.

6. The theme of their song was that Christ was worthy to open the Book because He provided redemption through His Blood. Bring out in your discussion the fact that the redeemed are from every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. Through Christ, the redeemed of God will be made kings and priests and they shall reign on the earth.

7. Hebrews 12:14 brings out the necessity of having holiness. Allow time for your students to give any Scriptures they may have found. Their verses may include Psalm 147:11; Hebrews 13:16; I Peter 3:4,5; I John 3:22. Your students should see that pleasing God is one of the ways we have of praising and offering thanksgiving to God.

8. Discuss ways in which we can worship other than prayer; for example, church attendance (Psalm 122:1), singing hymns (Ephesians 5:19,20), giving of offerings (I Chronicles 16:29), giving testimony (Psalm 107:1,2).

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What was unusual about the Book that God held in His right hand? Who was worthy to open the Book?

Why was Jesus worthy to unloose the seals?

In our ANSWER lesson, Glen looks back to the first time he heard what phrase?

In the previous lessons, you have learned that we all have the same opportunity to be ready for Christ's coming. Who made it possible for us to have that opportunity? How was it accomplished?

Explain why Jesus is often referred to as the Lamb of God.

What does it mean to "exalt" the Lord? Pick out the verses in Chapter 5 of Revelation where Jesus the Lamb of God is exalted and praised.

During this Thanksgiving season what are you most thankful for?

In what way can we exalt the Name of Jesus this Thanksgiving?

Why do you think Jesus took the role as the sacrificial Lamb for all of us?

THINGS TO DO

Wrap a wide strip of paper around a book and seal it with wax to represent what a sealed book would be like. Then bring out the fact that the Book spoken of in our text is sealed with seven seals and no one but Jesus is worthy to unseal it.


Have your class make a poster to portray what will happen when the Book is to be opened.

Have the students copy the words to the "New Song" that rang out to Jesus. Rephrase the New Song into words of our everyday language.

Opener: Have the students write down the three things they are most thankful for this Thanksgiving season. (Write your own list too.) Discuss the choices, beginning with number three. Show your students that, on your list, Jesus the Lamb of God is Number One! As you explain why, you will have introduced today's lesson.

Answers for ANSWER

Worth Is . . .



Complete the Acrostic by using the names for Jesus mentioned in the verses listed below.

Job 19:25
Isaiah 55:4
Matthew 2:2
Matthew 9:15
Matthew 12:38
John 3:2
Acts 3:15
Acts 13:23
II Corinthians 1:14
Revelation 1:8

P R I N C E
T E A C H E R
L E A D E R
K I N G
S A V I O U R
M A S T E R
the
L O R D
A L M I G H T Y
R E D E E M M E R
B R I D E G R O O M

TEXT Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE II Peter 3:13,14

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that this sin-polluted earth will pass away after the White Throne Judgment, and God will create new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness shall dwell.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. — II Peter 3:13

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. — Isaiah 65:17

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Chapter Thirteen

The New Heaven and New Earth

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The earth on which we now stand, that seems so big and solid under our feet, is going to pass away. The heavens also which now exist will be no more. What John saw in his vision were not a renovated earth and a rebuilt heaven, but a new heaven and a new earth.

At the Great White Throne Judgment, “the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them” (Revelation 20:11). Creation, which has been

defiled by sin, will not be able to stand before the Judge of all the earth. When all enemies are put under the feet of Christ, the defiled elements themselves shall vanish away like a vapor. God is going to create new heavens and a new earth untainted by the presence of Satan or any of his followers.

The new heavens and the new earth will surpass anything which man is capable of describing.

YOUR OPENER

The New Heaven and New Earth

TEXT: Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: II Peter 3:13,14

KEY VERSE: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. — Isaiah 65:17

Imagine walking through one of twelve enormous gates—each made of a single pearl—and being surrounded by massive walls of crystal-clear jasper. People may stroll along streets of pure gold, to a beautiful, pure river that is also crystal clear. On either side of the river is the tree of life bearing twelve kinds of fruit. Everyone is so happy! There is no sorrow or crying or pain. This City was prepared for you by God himself. It is more than just an imaginary scene. It was revealed by God to John the Revelator, and it will someday become a reality to us if we prepare for it here on earth.

1. What great event precedes the coming of the new heaven and the new earth? See Revelation 20:11.

2. Write a brief description of the new Jerusalem that John saw.

3. Explain what the absence of sorrow, pain, crying, and death will mean to you.

RESPONSES

1. The Great White Throne Judgment. Use this question to reflect on that lesson, and continue to show the sequence of events.

2. Encourage the students to read their descriptions. This is a good time to talk about the good things in store for the Christians. See Titus 3:7.

3. Encourage your students to share their thoughts. Help them to realize that the effects of the curse will be gone, and we will be in our glorified bodies. There will be nothing to cause pain, nor will there be reason for grief or sorrow. Emphasize the differences which will be apparent when “the former things are passed away.”

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Revelation 21:7 tells us that “He that overcometh shall inherit all things.” What constitutes an overcomer? See I John 5:4,5; Revelation 2:26; 12:11.

5. Who will be excluded from the new Jerusalem?

6. Who is the Light in this City? How does that relate to us today? See John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16.

7. II Peter 3:13 lets us know that there will be only goodness in the new heavens and new earth. Not everyone will be able to enter. How can you be sure you will have a part in this wonderful place?

4. Allow time for your students to give their thoughts as to the characteristics of an overcomer. Some points mentioned will likely be: one who is born of God and has faith in Jesus; one who keeps the Word of God to the end; and one who, through the Blood of the Lamb, gives testimony and loves not his own life. You might want to continue your discussion by bringing out the rewards of the overcomer. See Revelation 2:7,11,17; 3:5,12,21.

5. The point of this question is to help the students realize that sin separates (Revelation 22:14,15; Isaiah 59:2). Unless we avail ourselves of salvation we will be cast into eternal punishment. See Hebrews 2:3 and Revelation 20:15.

6. The glory of God and the Lamb (Jesus) are the Light. Discuss how Jesus brought the Light of salvation to mankind (John 3:17). After we are saved we become a Light in the world. See Matthew 5:14-16.

7. This verse tells us that righteousness dwells in the new heavens and the new earth. Only those who have been redeemed by Jesus' Blood will be able to dwell in that wonderful place. After your students respond to the question, you will have a good opportunity to wrap up this lesson as well as the theme for the whole quarter, by encouraging the students to be sure that they are prepared. See Revelation 22:14 for qualification to enter the City Foursquare.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why do you suppose this present earth is to be destroyed since Satan, his angels, and followers will all be cast into Hell?

Can we expect the new heavens and new earth to be much like the present? See I Corinthians 2:9.

What will not be found there?

Will there be any cemeteries?

Will there be any monuments to great persons of the past?

Why will time no longer be divided by days and nights?

John saw the river of life flowing from the Throne of God. Who else saw such a river? See Ezekiel 47:1.

THINGS TO DO

Bring a world globe to class and talk about the fact that the earth, as it now exists, will be destroyed and a new earth will be created.

Bring a picture of a landscape revealing bright sunlight and deep shadows (or any picture with shadows). Ask students if there will be shadows in the New Jerusalem, then explain.

Clip pictures from magazines or catalogs, of very costly items (gold coins, jeweled rings, necklaces, crowns) and, where possible, the cost or value of those items. Show these to your students, then remind them of the New Jerusalem with its streets of gold, walls of jasper, gates of pearl, and a foundation of precious stones.

Show your students some things which are difficult or impossible to burn (a rock, a piece of iron or steel, asbestos, etc.) Explain that it will be the supernatural power of God that will destroy the heavens and earth, even as it was the power of His Word that spoke the worlds into existence.

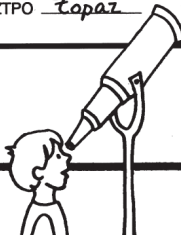
Answers for ANSWER

It's Going to Be Great!

New heavens and a new earth! And John tells us of a holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven! Doesn't that sound exciting? The activity below has some questions, scrambled words, and missing words. Read the verses given and complete the activity. You'll find out about some exciting things awaiting you.



- Read Revelation 21:4 and list five things there will not be in the New Jerusalem.
1. tears 2. death 3. sorrow 4. crying 5. pain
- Light in the holy city will be like which stone? Jas p e r (Revelation 21:11)
- Why does the New Jerusalem have no need of the sun or moon? Glory of God, Lamb is Light, Lord God giveth light (Revelation 21:23; 22:5)
- What lives in the middle of the city? Tree of Life (Revelation 22:2)
- The pure river of water of life comes from where? Out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1)
- What were made of gold? Streets; of pearl? 12 gates (Revelation 21:21)
- R I G H T E O U S N E S S will dwell (or be present) in the earth. (II Peter 3:13)
- Unscramble the names of these stones which help make up the foundation of the wall of the city. (Revelation 21:19,20)
a) DELEMAR emerald d) PHRISAEP sapphire g) IJCTAHN jacinth
b) SERJAP jasper e) LBYRE beryl h) YADSRNOX sardonyx
c) AZTPO topaz f) SATMYHET amethyst i) DISRAUS sardis

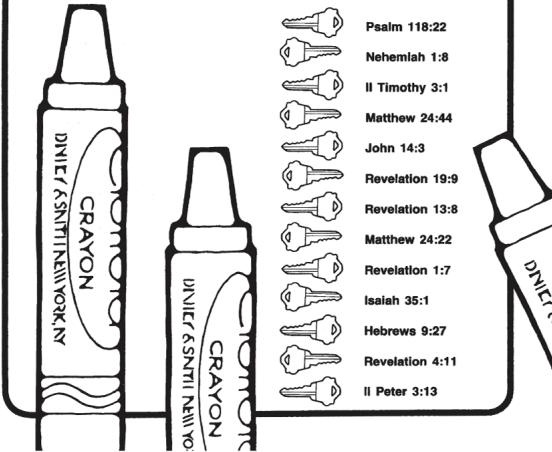


Answers for Extra Activities

Activity Page 41

Color the Key

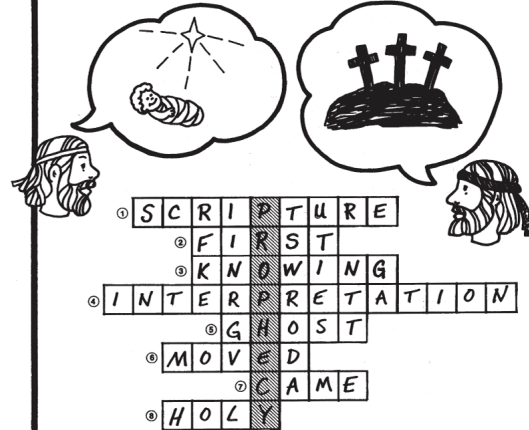
If you read the key verse in the Bible, color the key yellow.
If you said the key verse in your own words, color the key orange.
If you memorized the key verse and said it to your teacher, color the key blue.
If you did all three, color the key red.
See how many red keys you can get!



Activity Page 42

How Do We Know?

How do we know what will happen in the future? Fill in the missing words in the Bible verse at the bottom of the page. Then use the numbered words from that verse to complete the puzzle. Your answer will appear in the shaded squares.



① **KNOWING** this ② **FIRST** that no prophecy of the ③ **SCRIPTURE** is of any private ④ **INTERPRETATION**. For the prophecy ⑤ **CAME** not in old time by the will of man; but ⑥ **HOLY** men of God spake as they were ⑦ **MOVED** by the Holy ⑧ **GHOST**.

II Peter 1:20,21

Activity Page 43

It's Going to Happen!

What's the right order of events? Look over the list of last days happenings on the left. Then write them down in the correct order on the lines to the right. As you think about them, ask yourself, Am I ready?

White Throne Judgment
Rapture
Signs of the Times
Revelation of Christ—Armageddon
Marriage Supper
New Heaven and New Earth
Tribulation Plagues
Millennial Reign

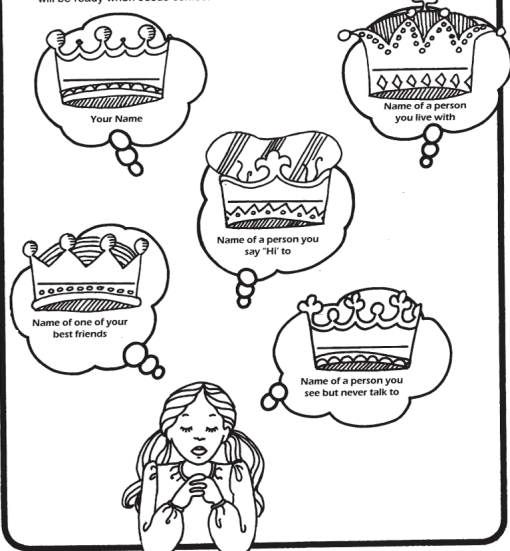
SIGNS OF THE TIMES
RAPTURE
MARRIAGE SUPPER
TRIBULATION PLAGUES
REVELATION OF CHRIST ARMAGEDDON
MILLENNIAL REIGN
WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT
NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH



Activity Page 44

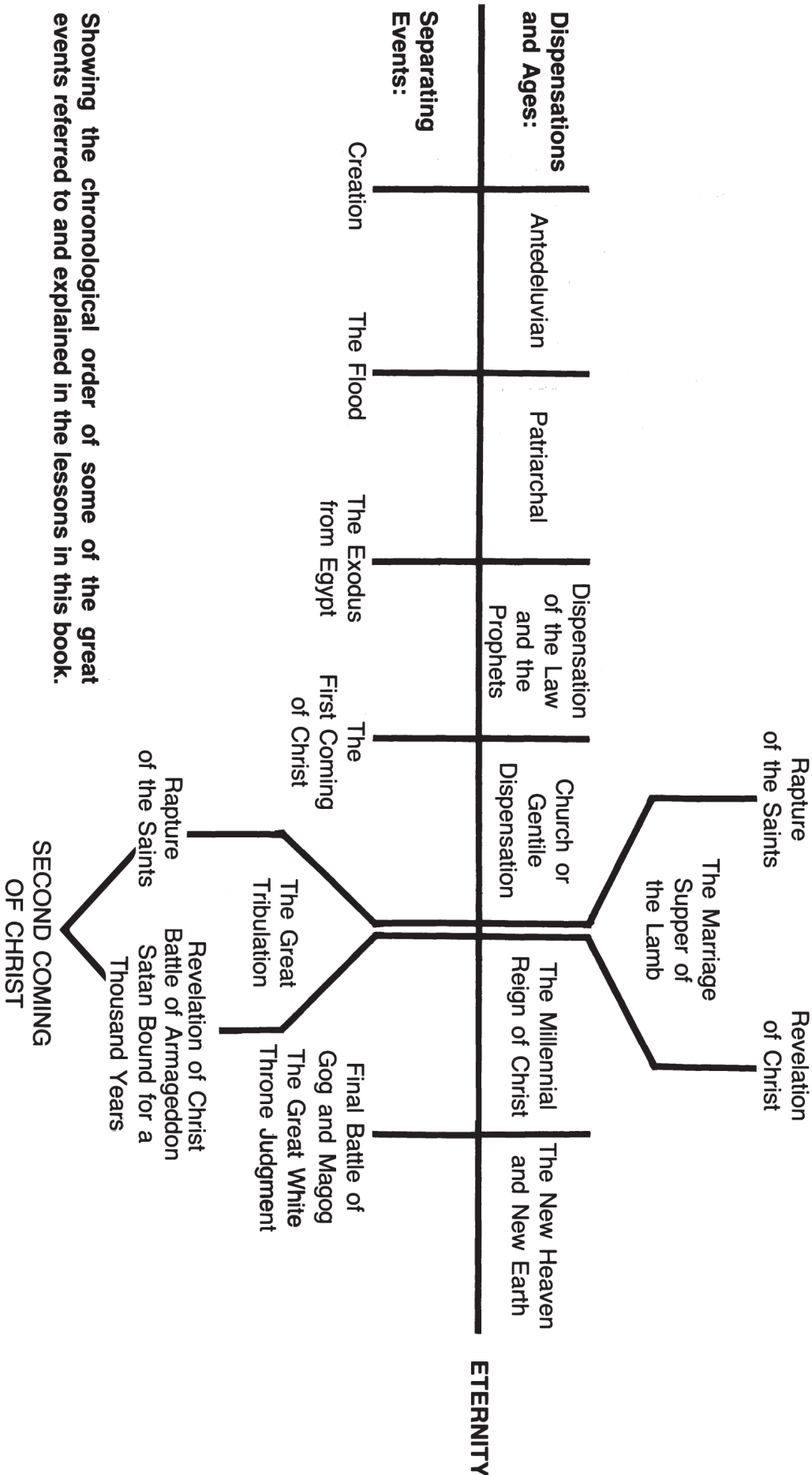
Who Should Be Ready?

Those who are ready to go up in the Rapture will live and reign with Jesus. Fill in the crowns with the names of people you know. Then remember to **pray** that they will be ready when Jesus comes.



[illegible]

The Order of Dispensations and the Separating Events



Showing the chronological order of some of the great events referred to and explained in the lessons in this book.

Teacher's Name _____

A Bible study resource guide for teachers

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