

## First Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

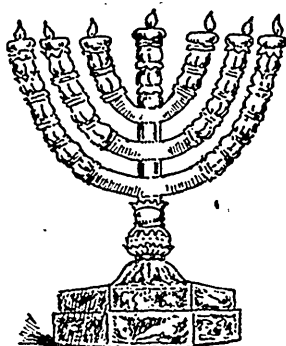
**LESSON FOREWORD**—To-day we study once more the mind of John as seen in his writings. John is now a very old man. During the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian, John, who had been living in Ephesus, was exiled to the island of Patmos where he saw the vision of which our lesson forms a part.

## Lesson XI.

## JOHN ON THE ISLE OF PATMOS

March 14, 1920

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Rev. 1 : 4-18.



GOLDEN CANDLESTICK

4 John to the seven churches which are in A'sia : Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne ;

5 And from Je'sus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead,

and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father ; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. A'men.

7 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. Even so, A'men.

8 I am Al'pha and Omeg'a, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and to-day, yea and forever.—Heb. 13: 8 (Rev. Ver.).

**SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC**—The Glorified Christ the Centre of The Revelation.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. JOHN'S GREETING TO THE CHURCHES.**—4-8. *Seven churches.* Seven is the perfect number, and these seven churches are taken as representative of the whole church. *In Asia ;* in the province of Asia, of which Ephesus was the capital. John would know this region. *Which is . . . is to come ;* God as an eternal and everlasting being. *Seven spirits.* The operation of the spirit is represented as sevenfold. *Jesus Christ . . . faithful witness . . . first begotten of the dead . . . prince of the king.* Christ, by his life, revealed faithfully the father. By his death and resurrection he became the fruits of them that sleep. By his ascension he has become supreme over all. *Made us kings and priests.* Believers

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Je'sus Christ, was in the isle that is called Pat'mos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Je'sus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Al'pha and Omeg'a, the first and the last : and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in A'sia : unto Eph'esus, and unto Smy'r'na, and unto Per'gamos, and unto Thyat'i'ra, and unto Sar'dis, and unto Philadel'phin, and unto Laodice'a.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks ;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow ; and his eyes were as a flame of fire ;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace ; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars : and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword : and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me. Fear not : I am the first and the last :

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead ; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen ; and have the keys of hell and of death.

share in Christ's glory as kings. As priests, they exercise his intercessory and sympathetic ministry among men. *Behold, he cometh.* Remember this book is written to encourage persecuted believers. How the thought of a returning Christ would encourage spirits. *Which pierced him.* His crucifiers are to behold his glory. *Alpha and Omega ;* the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Christ is all containing, all controlling, all completing.

**II. JOHN'S VISION OF CHRIST.**—9-18. *I John ;* John exiled to Patmos in the Aegean where he toiled in the stone quarries. *In the kingdom and patience.* John believes in the kingdom, but patience is needed for its realization. *In the*