

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 27
The Multitude in White Robes (Revelation 7:9-17)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The book of Revelation is a book of prophecies about the state of heaven and of the church near the end of the Christian Church when the Last Judgment takes place. (AE 5)
- B. Every particular recorded in the book of Revelation, as well as every particular in the prophetic parts of the Word elsewhere, has an internal sense. (AE 87)
- C. John's visions recorded in Revelation can be divided into two groups:
 - 1. First - pictures or symbols of how the Christian Church was doing in the world and in men's hearts, and how it was going to fare in the future.
 - 2. Later - how the Lord would build up a new church.
- D. All the men and women from the Christian Church who died between the time of the Lord's ascension and the Last Judgment lived in imaginary heavens until "the fullness of time," the time when men had reached such a stage of development that the inner meanings of the Word could safely be opened to them.
- E. Many chapters of Revelation prophesy concerning the Last Judgment, which took place in the spiritual world in 1757 when the inner meaning of the Word was opened to bring new light and power. Then the evil character of many people in the spiritual world was exposed, and good people were freed from their power and could find their heavenly homes.
- F. In Chapter 7, the great multitude, which no one could number, signifies those who are of the Lord's New Heaven and New Church, whose quality no one knows but the Lord. (AR 363)
- G. Basic correspondences:
 - 1. A throne = Judgment
 - 2. The Lamb = The Lord's Divine Human
 - 3. Blood of the Lamb = Divine truth from the Lord
 - 4. Palms = Divine truth of the literal sense
 - 5. Robes = general truths, or religious principles

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 27

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. How was it that John saw the things he describes in the book of Revelation? (The Lord opened his spiritual eyes and ears so he could see and hear things in the spiritual world.)
2. Last week we learned about John's vision of the scroll sealed with 7 seals. Do you remember what the sealed scroll was, what it represented? (The Word— sealed, or closed up, when we don't know and understand the inner meanings of its stories.)
3. Our lesson today is about another vision that the Lord showed to John.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Rev. 7:9-17 in its entirety.

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What did John see standing before the throne and the Lamb? (A great multitude [a huge crowd of people], which no one could number, or count, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues.)
2. How were they dressed? (In white robes)
3. They held palm branches in their hands. And what were they saying? ("Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!")
4. When have you heard before of a multitude who waved palms and shouted praise to the Lord? (Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt.)
5. What things were not going to bother the multitude any more? (Hunger, thirst, sun, or heat)
6. Who was going to shepherd the multitude and lead them to living fountains of waters? (The Lamb) And who is the Lamb? (The Lord)

D. Further Ideas

1. Do you remember why the Lord had to be born into the world?
 - a. People were being so evil, and so few remembered how to be good, that He had to be born on earth so He could teach them about how to be good; then they could get to heaven.
 - b. Evil spirits were making and living in false [fake, pretend] heavens and were tricking good spirits into listening to them and living with them in those false heavens. They could do this because so few good spirits really understood what heaven was like, so they didn't know that the evil spirits were fooling them.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 27

- c. The Lord fought against the evil spirits while He was on earth. He put them into hell where they belonged and led the good spirits to their homes in heaven.
2. Did you know that after the Lord was crucified and ascended, slowly but surely people on earth began to think that all they had to do to get to heaven was to follow the rules of their church leaders? They didn't think they really had to obey the Lord's commandments to get to heaven. Evil spirits started building false heavens and tricking good spirits into living in them again. After hundreds and hundreds of years, there was a countless multitude of good spirits in the other world who belonged in heaven but was living in the false heavens because they didn't know enough true ideas to see that they were being fooled by evil spirits. Those evil spirits were holding them captive in the false heavens, and they needed to be freed so they could finally get to heaven and be truly happy.
3. So the Lord had to come again. But you know that He was born into the world only once. So how did He come again? What was His Second Coming?
 - a. Hundreds and hundreds of years after John wrote the book of Revelation, the Lord opened the scroll, that is, He told the inner meaning of the Word to Swedenborg, and Swedenborg wrote the inner meaning in books which we call the Writings. The Writings are the Second Coming of the Lord!
 - b. When the Lord opened the scroll, the Word, to Swedenborg, it was like flooding the spiritual world with a new and brilliant light, the light of hidden truth. This light, or truth, shone so brightly that the captive good spirits could finally see the real nature of the evil spirits and the false things they said. When the good spirits were shown how bad the evil spirits really were, the evil spirits had no power any more. The Lord put them in hell where they belonged, and He freed all the good spirits and led them to their homes in heaven. Then they were finally truly happy, after waiting for so long.
4. Can you guess now who the multitude in white robes were, who stood before the throne and the Lamb in heaven with palm branches in their hands? The good spirits who had been freed! They knew that the Lord was the One who had saved them, and they wanted to praise and give thanks to Him.
5. Imagine that multitude in white robes. The Word tells us that there were too many to count. There must have been people in white

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 27

robes for as far as John could see— people from every nation on our earth, from every tribe, people who spoke every possible language. So many people! And all so different from one another! And the Lord set them all free by His Second Coming in the Writings. We can imagine how thankful they felt when they worshiped the Lord, saying:

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might
Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Revelation," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side 2, first song. (Words attached to Lesson #1.)
2. "Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?" FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, p. 21.

B. Activities

1. Show the children pictures of people from all over the world, people of all shapes, sizes, colors, styles of dress, etc. A good book for this is PEOPLE by Peter Spier. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE is a good source for people pictures also. Emphasize the differences in external appearance, but that all of us have to live a good life to get to heaven, and that the Lord made every single one of us and loves every single one, too.

C. Project: THE MULTITUDE IN WHITE ROBES STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND THE LAMB

1. On a 12 X 18 sheet of colored construction paper (blue, red), depict the throne and the Lamb in the foreground (bottom center), seen from the back.
2. Have children fill the rest of the space with people in white robes with all sorts of different skin and hair colors, facial features, etc. to show their diversity.
3. You could provide photocopied white robes and have the children draw in the heads and faces; then cut out around their people and glue them to the colored background. Be sure to include palm branches in their hands.
4. A text slip with the multitude's words of worship could be glued on, or the picture could simply be titled, "THE MULTITUDE IN WHITE ROBES."

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 27

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. PEOPLE by Peter Spier.
- B. Pictures from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE or other sources, of all different kinds of people.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. The Sower, Vol. VI, Lesson 47, "Foregleams of Blessing," Revelation 7, pp. 342-347.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 27

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

AMEN! BLESSING AND GLORY AND WISDOM, THANKSGIVING AND HONOR AND POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.





