

A RETURNING TRUTH

Christ Returns
Revelation
21:1–22:5
AD 95

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus promises to take us to heaven.

BIBLE VERSE

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Revelation 7:17

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that Jesus promises to take me and all believers to live with Him in heaven forever.

LAW & GOSPEL

We suffer from the effects of sin in this world.

Jesus promises all believers that we will one day be with Him in heaven, where we will live joyfully in His presence forever.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Banished to the island of Patmos, John receives a revelation of the new heaven and new earth. In this climax to the Book of Revelation, John describes the indescribable—the Lamb of God in His glory with His people in their eternal home.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Revelation 21:1–22:5 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read the articles “Christ in Revelation” and “Jesus’ Human Nature” in *TLSEB*, page 2237.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Gold or silver pipe cleaners
- Paper doilies
- Watercolors
- Salt shakers
- Fancy paper and ribbon
- Angel sugar cookies, frosting, crystal sugar sprinkles, plastic knives
- Shaving cream and cookie sheets
- Water and towels
- Crepe-paper streamers or colorful scarves

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

SAY

- When Jesus' work on earth was done, He went back to His home in heaven. He promised to get a place ready for us so we can live there with Him someday. Today, we're going to learn about heaven and some things that are there.**
- Have you ever had to wait for something to happen? Maybe it was your birthday or a special vacation. How long did you have to wait? How did it feel? In today's lesson, we will learn about how we will one day live with God in the new heaven and earth.**

PRAY

Dear Lord Jesus, as we study our lesson this week, help us understand the promises You made to one day take us to be with You forever. Bless our time together. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** After you tell the story, hand out paper and crayons and ask children to draw a picture of what they think heaven will be like. Build on children's happiness and security now so that through it they will eventually begin to understand Jesus' promise of a heavenly home and find comfort in knowing we will live with Him forever.
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Have volunteers read aloud from the Bible: **Revelation 21:4, 8** and **22:3-5**. Talk about why the new heaven and new earth are described in terms of what it is not and who is not there. Turn to **Revelation 22:1-5**. Ask a volunteer to read these verses. Ask students to make connections between the tree described here and the tree in **Genesis 3:22-24**.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What did John see?
- How will people feel and live in heaven?
- Who will be in heaven?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- In the new heaven and earth, there will be no fear, sorrow, tears, mourning, or pain. We will live in perfect joy and peace with God forever!
- Our eternal home is almost beyond our understanding, filled with joy instead of sorrow.
- Because God's presence gives light, there is no need for sun or moon.
- Because Jesus died and rose again to wipe away our sin, God promises to take all who believe in Him as their Savior to be with Himself for all eternity.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus, our Messiah, won victory over sin, death, and the devil for us on the cross. He will return one day to make all things new.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: When you read an emotion, such as happy or sad, ask children to act out that emotion with you.

One of Jesus' helpers was named John. God loved John and everyone who believed in Jesus. God wanted them to know that even though they had troubles, He was with them. He was making a home for them in heaven. So God sent an angel to John in a special way. The angel showed John what heaven would be like.

What do you think heaven will be like? *Pause for answer.*

John saw Jesus sitting on a throne. There was bright light around Him. John saw that everything bad had ended. There was a new heaven and a new earth. No one was sick. No one was *sad* or crying. No one died. Then John saw a beautiful city with a high wall and gates. He saw some of God's angels. He saw a flowing river and the tree of life with many kinds of fruit. People were *happy* and praising God. John wrote down what he saw. It is written in the last book of the Bible called the Book of Revelation. No one really knows what heaven looks like for sure. But we know it will be a beautiful, *happy* place, because that's what God's angel showed John.

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His helper friends about heaven too. These words are for us too. He says, "I know you have had some *happy* days. But I'm get-

ting a place ready for you where you'll be *happier* than ever before! That place is My Father's house. His house is called heaven. My Father's house is prettier than anything you've ever seen. It has lots of room and it's very beautiful! The streets are gold and the gates have jewels. You will love the special place I have ready for you.

"In My house, no one will ever be *sad*. Everyone will be *happy* all the time! No one will ever get sick. No one will get hurt or cut or bruised. No one will ever make you cry or tease you. No one will say or do anything wrong. And best of all, you'll get to see Me! We'll talk with each other. You'll get to see the angels and God's friends that you've been learning about—Paul, Philip, Stephen, David, Moses, and all the rest! You'll see the people you love who believe in Me too! You can sing and be *happy* together.

"I'm getting this beautiful home ready for you because I love you so much! You are special to Me. I died on the cross to pay for your sins and rose again so you can live in heaven with Me forever. I promise to take you there someday."

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

All but one of Jesus' twelve apostles were put to death for their faith in Jesus. The last of the Twelve was John, the brother of James, who took care of Mary after Jesus died.

John wasn't put to death, but he was exiled. He was forced to leave his people and live on an island called Patmos. For an apostle, being away from Christians was one of the hardest things.

But something very important happened while John was in exile. Jesus showed him a revelation that God the Father had given Him. It showed John what was happening in heaven and on earth.

That is so important because sometimes really bad things happen. Sometimes, it feels like Jesus doesn't know what's happening to us or that He doesn't care about us. Jesus gave John this revelation to write down so we could remember that God is in control of everything. One day He will come again to take away all the bad things and make

His creation new, perfect, and wonderful forever. That includes each of us believers too.

In the revelation, John saw Jesus in the new Jerusalem, and he wrote about it. Jesus said, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 21:6). The description of the city and the tree of life sounds amazing and unusual as John struggles to explain heavenly things in earthly language.

John wrote down everything he saw and experienced in what became the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. It tells us that God supervises all things and orders events so unbelievers will repent and glorify Him.

John finished his Book of Revelation with a promise from Jesus: "Surely I am coming soon." John's answer is our prayer, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Move and Sing

Make a bridge with a helper or another child by holding hands and raising arms high. Have children line up and walk underneath as you sing these words to the tune “London Bridge Is Falling Down” and do actions: **I am on my way to heav’n, way to heav’n, way to heav’n. I am on my way to heav’n. I’ll see Jesus. Lower bridge to catch a child. He’ll hug me and hold me tight. Hold me tight. Hold me tight. He’ll hug me and hold me tight. Jesus loves me.**



Angel Craft

Make angels. Have children place a paper cup upside down and draw a smiling face. Twist one end of a gold or silver pipe cleaner into halo. Tape it to the back of the cup, so the halo extends over the cup. Fold a doily in half, center it over the pipe cleaner, and glue on the back of the cup for wings. Say, **There will be many angels in heaven praising Jesus. Who else will be there? What will you do?**



Happy Art

Let children use watercolors to make a picture of what they think heaven will look like. Shake salt on pictures while still wet. When they dry, pictures will sparkle. Talk about how heaven will be a wonderful place where they will see Jesus and live with Him forever. Let children tell about things they might do.



A Letter of Hope and Love

John wrote the Book of Revelation to share what he had learned about Jesus’ second coming. Ask students to write a letter to their friends and family, telling about what they learned from God’s Word today. Add to the fun: provide fancy paper and ribbon to tie it.



Angel Snack

Set out angel sugar cookies, frosting, crystal sugar sprinkles, and plastic knives. Have children frost an angel and add the sugar sprinkles. Say, **Angels serve God and help us. In heaven, we will see God’s angels. Best of all, we will see Jesus!**



Finger Painting

Finger-paint with shaving cream on cookie sheets or right on the table. Have the children make happy designs. Provide shirts for cover-ups and water and towels for clean up. Talk about some of the fun and happy things they like to do. One day we will be in heaven with Jesus. It will be the best place of all.



Heaven Is a Happy Place

Play the song “He’s Coming” (digital resource center) or other happy music. Give children strips of crepe paper or colorful scarves, and have them move or dance to the music. Talk about how heaven is a happy place because we will be with Jesus. There won’t be hurts or tears anymore. We will sing and praise Jesus and be with those we love.



LEAVE

SAY

Jesus promises to take all believers to heaven to live with Him in perfect peace and happiness forever.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving up Your life to save me from my sin. Help me to live as Your child as I look forward to living forever with You. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.