

by Clara B. Lawrence

Sunday School Lesson



MRS. LAWRENCE

By Clara B. Lawrence
Subject: Persecuted But Triumphant
May 16, 1982

Lesson The Throng The Triumph
Scripture Revelation 7:9-12 Revelation 7:13-17
Background Scripture... Rev. 6-7

Lesson Background

In Revelation 6, John's vision revealed that the Lamb of God was the only One worthy to open the six seals on the scroll that God held in His right hand. We will note in the eighth chapter, the opening of the seventh seal by the Lamb. After the opening of each of the six seals, catastrophic events occurred. Chapter six concludes with the statement, "for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" The answer is No one, "So dreadful will His wrath be that all men are seen trying to flee from it, calling on the rocks and mountains to cover them from God's wrath. Revelation 7 is a continuation of the description of the tribulation record in chapter 6, and includes John's vision of the 144,000 Jews who would be sealed by God, and also his vision of a great multitude worshipping before the heavenly throne. An angel ascended from the east, having the seal of the living God, and cried with a loud voice, "hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees till we (the Trinity) have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads" (7:1-3).

"Believers in this dispensation are sealed immediately upon conversion and are sealed until the day of their resurrection and translation to Heaven," (Lehman Strauss, "The Book of Revelation").

Lesson Explained

Verses 1-8 of Revelation 7 look back, showing how the people of God have been made secure against evil powers. Then in a forward look, John sees triumphant believers arrayed in splendor, praising God for their salvation.

Our lesson begins with John's vision of a great multitude gathered before the Lamb, the group could not be numbered. They were clothed in white robes, representing purity or redeemed individuals. Their robes were made white in the blood of the Lamb. They "were from all nations and kindred, (tribes), people (races), and tongues (languages)." They held palms in their hands and praised God saying "salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." (vss. 9-10). The angels surrounding the throne responded in praise by saying a sevenfold doxology and falling on their faces in worship. The word "Amen" at the opening and closing emphasize faithfulness of God to fulfill His promises. "Glory" emphasizes the inward attitude that is expressed in praise. The angels' desire was that their praise would continue forever and ever. (vss. 11-12).

John is relating the dialogue between himself and one of the 24 elders who evidently came to explain the magnificent scene in verses 13-17. The elder asked John who were the person in white robes and where did they come from. John said, "Sir, thou knowest." Then the elder explained that those in white robes had come "out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (vss. 13-14).

Finally, notice God's provision for His people in the latter verses: "They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor sun smite them." These verses echo Isaiah 49:10 which is a reminder that God has promised to protect his "redeemed" from life's problems. His provision also included comfort and relief from grief by "wiping away all tears from their eyes." These last words are unequalled in depth and tenderness expressed by God. We have the assurance that He is now our shepherd who will provide for our needs.

Closing Summary

The victorious multitude who was cleansed by the blood of Christ in Revelation, applies to all believers in Christ who will have suffered for His sake. Sorrow shall not always have the upper hand. The day is coming when God will have removed every semblance of the cause of tears; even though He will bring righteous judgment on those who will have rejected him. Since the future holds joy and victory in Jesus Christ, the endurance of suffering is worth it all. We will be singing praises around The Throne

Revelation 7:9-12



Mrs. Willie Lee Wright
...Crowned "Ms. Mt. Zion"

Miss Wright Is "Ms. Mount Zion"

By Teresa Burns
Post Managing Editor
For the fourth year the symbolic bells of Mt. Zion Holiness Church have rang loud announcing the Ms. Mount Zion Pageant.

This year the pageant drew eight hard-working contestants. The event, sponsored by Eugene Lewis along with the members of the church, including the church's pastor, Bishop Willie Davis Jr., was a success. More than \$4,000 was raised, but most important was the fellowship experienced by church members.

Crowned was Mrs. Willie Lee Wright. First runner-up was Elizabeth Anthony while second place went to Louise Smith.

About 200 individuals filled the church during the impressive and decorative affair. The eight ladies were asked questions, captivated everyone with their grace and charm and exceeded even the thought of loveliness.

The proceeds the ladies raised will be used for different purposes in the church, including the pastor's anniversary and the General Assembly Pageant. This Annual Convention to be held in October of this year.

Mrs. Wright was crowned and presented a trophy and a monetary award. She will represent Mt. Zion Holiness Church during the General Assembly Pageant during the Annual Convention. Churches from North

Carolina and South Carolina are a part of this convention.

Mrs. Wright will also represent the church at various church functions and has allowed to attend free any church activity requiring a fee.

Each contestant received a token of appreciation from the church acknowledging their efforts and hard work.

Mrs. Wright, who raised the most money in the competition, entered the pageant for the following reasons: "It is an honor to represent my church and Bishop and all of our members because I love everyone of you."

"My ambition is to be used in serving God and be ready when He calls for me," she continued.

Her hobbies include reading, crocheting and traveling. She has been a member of Mt. Zion Holiness Church, located at 2800 Tuckasee Road, since August 1949. Mrs. Wright was escorted by Thomas Harold McColough.

NEW ST. JOHN'S

The pastor's theme for Sunday at St. John's Baptist Church is "Need for Revival." Rev. Robert Leak, pastor of the church, will deliver this dynamic message at the 11 a.m. worship service. This service begins the church's week-long revival crusade. The Spring Youth Crusade will begin 6 p.m. Sunday.

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