



Attractive Diane Loranger, 27, of Manitoba, one of the few women oil geologists, has invaded the he-man oil field of the west. The first woman to graduate in geology from the University of Manitoba, she hopes through the study of fossils to be able to throw some light as to the shoreline of the vast sea which is believed to have covered the prairies. She also holds a private pilot's license.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday, April 2nd
THE CHURCH SUFFERING AND TRIUMPHANT

Golden Text—If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.—2 Tim. 2:12
Approach to the Lesson

It seems unfortunate that the Lesson Committee has linked together two passages of Scripture, in this instance, which refer to altogether different companies of saints. Peter wrote to and of Christians in this dispensation. John, in the Revelation, makes it clear that the "great multitude" of chapter 7 are those who will be saved in the time of the Great Tribulation after the Church of this age has been caught up to be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:13-18). However, it is safe to recognize the principle that while any particular Scripture has but one exact interpretation, it may have many applications. Inasmuch as all the saved of any age or dispensation are redeemed to God by the precious blood of Christ, what is predicated of the Tribulation saints, is also true of believers in this age of grace. So rather than occupy teachers and students with a lengthy explanation concerning God's dealing with His people in the various dispensations, it will, perhaps, be best to stress what God has in store for the Church of God when her time of suffering for Christ's sake shall be ended. The blessedness into which the heavenly saints will enter at the "coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him." (2 Thess. 2:1) will cause all their present griefs and afflictions to fade into insignificance. While salvation is absolutely by grace alone, yet rich rewards are promised for faithful service. The measure in which we are identified with Christ the day of His rejection will determine the place we shall have in His coming Kingdom. In that day undoubtedly many of us will look back with deepest regret, as we reflect upon our selfishness and lack of devotion to Christ while here in the place of testimony. On the other hand, no one will consider any sacrifice to have been too great that was the result of true love for our blessed Lord.

The Historical Setting
The Apostle Peter wrote his first Epistle very near to the time of Paul's martyrdom. In it the Spirit of God sought to prepare the saints for the great persecutions which imperial Rome carried on for more than two centuries, during which time untold thousands of Christians sealed their testimony with their blood. The Apostle John wrote the Book of the Revelation in the last decade of the first century of the Christian Era. He was a prisoner, under the reign of Domitian, on the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea at the time. From the fourth chapter on, his Book is made up largely of events which will take place in Heaven and upon earth between the rapture of the church and Christ's second advent.

Verse by Verse
1 Pet. 4:12—"Think it not strange." The mystery of suffering has perplexed many all down through the ages. It is part of man's sad inheritance because of sin having come into the world, and in this life the child of God is not exempt from pain, sorrow, and anguish. But the suffering of believers is all ordained of God to work out for blessing. Through this ministry of suffering, we are enabled to understand better what our Lord went through for us when in this scene. He was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." God uses suffering to keep us from sin (1 Pet. 4:1; 2 Cor. 12:7), and as a means of chastening and discipline (Heb. 12:6-11) whereby we are made more like our blessed Lord.

Verse 13.—"Partakers of Christ's sufferings." As we suffer because of faithfulness to His name and devotion to His cause, we enjoy a very real sense of fellowship with Him who is hated still by the world that rejects His testimony. The reward is sure and will make us forget all our light affliction in the enjoyment of the "eternal weight of glory." (2 Cor. 4:17).

Rev. 7:9.—"A great multitude, which no man could number." This vast assembly will be won for Christ in the dark days of the Great Tribulation, as a result of the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom by chosen messengers, who will carry the announcement of the coming King throughout the world.

Verse 10.—"Salvation to our God... and unto the Lamb." The saints give all honor and glory to God the Father and to the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation which they enjoy through divine grace.

Verse 11.—"And all the angels stood round about the throne... and fell... on their faces, and worshipped God." While these glorious, un-fallen beings cannot themselves participate in the song of redemption, because they are not numbered among those saved from their sins by the blood of Christ, they nevertheless rejoice in the manifestation of the mercy of God in giving His Son as a propitiation for a sinful race.

Verse 12.—"Saying, Amen." We use this word very lightly at times. It is always used with great solemnity in Holy Scripture. Literally it means: "Let it be established," and as spoken by the angels implies their full accord with the divine plan of redemption.

Verse 13.—"What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence come they?" These ques-

Plan Rescue of 15 Deer from Food-Scarce Island

Fifteen deer are being trapped alive on Beausoleil Island, where deer are plentiful but food is scarce.

The 15, an estimated one-half of the island's deer population, are being taken to a part of the Parry Sound district where there is lots of food but not enough deer.

Employees of the National Parks Board capture the animals in wooden cages, using grain as bait. The animals are taken to the mainland and turned over to Ontario Lands Department officials. They transport the deer to their new grounds.

Beausoleil's deer have become so desperate in their search for food that they are pulling lower branches off evergreen trees and girdling trunks of other trees by eating the bark. This kills the trees and would result in even less vegetation for future winters.

The island caretaker, Doug Nicholson, said the deer are easy to trap. They have become tame through contact, with summer tourists, who feed and pet them.

Questions, addressed to John by one of the elders, were intended to draw attention to the peculiar character of the white-robed multitude, as distinguished from the Church of this age, to which both John and his questioner belonged.

Verse 14.—"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." In the Greek text there are two definite articles, which do not appear in the Authorized Version. Literally, the passage should read: "the tribulation, the great one." This makes it clear that the reference is not to those who have triumphed over such tribulations as all saints pass through, but indicates one particular class, who will be exposed to the horrors of the Great Tribulation predicted in many parts of Scripture (Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1). However, the passage may be applied to all believers, for all have been saved by the same grace.

Verse 15.—"He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." Literally, shall spread His tabernacle over them, thus bringing them into fullness of blessing in the glorious millennial day.

Verse 16.—"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more." Their sorrows and sufferings forever past, they will enjoy uninterruptedly the favor of Him for whom once they endured persecution in the day of Satan's rage and opposition.

Verse 17.—"The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them," or shepherd them, leading them to "living fountains of waters," and His own blessed hand "shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." A comparison of Isaiah 49:9-11 with these last three verses of our lesson will make it clear that both passages refer to the same people.

The Heart of the Lesson
The letters of Peter were addressed primarily to Christian Jews of the Dispersion, scattered throughout the various countries of western Asia. Exposed to danger on every hand, they did not need to be surprised at the sufferings they were to be called upon to endure. Rather were they to account it an honor to suffer for Christ's sake; but they were to be careful not to bring upon themselves needless distress because of any ill-behavior on their part. As they thus endeavored to honor the Lord who had redeemed them, they could count on Him for sustaining grace in every hour of trial and testing, assured that they were kept by His mighty power and that He would never forsake those who put their trust in Him and walked in obedience to His revealed will. The Book of the Revelation sets before us the final outcome of the conflict between good and evil. In due time righteousness will triumph and all who have suffered for Christ's sake will be rewarded richly.

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HARD AND EASY

There's a hard way and an easy way of doing most everything. To keep the silver tea service and the flatware sparkling, here's the easy recipe. Take an aluminum kettle and to each quart of water use one tablespoon of common washing soda and one teaspoon of salt. Heat the water to near boiling point—but don't boil. Dip the silver pieces into this mixture in the aluminum

kettle, rinse them in lukewarm water and polish with a dry flannel cloth.

A group of children for nothing better to do and at the suggestion of the undertaker's son, decided to play funeral. But to play funeral, the youngsters realized they must have a body. At that, the undertaker's child tore up to a neighbor's doorstep where he knew an elderly grandfather was seriously ill. "Is Mr. Moffat dead yet?" he asked the man's daughter who came to the door. "Us kids are playing funeral and we need Mr. Moffat."

One of the neighbors has ants. No, they're not in her pantry. They're in the fireplace, of all places. People keep recommending insect powders and sprays. Yesterday, a brand new suggestion came to her attention—coffee grounds. Seems if you sprinkle used coffee grounds around where ants are, ants won't be there any more. Anyway, she's experimenting, with high hopes.

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