

Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

John describes a mystical vision

Late one Sunday night on the island of Patmos, a servant who believed in Jesus saw a light burning in the room of John, the disciple of Jesus.

The servant entered the room and saw John at a table, writing. John's face was white. His eyes were burning.

"Are you all right?" the servant asked in alarm.

John looked up, seeming not to recognize the servant at first, then sighed and nodded.

"Yes," John said wearily. "I am well."

"Why are you awake so late?" the servant asked.

John pointed to the papers in front of him. "I am writing to the churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodicea and Philadelphia," John said. "I must tell them what I saw in my vision."

"You had a vision?" the servant exclaimed.

John nodded, then closed his eyes and began to speak.

"I heard the sound of a trumpet, and a man appeared in front of me," John said.

"The man was surrounded by seven golden candle holders and he wore a golden belt around his waist. His hair was as white as snow, his eyes burned like flames, and face shined like the sun. He held seven stars in one hand and a double-edged sword in the other. He spoke with a voice like a raging river.

"Do not be afraid," the man told me. "I am the first and the last. I am forever. Now write about the wonders I will show you, for they will come to pass."

"An angel then brought me to God's throne room in heaven. A rainbow surrounded the throne, and on each side were seated 24 men wearing white garments and gold



Illustrations by Kathy Walsh

crowns. The men were chanting, 'Holy is our God who reigns now and forever.'

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. A new Jerusalem, the holy city, came down out of heaven from God, like a beautiful bride on her wedding day.

"At that moment, a voice announced, 'God will live with his people from this day on. He will wipe away all sorrow, suffering, fear and death. Whoever is thirsty will drink freely from the water of life.'

"An angel took me by the hand and, in an instant, we were on top of a high mountain. 'Behold, the bride of the lamb of God,' the angel said.

"The new Jerusalem sparkled before us like a huge diamond. A high wall with 12 entrances encircled the city. Each entrance was named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel and was guarded by a sword-bearing angel.

"The wall was made of of the precious gem jasper, and the houses were forged of purest gold and decorated with every kind of jewel. The

doors at each entrance to the city were of white pearl, and they opened to streets paved with gold.

"A river of the water of life flowed from the throne of God through the center of the city. On each side of the river were beautiful fruit trees.

"There was no moon, no sun, because God was the light of the city and darkness had ceased to exist.

"Then Jesus stood in front of me and said, 'I will return soon, and I will bring my reward with me. All who have loved each other and followed my commandments will spend eternity here with me.'"

As he finished speaking, John opened his eyes and began to write again.

"I must finish these letters while it is all fresh in my mind," he mumbled.

The servant quietly left the room, amazed and puzzled by all he had heard. When he checked hours later, John was still writing.

Read more about it: Revelations 1, 21, 22

Q & A

Q: Who told John he would be returning soon?

Q: Who did Jesus say would spend eternity with him?

King Solomon's Wisdom



Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of men and women. God will bring every good deed to judgment, whether it is good or bad.
Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

Talking to God

Dear God,
Forgive me when I hurt others with my words or actions. Keep me from sickness, and guide me every day.

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."
Psalms 103:8

1 9 2 7 6 3 5 8 4 2 6 7 9 3 6 8 1 2

5 A vision of numbers 3

Using the Book of Revelations as your answer book, find the answers to the following questions. Answers found on page ?

1. How many churches received John's letters? (chapter 1)
2. How many seals did the scroll have? (ch. 5)
3. How many servants of God received a seal? (ch. 7)
4. How many witnesses did God send? (ch. 11)
5. How many plagues were there? (ch. 15)
6. How many years did the devil spend in chains? (ch. 20)
7. How many entrances were there to the wall around the new Jerusalem? (ch. 21)

1 9 2 7 6 3 5 8 4 2 6 7 9 3 6 8 1 7

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How would the world be different if everyone loved each other and obeyed God's commandments?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone. The essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Kids' Chronicle*. Send your entry to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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