

LESSON 36

NEW CHURCH DAY—THE LORD IS KING

Revelation 4:1-11, 19:11-21

**The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns,
whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages.**

True Christian Religion 791

The disciple John

While the Lord was on earth He chose 12 men to help Him with His work. They were called disciples.

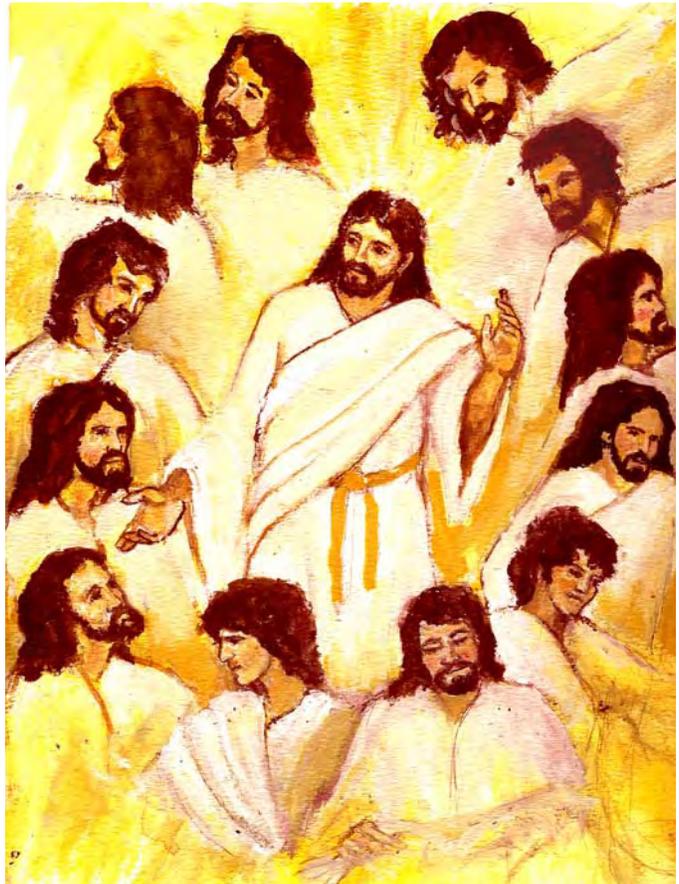
Do you remember the names of the Lord's disciples?

Some of the disciples are mentioned very little, but a few are spoken of often. The disciple John is presented as the disciple who especially loved the Lord, and is referred to as the “beloved disciple”. It was John who sat next to the Lord at the Last Supper, just before the Lord was crucified, and laid his head on Jesus’ breast.

After His crucifixion the Lord returned and met with His disciples. He spoke with them about many things. Then the Lord told them they should go out and carry on His work.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

(Mark 16:15&16)



John heard these words and took them to heart. He remained in Jerusalem and became a leader in the early Christian Church.

After a time, the Christians were driven out of Jerusalem by the Jewish leaders. So John went to Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) and began to spread the good news

about the Christian religion among the people in towns and cities there. However, the Roman Emperor feared the strength the Christians were developing, and decreed that any Christian who did not stop worshipping Jesus Christ would be banished from all Roman lands.

John on the Isle of Patmos

John was faithful to the Word of the Lord and refused to obey this decree, so he was sent to Patmos, a small and remote island in the Aegean Sea. The story is often told that John was sent to the island of Patmos because of this refusal. From the Heavenly Doctrine we know the Lord also led him there for a special purpose.



After the four Gospels were given by the Lord, another part of the Word was going to be needed to complete the New Testament. And so the Lord gave John the very special gift of seeing into the spiritual world where he saw visions of incredible places, beasts, people and events. Some of these visions were beautiful and good and some were ugly and evil. Each one of these visions contains a secret message about the second coming of the Lord and a new revelation for the New Church.

Much later in time, the Lord allowed Emanuel Swedenborg to see things in the spiritual world, too. However, he was told their meaning, while John could only write down an account of what he saw and heard.

Talk about visions from the Book of Revelation that you have heard or talked about before.

The Lord on His Throne

In one of the visions recorded in the Book of Revelation John saw the Lord sitting on a throne in a Hall of Judgment. It was a most wonderful room and the throne was so beautiful it could hardly be described. It was surrounded by a rainbow created of many shades of green, giving it the feeling of life. The Lord's face shone like the sun.

Around the throne were 24 elders, also on thrones with crowns on their heads, and four living creatures giving praise to Him who sat on the throne. Every time the beasts gave praise the twenty-four elders would cast their crowns before the throne saying,

**“You are worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;
For you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”**
(Revelation 4:11)



The Book of Life

In the Lord's hand was a scroll sealed with seven seals. This scroll was the book of life and there was no person who could open this book.

What do you think the book of life might contain? Why couldn't anyone open it?

Everyone has a book of life which contains a record of the good and evil actions, thoughts and feelings of their life on earth. The Lord could open the book because He sees and knows everything about everyone who has ever lived. If necessary the Lord will even show us what is stored in our book of life when we reach the other world. But, no person on earth can see deeply into the book of another person's life. While on earth, only a person's actions can be judged. However, in the next life, our thoughts and feelings—the reasons behind a person's actions—are judged. How we think and feel on the inside determines whether our spiritual home will be in heaven or in hell.

As an earthly king determines justice for his kingdom, the Lord provides justice as people enter the spiritual world. As John continued to watch what he was being shown in the spiritual world, the Lamb of God—the Lord—opened the seven seals of the scroll. Amazing visions appeared as each seal was broken. Each one showed how the Lord would separate people in the other world who loved Him and obeyed His commandments from those who were evil and chose to do evil things. When the final seal was broken, the good could be saved and the evil were judged. Terrible things happened to them because they could not stand to be near goodness. The loves they had chosen while in the world cut them off from heaven and heavenly joy.

The Lord on the White Horse

After this judgment in the spiritual world was finished, John looked up into heaven and saw another vision. The Lord was sitting on a white horse and an army of angels was following Him on white horses. John knew it was the Lord because on His clothing and on His thigh were written the words,

“King of Kings, and Lord of Lords”.

(Revelation 19:16)



An enormous battle took place with the Lord and His angel army conquering evil kings, beasts and a dragon. Perhaps you have seen a movie with a king leading his army into battle. It can be a stirring sight if the king is fighting for justice and a good cause. How much more awesome it must have been for John to see the Lord and His angels fighting against those who chose evil.

Throughout history kings have fought for their countries and lands. They fight to preserve the laws, to protect their people's freedom and to provide for their needs. A good king wants to assure that all of the people under his care are safe and happy. In the vision John saw the Lord was fighting for people's freedom to choose goodness, for their safety from the hells and for their eternal happiness. This is a battle He will fight continually for everyone, but He will not force people to choose His path.

Choosing the Lord as Our King

What is your book of life? It takes many years of learning and choosing for a person to decide whether to take the path to heaven or to hell. When we are young, we begin to make those choices, but the Lord only holds adults responsible for their choices. Everyone's book of life, every thought and feeling we have is constantly open before Him. As John witnessed, the Lord is the wise King sitting on the throne, the gentle Lamb who opened the seals as well as the mighty warrior leading the angels into battle. He invites us to choose Him as our ruler and to recognize,

**“The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns,
Whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages.”**

(True Christian Religion 791)

ACTIVITIES

LESSON 36: NEW CHURCH DAY – THE LORD IS KING

1. LEARN THE RECITATION

**The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns,
Whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages.**

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2. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

3. JOURNAL ACTIVITY

 Imagine that you are John on the Isle of Patmos. The Lord has opened your spiritual eyes to see amazing visions. You have been told to write down everything you see.

 Write a letter from John to a friend, perhaps another of the disciples. Describe how he might feel about being sent to the Isle of Patmos and having such incredible visions. Tell about one of them.

4. YOUR BOOK OF STORIES – THE LORD AS A KING

- Add a page to the book you are making.
- **Picture:** Draw a picture of the Lord on his throne surrounded by an emerald rainbow.
- **Calligraphy Quote:** “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

5. THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES MOBILE

- Color the pictures of the four creatures and the picture of the Lord on the throne. Cut them out, leaving space around them. Make holes in the tops and pass a string through each. Cross two sticks or branches of roughly the same size. Tie the Lord hanging down from the middle of the branches and each creature hanging from one end.

6. THE NAMES OF THE LORD

- Many different names are given to the Lord in this part of Revelation. Use the word box and references to help you list them all.

7. BRINGING THE LESSON INTO YOUR LIFE – JUNE 19TH

- In the New Church we celebrate June 19th because that is the day that the Lord sent His disciples throughout the spiritual world proclaiming that He had once again triumphed over evil. This was the beginning of a new church – our New Church!
- Tell someone that you know why June 19th is a special day for you.

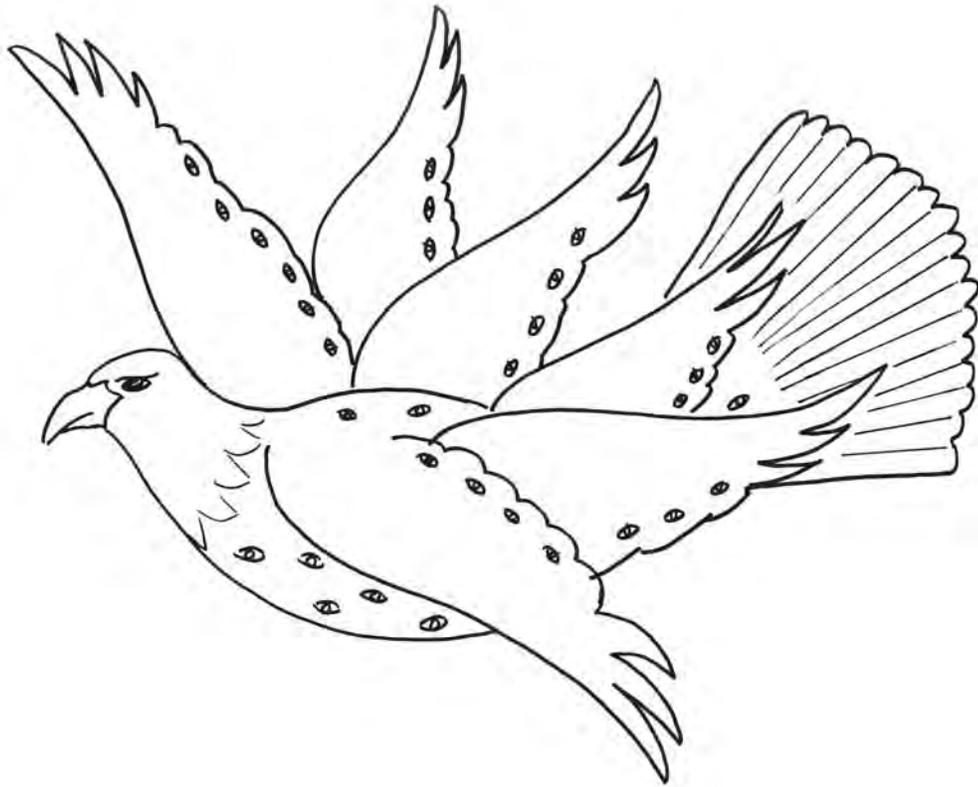
Lesson 36- The Four Living Creatures Around the Throne Mobile



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The Names of the Lord

Lesson 36: New Church Day – The Lord is King

Many names and descriptions are given for the Lord in the book of Revelation. This shows the infinite variety of His loving and wise qualities. Use the word box and, if necessary, the references to list all nine names.

FAITHFUL	LORD	ALMIGHTY
WORD	KING	GOD
KING	GREAT	LORD
GOD	TRUE	ROOT
LION	LORD	DAVID
LAMB	TRIBE	JUDAH
GOD		

1. _____ (Revelation 4:8)
2. _____ of the _____ of _____ (Revelation 5:5)
3. _____ of _____ (Revelation 5:5)
4. _____ (Revelation 5:12)
5. _____ and _____ (Revelation 19:11)
6. _____ of _____ (Revelation 19:13)
7. _____ of _____ (Revelation 19:16)
8. _____ of _____ (Revelation 19:16)
9. _____ (Revelation 19:17)

Which name do you like the best? _____

Why? _____

LESSON 36

NEW CHURCH DAY

Revelation 4:1-11, 19:11-21

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY



- John, one of the Lord's twelve disciples, was sent to the Isle of Patmos. There he saw incredible visions which told of the Lord's second coming in His revelation to the New Church.
 - One vision was of the Lord on a throne surrounded by an emerald rainbow. Twenty-four elders and four living creatures worshiped and adored Him.
 - A scroll with seven seals was only able to be opened by the Lord.
 - Another vision showed the Lord on a white horse leading an army of angels.
- We are invited to worship the Lord as our king and proclaim the truth that "the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns".

THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

The stories in the book of Revelation are both fascinating and disturbing to children. As adults we can tell them that they tell of the coming of the New Church, but it is not until they are older that this begins to make sense. Young people can visualize each scene from the descriptions—they are so vivid. But the spiritual sense is needed to really see how such fantastic visions carry wonderful meaning to adults. To lay the foundation for this later understanding, parents, teachers and ministers can share the simplest ideas from the Heavenly Doctrine concerning the message of each vision.

As our final lesson, we return to the theme of all the lessons in Jacob's Ladder Level Five—the Lord as King. In the readings He is described both on a throne and riding a white horse with the words "King of Kings" on His thigh.

- ♦ A focus of the lesson is the Lord as He sits on the throne in the Hall of Judgment with a scroll in His hand. The scroll was the book of life containing a record of the life of every person who has ever lived. Kings play a part in the judgment of their subjects, the Lord is the only "judge" when it comes to our eternal home. His "judgment" for everyone is to provide a home that will allow for the greatest happiness possible. Children of this age can just begin to see that an evil person would be miserable in heaven, and though the happiness they will experience in hell is not genuine, they will feel as happy as possible.
- ♦ The Lord leading His angel army is a powerful illustration of His continual protection of the human race. Children approaching the teen years need this vision as they begin to take more responsibility for their actions. At times they might feel very

alone as they choose something good when their friends are making a different choice. They need to know that the Lord is always there—fighting along side them.

FROM THE WORD

King of kings is said of the name upon His garments, and Lord of lords of the name upon the thigh, for garment means truth, here Divine Truth, because the Lord is meant, and thigh means good, here the Divine Good of Divine Love.

(Apocalypse Explained 685)

The diadems on the Lord's head and the name which no one but He knows mean the Divine truths in the Word which come from Him, and that no one sees what the Word is like in its spiritual sense except the Lord and those to whom He reveals it. A garment dyed in blood means the natural sense of the Word, that is, the literal sense, to which violence was done.

(True Christian Religion 196)

And I saw the scroll in the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. The reason why the Lord is meant by Him that sat upon the throne, and also by the Lamb which took the book from Him that sat upon the throne, is, because by Him that sat upon the throne is meant the Lord as to Divine good, and by the Lamb the Lord as to Divine truth. And because Divine good judges no one, but Divine truth, it is therefore said here, that the Lamb took the book from Him that sat upon the throne.

The reason why Divine good judges no one, is, because it explores no one: but Divine truth [judges], for this explores every one. But still it must be known that the Lord Himself does not judge any one from the Divine truth that proceeds from Him, for this is united to the Divine good, so that they are one, but that a man-spirit judges himself: for it is the Divine truth received by him that judges him; and because it appears as if the Lord judges him, it is therefore said in the Word that all are judged by the Lord.

(Apocalypse Explained 297)

HELPING YOUR CHILD

Help your child get ready to listen to the story from the Word

- ❖ Ask your child if they can remember any of the visions described in Revelation.
- ❖ Look at the first lesson in the student activity book with your child, and review some of the ideas about the Lord as King. Have them especially note the picture on the front of the book.
- ❖ Discuss with your child what it means to “judge” someone. Ask him or her what the Lord tells us we can judge and what He tells us we should not judge.

(He asks us to judge a person's actions and words, but not their intentions or thoughts and feelings.)

Listen to the CD

- ❖ Remind your child to find *Revelation 4:1* in the Word before turning on the CD. (If you do not have the CD, read the portion from the Word together.)



Encourage your child to follow along with the reading in a copy of the Word.

Ideas to discuss together

- ❖ What did the Lord hold in His right hand as He sat on the throne? Why do you think the Lord is pictured with this object?
- ❖ What other things seem important in the description of the Lord in the Hall of Judgment?
- ❖ What different names was the Lord given in the vision about Him on the white horse? (Faithful and True, a name no-one knew but Himself, Word of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords)
- ❖ Why do you think the Lord was wearing white and rode a white horse? (Answers will vary, but a common one is that white stands for clean things—you can tell your child that white also stands for the truth—it is the truth that fights and judges.)

Work in the Student Activity Book

- ❖ Your child should now read the lesson in the Student Activity Book. You may wish to read with your child at times or take turns.

Activities

1. LEARN THE RECITATION

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2. ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

1. John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos for continuing to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also sent so that the Lord could reveal to him many important visions.
2. The Lord was sitting on the great throne and he was shining like jasper and sardius stones. He was surrounded by an emerald rainbow.
3. The Lord and the armies of heaven battled against the beast and the false prophet.
4. The Lord sent his disciples throughout the spiritual world proclaiming that “The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns, whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages!”
5. The woman clothed with the sun, the holy city descending, Michael battling the great red dragon, etc.

3. JOURNAL ACTIVITY

Before he or she begins writing, have your child spend some time imagining what it would like to be John on Patmos. It may be easiest for your child to describe the vision from this lesson, but he or she might enjoy looking through the book of Revelation and picking another.

4. BOOK OF STORIES

To draw the emerald rainbow, your child will need many shades of green. This can be accomplished through assorted markers, crayons, etc. or cutting various greens from magazines. Mixing varying amounts of green and white paint would also give a good effect.

5. FOUR LIVING CREATURES MOBILE

The materials for this project are included in the separate envelope. To make the mobile more effective, your child may want to draw and color both sides of the creatures they cut out.

6. NAMES OF THE LORD

Encourage your child to use the references, otherwise the activity could be confusing as there are many similarities with the names. Have your child reflect on the meanings of the names before choosing a personal favorite.



1. Lord God Almighty
2. Lion of the Tribe of Judah
3. Root of David
4. Lamb
5. Faithful and True
6. Word of God
7. King of Kings
8. Lord of Lords
9. Great God

7. BRINGING THE LESSON INTO YOUR LIFE – JUNE 19TH

- ✘ June 19th is a special day to celebrate the spiritual birth of the New Church. Can you develop some family traditions to go with this special day. The online magazine, New Church Vineyard, might have some ideas that you and your child would enjoy. There are five years of ideas archived for June 19th. See www.newchurchvineyard.org.
- ✘ Many religions are confounded by the book of Revelation. Simply explained, it contains visions of the Last Judgment in the spiritual world and the founding of a New Church in heaven and on earth. The visions are not meant to be taken on a literal level. The events that occur in the visions are impossible in a natural world bound by space and time. Discuss this with your child and encourage him or her to be comfortable sharing the news of a New Church with others.