

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 37
The Holy City, New Jerusalem (Revelation 21)

Theme: The New Church

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Because John loved the Lord, the Lord was able to show him these representations of the New Church.
- B. The holy city, New Jerusalem, is a spiritual picture of the New Church in heaven and on the earth.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. When the Lord lived on the earth and showed people how to be good, there were twelve men who followed the Lord and helped Him. They were called the Lord's disciples. The Lord loved one disciple very much. His name was John.
- 2. The disciple John told people all the wonderful things the Lord had done while on earth. Then a man sent him away to live on an island so John couldn't tell people about the Lord anymore. But do you know what happened? The Lord opened John's eyes in a special way so that he could see into heaven!
- 3. John saw many wonderful things. One of these wonderful things was a beautiful city. A city is a very large place with lots of big buildings. Many people live and work there. (Tell the children the city closest to them). The city John saw was very special, because it was in heaven. It was very different from a city here! Let's read about this special city from the Lord's Word.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read the attached retelling of Revelation 21:2,9-21.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Who was John? (A disciple the Lord loved). Where was John sent to live? (On an island)
- 2. What was the name of the city John saw? (The holy city, New Jerusalem)
- 3. Who took John to see the holy city? (An angel)
- 4. The city was so beautiful. It was like a bride. Do you know what a bride is? (A bride is a woman who is about to be married, and she wears a beautiful dress and looks lovely.)
- 5. Where did the beautiful city come from? (Down out of heaven from God.)
- 6. What was the city made of? (Gold)

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7. The city had a high wall around it. But there were gates in the wall. How many gates were there? (Twelve)
8. Who stood at each gate? (An angel stood at each gate. The angels made sure no bad thing entered the city.)
9. Why didn't the city need the light of the sun or the moon? (The glory of the Lord made it bright)

D. Further Ideas

1. What do you think of when you see a cake with candles? (A birthday) What do you think of when you see a tree with lights and ornaments all over it? (Christmas) When you hear about the holy city, you should think of our church, the New Church. The Lord showed John the holy city, because it is a beautiful picture of the church.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. The New Church Day songs are hard for preschoolers, but are used often in worship services. The teacher may want to teach them a little bit of one or two or at least have them listen to them.
2. "Jerusalem, the golden!" *Hymnal #186.*
3. "City strong and mighty," *Hymnal #183.*

B. Activities

1. Show children symbols of the New Church: a church flag, the woman clothed with the sun, and the holy city.

C. Project

1. Materials needed for each child:
 - a. Bright blue construction paper
 - b. Large rectangles of gold foil (varied sizes)
 - c. 3 "pearls" for gates (fake pearls or little paper circles)
 - d. 3 precut angels
 - e. Gold glitter
 - f. Cotton balls
 - g. Text slip: "Then I, John, saw the holy city. New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God."

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2. Motivation:

- a. (Show children a sample project during the motivation discussion, then put it out of sight).
- b. Could you make a beautiful picture of the holy city to help you remember how wonderful our church is? We'll make it of special gold paper, and we'll use gold glitter to show the light shining in the city. What are the pearls for? We'll use them to show three of the twelve gates. What are the angels for? (One at each gate) What do you think we will do with the cotton balls? We want to make fluffy clouds to show that the holy city came down from God out of heaven. (Heaven sometimes appears as bright clouds).

3. Procedure:

- a. Give each child many large rectangles of gold foil to glue on the bright blue paper.
- b. Glue the three pearls on for three gates and glue an angel by each one.
- c. Glue on the text slip.
- d. Add gold glitter to show how the city shines with light.
- e. Make clouds with the cotton balls.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the holy city. New Jerusalem.
- B. A New Church flag.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 6, "The Holy City," pp. 302-317.
- B. *The Sower*, Vol. VI. "The New Jerusalem," pp. 353-359.

A Retelling of Revelation 21:2, 9-21

John's Vision of the Holy City

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Then an angel came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. And her light was like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and there were twelve angels at the gates.

And the city was pure gold. There were twelve kinds of precious stones adorning the walls. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: each single gate was one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold.

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

And the city had no need of the sun or the moon to shine in it for the glory of God made it bright with light. And the gates of the city shall not be shut during the day (and there is no night there).

But no bad thing shall enter the city, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

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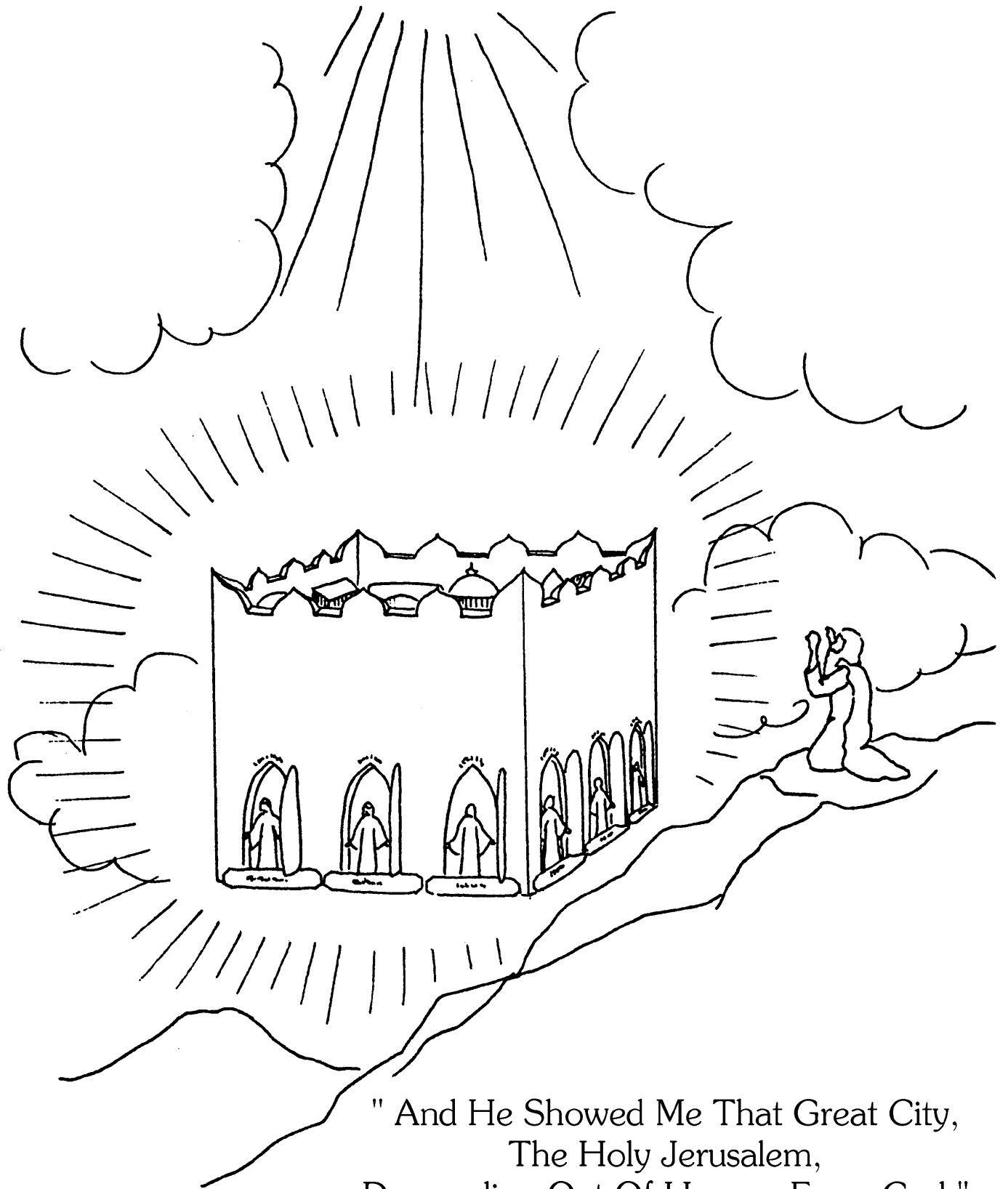
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