

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday School. Lesson XI. March 14, 1920. John on the Isle of Patmos. Print 1; 4-18.

COMMENTARY—I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ (vs. 1-3). The Revelation is an unfolding or a revealing of the future that God gave to His Son Jesus Christ, who gave it by an angel to John, the apostle. John made a faithful record of what was revealed to him, as being the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. A blessing is pronounced upon those who shall read or hear the words written and shall observe them.

II. John's introductory words (vs. 4-8). 4. To the seven churches which are in Asia—The message from Jesus is addressed definitely to the seven churches of Asia. By Asia is meant the extreme western part of Asia Minor governed by a Roman procurator. The names of the seven churches are given in v. 11. Grace, and peace—Paul used a similar form of greeting in the Epistles which he wrote to seven different churches. From him—From Jehovah, i. e., God to come. Eternity of existence is here declared. He now exists, he existed in the past and he will exist forever. Seven spirits—This term must certainly mean the Holy Ghost, as it stands between the names of the Father, the Son and the Spirit. The faithful witness—The testimony of Jesus is true and faithful. No part of it is to be taken away. The first-born of the dead—The firstborn of the dead.—R. V. It is true that Lazarus and others were raised from the dead, but they were raised to die again; Jesus arose from the dead to live forevermore. Washed us from our sins—This implies both that he made an atonement for our sins and that the efficacy of the atonement had been realized by individual believers in the washing away of personal sins in the blood of Christ. Made us kings and priests—Christ has made his followers a kingdom to be priests unto God.

7. Behold—The raptured vision of the sacred writer saw the coming of the Lord so clearly that it seemed all but realized. With clouds—See Acts 1: 9-11. Every eye shall see him—His coming will be visible to every member of the race. They also which pierced him—Not only the righteous shall see him, but also those who would not believe in him, and also those who were responsible for putting him to death. Shall wail because of him—It is he that tells us that all tribes of the earth must mourn, either now for the woe our sins caused him, or then for the woe they will cause us.—Cam. Bib. 8. I am—The Lord God is now speaking. Alpha and Omega—These are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, indicating "the beginning and the ending."

III. A vision of Jesus (vs. 9-20). 9. I John—The writer identifies himself. There is no doubt about his being the Apostle John. Companion in tribulation—He was suffering persecution in common with his fellow Christians. In the kingdom and patience of Jesus—John and those whom he was addressing were not only companions in tribulation, but also companions in Christ's kingdom, enjoying all the benefits of citizenship therein. They were also companions in suffering with patience whatever of distress there might be in consequence of their relation to the Son of God on the island in the Aegean Sea, not far from the western coast of Greece. It is about seven miles in length and about a mile wide. 10. I was in the Spirit—John was in a state of spiritual rapture. The Lord's Day—The day on which Christ rose. 11. Write in a book—For a permanent record and the last letters of the seven churches to be named. Unto Ephesus—This and other places mentioned are in the western part of Asia Minor. 12. Turned to see the person whose voice was heard. Seven golden candlesticks—These were seven separate lampstands, made of gold, and hence, precious. 13. Like unto the Son of man—Like unto a son of man.—R. V. This was Jesus Himself. Garment, down to the foot—A garment representative of priestly dignity. Golden girdle—This girdle was not worn about the waist, but over the breast, holding together the folds of the garment. 14. White like wool—White is a symbol of purity. The description of the physical appearance of Christ here given is in harmony with that of the transfiguration. His eyes were as a flame of fire—Here was a supernatural brilliancy, indicating his clearness of vision. 15. Fine brass—burned in a furnace.—The brass here is not the metal, but as the sound of many waters.—Nothing could be a more sublime description of majesty and authority than to compare the voice of a speaker with the roar of the ocean.—Barnes. 16. In his right hand seven stars—The stars may represent the angels or ministers of the seven churches. Out of his mouth, etc.—The two-edged sword fittingly represents the divine word. Jesus' words were of divine authority. 17. I fell at his feet as dead—John was overcome by the brightness and glory of Christ's person and by the sound of His voice, which was like "the sound of many waters." He right hand—The right hand is indicative of power and authority, but when Christ laid His right hand upon John, he expressed His love for him and thus encouraged him in his time of need. I am the first and the last—This expression denotes Christ's eternity of existence. 18. Liveth. We dead—He assures His servants that the doctrine which He had been preaching was true. Christ used this

expression and the one before it and the one after it in describing Himself. Alive for evermore—Jesus was not to suffer death again. Have the keys of hell and of death—In rising from the dead He conquered death and unlocked the abode of the dead. The dead shall rise again. 19, 20. The apostle here received his commission. He is to record what he then saw regarding his own times and what should be in the future. Scholars differ in their views regarding the angel set the churches on fire. Some hold the view that they are the guardian angels of the several churches. Others that they are the personified spirits of the churches. A third view is that they represent the pastors of the several churches. The last view seems reasonable.

Questions.—Who wrote the Book of Revelation? Under what circumstances was it written? What blessing is pronounced in the third verse? To whom were the messages sent? What is meant by the expression, "I am Alpha and Omega"? Describe the appearance of Christ as he appeared to John. What effect had his appearance upon the apostle? What do the seven stars and the seven candlesticks represent?

PRACTICAL SERVEY. Topic. The glorified Christ the centre of the Revelation.

I. Patmos. II. The banished apostle.

III. The glorified Jesus revealed.

I. Patmos, Patmos, the scene of John's banishment, a rocky and barren island about twenty-five miles in circumference, situated near the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean sea. It was used as a place of banishment by the Roman Emperors. The cave which is the traditional scene of the Revelation is still shown. A celebrated Greek monastery, built above it. The Book of Revelation has been the subject of much controversy, but the abounding external and internal evidences remove any doubt of its authenticity of canonicity. It asserts itself to have been written by John too plainly to be understood of any other than the apostle. The testimony of the early church seems to fix the date A. D. 94 or 95. Varied methods of interpretation have been applied to its contents, the kernel of which is however best expressed by the name it gives itself, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"—the revelation, manifesting, appearing of Jesus Christ. It discloses Christ in his Person, offices, and future administrations, when he shall come from heaven (Acts 1: 11). There are two schools of interpreters, the historical and futurist. The former holds that all or nearly all of the prophecies of the book in the history of the Jewish race or of pagan Rome; the latter, that most of the book refers to events yet future, and which precede, accompany or follow the second advent.

II. The banished apostle. It is unanimously agreed that John was banished to Patmos. Tradition says that he was banished after ineffectual attempts had been made to end his life by immersion in boiling oil. The general testimony of ancient authors places it in the latter part of the reign of Domitian, at the date assigned for the Revelation. He was banished to Patmos for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. The Master himself declared that the world hated him because of his testimony that "the works thereof are evil." The revelator saw under the altar the souls of those beheaded "for the testimony of Jesus." Evil resents reproof and vents its antagonism on the witness. A pronounced Jew, the Jew, which is a living rebuke to wrong doing, will awaken antagonism. III. The glorified Jesus revealed. The lesson centres in the sublime vision of the glorified Christ given to the veiled. It affords us the first view of him since his ascension. The description is overwhelmingly magnificent. One is not surprised that the enraptured seer was overpowered with the glory and "fell at his feet as dead." It was too bright for mortal vision. Only the glorified saints will enable men to contemplate it. Glory of person corresponds to the glory of character. Royalty and majesty combine with priestliness in the disclosure. In the lesson he is revealed as Judge of the churches and of the world in the fuller revelation, and Priest invested with royal prerogatives. W. H. C.

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STALKING SEALS. How Mammals Are Hunted in Northern Canada. The seal sun naps on the Arctic ice are continually disturbed by his dreams of his enemy, the polar bear, or at least that seems a reasonable way of interpreting his behavior, for after sleeping for thirty seconds or perhaps a minute, he will wake up, raise his head as high as he conveniently can, which is fourteen or sixteen inches, and make a complete survey of the horizon. If nothing suspicious is seen, this survey takes about ten seconds, after which he drops his head on the ice again and sleeps a minute more.

Sometimes the ice is a little rough in his vicinity and you can crawl up and shoot him from behind cover, but more frequently he has chosen a level expanse where no concealment is possible, and you must, therefore, approach him realizing that he is going to see you before you are near enough to shoot. No mammal that is known has eyesight which at all compares with that of a man. A wolf can see you under favorable conditions a little more than half a mile away; a caribou at a little more than a quarter of a mile, and a seal commonly at about three hundred yards, if you are standing up, or one hundred and fifty yards if you are lying down. You can talk unconcern-

Women of Canada Testify



Dear, Ont.—"I am more than pleased with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I was run-down and so nervous that I could not even stay in the house alone in the day-time and tried every kind of medicine I heard of but got no result. One of my friends advised me to take 'Favorite Prescription,' and that it would cure me, and it did. After taking four bottles I felt like a new woman."

and it is also the very best medicine for a woman bringing up a family. I will recommend 'Favorite Prescription' to any one suffering like I did.—MRS. JOSEPH BRAUDRY, R. E. 2.

WEEK AND NERVOUS Tillsburg, Ont.—"I found Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription an excellent medicine for the ailments of women. I had become very weak and nervous. I was just miserable when I began taking the 'Favorite Prescription' and it proved most beneficial. It so completely restored me to health that I have never had any return of this ailment. I do advise the use of 'Favorite Prescription' by women who suffer with womanly troubles."—MRS. GEO. WALKER, P. O. Box 490.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is made of lady's slipper root, black cohosh root, unicorn root, blue cohosh root and Oregon grape root. Dr. Pierce knew, when he first made this standard medicine, that whiskey and morphine were injurious, and so he has always kept them out of his remedies. Women who take this standard remedy know that in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription they are getting a safe woman's tonic so good that druggists everywhere sell it, in liquid or tablet form.

edly toward a seal until less than four hundred yards away, after which you begin a careful approach. You crawl ahead on all fours while he sleeps and you lie flat and motionless while he is awake. It might seem that something could be gained by wearing white clothing to match the snow, but this is the reverse of wisdom, for the seal's one enemy that he fears is a polar bear, and the polar bear is white. If a seal sees anything that is suspicious and white he takes discretion to be the better part of valor, and dives promptly into his hole. If the suspicious object is black, he assumes that it is probably another seal that has come out of another hole to attack him, and he therefore, the task of the hunter to stimulate a seal. When the seal first sees you his actions are unmistakable. He turns so as to face you directly; he raises his head a trifle higher than before, and instead of bending his neck to survey the complete horizon he looks at you steadily and intently. You must be careful that his first view of you shall be a broadside view, for white clothing resembles a seal most in that position. It is best to lie still with one's head on the ice for about half a minute; but the seal knows the habits of his own kind as well as the careful hunter knows them, and if you were to lie motionless for more than a minute at a time he would strongly suspect that you were not a seal, and in two minutes he would probably be convinced that he was not alone in the water. It is necessary, therefore, after about half a minute of quiescence, to raise your head seal fashion twelve or fifteen inches above the ice, keep it there about eight or ten seconds, and drop it on the ice again. By the time this has been repeated three or four times the seal is commonly convinced that you are a seal, and will begin again to take his interrupted naps.

If he is more suspicious than ordinary it may be possible to move your feet a little as well. Like many other animals, a seal is commonly lousy and scratches frequently with his hind flippers. If a man lying flat flexes his legs from the knee the motion is similar to that of a seal scratching with his hind flippers. These tactics nearly always succeed. He turns a tactical seal, and when once his regular naps are resumed you move ahead snake-wise while he sleeps and play seal whenever he is awake, watching you.

Approaching a seal in this fashion is tedious at best, for it takes an hour and a half or two hours to get within fifty to seventy-five yards.

ELEPHANTS OF SIAM And Their Wonderful Work in Lumbering. The elephants are our chief stand-by in Siam, and without them teak could not be worked as it grows in such inaccessible places that no logging machine could be brought near the trees, says Abby Beatrice Prather, in Asia Magazine. Elephants can climb like cats. It is marvellous to see them pick their way up and down steep slopes, but sometimes they lose their foothold. One of our elephants fell down a steep river bank last year, hit her head against a rock and broke her neck. The work of the elephants consists of climbing up to the fallen trees and pushing or rolling them down hill to a spot where it is level enough for dragging chains to be attached. Then they drag the logs down to the nearest floating creek, often six or seven miles away. An elephant can handle from fifty to seventy logs per season, which lasts from about the first of June till the end of February. Then it becomes too hot for them to work, and they go into rest camps until the next rains. The elephants do their

best work in floating streams, working the timber with the current, releasing logs from jams and rolling the stranded logs back into the water. The elephant drivers have a special "elephant" language which the animals understand—a special elephant vocabulary with such terms as "Push sideways," "Roll," "Pull out," "Stop," "Lift your chin." It is very interesting and exciting to watch the elephants at work in high water. They are magnificent swimmers. When they swim from bank to bank, herding the logs that require their special attention, you see nothing of them, except the tips of their trunks through which they breathe, and the mahouts, or drivers, who are generally in water up to their waists. If a big attack or jam breaks suddenly when elephants are working they know the danger of being overtaken. They trumpet and clear off to either bank or swim down stream as fast as they can go. I once saw an elephant working at the head of a jam, sit off a rock and get swept under the stack. We all believed that he was a goner, but he cry now and then we were surprised to see his trunk come up through the logs, such in a long breath and disappear. The trunk would reappear each time further down stream. He finally emerged at the foot of the jam, very much blown, but otherwise none the worse for his accident. But he would not go near a pile of timber in high water for a year afterwards. This particular work is called "hunding."

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Pale, Wan Cheeks A Sign of Anaemia To Have Good Color and Health The Blood Must Be Kept Red and Pure. Many women who had good color and bright eyes in their girlhood grow pale and colorless and lose much of their charm when they become wives and mothers. Why is it? When the fading color in the cheeks and lips is accompanied by a loss of brightness in the eyes and an increasing heaviness in the step and a tendency to tire easily, the cause is to be sought in the state of the blood. Many causes may contribute to the condition of the blood known as anaemia. Care of the home, overwork, lack of outdoor exercise, insufficient rest and sleep, improper diet, are a few of them. The important thing is to restore the blood, to build it up so that the color will return to the cheeks and lips, brightness to the eyes, and lightness to the step. To do this, nothing can equal Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They begin at once to increase the red corpuscles in the blood, and this new blood carries strength and health to every part of the body. The appetite improves, digestion becomes perfect, and energy and ambition return. Proof is given in the statement of Mrs. Alex. Archibald, Cornwall, Ont., who says: "Two years ago my health began to fall. I was suffering from headaches, pains in the back and sides, and a constant tired out feeling. I had used a lot of medicine, but instead of it helping me I seemed to be growing weaker. My friends urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and while I felt disheartened at my experience with other medicines, I decided to do so. To my great joy I soon found the pills were helping me, and their continued use for a time fully restored my health if I did not give my experience with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, in the hope that it may point the way to health to some other poor sufferer." Dr. Williams' Pink Pills can be obtained through any medicine dealer, or may be had by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

YOUR EARS BETRAY YOU

The science of identification is a fascinating one, says London Tit-Bits. Everybody is familiar with the finger print method. Infallibility is claimed for this by the police, but there are some experts who refuse to believe that every one of the thousands of millions of people who inhabit the world has a different design on the under side of his ear thumb. Is it possible that some other system will be discovered? There is the eye, for instance. Here we have one of the most wonderful mechanisms known to man. All eyes differ, and in addition to that there is what we might call the setting. There are hazels with deep sockets, blues with prominent brows, browns with soft overhanging skin, and so on. Then there is the index of expression—surely a source of inexhaustible variety. Who does not know the cold, steele glare of the man without a soul, or the flashing eyes which speak of ardor, love, passion. Between those extremes there are countless shades. A police officer declared to the writer that it is possible that scientists will one day discover a means of identification by the eyes. "But the camera," he adds, "holds out most hope. All that is wanted is a system of photographing the numberless details which go to make up the human eye. Here is a vast field for inventors. A fortune awaits the successful man."

Then there is the ear, a less romantic portion of the anatomy, but equally full of possibilities. In fact, aurals idiosyncrasies are sometimes so pronounced as to strike the most unobservant among us. "We cannot yet rely implicitly on ears as a means of recognition," declares a Scotland Yard official, "but all the same, they frequently lead to detection. I was on duty in the city some time ago when I saw a man approaching with ears of a very curious formation. They spread like semaphore, and the lobes, or fleshy parts, were very noticeable. I instantly recalled that the person suspected of a big diamond robbery had an exactly similar peculiarity. "I went up to him and tapped him on the shoulder. 'You are' I said, mentioning his name. He was taken by surprise and muttered something to the effect that I was mistaken. 'I am not,' I said, 'Please come with me to the station.' "He made no demur. We quickly applied the finger-print test, and very soon he was safely in prison for a stay of five years. "The ear is also a common guide for the public. They cannot divine what sort of print a man's thumb will make, but they generally notice anything out of the ordinary about his

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ears. More than once they have been able to give us information of that kind which has led to arrests. It will be remembered that in the famous Slingsby baby case Justice Bargarve Deane, who had heard the evidence of Sir George Frampton, the famous sculptor, as to the extraordinary resemblance between Mrs. Slingsby's ear and that of the boy, found that the baby was that of Commander and Mrs. Slingsby. But the court of appeal and the house of lords upset the verdict. Our ears may not yet be an infallible test of our identity; but they have already reached the stage of being a tell-tale. It remains only for some Bertillon to find means of placing them on a card index, and the criminal will be definitely undone.

SLIGHTLY MIXED. Lady (to soldiers widow): "So your dear little boy was born after your husband's death?" Soldier's Widow: "Oh, yes; he's what they call a preposterous child."

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MARKET REPORTS TORONTO MARKET

Table with columns for Dairy Products, Eggs, Poultry, and various meats and vegetables. Includes items like Butter, Cream, Eggs, Chickens, etc.

Table for MEATS-WHOLESALE and SUGAR MARKET. Lists prices for Beef, Pork, Mutton, and various types of sugar.

OTHER MARKETS

Table for WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE. Shows fluctuations in grain prices, including wheat, barley, and flax.

DREAMS SHOW DESIRE.

Those of Children Are Frank While Adults Are Camouflaged. A London physician has made written records of dreams of over five thousand school children between the ages of eight and sixteen years, and finds that they support the belief that a dream is merely the expression of some desire, but changed in expression by one's subconsciousness in order that it may not awaken the sleeper. Frequently sub-consciousness itself is caught napping, and the sleeper awakens in a fright and says that he has suffered from a nightmare.

Again the subconscious mind does its work so cleverly that the wish or desire of the sleeper is often disguised so that an expert in the study of dreams has difficulty in uncovering the theme, but the London physician found that the dreams of children are fairly frank, while those of students from 18 to 22 years were so thoroughly camouflaged that he abandoned their study. The eating element dominated in children between the ages of eight and 14, being more common with the children of the poorer classes than with those well-to-do. It appeared, too, that an appreciable increase in these dreams was noted toward Christmas. What seemed unusual was that dreams in which fear was predominant was more common among boys than among girls, while with both sexes the fear of an old man was most common. The fear of animals was also common, but the type of animals differed with the sex of the dreamers, as the boys were in fear of lions, tigers and bulls, while the girls were terrorized by dogs, mice and snakes. The war had great effect upon the dreams of boys, but little upon the dreams of girls, the war dreams being rare with either sex under the age of ten. As with adults the dreams were frankly egotistic. It appeared, too, that from the age of ten there came a marked falling off in dreams in which eating figured, and an increase in those which fear dominated. The result of this careful investigation supports the modern theory of dreams in which theory science is now greatly interested, especially that branch of it which concerns itself with mental troubles. On the other hand, it is never too early to mend, either.

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