

Golden Text—I am he that liveth, and was dead ; and, behold, I am alive for evermore.—
Revelation 1 : 18.



twoedged 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.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter ;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches : and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Jesus had gone back into heaven, the disciples at once commenced to preach the gospel. Beginning at Jerusalem, this message soon spread north and west into Asia, where there were now seven large churches.

Some years after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, a great persecution arose against the churches which had been started by the disciples. The apostle John, now an old man, was taken prisoner by the Roman rulers and banished to the island of Patmos. During the long, lonely days in Patmos, John had much time to think of the time when, as a young man, he had lived and talked with Jesus face to face.

One Sabbath, as he was praying among the rocks beside the sea, he saw a wonderful vision. In his vision the old apostle heard a

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 Alpha and Omega, 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 Smyr'na, and unto Per'gamos, and unto Thyat'i'ra, and unto Sar'dis, and unto Philadel'phia, 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

voice speaking behind him, as if through a trumpet, saying, "I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia." When John turned around to see who was speaking, he saw seven golden candlesticks, and standing in their midst One whom he knew to be the Saviour Himself.

So glorious was the sight of Jesus, as He now appeared in all His heavenly majesty and splendor, that John could hardly find words to describe Him. Writing about it afterwards, he said, "His head and His hair were like wool, as white as snow, while His eyes were as a flame of fire. He was dressed in a cloak reaching to the ground, around which was fastened a golden girdle. His