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The Gift of Heaven

Key References: Revelation 21; Revelation 22; *The Great Controversy*, chap. 42, pp. 662-678; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 167-175; Our Beliefs, nos. 28, 25, 18



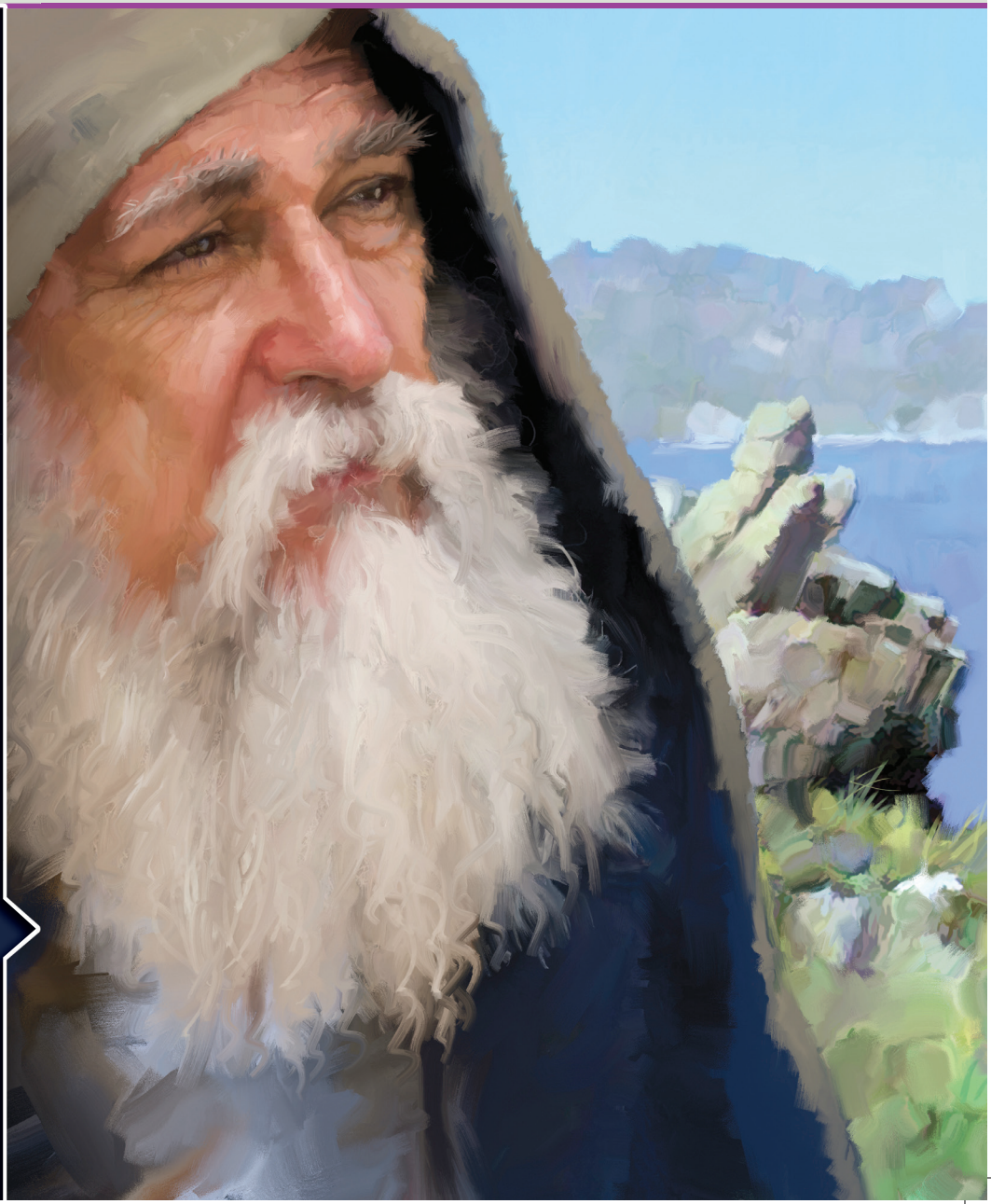












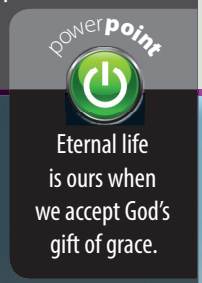
power**text**

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:1, 2).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

LEARN Begin learning the power text.



Eternal life is ours when we accept God's gift of grace.

"Oh, another dreary day. Nothing exciting is going to happen." When was the last time you felt like that? John the disciple probably did on the island of Patmos. But something exciting did happen one day—he saw a vision of heaven and the new earth! Imagine it.

It was the Sabbath day. John sat quietly, all alone on the rocky island of Patmos, where, as punishment for preaching the gospel and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, he had been sent far away from everyone and everything. John was lonely. But he wasn't discouraged, for now he had all the time in the world to pray and worship God.

As John looked out over the rocky shore, suddenly a loud voice like a trumpet called out to him. "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea" (Revelation 1:11).

John was startled. He turned quickly to see the source of the voice, and he saw seven golden lampstands. But what really caught his attention was the Person who was walking among the lampstands. It was a Man wearing a long white robe with a golden sash around His chest. He shone with a dazzling brightness, and His voice was like a thundering waterfall. *This must be Jesus,* John thought in awe.

Then Jesus, putting His hand on John's shoulder, spoke to him. "Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore!" (verses 17, 18).

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Sunday

READ Read Revelation 21:3-8 and this week's story, "The Gift of Heaven."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

CREATE Draw, paint, or write a description of the most beautiful bride and groom on their wedding day.

PRAY Ask God to help you wholeheartedly accept His gift of eternal life.

Monday

READ Read Revelation 21:9-14.

PHONE Call a friend and have a conversation about the things you look forward to enjoying in heaven.

SELECT Select a few hymns from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* that describe a beautiful picture of heaven. Read the words carefully to yourself, sing or play the hymns, or listen to them on recordings.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for wisdom and creativity to share Jesus.

Tuesday

READ Read Revelation 21:15-27.

THINK How do you feel knowing that God is preparing a place for you in the Holy City?

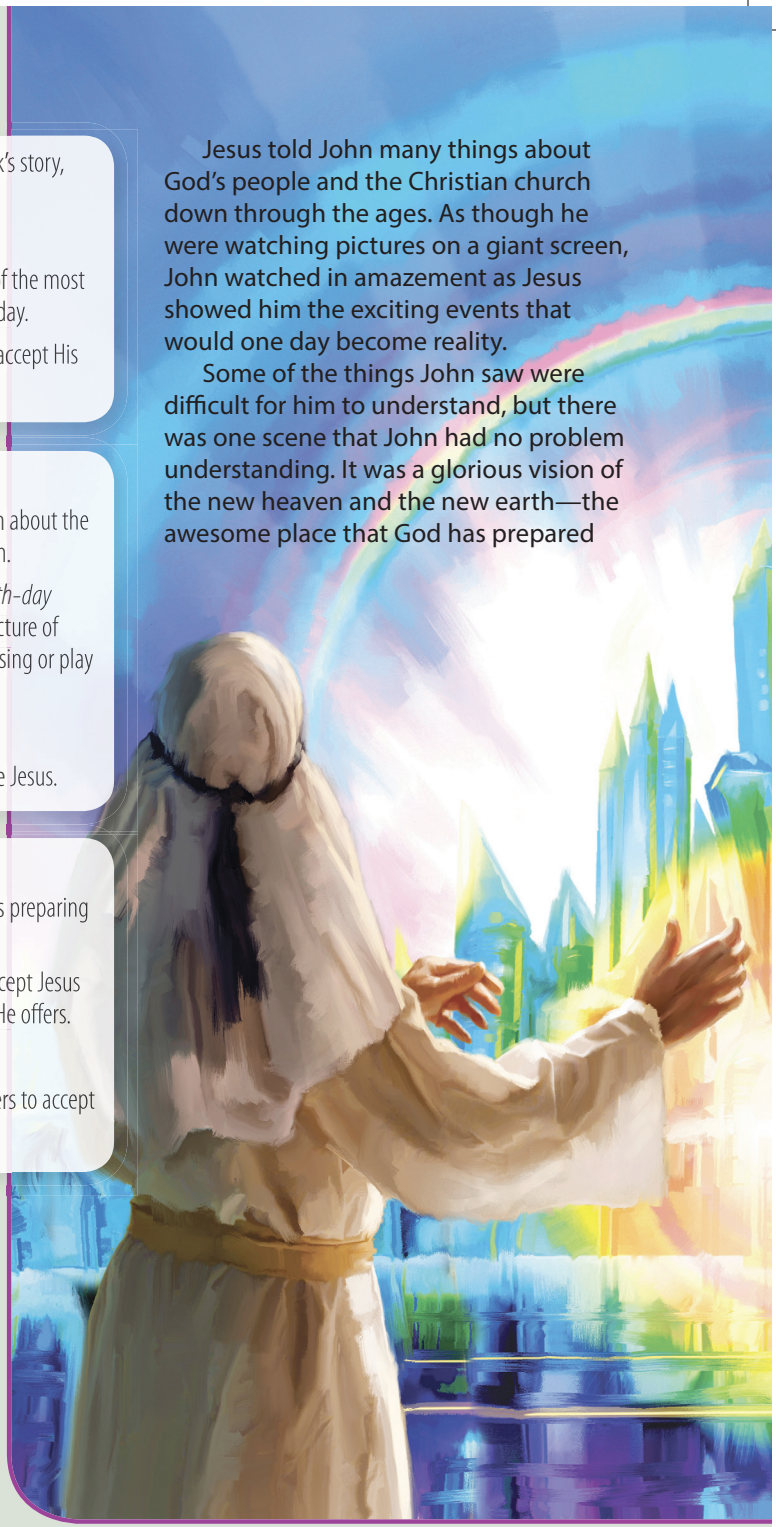
DO Find a way to encourage someone to accept Jesus as personal Savior and the gift of eternal life He offers.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to use you to encourage others to accept His gift of eternal life.

Jesus told John many things about God's people and the Christian church down through the ages. As though he were watching pictures on a giant screen, John watched in amazement as Jesus showed him the exciting events that would one day become reality.

Some of the things John saw were difficult for him to understand, but there was one scene that John had no problem understanding. It was a glorious vision of the new heaven and the new earth—the awesome place that God has prepared

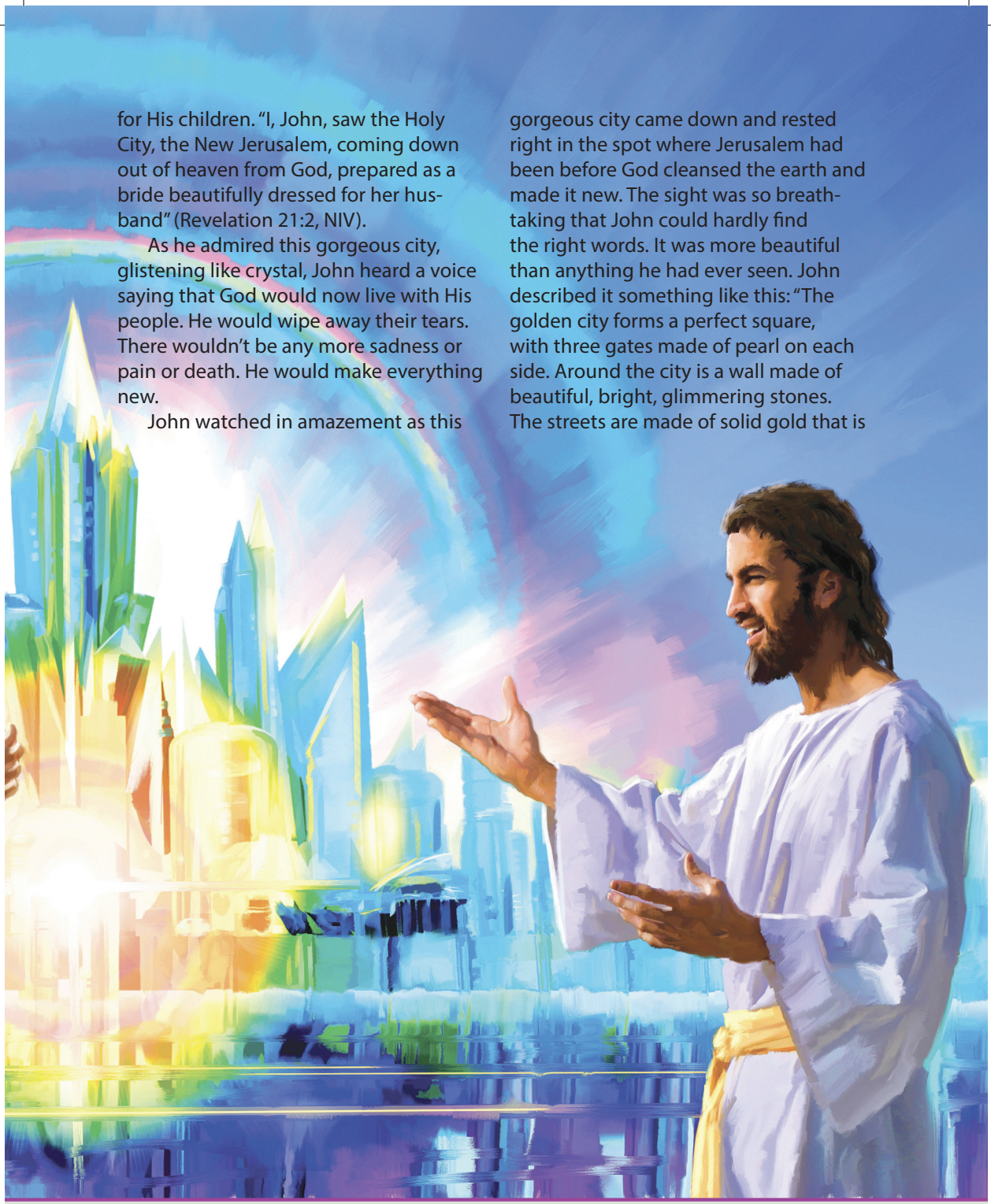


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for His children. "I, John, saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband" (Revelation 21:2, NIV).

As he admired this gorgeous city, glistening like crystal, John heard a voice saying that God would now live with His people. He would wipe away their tears. There wouldn't be any more sadness or pain or death. He would make everything new.

John watched in amazement as this gorgeous city came down and rested right in the spot where Jerusalem had been before God cleansed the earth and made it new. The sight was so breathtaking that John could hardly find the right words. It was more beautiful than anything he had ever seen. John described it something like this: "The golden city forms a perfect square, with three gates made of pearl on each side. Around the city is a wall made of beautiful, bright, glimmering stones. The streets are made of solid gold that is



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Wednesday

READ Read Revelation 21:19, 20.

FIND Find out what is the color of each of the precious stones mentioned in today's Bible reading.

DRAW Draw a picture of the 12 precious stones that will form the foundations of the city and color them the correct color.

REVIEW Review the power text, Revelation 21:1, 2.

PRAY Thank God for how beautiful heaven will be.

Thursday

READ Read Revelation 22.

THINK Are you ready for Jesus' second coming and for eternal life in His kingdom? What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13)?

CREATE Illustrate a scene of heaven from Revelation 21-22 through a drawing, painting, collage, or sculpture.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the biblical description of the wonderful things we will experience in heaven. Ask God to prepare you for eternal life in His kingdom.

Friday

READ Read Revelation 22:20, 21.

DISCUSS At family worship, talk about your first experiences in heaven.

WALK Take a walk and notice the nature around you.

NAME Name 10 things from nature that you will enjoy experiencing in heaven.

REPEAT Say the power text from memory.

PRAY Thank God for the beautiful earth He made, and for the even better new earth He is preparing for you.

so pure, it has the appearance of transparent glass.

"The presence of God and Jesus makes the city so bright that there is no need for the sun or even the moon. And in this city the doors never have to be locked, because there is no night there nor anyone who steals. Only those whose names are written in the Book of Life can live in this city.

"The river of life with its crystal clear water flows from the throne of God across the city. And in the middle of the city, on both sides of the river, is the tree of life, bearing 12 kinds of fruit every year." Can you imagine that? A different fruit for every month of the year!

But the best news that John heard that day is that Jesus is coming soon. "Look, I am coming soon!" Jesus said, "Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll" (see Revelation 21:10-22:7).

When Jesus comes, He wants to take you and me to heaven to live with Him forever. Are you planning to accept the gift of eternal life?



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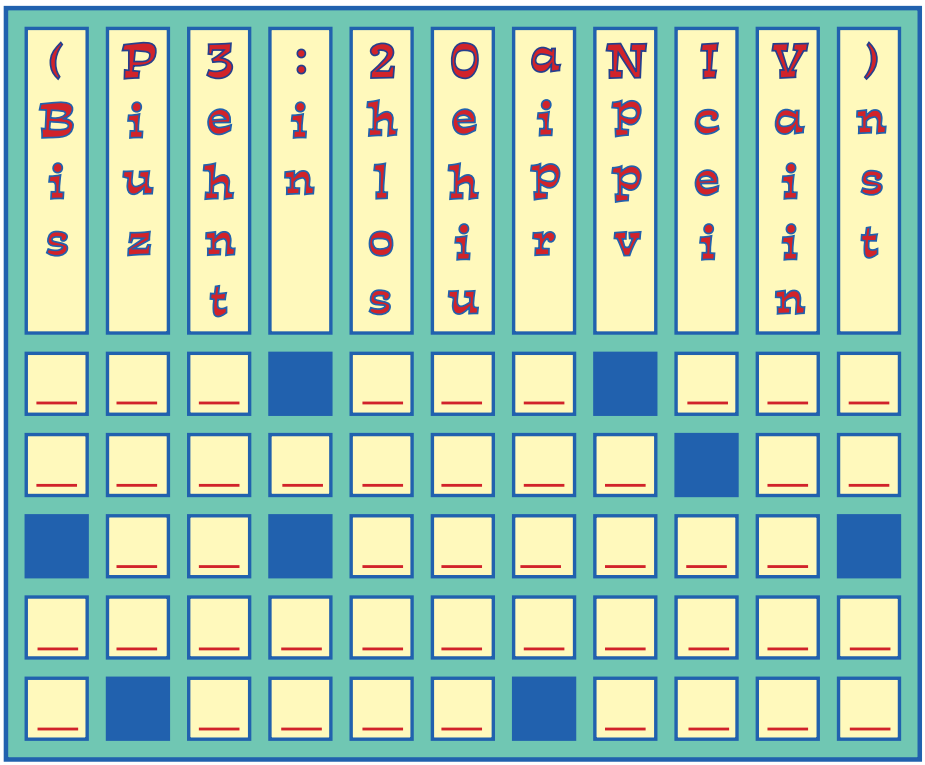


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PUZZLE 6

HOME, SWEET HOME

Instructions: The letters in each vertical column go into the squares directly below them, but not necessarily in the order they appear. A blue square indicates the end of a word. When you have placed all the letters in their correct squares, you will be able to read the quotation (from the New International Version) across the diagram from left to right.



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