

By Clara B. Lawrence

# Sunday School Lesson



MRS. LAWRENCE

Subject: All Things Made New  
May 30, 1982

Lesson	Scripture
A New Creation	Revelation 21:1-4
A New Inheritance	Revelation 21:5-7
A New Way to Worship	Revelation 21:22-27
Background Scripture..Rev. 21-22	

### Lesson Background

The Book of Revelation has traced the history of the church, Israel and the Gentile nation through our present age, and right on to the end of the Millennial: Satan and his wicked angels have been judged, and along with the wicked of the human race, have been cast into the lake of fire.

Chapters 19-20, reveal the final victory of Christ and His defeat of evil; and in the twenty-first chapter, and the first five verses of the twenty-second, we have a glowing picture of a new state of purity and

bliss which awaits the redeemed from among men. John is now given a vision of that eternal state concerning the new heaven and the new earth. This is the last of John's visions of what God has in mind for believers.

### Lesson Explained

Our lesson opens with these words: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea." John is merely stating that the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. His statement concerning the absence of the sea seems to indicate to him that this was an improvement in God's Kingdom, because with the oceans gone there would be more land for people's use.

John saw the new Jerusalem come down from God and rest upon or over the new earth. The city represented the total community of believers. The new Jerusalem does not refer to the old or new parts of the earthly city of Jerusalem. There are three heavens mentioned in the Bible: the heaven of the Atmosphere, the Starry heaven and the Home of God. He described the city also as One "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (vss. 1-2).

The voice John heard from heaven called the city "the tabernacle of God." God is thus said to dwell with His people throughout eternity. According to verse 4, life in the new Jerusalem will be free from the things which were caused by the curse of sin as sorrow, crying, pain and death. The new order of things will permit no sadness (vss. 3-4).

God declared that He would "make all things new" and that His words were "true and faithful." Alpha and Omega describe God as the sum of all reality and truth. He promised "the water of life for those who are faithful to Christ shown by their thirst for the living water. This promise of God included a new inheritance for all believers in Christ. It seems at this point, the Apostle was so overtaken with what he saw and heard that he ceased writing for a moment, thus the command from God "write: for these words are true and faithful" (vss. 5-7).

Verses 9-21 of this chapter describe the new Jerusalem: its size, walls, foundations and gates which were twelve in number and each made of a single pearl. Then verse 22 begins to tell how God's presence affects the city. It does not need the sun nor moon for light; it does not need a temple because the Lord and the Lamb form the focus of worship (vss. 22-23). The twenty-fourth verse of Revelation in the best Greek manuscripts reads, "And the nations shall walk by its light and the kinds of the earth shall bring their glory to it."

The gates to the city will remain open at all times for the Lord Himself will protect them from evil out-siders (vs. 25).

There shall not be no defilement in the new city. The positive side that characterizes the city is stated in verse 27; only "they which are written in the Lamb book of life" will be there. These will be the ones who will have been made new in Christ (vss. 26-27).

### Closing Summary

This lesson has given us a forward-looking message, a glimpse of the heavenly city which Christ has prepared for all those who have accepted His free gift of eternal life. The new city of Jerusalem is a place where tears are forever banished and death is no more, and where darkness is unknown and finally, where God Himself and the Savior are the temple.



Carrie Miller (right) was crowned "Mrs. Saint Paul Baptist Church" for the year of 1982-83 recently. First runner-up, Annie Nail (left), was also honored. Rev. Dr. Paul W. Drummond, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, congratulated both of their tremendous efforts. This Women's Day Committee was chaired by Sophie Blackmon. The captains participating in the event were chaired by Carolyn Ginyard. Speaker for the 11 a.m. Women's Day service was Mrs. P. W. Drummond, teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Mrs. Miller received a crown and an appreciation plaque. She is the widow of the late Deacon Mose Miller. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Matrons and Gospel Choir III. She joined St. Paul under the leadership of the late Rev. P. M. Mayfield.

## Four Major Meetings Scheduled For June

Four major public meetings have been scheduled for June to present Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Transportation Action Plan to the public. All interested persons and civic organizations are invited to attend the meetings scheduled for:

**The Freedom Drive Area** - Freedom Mall, Thursday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

**The SouthPark Area** - Sharon United Methodist Church, Wednesday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m.

**The West Charlotte area** - West Charlotte High School, Monday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. (auditorium)

**The Uptown Area** - First Union Tower (12th floor), Thursday, June 17, at 8 p.m.

At the meetings a slide show and brochure will be used to explain one possible future in Charlotte-Mecklenburg for land use along the resulting transportation system. Surveys and questionnaires will be used to solicit written public comment during the review period from May 18 to July 16.

The TAP will provide local elected officials with the information necessary to make transportation decisions during the 1980's. Local transportation choices are limited by city, county, state and federal funding levels. These decisions must be based on current issues which include congestion, safety, air pollution, urban revitalization and neighborhood preservation. Transportation decisions must also be based on an examination of both land use and transportation systems because of their many inter-

relationships. For additional information on TAP, contact Sharon Phillips, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, 374-2205.

## Outstanding Women Honored

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.-Charlotte Club-is sponsoring the first annual "Black Business and Professional Woman's Award." This award will be given in recognition of outstanding service to the business community by a Black Woman.

The winner of the award will be announced at the Awards Banquet which will be held on Thursday, May 27, 6:30 p.m., Trade Street YWCA, 418 East Trade St.

Businesses, corporations and human service agencies throughout Charlotte have been mailed entry materials for the award competition. Several outstanding women have been selected as judges for the Black Business and Professional Woman's Award competition: Ms. Phyllis Lynch, Executive Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council; Ms. Jeanette Grier, Manager, Bitsy Bounty Food Mart; Ms. Kathleen Cross, Trust Administration, North Carolina National Bank; and Ms. Carol Ricks, owner, Intervention Concepts.

For more information, contact: Sarah Stevenson, President, NANBPW-Charlotte Club, 334-3035.

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