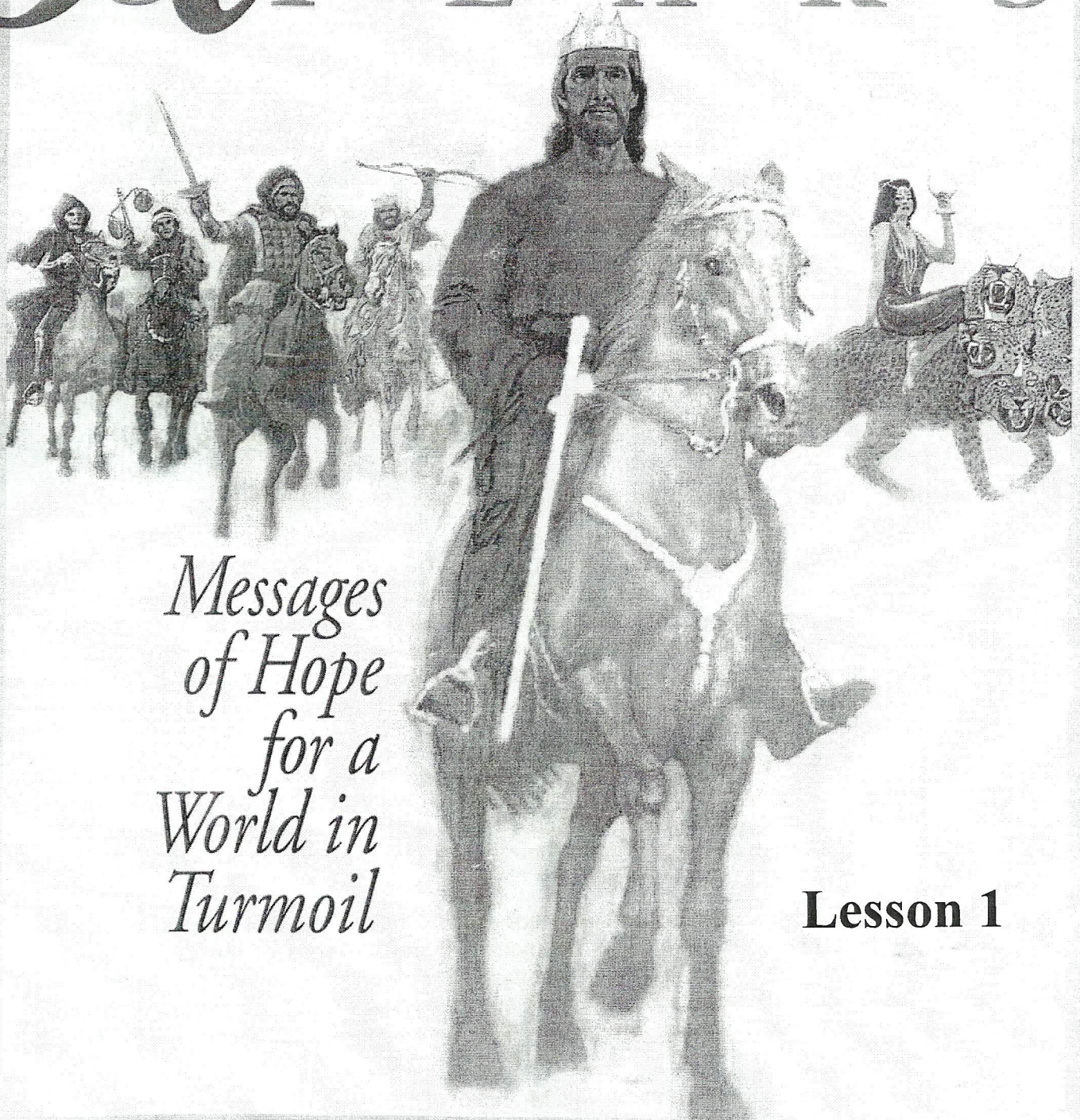


Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 1

Revelation

The Book for Today

YOU are about to embark upon a most fascinating and interesting adventure in Bible study. In all the Bible there is no book more intriguing than the Book of Revelation!

Have you ever read Revelation all the way through? If you have, chances are that you were impressed by the numerous dazzling symbols, the colorful cartoon-like characters, and the glowing promises. You may have wondered how to fit the pieces of the puzzle all together. Be assured that the study of this book will be a real "revelation" to you of God's wonderful plan for this world and for your life.

In some versions of the Bible, the Book of Revelation is called the "Apocalypse," coming from the Greek word *apocalypsis*, meaning a "revelation," or "unveiling." Perhaps you are wondering why God chose to use symbols and imagery. Why does the unlocking of Revelation's mysteries seem so difficult? In His infinite wisdom, God chose to reveal His truth for the end time in pictorial language for several reasons:

- 1) As Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, declared, "one picture is worth ten thousand words." God condensed truth by summarizing prophecy in symbols.
- 2) Revelation's prophecies condemn tyrannical; political, and fallen religious systems. Since symbols are used, these powers were less likely to understand and retaliate.
- 3) As we study prophecy we discover truths that are not apparent to the surface reader, and the very process of study strengthens our spiritual experience.

Of course, the central person in the Book of Revelation is Jesus Christ. May we behold the Lamb of God as we study this unique book! The same Spirit who gave these truths to John will be present to make God's special last-day message clear.

Revelation Speaks – 2

1. What is the official title given to the last book of the New Testament?

Revelation 1:1

Note: It is not “The Revelation of St. John the Divine,” as some Bible state. It is the Revelation of Jesus, the Lamb of God, and of God’s plan to restore mankind to the family of God and the Earth made new.

2. To whom and why did God give this book? Revelation 1:1

NOTE: “Revelation might be said to have come in answer to the prayer of Paul. Writing to the church at Ephesus, he tells how he prayed that they might be given a revelation of Christ (Ephesians 1:15-18). Thirty years later John received this Revelation, and the first church to which it was sent was Ephesus. It was written not for the world, but for the church, for the servants of God (Revelation 1:1).

“When God wrote on the palace wall of Belshazzar (Daniel 5), the ‘wise men’ could not read the writing. But Daniel interpreted the message. Those who walk with God can know His secrets. ‘Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secrets unto His servants the prophets’ (Amos 3:7).

3. What chain of communication did God use to get this book to His people?

Revelation 1:1, 2, 11; 2:11

- a. _____ gave the revelation to Jesus.
- b. Jesus sent and signified it by His _____.
- c. His angel sent it to _____.
- d. _____ “bore record” or “witness” or wrote it.
- e. The _____ says to the churches.

4. Upon whom is a special blessing promised as they study this book?

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is:

- a. "he that _____
- b. "they that _____
- c. "and _____ [or do] those things which are written therein."

NOTE: God has promised special blessings to those who study this book and follow its admonition. What encouragement we have for its study! Would God ask us to study a book and even promise to give us special blessings for doing so, if we were not able to understand it? Of course not! Another important motive for the study of this particular book is that "the time is at hand," or near! There is an urgency about the messages of Revelation. This will become increasingly true as we draw nearer to the great final conflict!

5. What does God say will happen to anyone who adds or takes away to the things written in the Book of Revelation? Revelation 22:18,19

- a. "God shall add unto him the _____ that are written in this book."
- b. "God shall _____ his part from the Book of _____, from the _____, and from the _____ which are written in this book."

NOTE: It would be a grave offence for any pharmacist to willingly tamper with a physician's prescription, when the life of the patient might be in danger. To knowingly tamper with God's Holy Word is far more serious. It would mean experiencing the seven last plagues and then having the tamperer's name eliminated from the Book of Life!

The Author of Revelation

6. How is God described in this book? Revelation 1:4,8

7. What invitation, was given to John, and what did John see? Revelation 4:1-4

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

8. Whom did John see surrounding the throne? Revelation 4:4

9. Whom did the 24 elders say they were? Revelation 5:8-10

Note: They themselves declare that they were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation (Revelation 5:8-10). They are, therefore, sinners saved by grace.

10. What other beings did John see in God's presence? Revelation 4:5-8

NOTE: The word beast is from the Greek word "zoa", which actually means "living creatures," or "living beings."

The quartet of living creatures that sing praises day and night unto the "Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" have the honor of being close to God. Is it any wonder they sing and praise Him day and night!

Isaiah called these creatures, seraphim (Isaiah 6:2). Ezekiel calls them cherubim (Ezekiel 10:15, 20).

11. Why the 24 elders say that God is worthy to be worshiped? Revelation 4:11

NOTE: We find no atheist or evolutionist among the beings surrounding the Throne of God! He is worthy of our praise and adoration! He made us and with His unlimited love has redeemed us!

12. What character trait of God causes Him to be concerned about us? 1John 4:8, 16

NOTE: God loves us when we are good and when we are bad. He loves us if we are beautiful or if we are ugly. He loves us if we are black, white, brown or yellow. In fact, He said He loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). There's no one else like that! Don't you agree?

13. How did God show His great love for us? John 3:16

NOTE: God gave His Son to a fallen race – a planet in rebellion! Christ died that we could live eternally. He suffered the cruel lashing, the thorns driven into His forehead, the nails driven into His hands and feet, without protest! He could have called 10,000 angels to set Himself free, but He couldn't save Himself and save us too! This was the ultimate gift of a loving, caring God for guilty man. And as His bruised and bleeding body hung on the cross, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). That's what God is like!

How to Study the Book of Revelation

In this book of prophecy we find numerous quotations from other books of the Bible. In fact, of the 404 verses in the Book of Revelation, 278 are either quotations from or allusions to other places in the Bible.

In the study of this book it will be necessary to let the rest of the Bible help us interpret its many symbols and cryptic images. Only as we understand and study Revelation in light of what the rest of the Bible teaches can we know the messages God has for us. Jesus Himself used this method of teaching the Scriptures.

14. How did Jesus use Scripture to explain the prophecies concerning him?

Luke 24:27, 32

- a. Where did He begin? _____
- b. And all the _____
- c. He expounded unto them _____

NOTE: Jesus let the various prophecies of the Bible (Old Testament) explain each other, skillfully putting them together as parts of a beautiful jigsaw puzzle. And the Bible says that the hearts of the disciples burned within them as He gave that Bible study.

We will use this method of comparing Scripture with Scripture as we study the Book of Revelation. When we find difficult terminology, prophetic symbols, or cartoon-like characters, we will seek to discern their meaning in another part of the Bible. We will let the Bible interpret itself.

15. What did John see coming up out of the sea? Revelation 13:1-5

16. What does the sea or water represent in Bible prophecy? Revelation 17:15

17. What do beasts represent in Bible prophecy? Daniel 7:17, 23

NOTE: Now you can see how easily the Bible explains the mysterious symbols that God uses in outlining the past and the future.

18. Have you already discovered, by studying this lesson, that the Book of Revelation will be an exciting book to study?

____ Yes

____ NO

My Response

____ I have decided, by God's grace, to study this so I can better understand Jesus and the future He holds in His hands!

____ Please pray for me that I may not only "read, hear, and understand," but that I will be willing to do the things revealed to me in this books.