

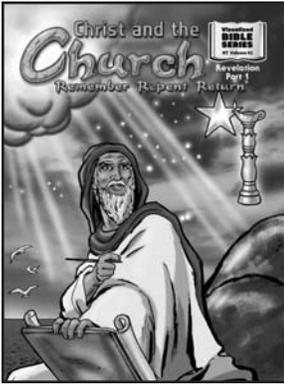
CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Remember, Repent, Return

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1 THE VISION

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

What blessings lie ahead of you as you teach the marvelous book of Revelation! Each Bible book is important. But the last book is the climax of God's revealed truth. We would not know many of the events of the future if we did not have Revelation.

Although Daniel was commanded *to seal* his book (Daniel 12:40), John was commanded *not* to seal this book (Revelation 22:10). Those who read it are promised special blessing (1:3). So God expects that people who study it will understand it and be helped. Even its title (mentioned in the first verse) indicates that it is a *revelation*—an unveiling—not *hiding*.

It will be of help to you, teacher to memorize the following outline of the book:

1. Description of the risen and exalted Christ (chapter 1)
2. Messages to seven churches in Asia Minor at the time of John (chapters 2 and 3)
3. Description of the throne of God in Heaven (chapters 4 and 5)
4. The coming tribulation on earth with its terrible judgments upon people (chapters 6-18)
5. The second coming of Christ to earth (chapter 19)
6. Christ's reign on the earth for 1,000 years (chapter 20)
7. Description of the new heavens and the new earth (chapters 21 and 22)

There are differences of opinion among those who interpret Revelation. It is the conviction of the publishers of this series that the events from chapter 4 to the end have not yet taken place. They are all in the future. "No judgments in history have ever equaled those described in chapters 6, 8, 9, 16. The resurrections and judgment described in chapter 20 have not yet occurred. There has been no visible return of Christ as portrayed in chapter 19."

Remember! Revelation "is not the only book in the Bible. Let us approach it as worthy of all the Spirit-directed study we can give it, focusing every God-given ability on its words and fitting it into the whole of God's truth as given in the Bible . . . Even though this book is largely about the future, knowledge of it should affect our living in the present. James encouraged his contemporaries with the knowledge of future judgment (James 5:8). Paul wrote of the assurance that Satan would eventually be defeated (Romans 16:20). And God can motivate believers today by the understanding of those things which He has revealed through John in Revelation."

(The above quotations are taken from a volume entitled *Revelation* by Dr. Charles C. Ryrie. It is an excellent volume for all teachers. Available from Moody Press.)

Scripture to be studied: Revelation 1

The aim of the lesson: To show that God has a definite plan for the entire future—and He wants to reveal it to all.

What your students should know: That the Lord has promised to bless those who read, hear and obey the words written in Revelation.

What your students should feel: A desire to understand this prophecy.

What your students should do: Study the first two chapters of Revelation every day this week.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. The writer—John—on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:1-6, 9).
2. The vision of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:10-19).

3. Christ and the seven lampstands (Revelation 1:12-13, 20).
4. The coming of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:7-8).

The verse to be memorized:

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein. (Revelation 1:3a)

THE LESSON

Let us suppose that some dark night, a certain chief calls together the people of his village. In his hand he holds a mysterious-looking object. He whispers, "Under this cover I have a chart listing many things I shall do in the years ahead. I want to show it to you and explain it fully."