



“Let him
take
the water
of life
freely”

Revelation 22:17

SUNDAY
SCHOOL *Superintendent*

Spring Quarter | March | April | May 2025

Sunday School Superintendent

SPRING QUARTER

March, April, May 2025

Editorials	2
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The Climax of History

UNIT I: Challenges to the Faith

Mar. 2—Beware of False Teachers—Jude 1:1-13	4
Mar. 9—Build Up Your Faith—Jude 1:17-25	6

UNIT II: The Revelation of Jesus

Mar. 16—Jesus Is Coming—II Pet. 3:3-15a	8
Mar. 23—Worship Before the Throne—Rev. 4:1-11	10
Mar. 30—Worthy Is the Lamb—Rev. 5:1-5, 11-14	12
Apr. 6—The Great Multitude—Rev. 7:9-17	14
Apr. 13—Babylon Is Fallen—Rev. 14:6-13	16
Apr. 20—Jesus Fulfills the Scriptures (Easter)—Luke 24:32-49	18

UNIT III: The Final Victory

Apr. 27—The Wedding Feast of the Lamb—Rev. 19:5-10	20
May 4—A New Heaven and a New Earth—Rev. 21:1-8	22
May 11—The Holy New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:9-14, 22-27	24
May 18—The River of Life—Rev. 22:1-9	26
May 25—Come, Lord Jesus—Rev. 22:12-21	28
Paragraphs on Places and People	30



Editor in Chief: James M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Managing Editor: Michelle Birtasevic

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Editorials

BY TOM GREENE

The Climax of History

What are we to make of the end times? Sincere Christians disagree with each other in substantial ways about the events surrounding Christ's return, sometimes arguing more than they agree. This quarter we will investigate some of the more difficult books in the Bible. Although some people avoid studying Revelation in particular because of its difficulty, we should not adopt this practice. All of God's Word is useful to us. We will not focus on the areas of serious contention but will highlight some of the practical points.

Second Peter, Jude, and Revelation all deal with the threat of false teachers. These false teachers appear both inside and outside of the church and threaten its purity and peace. They must be resisted, and their lies rejected. We should be gracious as we correct our brothers and sisters who fall into error, as we all err at times. But we should fiercely resist those who deny Christ and try to infiltrate the church and undercut the gospel message.

Peter and Jude both remind us of the way God judged sin in the past by giving examples, including Noah's flood (II Pet. 3:6) and Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 1:7). Scoffers today question whether Jesus will ever return or if God will ever judge wickedness. God's judgments in the past,

however, serve as reminders that He will one day judge the world. He is patient, because He does not wish that anyone should perish, and He gives all people time to repent (II Pet. 3:9). This patience will not last forever, and one day God will judge the world with fire. The world rejects this truth, however. Many deny that God will ever judge. In fact, many ridicule Christians or label them as judgmental for proclaiming God's coming judgment.

In several parts of the world, Christians are persecuted. Jude, Peter, and John all wrote to Christians, urging them to endure suffering. This may be minor in some parts of the world, but it is severe in other places. No matter the degree of suffering, however, it will be worth it in the light of eternity.

All these Biblical authors remind God's people of the certainty of heaven and divine wrath. When viewed in the light of these alternatives, any temporary suffering is insignificant by comparison and worth enduring.

At much greater length than both Peter and Jude, John spends time painting a picture of the heavenly reward that awaits God's people. God will put an end to all evil and all the effects of sin. Sickness, sadness, pain, and death will all come to an end, and they will be replaced with unending

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joy. This joy will not merely be the result of God's gifts but God's presence. Throughout the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to seek His face and hoped to see His face after death (cf. Pss. 27:8; 24:6; 17:15). One day in glory, this hope will be realized, and we will finally see His face (Rev. 22:4).

We will worship Jesus, who is both the Lamb who was slain for us and the Lion of the tribe of Judah who rules over all. This will not be halfhearted, tepid worship. It will be thunderous, ecstatic praise of our King. John depicts the heavenly throne room, in which uncountable throngs of angels, creatures, and the redeemed fall before Jesus in endless praise and adoration. His descriptions of the new heavens and the new earth go far beyond what we can imagine.

In Genesis, Adam and Eve were exiled from Eden and lost access to the tree of life. In the final chapter

of Revelation, however, we see that God's people once again have access to this tree. All that was broken as the result of sin in the world will be undone. Humanity will be fully restored to a perfect, harmonious, joyful relationship with God.

Unlike Genesis, however, Revelation does not describe a garden. Instead, it describes our destination as a city: the new Jerusalem. Within it, all who have been washed clean by Christ's blood will reside.

Since the goal we are striving toward is joyfully worshipping God forever, doesn't it make sense to worship Him now? True, our worship today will be feeble by comparison, and we certainly will not be sinless in this life. But we can still praise and enjoy Him. We will grow in holiness over the course of our lives as we sanctified.

There is a lot of talk about worship in the lessons this quarter. As Christians, we do not merely want to hear God's Word, we want to do what it says. If your classes do not typically sing during Sunday school, consider doing that at least a few times this quarter. Week four features John's vision of the throne room of heaven and Jesus receiving worship. That would be a good first week if you want to try it, and it would give you time to prepare.

All this is possible because of what Jesus did on the cross. On Easter Sunday we will take a break from our study of history's finale and look at some of Jesus' appearances to His followers after He rose from the dead. Jesus walked with them, but they did not recognize Him. When He ate with them, they realized His true identity and believed He was the Messiah. May you and your congregation grow in your knowledge and the love of the Lord this and every week as you worship Him.

Beware of False Teachers

Lesson Text: Jude 1:1-13

GOLDEN TEXT—“It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3b).

OPENING MOMENTS

Suggested Song (Adults)

“For All the Saints” (How)

Suggested Song (Children)

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”
(Mote)

Icebreaker

When you think about threats to the church, do you tend to think about people and forces inside of the church or outside of the church? Why?

LESSON OUTLINE

1. Be Aware (Jude 1:1-4)
2. Be Faithful (Jude 1:5-13)

KEY ISSUES

Courtroom dramas usually have one of the attorneys trying to shake the testimony of a witness. They may ask questions on various topics; then ask the same basic questions using different terminology and coming from different angles to see whether the witness stays with his story or makes changes.

The person who is telling the truth will stick to that truth regardless of how many times he is questioned on a matter. He can stay with the truth because of what it is—the truth! To alter his statements

would be unthinkable, because he witnessed what he is testifying to. Attorneys may do everything they can to make the witness change his story, but generally the truth will win out.

There are some opposing Christianity who will make it very hard on us. Sometimes they will go to great lengths to ruin our testimony. Let us remain steadfast in faith.

God has a purpose for each believer. Not every child of God will experience the same things, but we all will face challenges which God uses in order to do His work in us. All of us are required to remain constant in faith.

Jude greeted his readers as a humble servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He reminded them of their identity in Christ. He told them they were called, beloved, and kept for Jesus Christ. It is possible to overlook the greetings when we read the Bible, but the importance of what Jude wrote in his greeting sets the firm foundation for what he is going to write. It is clear from verse three that the topic of Jude’s epistle was not his first choice, but due to recent disturbing developments the Spirit moved him to alter his plan. False teachers had infiltrated the church. This was not a case of a sin-