

A RETURNING TRUTH

Christ Returns
Revelation 21:1–22:5

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

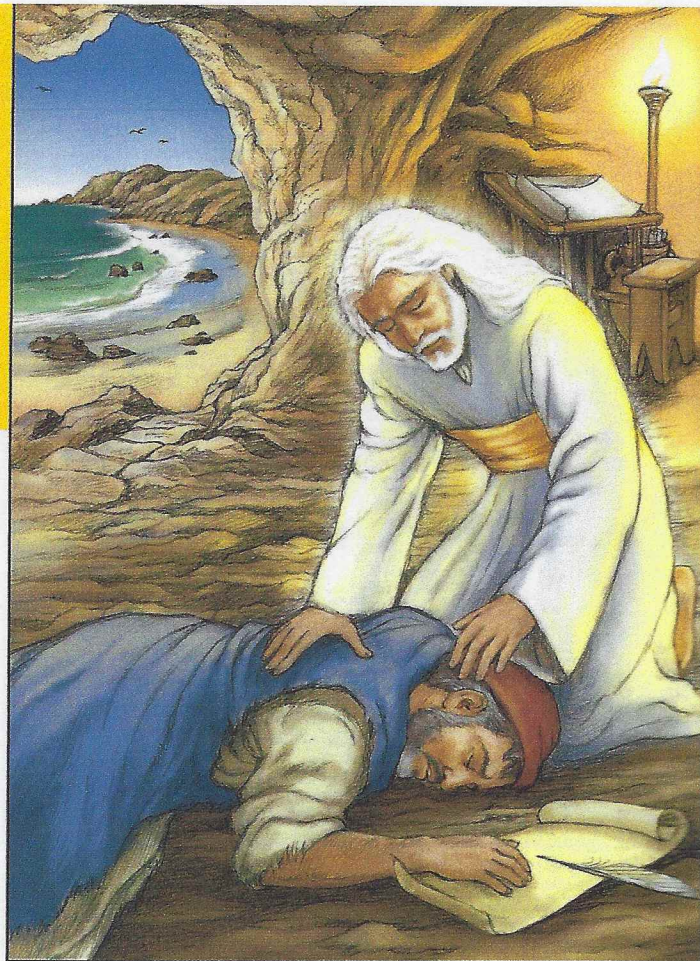
John wasn't put to death, but he was exiled. He was forced to leave his people and live on an island called Patmos. For an apostle, being away from other Christians was one of the hardest things.

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 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." 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).

John

The name *John* means "the Lord has been gracious."

John's brother James was also one of Jesus' disciples.

John was a fisherman who worked in his father's fishing business.



Jesus gave John the responsibility of taking care of His mother, Mary, after He died.

John was exiled to an island in the Mediterranean Sea called Patmos.

John was the last of the twelve apostles to die.



A Returning Truth

Why do you suppose the new heaven and new earth are described in terms of what it is not and who is not there? (See Revelation 21:4; 22:3–5.)



Measure It!

After revealing the new Jerusalem, the angel uses a golden rod to measure the city.

Read **Revelation 21:10–21**, and note the numbers.

What one number do you see repeated? Where else do we see this number in the Bible? How is this important to you? Why is there no temple in this Jerusalem (v. 22)?



Bible Verse: Revelation 7:17

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Scripture Connections

Read these Scripture passages for other connections to this narrative.

- ▶ Genesis 3:22–24
- ▶ Revelation 3:12

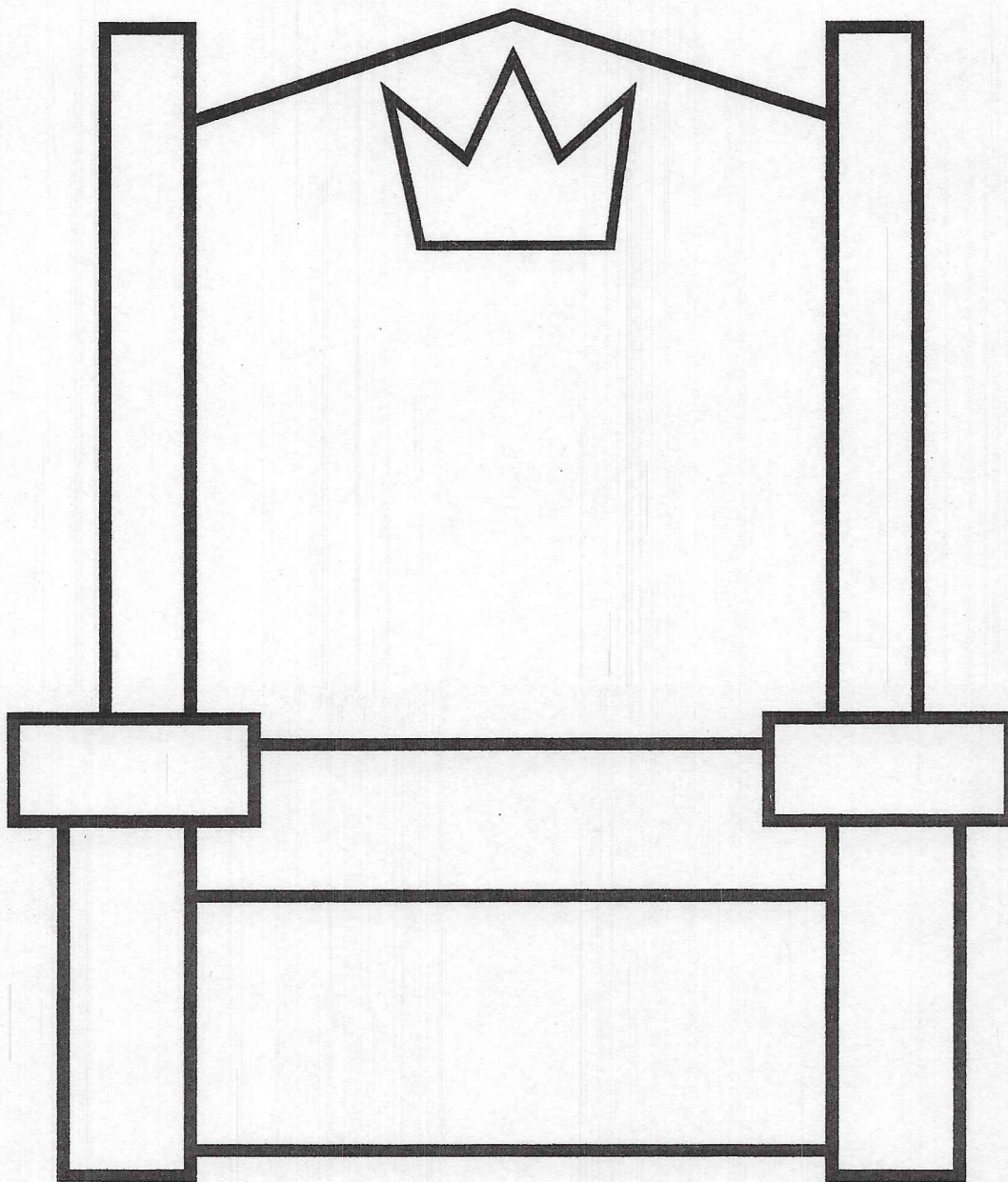
A RETURNING TRUTH—CHRIST RETURNS

Unit 3, Lesson 14

Our Heavenly Home

In the Book of Revelation, John describes what he saw when God gave him a vision of heaven. In Revelation 21:3 and 22:3–4, John says that in the new heaven and new earth, we, God’s restored people, will see God face-to-face and will live in His presence forever. How wonderful! In heaven, the Lamb of God, Jesus, our Savior, will be on His throne in glory.

Directions: On the throne below, write the names “God” and “Jesus.” Then, listen carefully as your teacher reads to you about more of the marvelous things that John saw in his vision of heaven. On the arms, legs, and seat of the throne, write down as many of these things as you can.



According to Revelation 21:4, what won't we see or experience in heaven?
