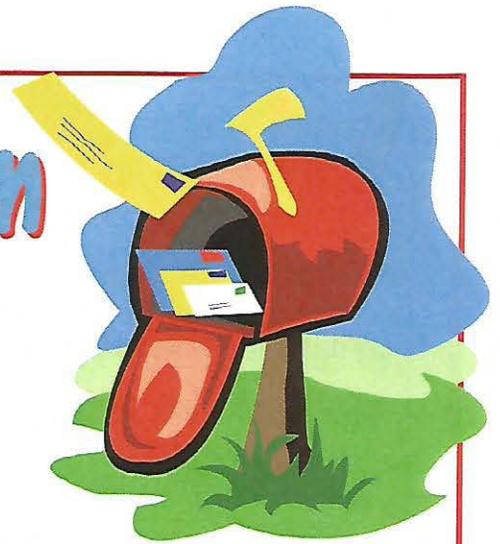


Letters From Heaven



Lesson 13

Jesus Wins!

Theme: Victory in Jesus—Winning over sin and death

Memory Verse

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith....”

Hebrews 12:1-2

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Revelation 2:1-5, 8-10
- 2 Revelation 2:12-14, 16, 18-21, 24-25
- 3 Revelation 3:1-4, 7-8, 10-11
- 4 Revelation 3:14-22
- 5 Revelation 21:1-8; 22:18-20

Many years ago, it was especially hard to follow Jesus because men who led the government did not want people to be Christians. These leaders tried to stop men from preaching the gospel and often hurt people who followed Jesus. The last book of the New Testament called Revelation was written to Christians who were hurting because they tried to live for Jesus.

The apostle John wrote the book of Revelation. He was in prison on an island called Patmos because he preached the Word of God. John knew of other Christians who were also suffering

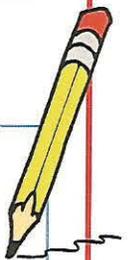
After this lesson you should be able to ...

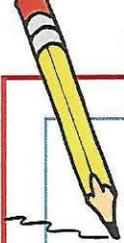
- Describe the main message of the book of Revelation.
- Describe a lukewarm Christian.
- Identify that Jesus knows and cares about each church.

Revelation 2:1-5, 8-10

Jesus was concerned that Christians in Ephesus had left their a) home, b) first love, b) second wife.

Jesus promised that those who are faithful to Him until death will receive a a) big house, b) new name, c) crown of life.





Revelation 2:12-14, 16, 18-21, 24-25

Match the following:

Teaching of Balaam	Did not want to repent
What sinners need to do	Hold fast to the end
The prophetess Jezebel	Idolatry and immorality
What Christians must do	Repent

because they believed in Jesus. He wrote the book of Revelation to encourage them. But when you read Revelation, you soon see that it isn't like other New Testament letters. John describes strange pictures that he

saw, such as men riding different colored horses and beasts coming up out of the sea. Why did John write this way?

The book of Revelation is a special kind of writing in which pictures are described in words. These word-pictures were written to be interesting and to encourage Christians to live for Jesus. This kind of writing may also have kept the message secret from some evil people, while Christians would understand it.

It isn't always easy to know the meaning of the word-pictures in Revelation. But remember that God helped John write Revelation, and God wants us to understand it. We have to read the book in a different way than we do other letters. We may not understand every detail of the book, but we can get the main message.

What is the main message of Revelation? Here it is. Evil is strong in the world. It may look as if the devil is stronger than the Lord. It may be hard for Christians to follow Jesus. But everyone needs to know how the story ends. In the end, Jesus wins! That's the main message of Revelation. No matter how hard it is to follow Jesus or how much you may hurt, remember that Jesus wins, and those who follow Him will also win!

Letters to Seven Churches

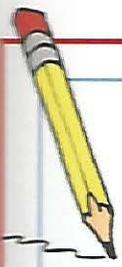
Through John, Jesus sent a short letter to churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Jesus let each church know that He knew about their attitudes and actions, and He cared about them. He knew that Christians in *Ephesus* did not love Him as they did at an earlier time. Jesus told them to repent and live for Him as they once did. Jesus knew some Christians in *Smyrna* would soon be put in prison for being Christians. Jesus encouraged them

Revelation 3:1-4, 7-8, 10-11

The church at Sardis had a name that they were alive, but Jesus knew they were really dead. What does this mean?

The church at Philadelphia had little power, but kept Jesus' _____.





Revelation 3:14-22

Lukewarm means to be a) sometimes hot and sometimes cold, b) hot and cold, c) neither hot nor cold.

Cross out the wrong answers. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. We must ...

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Hear His voice | Leave Him outside |
| Open the door | Dine with Him |
| Go outside | Leave the door closed |

to have great faith and reminded them that they would win in the end.

Some believers in *Pergamum* were standing for Jesus, even though it was hard. But some in Pergamum were following false teaching, and Jesus told them to stop and repent. In *Thyatira*, some Christians were growing stronger and stronger, but others were doing things that were wrong. Jesus warned them to

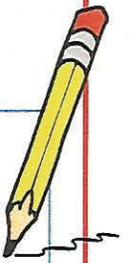
change. Jesus knew that people thought the church at *Sardis* was alive, but He knew they were dead. This means that Christians were not really living for Jesus, even though it looked like they were. In *Philadelphia*, the Christians were being strong and serving the Lord, and Jesus commended and encouraged them. Jesus called the Christians in *Laodicea* lukewarm. He says that they were neither hot nor cold. They were not against Jesus, but they really weren't living for Him either. Jesus told them to get excited about following Him and to put their hearts in it.

These seven short letters tell us that Jesus knows and cares about each church. He knows the good, and He knows the bad. He loves each Christian and each local church. He wants each one to listen to His Word and to have strong faith. We should follow God's Word without changing it. Every Christian and every church needs to know that whatever happens, Jesus wins. We should let Jesus shape our hearts for God. We need to be with Jesus and stay with Him all the way.

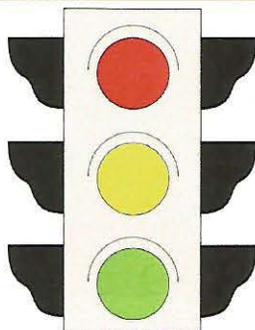
Revelation 21:1-8; 22:18-20

You may use a dictionary or ask your parents about this question. What are Alpha and Omega?

What will happen to anyone who takes away from the words of the book of Revelation?



I plan to be faithful.

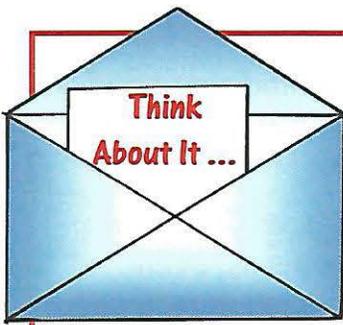


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — until I'm grown

Yellow — until it's too hard

Green — until death



Write a word-picture. Describe in words a battle that someone has with the devil.

By writing numbers in the blanks, put the major stages of Bible history in the right order:

- ___ Punished by Captivity
- ___ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- ___ Law at Mount Sinai
- ___ Promise to Abraham
- ___ Wilderness Wanderings
- ___ Slavery in Egypt
- ___ Living in the Promised Land



What is the last book in the whole Bible about?

On a map inside the back cover, locate the cities of Bethlehem and Cana as well as the region of Judea.