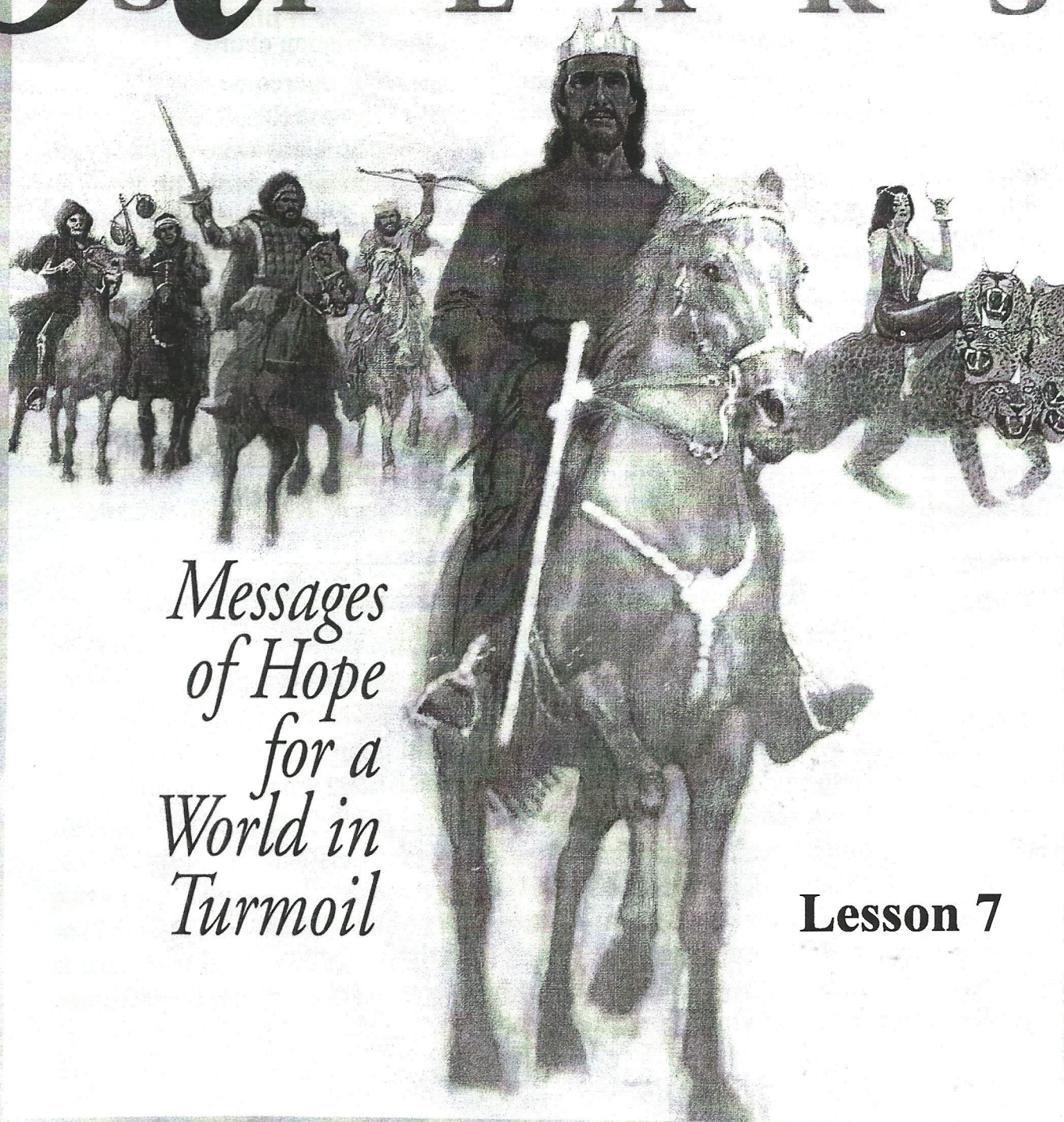


# Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages  
of Hope  
for a  
World in  
Turmoil*

**Lesson 7**



# The Secrets of the Seven Seals

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 7]

The first four seals demonstrate the rapid progress of the Christian church. The last horse we studied about represented a dying church. Can Jesus overcome this unthinkable scourge—a persecuting church directed by the spirit of the antichrist? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" Even though such groups as the Waldensians were pursued and tortured, the truth of the Scriptures and the faith of Jesus were kept alive! The price they paid made it possible for people today to have religious freedom and unparalleled access to the Scriptures.

Down through the ages the church has been tested and tried, as was her Master. Like Jesus before Gethsemane, there remains before her one final test. The last three seals focus on the power of Christ to bring forth a church in His own likeness.

**READ: Revelation 6:9-8:1.**

**1. As the fifth seal was opened, what did John see and hear? Revelation 6:9,10.**

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NOTE: "We still want to know about the souls under the altar. Revelation 6:10 says that they cry out with a loud voice. 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before thou wilt judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the earth?' The souls are spoken of as being 'under the altar' because, like sacrificial animals, they have been sacrificed. They are martyrs. They have been 'slain' for the word of God and for the witness they have borne." — God Cares, Vol. 2, p. 217

The cry for vindication dramatically symbolizes the cry of the Reformation to return to "the Bible and the Bible only" as the textbook for belief. Like the blood of Abel, which cried unto God for vengeance (Genesis 4:10), there arose a great appeal for vindication of the truth for which the martyrs had died.

## Revelation Speaks - 2

### 2. What was given to the martyrs? Revelation 6:11 (first part).

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NOTE: White robes are symbolic of **Christ's righteousness** (Revelation 19:8). Those who come **out of great tribulation** receive white robes (Revelation 7:13, 14). Only overcomers are clothed with white raiment. The implication here is that those who receive white robes are guaranteed salvation.

### 3. How long would it be until the martyrs would be raised? Revelation 6:11 (second part).

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NOTE: Delay under abuse is always difficult. Yet time must be given for the church to bear the brunt of attack. Delay also works in God's favor, for the church is forced to trust Him more and more. She learns to wait patiently, calmly, and with certainty.

### 4. What four events introduce the opening of the sixth seal? Revelation 6:12, 13.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: These great events signaled the time of the end. As this sixth seal is opened, we discover that the language changes from symbolic to literal. God here talks about events that can plainly be seen and which clearly mark the time of the end.

### 5. When did the great earthquake take place?

ANSWER: "One of the most extensively felt earth quakes ever recorded occurred November 1, 1755. It is sometimes called 'the Lisbon Earthquake,' because the greater part of that city was destroyed with the loss of between 60,000 and 90,000 lives. The sea rose fifty feet above its ordinary level. The earthquake extended ... over a tract of at least four million of square mile ... It pervaded the greater portions of the continents of Europe, Africa, and America."- Wonders of the World, pp. 50, 58.



## **Revelation Speaks - 3**

### **6. When did the sun become black?**

ANSWER: 'Almost, if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind, in nature's diversified range of events. . . stands the Dark Day of May 19, 1780-a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England." -*Our First Century*, pp. 89, 90.

### **7. Did the moon turn to blood?**

ANSWER: Eyewitnesses of the Dark Day said that the next night as they looked up at the sky, they saw a blood-red moon!

### **8. When did the stars fall?**

ANSWER: "The morning of November 13, 1833, was rendered memorable by an exhibition of the phenomenon called shooting stars, which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any similar one hitherto recorded. . . . Probably no celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with so much admiration and delight by one class of spectators, or with so much astonishment and fear by another class." -*American Journal of Science and Arts*, Vol. XXV, 1834.

### **9. What will be the next event to take place under this seal? Revelation 6:14.**

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### **10. What affect does this series of events have on the inhabitants of Planet Earth? Revelation 6:15-17.**

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NOTE: Graphically portrayed here is the reaction of the unsaved to the second coming of Jesus in the clouds of glory.

### **11. What very important question do the unsaved ask? Revelation 6:17 (last phrase).**

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NOTE: What a day that will be for those who are ready to meet Jesus! They will joyfully exclaim, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him and He will save us." But what a sad, sad day that will be for those who have rejected or neglected to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

It is interesting to notice that our generation finds itself living just between verses 13 and 14 of the sixth chapter of Revelation.

## **Revelation Speaks - 4**

**12. In a parallel prophecy, when did Jesus say that the signs in the sun, moon, and stars would take place? Matthew 24:29-31.**

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NOTE: The signs in the heavens have been fulfilled, and we can confidently look for the soon return of our Lord. The question is, who will be able to stand? Will you? This question is answered in the next few verses of Chapter 7.

**13. How are those who are able to stand in that day of wrath marked? Revelation 7:1-3.**

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NOTE: Those who receive the seven last plagues have received the Mark of the Beast. Those who are able to stand in that day of wrath are marked with God's seal.

**14. Of what is the wind a symbol? Revelation 7:1, 3.**

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NOTE: "Here is a picture of divine interposition. As the judgments of God are about to fall, the Lord reveals that a restraining hand is over the affairs of men. The four winds denote the four points of the compass (Jeremiah 49:36). Wind symbolizes war or strife and commotion (Daniel 7:2; Jeremiah 25:31-34; 51:1,2, 11). The powers of evil, however, are not permitted to do their deadly work until God's people have been sealed for His Kingdom." -*Unfolding the Revelation*, pp. 75, 76.

**15. What do the earth and the trees symbolize? Revelation 9:4.**

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NOTE: Notice that last phrase, "but only those men." Here we find that the sea, grass, and trees are personified, representing people.

**16. How many people did John see who had been sealed? Revelation 7:4.**

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## Revelation Speaks - 5

NOTE: "In addition to the martyrs, another significant group was selected for special preference. This was the 144,000 who did not live during the 1260 year-days but in the end time. Before the four winds of final trial will be permitted to release their unprecedented forces of destruction, an angel is especially commissioned to 'seal' every one of the 144,000 with the 'seal' of the living God." -*God Cares*, Vol. 2, p.190.

**17. What other group of people did John see standing before God's throne? Revelation 7:9, 10.**

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**18. Who is this great multitude? Revelation 7:13, 14.**

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**19. What promise is made to those that have been redeemed? Revelation 7:15-17.**

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**20. What happened in heaven when the seventh seal was opened? Revelation 8:1**

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**21. How long did this silence last? Revelation 8:1 (last part).**

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NOTE: A prophetic day represents a year (Ezekiel 4:6). Twelve hours would be six months, one hour would be two weeks, and one-half hour would be one week. So heaven will be silent because it will be empty for one week. Jesus and all the holy angels will come again to Planet Earth during this time.

### *My Response*

Are you ready for Jesus to come? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I want to be in the group who welcomes Jesus when He comes.

☐ Please pray for me that I might surrender my life completely to Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

☐ I want to receive the white robe from Jesus.