

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for December 28

Golden Text—Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.—Psa. 145:13

In reading the description of the new Jerusalem, the eternal Home of the heavenly saint it is important to remember that God is speaking in symbols as indicated in Revelation 1:1, where the word translated "signified" really means "made it known by symbols." But it is easy to read these in the light of what is elsewhere revealed in the Word of God.

We have here that city which hath foundations, for which Abraham looked in faith (Heb. 11:10). It is set forth, in chapter 21, verses 1 to 7, as it will be for all eternity, when the new heavens and the new earth shall succeed the present temporal conditions. But from verse 9 of chapter 21 through verse 5 of chapter 22, we see the heavenly city in connection with the millennial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then the nations will learn war no more. Those will be the days of Heaven upon earth, when the holy city, the centre of light and blessing, will be the capital of the glorious Kingdom over which Christ and His bride, the Church, will reign in righteousness.

Verse by Verse  
Rev. 21:1—"A new heaven and a

new earth." This will be the eternal state. It is predicted in Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22, and is referred to by the Apostle Peter as a "scene wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13). In that new and glorious condition there will be "no more sea," for all that speaks of changes and separations will be done away.

Verse 2—"The holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven." This is the throne city of the eternal Kingdom and the residence of the bride, the Lamb's wife (Rev. 19:7). Just as Babylon is both a city and a harlot, so the new Jerusalem is viewed both as a city and a bride.

Verse 3—"The tabernacle of God is with men." The heavenly city is the connecting link between the new heavens and the new earth, where God shall dwell in the midst of His redeemed creation.

Verse 4—"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." At last all earth's tale of sorrow and suffering will have been told (Psa. 90:9), and a state of unchanging joy and blessedness will ensue, never to be disturbed by death, sorrow, crying, or pain.

Verse 5—"Behold, I make all things new." The new creation will supersede the present creation which has been so marred by sin and consequent suffering.

Verse 6—"I will give unto him that is athirst of the foundation of the water of life freely." John has yet to speak, in verse 8, of the sad portion of those who have spurned

### LIFE IN THE ARCTIC PROVIDES ITS THRILLS SWOP HAIRCUTS WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR

Writing from Resolute Bay in the Arctic, E. W. Rae, Canadian Arctic Meteorologist, gives us an interesting story of how they carry on there at this outpost where Stouffville lads and scores of others spent so much time in war days. His letter by air says:

A month has passed since one of our radio operators, Ted Gibbon, was severely mauled by a polar bear ten feet from the mess hall. The scare has pretty well worn off by now and the daily camp routine is once more drifting into its normal monotony.

No more bears have been seen, although we had one false alarm when an Arctic fox in the distance was mistaken for one. A number of these Arctic foxes must have found that it is easier to live off the fat of the weather station than to roam the ice in search of polar bear leavings. There are about a dozen of them loitering around all the time.

They drag away anything that might possibly be edible, and their loot includes coils of rope, two cartons of cookies and a brand new pair of gloves which Bill Robertson, the American executive officer, had placed on a snowbank for a moment.

Our regular monthly mail plane is expected in tomorrow. Perhaps I should call it our irregular mail plane because we never know when it will arrive other than that it will be some time between the first and the thirtieth of the month.

Chief reason for this irregularity is our poor weather. Most of the time the cloud base is so low that you can almost measure the ceiling with a stepladder and a yardstick. When the sky clears the wind increases and visibility is reduced to a few yards in blowing snow. Since there is not a great deal we can do about it, I guess we'll have to cultivate the Eskimo's fatalistic attitude towards the weather and

the grace of God and passed into eternity impenitent, but before he does so he is authorized to give another invitation to partake of the living water, which is freely offered in the Gospel of Christ.

Verse 7—"He that overcometh shall inherit all things." The overcomer is the one who believes in the Lord Jesus and is born from above (1 John 5:4, 5).

Verse 22—"I saw no temple therein." There will be no need of a temple there, for every redeemed one will have immediate access to the Lord Himself. Worship will be unhindered and praise will be unceasing. Observe that, beginning with verse 10 a new section begins, in which the new Jerusalem is seen in its relation to the millennial earth.

Verse 23—"The Lamb is the lamp (R.V.) thereof." The Revised Version gives the best rendering here. A lamp is a vessel in which the light is centered, and from which it shines forth. The glory of God will shine out from Christ Himself.

Verse 24—"The nations of them which are saved." This makes it evident that millennial conditions are in view. Men are still seen as divided into nations, and the kings of the earth—the leaders of those nations—recognize the authority of Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords (19:16).

Verse 25—"There shall be no night there." What words of comfort are these! The night is the time which those in trouble or pain find hardest to bear. In yonder city all shall be light—no night of ignorance, nor yet of mystery! All will be clear at last in the city of the open gates, open to all who have trusted Christ and have been cleansed by His precious blood.

Verse 26—"They shall bring the glory of the nations into it." The fact that nations are mentioned shows that it is not the eternal state that is here in view, but the relationship of the heavenly city to the nations during the millennial reign of Christ over the earth.

Verse 27—"There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth." The earthly Jerusalem was defiled by Israel's sins. The new Jerusalem will be forever free from every unclean thing; the home of all whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life by eternal decree.

**The Heart of the Lesson**  
God delights to dwell with men. From the time when He walked and talked with our first parents in Paradise, He has always expressed His pleasure in communion with His people. When, at last, time has run its course and all His children are gathered home in the new Jerusalem, He will rejoice in the fact that He has the unnumbered hosts of the redeemed gathered about Himself in a scene never to be marred by evil of any kind. It is this to which saints of all ages have looked forward, and this hallowed fellowship will be their supreme joy in the ages to come, when Christ Himself, the Lamb once slain, will be the lamp through whom the divine glory will be displayed in all its fullness.

Each flicker of the Yuletide candles lights the way for us to wish you a wonderful Christmas abundant with health, happiness and prosperity. And may we include in our greeting our sincere thanks for your appreciated patronage of the year. We look forward to serving you in 1948.

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accept it as it comes.

**Dogs Expected**  
There is another reason for our anxiety about the plane this month besides the mail. It is expected there will be five or six Eskimo dogs on board for the station. It is hoped they will either drive off any polar bears that may be prowling around or at least give some warning of their presence.

In their mannerisms the Eskimo dogs seem to be related more closely to wolves than to dogs for they never bark but merely whine or howl. They have developed an entirely different language from that of civilized dogs—there is an absence of trees in the Arctic.

The sun has been below the horizon for 24 hours a day since early November. There is still enough light to work outdoors for one or two hours, but in a few more weeks the best we can hope for is a bit of twilight around noon. This continual darkness and semi-darkness makes it very difficult to keep track of the days of the week because every day is merely a continuation of the night before. At least we can always tell when Sunday rolls around because we have tur-

key for dinner.

**It's 30 Below**  
We are beginning to experience our first really cold weather with temperatures ranging from 15 to 30 below zero. Perhaps we are becoming conditioned to thinking in terms of below zero temperatures for when the mercury rises to 10 above it seems like a heat wave.

One reason the cold is less noticeable here than back home is that we are sufficiently dressed for it. Our Arctic clothing issue includes assorted lined and unlined parkas, light and heavy jackets and trousers, wool socks, felt socks and various types of boots.

The sizes are large enough that the various items can be put on over one another in layers. These large sizes have been the butt of numerous jokes around camp due to the fact that before our departure each member of the party was required to submit a detailed list of his exact clothing sizes. As one of our radio operators aptly remarked, while modelling an issue pair of trousers eight inches too big around the middle, "I don't see why they asked for our measurements when all they needed to know was

how many arms and legs we had."

Among the many little discoveries we have made about life in an isolated community is that the ordinary everyday, common garden variety of haircut (just scissors on the sides please) can be a great morale booster. You always seem to feel 100% better after a clean shave and a haircut. Since there is a decided shortage of barber shops here, we have instituted a system whereby two fellows pair up and take turns cutting each other's hair. There is some sadistic satisfaction in knowing that if your curly locks look like a badly-mown lawn when you step out of the barber's chair, at least you have a chance to get even. I was surprised to find that I could wield the clippers with the best of them. With the price of haircuts as high as it is, perhaps I'm in the wrong business.

"Canada is experiencing difficulties herself these days and the Dominion could hardly be expected to do all she would like to do or otherwise be able to do in providing further aid to Europe," said Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

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