

July 19 – A Returning Truth

Sunday School Bible Reading: Revelation 21:1-22:5

Commentary from Megan

This is the last lesson in Unit 3 which was a survey of some New Testament Bible Lessons.

Resources in this PDF

Lesson 14 Opening

Lesson 14 Activity Page – see section on page 2 as a guide

Scripture Snapshot

Banished to the island of Patmos, John receives a revelation of the new heaven and new earth. In this climax to the Book of Revelation, John describes the indescribable – the Lamb of God in His glory with His people in their eternal home.

Discussion Ideas

Who is the Lamb? According to today's Bible account, what blessings do we receive from the Lamb?

In his vision of heaven, John saw gates made of pearls. What are pearls made of? Where have you seen them before?

SciShow Kids video about [Where Pearls Come From](#)

When will John's vision be fulfilled? Draw what you think heaven might look like. Pray with the apostle John, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Draw a happy face on a paper bag. Ask your child(ren) to share things that make them happy and pretend to put each thing in your happy bag. Say, "Having all those things in one bag would surely make us happy, but are we always happy? No, sometimes we are sad. We get hurt. We cry. We get sick. We feel lonely or afraid. But the new heaven and earth will be a wonderful place that is filled with happiness. The Bible says, 'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' (Revelation 7:17). That means that when Jesus comes back again at the end of this world, He will give us life with Him forever in a new heaven and earth, where no one will cry or get sick or do mean things. We will be happy with Jesus all the time.

Because Jesus died and rose again to wipe away our sin, God promises to take us to be with Himself for all eternity.

A world without fear, sorrow, tears, mourning, pain, and more seems beyond our understanding. But because we all experience these things, it is possible for us to begin to understand what the new creation will be like. Our eternal home is almost beyond our understanding, filled with joy instead of sorrow.

A world without the sun or moon is beyond our understanding. We depend on the sun for everything: light, heat, and the life of all living things. Yet in the new creation, the Son of God will be our light for all eternity. Because God's presence gives light, there is no need for sun or moon.

The faithless sinners, those who have turned against God, are excluded from the new heaven and earth. They are relegated to the "lake that burns with fire" (Revelation 21:8). Only the faithful will spend eternity in the presence of the Savior.

The angel shows John the river of life as it runs through the new Jerusalem. Along with the river he sees the tree of life with its twelve different kinds of fruit. Unlike the tree of life in the Garden of Eden, there is no longer any need to separate us from the tree since we are with the Father for all eternity. The tree gives different fruit each month as God continually provides for all our needs.

Activity Page Guide

After you read the paragraph at the top of the page, read aloud Revelation 21:9–21. Some things that John saw in heaven according to these verses were the golden city of Jerusalem, twelve gates, twelve angels, names of the twelve tribes of Israel, names of Jesus' twelve apostles, and many jewels such as emeralds, sapphires, and pearls.

Next, read aloud Revelation 21:23. This verse reveals that it will always be light in heaven, with the light radiating from God's glory and from Jesus, the Lamb.

Now read aloud Revelation 22:1–2. These verses discuss the river of the water of life and the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit.

Finally, direct the students to the question at the bottom of the page. Read aloud Revelation 21:4. In heaven we will not see tears, death, crying, mourning, or pain.

Other Resources

Ministry to Children – [resources related to the book of Revelation](#)

Crossroads' Kids Club – [God's Story: Re-Creation](#)

Songs

[This Little Light of Mine](#) – with actions

[Power in Your Word](#) – with actions

[Let's Go, Go, Go!](#)

[Jesus Loves Me](#) – with lyrics and actions

[God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It](#) with lyrics

[I Can Only Imagine](#) – MercyMe

Even in difficult times, God's Word and His promises give us a peace that's much better than any kind of peace we can get on our own. Sometimes we call that the **peace that passes all understanding**. [I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy](#)

Prayers

Thank You, Jesus, for loving us so much that You died on the cross and rose again for us. Thank you for making a beautiful place where we can live with You, the angels, and everyone who believes in You forever. Amen.

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving up Your life to save me from my sin. Help me to live as Your child as I look forward to living forever with You. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

LESSON 14 OPENING

A RETURNING TRUTH: CHRIST RETURNS

Have you ever been in a very dark room in which you could not see anything? If you have, you know that adding even a little light makes it possible to see. A very bright light (*turn on light*) can fill a space with so much light that you can see everything. Doctors use bright lights in hospitals during surgery so that they are able to see exactly what they are doing. Construction workers use bright lights to make a construction site visible so that they can work at night. When the light is turned off (*turn off light*), it goes back to being dark. For a moment it may be difficult to see, until our eyes adjust from light to darkness.

In 2 Chronicles 5:13–14, we read about a bright light that was present in a great cloud. The light came from the cloud that filled the Old Testament temple when the ark of the covenant was brought in. It filled the entire space; God was there. God's glory had entered into the Holy Place. All who were there could behold His glory as He filled the temple. This was a great scene of God dwelling in the very midst of His people. God was physically present in the very midst of His people as they gathered to worship Him.

In today's Bible lesson, we are going to learn about God's glory in another place. We will learn about a man named John, who was given a special vision. In his vision, he was shown a vision of heaven. We will learn what he saw and what it looked like. We will learn about God's glory in heaven. We will hear about the light in that place that John saw. Pay close attention to the source of the light. We will also learn about our future dwelling in that place.

When we gather together in the Divine Service, God's glory is there dwelling in our midst. We do not see the same bright cloud that was present at the temple, but God in Christ is present. The very same Jesus who dwelt among us in human flesh during His earthly ministry is truly present among us, even now. He dwells with us and cares for us. In Him, our sins are forgiven. He keeps us in His Holy Church and shines the light of His Word upon us to nourish our faith.

Since Jesus dwells with us, we need not fear. He Himself is our light and grants us His salvation. Even in the darkness of death, the light of Christ shines brightly. In Jesus there is no darkness, only the light of His glory. In Him are we made secure and safe in the ark of His Church, both now and forever.

Pray: Blessed Lord Jesus, thank You for shining Your light upon us and dwelling with us. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Revelation 21:1–22:5

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus promises to take us to heaven.

FAITH FOCUS

The Third Article, Part 3

LAW & GOSPEL

We suffer from the effects of sin in this world.

Jesus promises all believers that we will one day be with Him in heaven, where we will live joyfully in His presence forever.

BIBLE VERSE

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
Revelation 7:17

VISUAL HELPS

Bright light

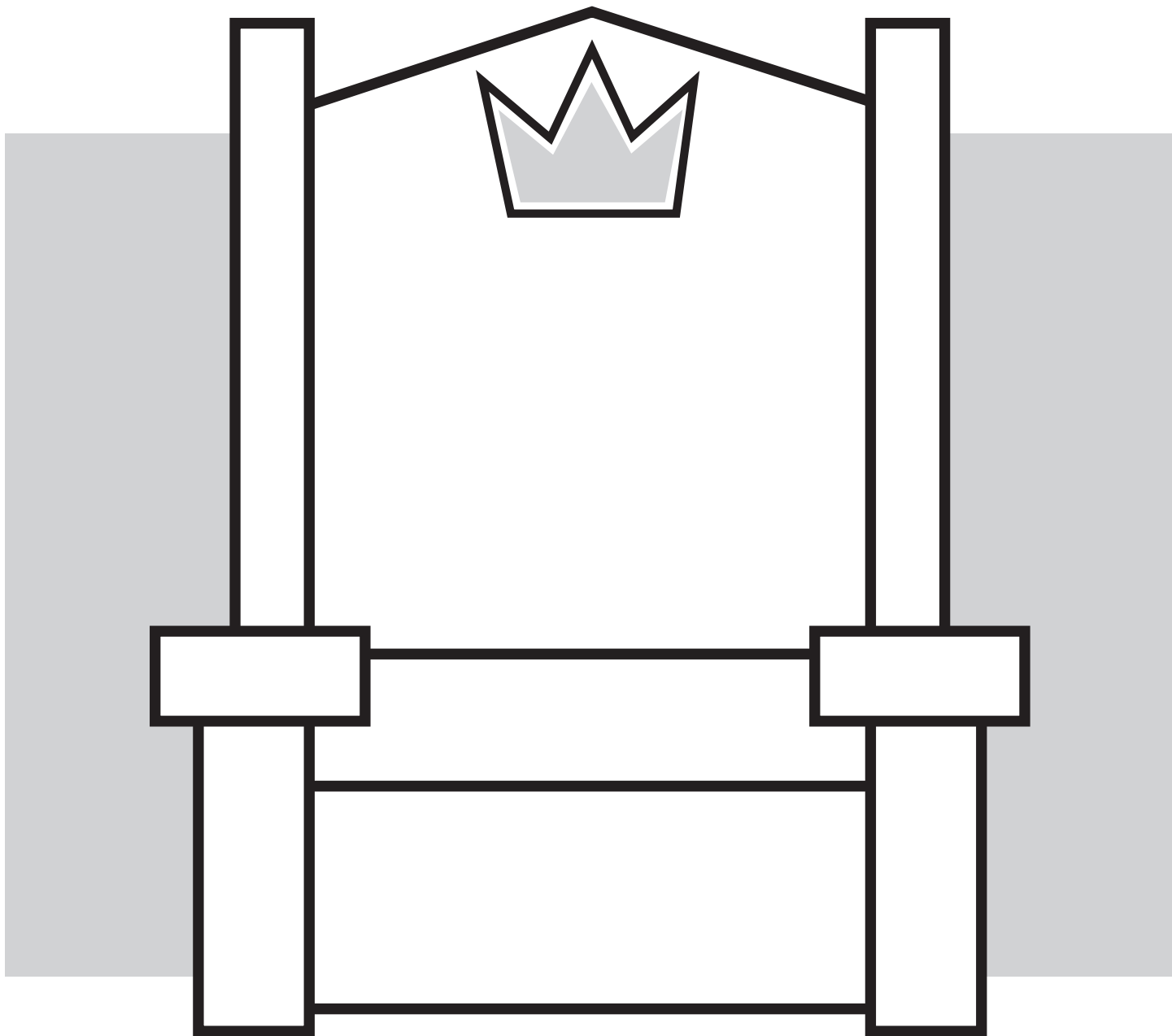
A RETURNING TRUTH—CHRIST RETURNS

Unit 3, Lesson 14

Our Heavenly Home

In the Book of Revelation, John describes what he saw when God gave him a vision of heaven. In Revelation 21:3 and 22:3–4, John says that in the new heaven and new earth, we, God’s restored people, will see God face-to-face and will live in His presence forever. How wonderful! In heaven, the Lamb of God, Jesus, our Savior, will be on His throne in glory.

Directions: On the throne below, write the names “God” and “Jesus.” Then, listen carefully as your teacher reads to you about more of the marvelous things that John saw in his vision of heaven. On the arms, legs, and seat of the throne, write down as many of these things as you can.



According to Revelation 21:4, what won't we see or experience in heaven?