

First Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

LESSON FOREWORD—We come to the end of our Study of Peter and John. John's training is more than ended, it is completed. The disciple who saw Jesus on the cross, now sees him high and lifted up and with him all those who have trusted in him. Our training for Christ is completed only when we think and see victory.

Lesson XII.

JOHN'S PICTURE OF WORSHIP IN HEAVEN

March 21, 1920

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Rev. 7 : 9-17.

9 After this I behold, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands ;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, A'men : Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. A'men.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me,

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.—Rev. 7 : 12.

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—The Permanent Message of The Book of Revelation.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



PETER AND JOHN

I. THE REDEEMED MULTITUDE—9, 10. A great multitude ; one hundred and forty-four thousand, twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes. This number is not a mathematically exact number but is symbolical of a vast company. *Of all nations ; the fruit of Christ's love from all the world. Stood before the throne ; as worshipers and servants. Clothed with white robes.* White was the color that symbolized victory. *Palms in their hands ; as the sign of rejoicing.* In the feast of Tabernacles, the Jews carried palms in their hands. *And cried ; unceasingly. Salvation ; rather, the glory of salvation, which belongs to God. Redemption is the theme of the song. To God . . . unto the Lamb.* The place of both in redemption is recognized.

What are these which are arrayed in white robes ? and whence came they ?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple : and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more ; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters : and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

II. THE ADORING ANGELS.—11, 12. *All the angels.* Only the redeemed can sing about redemption, but now the angels join in. *The elders ; twenty-four in number, —representatives of Christ's church and people. And the four beasts.* One is lion like symbolizing kingship. One is ox like symbolizing strength. One is man like in face, symbolizing reason. One is eagle like representing aspiration. These are before the throne because they belong to God. *Blessing and glory.* If the angels cannot sing about salvation they are yet a glorious thought of God.

III. THE ENTERED SAVIOUR.—13-17. *What are these . . . and whence.* John has this question in mind but hesitates to ask it. The elders ask it for him. *Sir, thou knowest.* I do not know, but thou dost. *Came out of great tribulation.* Tribulation comes from a Latin word meaning threshing machine. These redeemed ones have come out of trials of life purified, as the grain comes out of the threshing machine without the useless chaff. *Washed their robes.* Life is likened to the robes they wear. Their life, like robes lacking in whiteness, were purified by