

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XI — December 13

John's Vision on Patmos. — Revelation 1:1-3:22.

Printed Text — Revelation 1:1-18  
Golden Text — "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. Revelation 1:17, 18.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING  
TIME — Toward the close of the life of the apostle John, probably about 96 A.D.

PLACE — The island of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea, twenty four miles southwest of Asia Minor.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia. Asia refers to the consular province of that name, in Asia Minor, consisting of Phrygia, Mysia, Caria, and Lydia, at the western edge of Asia Minor fronting on the Aegean Sea. The seven churches are those enumerated in chapters, 2 and 3.

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"Grace to you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come." Grace issues in peace. The name of God and Father here given was one revealed to Moses (Ex. 3:14 6:3). It is God's memorial name, even to generations yet unborn. "And from the seven Spirits that are before his throne." Here we have reference to the energies of the Holy Spirit. "The seven Spirits betoken the completeness and universality of working of God's Holy Spirit, as the seven churches typify and indicate the whole church.

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness." (See John 18:37) Christ was faithful in that he never adulterated or weakened or hid any part of the truth which God sent him to proclaim, being faithful unto his mission even to death. "The first-born of the dead." (See Col. 1:18) He is first of all those who will rise from the dead, especially as regards rank.

"And the ruler of the kings of the earth." (See Psalm 89:27, Rev 19:16) Christ has the right to sovereignty over all the kingdoms of the earth; some day he will exercise that right and take all the kingdoms unto himself to rule forever. "Unto him that loveth us." Notice the present tense here: the love of Christ for you and me is just as great and deep today as the day when he died for us on the cross. "And loosed us from our sins by his blood." The love of a parent for a child, the love of a wife for a husband, would undertake to do every thing for the loved one's happiness and welfare, but it can never emancipate from sin. This only Christ can do in his redeeming sacrifice for us.

"And he made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father and to him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever." Christians reign in conquering their spiritual enemies and then in possession of the victory that overcometh the world. "Amen." This is a Hebrew word that literally means "to lean upon," and from it comes the word "to believe."

By saying "Amen" in prayer, we do mean that the prayer offered by another is our prayer also.

"Behold, he cometh with the clouds. What a contrast between the humiliation and obscurity and poverty that attended his First Advent, and the glory and universal visibility that will characterize his Second Advent! "And every eye shall see him, and they that pierced him." (See John 19:37; Zech. 12:10) The persons intended in this expression are, beyond doubt, those who were his murderers.

"And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over him. Even so, Amen." (Cf. Matt. 24:30) There will then be two kinds of mourning, the one due to the terror of an enemy, the other to the terror of the penitent.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, and the beginning and the end."

"Who is and who is to come, the Almighty." He is almighty in sustaining his people, yet equally almighty in judgment on his enemies.

"John, your brother and partaker with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patience which are in Jesus, was in the isle that is called Patmos."

Patmos was a little island in the Aegean Sea twenty-four miles south west of the coast of Asia Minor, and about ten miles long and six broad, barren, and very moist part very rocky. "For the word of God and the testimony of Jesus." This phrase probably indicates that John was banished to the island of Patmos because of preaching of the gospel of Christ.

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." This is the only time in the New Testament that we have the phrase, "the Lord's day," and we may easily believe that it refers to the day we now call Sunday. And I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet. (See also 4:1). Possibly this was not the actual voice of the

Lord, but of some messenger of the Lord.

"Saying, what thou seest, write in a book and send it to the seven churches: unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamum, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea." These seven churches were all located in the consular province of Asia, and are named here by John in a geographical circuit beginning with his own home city Ephesus, then going north to Smyrna and Pergamum, then southeast to Thyatira, and then south to Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Christ himself in verse 20 tells us that these lampstands are the seven churches. They are light-bearing to the world (Matt. 5:14), especially to a world that itself is darkness.

"And in the midst of the candlesticks one like unto a son of man." The title here given to Christ is one frequently occurring in Ezekiel and Daniel and is used more than eighty times in the Gospels, always, with two exceptions, by Christ himself. It is a title which sets forth the human element of our Savior's character.

"Clothed with a garment down to the foot." The garment to the feet suggests the right to govern and to judge and it is the robing of judicial authority, not the robing of the priest. Christ is here seen having sole right to pronounce verdict and sentence on all the services that the church renders.

"And a girl about at the breasts with a golden girdle." (See Isa. 11:5; Dan. 10:5) Girl loins tell of readiness for action, but girl breasts of the repose of sovereignty and of intense affection.

"And his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow." (See Dan. 7:9; Isa. 40:28) His is the age that is not aged, and the beauty of holiness which are eternal. "And his eyes were as a flame fire." The

fire is symbolic of God's presence, of God's glory, of judgment on the wicked, of penetration and knowledge. And nothing can be hid from that gaze.

"And his feet unto burnished brass as if it had been refined in a furnace. Brass is invariably the type of the strength and the furnace of fire is a symbol of purity.

"And his voice was as the voice of many waters." The noise of the sea is as the noise of irresistible strength and powerful, deep and majestic.

"And he had in his right hand seven stars." In verse 20 Christ tells us these stars are the angels of the seven churches, i.e., they are Christ's messengers set for witnessing in the respective assemblies by his appointing. "And out of his mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword." The word of God has power to penetrate through every shield and device behind which man attempts to hide from God's scrutiny and judgment.

"And his countenance was as the sun shined in his strength." This same dazzling glory was noticed when our Lord was transfigured in the days of his earthly ministry (Matt. 17:2); a spectacle that John, the author of this book, would well remember.

"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as one dead." So other great servants of God have been similarly affected by a revelation of divine glory, as Isaiah (6:5), Ezekiel (1:28) Daniel (8:17). "And he laid his right hand upon me saying, Fear not; I am the first and the last." What infinite mercy there is revealed here! Christ does not want his own to be afraid in his presence, but to worship and adore him, and to wait for his commands.

"And the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore." Every man could at one time say, I was living and alive. But this one had lived and had died and was alive again. And not only again, but he was alive for evermore. He was the eternal and everlasting one. "And I have the keys of death and of Hades and if the keys of all the world —

supernal and infernal, swing at the girdle of the Son of God, then we do know and know for certain that all those kingdoms will be administered in accordance with the most immaculate justice and the most perfect love.

## The Book Shelf

BY MAIR M. MORGAN

"Reasons For Anger," by Robert Briffault (The Munsion Book Company, Ltd., Toronto) \$3.00. Fourteen essays by the author of "Europa" — one of the best-selling novels of last year. It seems this book owes its title to Harold Nicholson, who in reviewing one of Mr. Briffault's books, complained, "There is no reason why Mr. Briffault should get so angry."

To which Mr. Briffault replies, "Social progress has invariably been the outcome of anger called forth by abuse." Whether or not Mr. Briffault felt abused by Mr. Nicholson's remark and "Reasons For Anger" is the result, we are not certain. But we certainly do appreciate the fact that he has written these fourteen essays discussing the stupidity of man, caused, Mr. Briffault argues, by the primitive vested interests, especially superstition, evolutionized into a formal religion.

Those who have read his classic works, The Mothers, and Rational Evolution, know him as one of the great living anthropologists to whom the proper study of mankind is man.

Only the first half of this book presents the case against the human race—for instance we read: "While rational intelligence has gone on increasing at compound interest, primitive stupidity has remained to all intents and purposes as stupid in 1936 as it was at the dawn of time . . ."

The venerable institution which constitute the firm of Man, Inc., preserve the virginal bloom of primitive stupidity, while intelligence goes on accumulating in individual men and women."

This is one side of the question, then he gives us hope by declaring—

"Today a great nation which has made momentous contributions to civilization, has sunk into sheer, unmitigated barbarism—if it be not an insult to the barbarian to compare him to Nazi Germany. But it is unlikely that mankind as a whole will have to pass through such an ordeal."

Mr. Briffault gives his reason for this hope by stating—"It is unlikely because human intelligence is unmeasurably better equipped more widely diffused, more secure and more resourceful than it was when the first European civilization fell."

One may not agree — on first reading — with many statements

made by Mr. Briffault — but a second and third reading convinces the reader that there is more intelligence prevalent today—but it takes an individual as vital as Mr. Briffault to point this out. A book strongly recommended for those who like reading matter which causes a certain amount of celebration.

"The Foundation of Civilization" by Will Durant (The Munsion Book Company, Ltd., Toronto) \$1.29, offers some interesting reading for such a low price. Ever since the first volume of Will Durant's Story of Civilization, was published a year ago, the publishers have been asked to reprint the first section of it which was entitled the Establishment of Civilization. It is in response to this widespread demand that the present volume is issued.

About twenty years ago, Will Durant planned to write a history of civilization in the nineteenth century. He discovered, as he proceeded, that his subject could be understood only in terms of what had come before. His researches gradually led him into the formation of a plan for writing a history of all civilization, ancient and modern, occidental and oriental. The present volume is a preface to the complete work which will be issued within the next fifteen years.

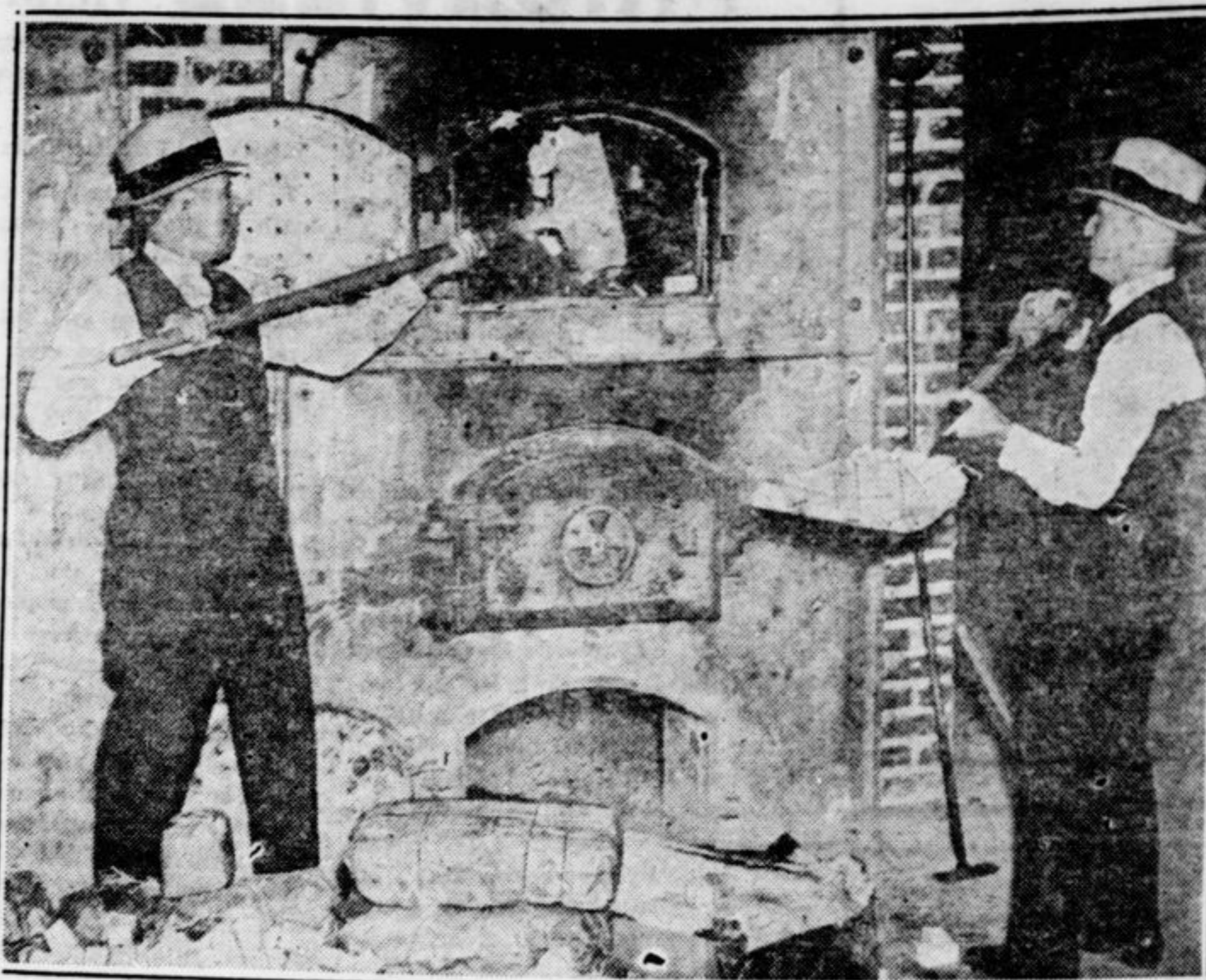
High praise is due Mr. Durant, as he has used a clear, lucid, simple style—an excellent handbook for school libraries.

"Compromise" by Ruby M. Ayres (The Munsion Book Company, Ltd., Toronto) is the latest offering from this author's prolific pen, and her readers will not be disappointed in this tale of a very modern girl and her battle for happiness.

"Saint Overboard" by Leslie Charteris (The Munsion Book Co., Limited, Toronto) recounts the latest adventure of that reformed character known as "The Saint."

We fear that there was a tendency to slip from the paths of righteousness in this latest escapade, but he stands by the law, at the end. Quick, alive narrative, carries you along to a smashing climax, and you can't lay the book down until you have finished this latest "Saint" adventure.

## It's The Right Dope



Dr. T. E. Walker, (left) of Treasury's drug disposal division, and J. W. McDonald shovel heroin into furnace in Washington. Seized drugs valued at \$10,000,000 were fed to flames.

## Celebrating Emancipation Day in London



Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the famous Emancipation Day in 1896, nearly a hundred old cars—all built before 1905—took part in the annual run from Hyde Park, London, to Brighton. Emancipation Day commemorates the repealing of the law requiring a man with a red flag to precede all mechanically propelled road vehicles. This picture shows the veteran motor cars paced by a modern small car over Westminster Bridge, London. Front is an 1899 Benz, and No. 27 is an 1899 MMC Daimler.

## Turkish Girls Taught To Fight For Their Country



Women and girls in Turkey, as well as boys, are voluntarily undertaking military training. They're taught military exercises and the use of firearms. In this picture a soldier is showing Turkish girls how to bear their rifles correctly.

## Examine Teeth Of Farm Horses

Timely Care of a Horse's Teeth Extremely Necessary

Farm horses would be healthier if their teeth were examined and treated, if necessary, once a year. A qualified veterinarian should be called in to make the inspection. Timely care of a horse's teeth saves many times its cost in feed as well, and increases the efficiency of the animal.

As the horse ages, teeth often become too long or irregular. The sharp points cut the mouth and tongue and cause pain when the horse attempts to chew. Such teeth often become loose and split, and diseased conditions such as abscesses at the roots are quick to develop. A horse with teeth in such a condition cannot eat properly, and swallows his food whole or even devours less than he wants and needs.

Common indications of bad teeth are: The animal approaches his manger with an apparently keen appetite, but loses interest with the first

mouthful; saliva runs from the mouth while eating; he manipulates his food gingerly, eating with his head on one side to avoid using the tender part of his mouth and spits out balls of food. In severe cases of tooth infection there is a swelling in the region of the bone above the teeth affected, accompanied by a discharge of pus from the nostrils. The animal passing whole grain, showing a poor body condition, and giving a decided evidence of loss in flesh, despite a large food consumption, may well be examined for poor teeth.

## World Without Men

A world of women, with man extinct and forgotten, is a vision of the future seen by Professor W. A. F. Balfour-Browne, president of the Royal Microscopical Society, speaking at Wincoburn, Somerset, Eng.

This "No Man World" will not materialize, however, until women find they can do without the male element.

That this will eventually come about, the professor asserted in an interview at his country home here. "When women discover they can do without men," he said, "they will find a way of getting rid of them, though they won't murder them as bees kill drones."

He pointed out the similarity between insects and human beings. The former, he declared, have long known how to control birth, but it is only lately that human beings are beginning to consider birth control an important problem.

"Some insects," the professor added, "have apparently found out how to breed without the help of the male. Consequently, the male has become unnecessary and a mere drain on the resources of the insect."

"Recently experiment has shown that the mammalian egg does not require the male element for its normal development." — Sault Daily Star.

## So Many Things We Do Not Know

In the Ottawa Journal we read: "The Journal does not believe that it has a duty to its readers to express a definite opinion on every important subject that comes into the news. There are many, many things about which we are not sure."

Nice work, brother, says the Peterborough Examiner. We've felt the same way for a long time. There are so many things about which we are not sure, and there are so many things about which we do not know. They keep on coming up, and we find it necessary to try and keep on reading and asking questions. If something new in the news tell of a strange malady or an operation of a peculiar sort, we admit frankly we have to go and ask the doctor about it. We do not know. If there is something which deals with a nice point of law, we prefer to go and ask a lawyer. There are many things about which we know very little.

There was a chicken being cleaned on the kitchen table on a Saturday night, and it had a number of eggs. Evidently the farmer had missed his guess in killing that hen. The eggs were placed in a dish and it was found next day there was a little hard coating over each. We asked questions of doctors and teachers wanting to know if the making of the shell were already in or on that egg, or just when the shell was put on and how it was done.

As every place of inquiry we received the same answer, "I do not know," and that question remains unanswered.

Perhaps there are a good many people who think one can get apple trees by planting apple seeds. That is, if you planted Northern Spy apple trees. You might succeed in growing a tree, but it would not be a Northern Spy. The chances are all against it. One of the finest orchardists in the province told us he has not yet found the reason.

We rather liked the candid admission of the Journal writer that there are many, many things about which he was not sure, and therefore hesitated to come forth with definite opinions. As a rule it is necessary to work for a number of years before reaching that very proper and satisfactory conclusion.

## Fine Safety Record

Writes the Brockville Recorder and Times—When a community of 10,000 souls can say, as Chief of Police John Brown has just said, that it has not had a fatal motor accident for three successive years, it is something worth boasting about.

That, it appears, has been the happy lot of Brockville and, considering the manner in which many drivers perform on town streets, the excessive speed at which they operate their machines, the scant attention paid by many of them to street intersections and stop signs, it is providential that such a record should have been set up.

When motor fatalities are taking place by the hundreds annually throughout the province of Ontario, Brockville may consider herself extremely fortunate in not having one such fatality for a period of three years. We feel, however, that it is rather good luck than good management, for it cannot be said that any attempt has been made to make the community accident-free; no can it be said that some of the people who drive over town streets always conduct themselves with due regard for public safety.

British scientists are trying to find out why potatoes turn black in cooking.