

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 65

Revelation

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: REVELATION
About the Future

Pictures: The empty cross
A jail
A rocky island surrounded by water
A calendar
A house

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

For a long, long time we have been talking about all the different books of the Bible. We have talked about the books that are in the Old Testament part of the Bible. You can say these books with me! (Say them with the children.) Then, we have talked about the books that are in the New Testament part of the Bible. We are going to talk about the very last book in the New Testament, which means that we are going to talk about the last book in the whole Bible. That last book is named Revelation. What is its name? Yes, Revelation. Now, let's say together all the books of the New Testament. (Do that with the children.) We have just said the names of 66—39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Men wrote down the words that are in the Bible. But, these words are not the words of those men who lived many years ago; they are the words of God. God the Holy Spirit told these men what words to write when they wrote the words that are in the Bible.

We have heard about John, one of the disciples who loved and worked with Jesus while He was on earth. John wrote down the words that are in book of John. The last book in the Bible was written down by John, also. What is the name of the last book in the Bible? Yes, Revelation.

Telling the story:

(Hold up the cross.) It was the worst day on earth, and yet it was the best day for us. Some people were frightened, and they were sad. Other people were hateful and noisy. The noisy, hateful people wanted to see Jesus get killed. The frightened, sad people loved Jesus; they did not want Him to be hurt or killed.

Jesus was hurt; the soldiers had beat on Him with whips. Some people spat on Him. People loudly made fun of Jesus. Soldiers treated Jesus roughly. Then they took long spikes and nailed Him to the cross. Jesus let them do these things to Him. Then the soldier stood the cross up on the ground, and Jesus hung on the cross.

While Jesus hung on the cross, it got dark out, even though it was daytime. The earth shook, the wind blew; there was a storm. People watched. One of the people who were watching was John. Watching near John was Mary. Mary was the lady whom God had chosen to be the mother of Jesus. After Jesus would die, Mary needed someone to take care of her. Even though Jesus was hurting very, very badly, Jesus was thinking about Mary.

Jesus called to John, "John, you take care of Mary now." John nodded his head and moved closer to Mary. He would take care of her; he would take her to his house to live with him.

Jesus let Himself die. (Put down the cross.) Jesus' body was put into the tomb. Some dear friends of Jesus put His body there, and they washed it and wrapped it in new linen cloth.

Jesus' body stayed in the tomb for three days and three nights, and then Jesus arose from the dead! John was so happy that Jesus was alive!

After Jesus rose from the dead, John saw Jesus many different times, and then it was time for Jesus to go back to Heaven. John was sorry to see Him go, because he could not see Jesus anymore with his eyes. But, John knew that he could still talk with Jesus even though Jesus had gone to Heaven and John stayed on earth. John loved Jesus so much that he loved to talk about Him. John loved other people so much that he told everybody he saw how they should trust Jesus as their Saviour. He wanted them to be able to go to Heaven whenever they would die.

One day John was with Peter. Peter and John were traveling from place to place, telling people about Jesus. Peter and John were walking near the temple. There at a door to the temple they saw a man sitting on the ground; he had been carried there and put on the ground. The man was crippled; he had not been able to walk at all during any of his life. The man (act out the following) was holding out his hand, begging for money. Peter and John felt love toward this man who could not do any work to earn his money, this man who was crippled and could not walk. Peter and John wanted to help the man.

Peter and John said, "We don't have any money to give you, but we can give you something that is better than that." Peter reached down his hand and took hold of the man's right hand, and pulled the man up to his feet. Immediately there was strength in the man's feet and ankle bones, and he could stand! Peter could do this because Jesus had given him power to do it. The man started to walk around, and he began to jump and hop. He was so happy that he grabbed Peter and John and hugged them both, and hung onto them.

The people who were around there stopped to watch what was going on. They knew that man; they had seen him everyday for many years, sitting at the door of the temple. They all knew that he had been so badly crippled that he could not walk. Now he was walking and hopping and jumping. He was saying, "See what happened to me! See what these men were able to do for me! I trusted Jesus, and see what He can do. I also know that I am going to go to Heaven when I die; I trusted Jesus." The crowd of people got bigger and bigger, and they were more and more excited about what had happened to this man. They were asking questions and listening to what Peter and John were saying.

The crowd moved on into the temple, still with the man rejoicing and holding onto Peter and John. There was so much noise and there was such a crowd of people, that the men who were called the rulers of the temple went outside to find out what was happening. When they saw and they heard what had happened, they were upset. They did not want the people trusting in Jesus and listening to Peter and John; they wanted the people to listen to their false preaching and to follow them. They decided to put John and Peter into jail. (Hold up your picture of the jail.) John and Peter did not have to stay in jail for very long. When they were released from jail, the rulers told them, "Now, you stop your preaching and teaching about Jesus."

Peter and John said, "We have to obey God about that. God told us to preach. We have to keep on talking about Jesus." They kept on, too. John was by himself, preaching, for many, many years. He was punished for it many times, but he kept on preaching.

Finally the false preachers said, "We are tired of this. Let's see what we can do about getting John sent away." They went to court, and they were able to get the judge to sentence John to prison.

(Put up the picture of the island.) It was not a big stone building where they sent John. They sent him to a place that is called an island—ground that is completely surrounded by water. The island was named the Isle of Patmos. This was not a pretty place; very, very few trees and plants grew there. The island was mostly bare, rocky hills. There were no towns or shopping centers or schools or churches on this island. This was a place to which they took the very worst kind of criminals; the criminals were left there to die. That's where they took John.

But John was not going just to lie down and die; he was not going to spend his days crying. John was thankful that he knew Jesus as his Saviour; he was glad that he had been able to preach and see many people get saved before he was put on this island. Each day John did what he could to keep himself well and strong so that whenever God would see to it that he could be taken off this island, he would be ready to serve Him again. Each day John kept track of what day it was. (Hold up your calendar.) He would say, "This is the first day of the week; this is Sunday. I am going to pretend that I am in church today. I will sing songs just as if I am in Sunday school and church services. I will read my Bible, and I will think of a sermon that the preacher could preach." And John prayed.

On one Sunday John was remembering that it was the day to go to church. Suddenly John heard a voice, like a loud trumpet behind him! It was not a trumpet; it was a voice. But, there was nobody there. The voice that he heard was the voice of God. God was talking to John, "John, I want you, while you are here on the Island of Patmos, to do some work for Me. You will not be preaching to crowds of people; there are not crowds of people here. You will write whatever I tell you to write. I will show you dreams and visions; you are to write down what you see. You do this job for me, John."

That's why God allowed John to be taken to this island in the middle of the sea! So, for days and days God told John what to write down. God told John what He thought about some of the churches, whether they were doing right or not. God told John many things about what was going to happen, and about what will still happen. When John wrote all these things down and put them all together, God watched over all these writings to keep them from being lost or destroyed, and all these things together now make up the book of Revelation. (Show the children the book of Revelation in your Bible.)

John did not have to die on the Isle of Patmos; God saw to it that John was released from there after the book of Revelation was written. John, an old man then, got to go live in the city of Ephesus. (Hold up the house.) What a wonderful life John had lived! As an old man, he could think back about the days when he was with Jesus on earth, about the days after Jesus had risen from the dead and gone back to Heaven, about all the people who had heard him preach and had been helped by him, about the book of Revelation which he had written, and about how he was released from the island. He was happy that he had always tried to please Jesus and to tell others about Him!

When you get old, I hope that you can be happy as you remember everything that you have done.