

tears nor sighing nor crying nor death. O, what startling absences. O, what good ridance. Never morning wore to evening but some heart did break, some moving tragedy has been enacted. In this new heaven and the new earth nature shall be no longer ruthless and there shall be no man's inhumanity to man to make countless thousands mourn.

When every place shall be a holy place. In the new heavens and the new earth there shall be no temple, no sacred enclosure, because every place shall be sacred. Neither in this mountain nor yet in Jerusalem shall men worship the Father. His temple shall extend its walls until it becomes "the face of day." It is the mission of the master to bring man into immediate contact with God's spirit; to sweep away all go-betweens, all limitation of time or place. So shall our spirits mingle with the spirit of the Everlasting.

When the ransomed of the Lord shall be absolutely secure. The wife of Sir John Lawrence was called home to her children in England while the ground-swell of the terrible Mutiny of 1857 was still heaving. On the morning of separation, her husband read the 27th Psalm,—“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? . . . For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion.” Thick dangers were round about that city of India, but the gates of the New Jeru-

salem shall not be shut at all by day, and there shall be no night there, in which an enemy might make a sudden attack under cover of darkness. The holy city is unexposed to attack.

Who may enter this holy city? Not those who are the children of Abraham. Nor those who dream idly about the great days that were or will be, but those who do the will of the Father which is in heaven. What is the will or word of God? It is incarnated in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Before his conversion, Charles Wesley, then apparently near death, was visited by a poor mechanic, a Moravian, who asked him, “Mr. Wesley, do you hope to be saved?” He answered “Yes.” “For what reason do you hope it?” was next asked. “Because I have used my endeavors to serve God.” The poor mechanic shook his head, but said no more; and Wesley tells us, “I thought him very uncharitable, saying in my heart, ‘Would he rob me of my endeavors?’” But that shake of the head, silent, sad, solemn, forever shook Wesley's faith in his own endeavors. The light shone at last and he gave up all self-righteousness and flung himself upon the gracious clemency of Almighty God and wrote these words:

“Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.”

THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

Point out that, in describing the holy city, the writer of Revelation is dependent partly on the picture language of Jewish writings (compare Gen., chs. 2, 3; Ezek., ch. 47), though he gives the whole a Christian setting. His description of the city presupposes two things which to him are accepted as axioms: (1) immortality, (2) rewards for the righteous.

Point out that the writer here is a child of his time, and is seeking to express truth through material symbols. Show that heaven can be entered on earth; John 17:3. “The kingdom of heaven is within you” (compare John 3:3). Find the illustration of this truth in Drummond's chapter on

Regeneration in “Natural Law in the Spiritual World.” Study the lesson under the following heads:

(a) *The city.* The cube was to the Jews the perfect figure as a circle is to us. The rabbinical writings spoke of the New Jerusalem as being 1,500 miles to a side, or as extending from Jerusalem to Damascus. Similarly, John desires to create the impression of vastness, and, also, accessibility for all the true Israel. The number twelve suggests the twelve tribes, Rev. 7:4-8. The redeemed shall be a multitude, Rev. 5:9; 7:9-17. There is comfort here. The standard by which we shall be judged will not be a fixed one. The handicaps of heredity, unruly natures, environment, and small opportunity will be considered. But note that the city has a wall, so that none may presume.