

## In the Sky all Day.

BY SUSAN COOLIDGE.

THE stars are in the sky all day,  
Each linked coil of the Milky Way,  
And every planet that we know,  
Behind the sun are circling slow;  
They sweep, they climb with stately tread,  
Venus the fair and Mars the red;  
Saturn engirdled with clear light,  
Or Jupiter with moons of white,  
Each knows his path and keeps due tryst,  
Not even the smallest star is missed  
From those wide fields of deeper sky  
Which gleam and flash mysteriously,  
As if God's outstretched finger must  
Have sown them thick with diamond dust;  
There are they all day long, but we,  
Sun-blinded, have no eyes to see.

The stars are in the sky all day,  
But when the sun has gone away,  
And hovering shadows cool the west,  
And call the sleepy bird to rest,  
And heaven grows softly dim and dun—  
Into its darkness one by one  
Steal forth those starry shapes all fair—  
We say steal forth, but they were there!  
There all day long, unseen, unguessed,  
Climbing the sky from east to west.  
The angels saw them where they hid,  
And so, perhaps, the eagles did,  
For they can face the sharp sun-ray,  
Nor wink, nor need to look away,  
But we, blind mortals gazed from far,  
And did not see a single star.

I wonder if the world is full  
Of other secrets beautiful,  
As little guessed, as hard to see  
As this sweet starry mystery?  
Do angels veil themselves, in space,  
And make the sun their hiding place?  
Do white wings flash as spirits go,  
On heavenly errands to and fro,  
While we, down-looking, never guess  
How near our lives they crowd and press?  
If so, at life's set we may see  
Into the dark steal noiselessly  
Sweet faces that we used to know,  
Dear eyes like stars they softly glow,  
Dear hands stretched out to point the way—  
And deem the night more fair than day.

## LESSON NOTES.

## FOURTH QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A.D. 96.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 12.

## THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN.

Rev. 7. 9-17.

Commit vs. 13-15.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.—Rev. 7. 15.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

The saints in heaven are countless in number, pure in character, saved by the blood of Jesus, serving God night and day, boundless in joy and blessing.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. Rev. 7. 1-17. Tu. Rev. 8. 1-13. W. Rev. 9. 1-21. Th. Rev. 13. 1-18. F. Rev. 14. 1-20. Sa. 2 Cor. 4. 1-18. Su. Psalm 23. 1-6.

TIME.—See Lesson 9.

INTRODUCTION.—Six of the seals of the book referred to in our last lesson were opened. But the tumult and conflict was so great, and the tribulations so great, that God's people might be discouraged. Therefore, before the description continues, the heavens are opened again, and it is seen that in reality great numbers are saved, and their rewards far out-balance their earthly sufferings.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—And lo, a great multitude.—The number of the saved will not be few, but countless. *Stand before the throne*—In the very centre of heaven's blessings. *Clothed with white robes*—Emblems of purity, of festivity, and joy. *Palms in their hands*—Marks of joy, and of victory. 11. *Elders, four beasts*—See last lesson. *Fell before the throne*—In the attitude of reverence and worship. Many Sunday-school scholars can learn a lesson from these angels. 13. *And one of the elders answered*—The questioning look of John. 15. *Serve him day and night in his temple*—All they do is in his service, and is sacred because done for him. *Shall dwell among them*—"Shall spread his tabernacle over them," for protection, and abiding with them. 16. *Neither shall the*

sun light on them.—The fierce Eastern sun withered the plants, and caused sun-strokes. In this view it was the type of strong temptation that would wither their pious feelings.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The reason for this vision.—The number of the saved.—Worship.—White robes.—The way to purity, to heaven.—The blessings of the heavenly life.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What was the subject of our last lesson? What took place between that lesson and this? Why does this revelation of heaven come in among the terrible troubles pictured in this book?

## SUBJECT: THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN.

I. THE NUMBER OF THE SAINTS (v. 9).—How many people did John see in heaven? Does this show that a great many will be saved? From what nations, etc., did they come? How can we help this to come soon to pass? How were the remainder clothed? What do their white robes symbolize? What is represented by the palms in their hands?

II. THE CHORUS OF SAINTS AND ANGELS (vs. 10-12).—What were these saints doing? What reasons had they for praising God? Who joined in their song? What attitude did they take? Why? What does this teach us about posture in worship? What was the song they all sang together?

III. HOW THEY CAME TO HEAVEN (vs. 13-14).—What did one of the elders say to John? His answer? What did the elder then say? How were the robes of the saints made white? How could this be? What part did their tribulation have in making them what they were? (Deut. 8. 2; James 1. 2-4; 1 Pet. 1. 7; Heb. 12. 11.)

IV. THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE SAINTS (15-17).—What seven blessings do you find in these verses? Which of these do you most desire? Can you have them in any other way than they were obtained by these saints?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Heaven is shown to us (1) that we may see how we ought to live here; (2) that we may take courage amid the trials of life; (3) that men may be attracted to its principles.
2. Great multitudes will be saved.
3. Those who are saved are pure in heart.
4. All our lives, in every part, should be a hymn of praise to God.
5. The only way to purity and heaven is through the atoning love of Jesus.
6. The blessings of heaven are great, and many, and glorious.

## REVIEW EXERCISE.

8. Whom did John see in heaven? *Ans.* An innumerable multitude of people who had lived in this world. 9. What were they doing? *Ans.* In white robes, and with palms in their hands, they praised and served the Lord. 10. How did they come there? *Ans.* (Repeat the last part of v. 14.) 11. What is said of their blessedness and joy? *Ans.* (Repeat vs. 15-17.)

A.D. 96.] LESSON XII. [Dec. 19.

## THE GREAT INVITATION.

Rev. 22. 3-21

Commit vs. 16, 17.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.—Rev. 22. 21.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

The whole are invited to enter the heavenly city.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. Rev. 16. 1-21. Tu. Rev. 17. 1-18. W. Rev. 18. 1-24. Th. Rev. 19. 1-21. F. Rev. 20 1-15. Sa. Rev. 21 1-27. Su. Rev. 22. 1-21.

TIME, etc., of Book of Revelation.—See Lesson 9.

INTRODUCTION.—The great part of the Book of Revelation is passed over in these lessons for want of space. The history of the Church, in its state of conflict and trial, at last draws to a close; all enemies are conquered; the new day dawns; the gospel has triumphed, and heaven is won. It remains for us in this lesson, in the presence of this vision, to consider the great invitation to the whole world.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—8. *Fell down to worship*—Perhaps thinking that the angel was Christ himself. He was full of reverence, and awe, and praise. 10. *Seal not*—Let all see what is written for their comfort and help. *The time is at hand*—When these prophecies shall begin to be fulfilled. 11. *He that is unjust, etc.*—(1) Implying that those who change must do it very quickly, or it would soon be too late. (2) This refers also to the fact that our characters, and with them our destiny, are becoming more fixed, and after a time there never will be a change. 12. *I come quickly*—There will be no delay. He will quickly begin to do in fact what is here shown in vision. To each of us individually he comes quickly in various providences, and at death. 13. *Alpha and Omega*—A and O, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. 14. *The city*—Described in chaps. 21, 22. 15. *Without are dogs*—Fierce, cruel, sensual, undisciplined men, like oriental dogs. 16. *Root*—Root, shoot, or sprout. 17. *The bride*—The Church, God's people.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The description of the city of God.—V. 11.—The blessings of those who obey.—The ultimate character and companions of those who refuse.—Dogs.—The bright and morning star.—The Gospel invitation.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How much of the Book of Revelation do we pass over? Why? To what stage in the world's history does it bring us?

## SUBJECT: THE GOSPEL INVITATION.

I. THE REASONS FOR ACCEPTING THE INVITATION (vs. 8-19).—What did John do when he saw the city of God? (v. 8.) Why did he desire to worship the angel? Why did the angel forbid him? Why should he not seal up this book?

FIRST REASON.—What is meant by "the time is at hand?" How is this a reason for accepting the invitation?

SECOND REASON.—What is the meaning of v. 11? In what way do our characters and destiny become fixed? What warning and what comfort in this fact?

THIRD REASON.—Does Jesus always reward his disciples? According to what principle? What are the works here spoken of? (John 6. 29; Matt. 25. 31-46.)

FOURTH REASON.—Who sends the invitation? (v. 13.) Why is he described in this way? What is he called in v. 16? Meaning of "Root of David?" How is he like the bright morning star? How is this character a reason for accepting the invitation?

FIFTH REASON.—What are the blessings bestowed upon the obedient? (v. 14.) How must they enter the city? How many gates to it? Why so many? What will they find in the city?

SIXTH REASON.—Who are without the city? Who are meant by "dogs?" Why cannot these people enter the city? What would they have to do to enter?

II. THE INVITATION (vs. 17-21).—To what is the invitation? Who give the invitation? In what ways does the Spirit give us this invitation? Who is the bride? (ch. 19. 7, 8; 21. 9.) In what ways should the Church give this invitation? Can people come even if Christians do not invite them? Who can come? Are any excluded? Do all accept? Why not? If you have not accepted, can you give the reasons why?

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The time is short; we should do quickly and earnestly what we have to do.
2. We are continually becoming fixed in our characters and destiny, and a time will come when it will be too late to change.
3. God rewards every person according to his works, including his thoughts, feelings, faith, love, words, as well as outward deeds.
4. The joys of the obedient are beyond imagination to conceive.
5. If any do not have them, it is because they will not be such that God can give these joys to them. Only their own characters and deeds can shut any out of heaven.
6. God's invitations are as large and free as his love. He desires every one to come and be saved.

## REVIEW EXERCISE.

12. What is the Gospel invitation? *Ans.* (Repeat v. 17.) 13. What are the reasons why we should accept this invitation? *Ans.* (1) The time is short; (2) character is becoming fixed; (3) the glory and power of him who sends the invitation; (4) God rewards us according to our works; (5) he invites to infinite blessings; (6) he would draw us away from sin and misery.

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