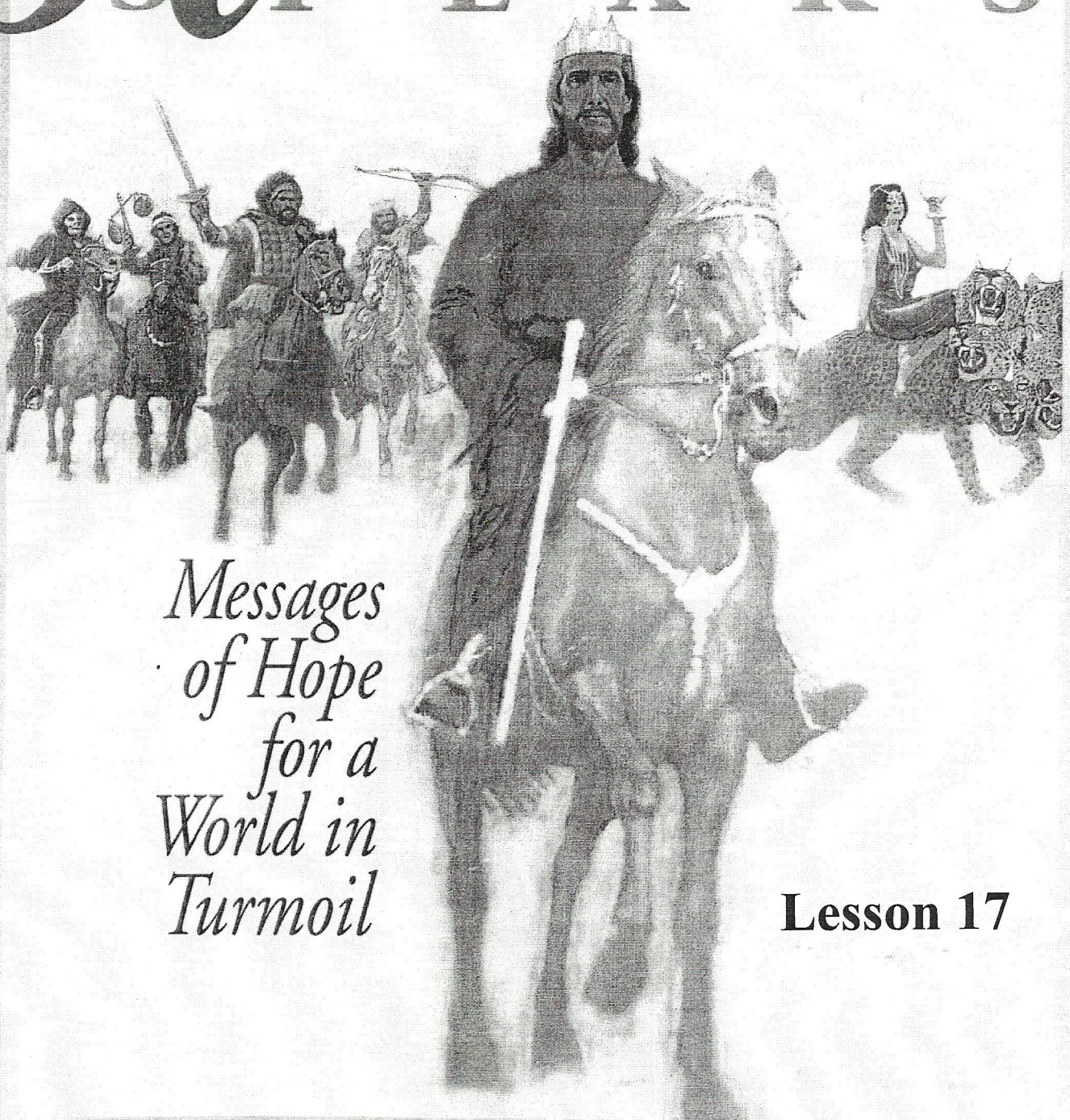


Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 17

Revelation's Most Urgent Message

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 14]

A group of Arctic explorers were stranded on a rocky, barren island. With no radio, they were unable to communicate with the outside world. Their supplies had run out. They had eaten their last morsels of food. There was little hope of survival. Starvation faced them!

Then suddenly, one of the men noticed a puff of smoke on the horizon. A surge of excitement and hope filled their hearts! Help was on its way. Deliverance was certain! Just one puff of smoke brought hope of deliverance!

Thousands of people, stranded on the shores of a confused world, are looking for a puff of smoke! They ask, "Is there any hope left? Hope for our war-torn, confused, chaotic planet?"

Yes, there is hope! In this chapter we shall study about a glorious hope in "Revelation's Most Urgent Message."

READ: Revelation 14:6-16.

1. What event is described in Revelation 14:14-16?

NOTE: The harvest is a familiar symbol of the end of the world (Matthew 13:39). The gospel seed planted by Jesus and watered throughout the centuries by the Holy Spirit bears its final fruit. Each individual will make his final decision for or against truth. As a result, the entire human race will reveal one of two images: Christ's or Satan's. The message to prepare mankind for this final harvest is found in Revelation 14:6-12.

2. Who bears this urgent message to earth? Revelation 14:6.

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NOTE: The word *gospel* comes from the old English word *gospel*, meaning "good news." Although the Good News must be preached by God's people on earth, it originates in heaven.

3. How widely will this message be preached? Revelation 14:6 (last part-see also Matthew 24:14)

NOTE: In each age God has sent a warning message to prepare His people on earth for an approaching crisis. To accept the message meant life. To reject it meant death. Revelation 14 contains another message of great importance for all mankind today! This message is as vital for us today as Noah's message was for the generation in his day, an urgent message upon which our eternal destiny hangs!

4. What is the central feature of the message of Revelation 14? Revelation 14:6.

NOTE: The everlasting gospel is exceedingly "good news." It reveals the magnificent love and abundant grace of our Lord in dying for us. He lived the life we should have lived. He died the death we should have died. He paid the penalty of our law-breaking. Through Jesus we can be free of condemnation. Through His grace, He offers us pardon, forgiveness, new spiritual power, and eternal life.

5. To what particular time period does this message draw attention? Revelation 14:7.

NOTE: The verse says "The hour of God's judgment is come," or has come! In other words, it is here. It has arrived!

6. Check one of the three boxes at the end of the following sentences, indicating the correct answer:

a. Jesus and Paul agree that the judgment was:

☐ past ☐ present ☐ future. Read Matthew 12:36; Acts 24:25.

b. The announcement in Revelation 14:7, speaking to the last generation, says the judgment is:

☐ past ☐ present ☐ future.

NOTE: Since Jesus comes to give out His rewards, there must, of necessity, be a judgment prior to His coming to determine which reward each person is to receive.

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The destiny of everyone has been decided before Jesus returns. The announcement goes forth before Jesus comes, "He that is righteous, let him be righteous still. And he that is unrighteous, let him be unrighteous still. He that is holy, let him be holy still; he that is unholy, let him be unholy still." Revelation 22:11.

7. Where does this judgment occur, and who is present? Daniel 7:9,10.

8. When does this judgment begin? Daniel 8:14, 17.

NOTE: In a previous chapter we discovered that since 1844, we have been living in the time of the end. Prophetic time has run out! We also discovered that at the end of the 2,300 years, "Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14.

The cleansing of the earthly sanctuary took place on the tenth day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar year. On that day sin was finally eradicated from the camp of Israel. It was a day of deep soul-searching and repentance. Any person who failed to participate in this most solemn day of confessing and forsaking his sins was cut off from Israel. To the Israelite, the cleansing of the sanctuary was a day of judgment.

So Daniel points forward, not to judgment in the earthly sanctuary, but to the final judgment, or the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary-the vindication of truth at the time of the end and the final eradication of sin from the universe. Before God finally destroys sin forever, He reveals His wisdom, justice, and love in the judgment. The entire universe now fully understands all of the evidence. They see that God's way is just!

9. In light of the judgment, God calls the entire human race from false worship to true worship. Who is Revelation 14:7 calling us to worship?

NOTE: In an age when the evolutionary hypothesis has captured most of the scientific world, God invites men and women to worship Him as the Creator God.

10. Why does the Book of Revelation say that God is worthy to be worshiped? Revelation 4:11.

11. How do we worship God as the Creator? What does the commandment specifically tell us to do? Exodus 20:8-11.

NOTE: The seventh-day Sabbath is the sign of a loving God. It is the memorial of God's creative power. The Sabbath speaks to twentieth-century men and women in a very personal way. God says, I made you! I care about you! This is the day I created for us to spend together in fellowship. But Satan desires to lead men and women to forget their Creator and worship on a man-made day. However, God says, "Remember."

12. In contrast to worshiping the Creator, what is Satan's purpose for us? Revelation 14:9, 10.

NOTE: The message of the first angel calls us to obedience in the light of the judgment. It beckons us to worship God, our Creator! The Sabbath becomes the sign of our allegiance to Him. The message of the third angel of Revelation 14 is a solemn warning against all false worship. The issue is much more than a matter of days, it is a matter of masters! Who will we follow God our Creator, or Satan a rebel angel?

13. What solemn announcement does the second angel make? Revelation 14:8.

NOTE: The "root word" for Babylon is confusion. The city of Babylon was built on the former site of the Tower of Babel. It was here that God confused the languages. Revelation's spiritual Babylon represents thousands with the wine of his false doctrines, deceiving them into believing that obedience is unnecessary and that God's Sabbath is of little significance.

14. What call does God give to those in the false religious systems composing spiritual Babylon? Revelation 18:4.

15. How does God describe His true followers in earth's final hour? Revelation 14:12.

NOTE: As the result of the proclamation of the straightforward message of Revelation 14, *two* groups of people are developed. One group worships the Creator by faithfully observing all of God's commandments, which includes the Sabbath command. The other group accepts the falsehoods of a fallen religious system and honor a counterfeit sabbath, receiving the Mark of the Beast and eternal death. Every person will make a decision-there will be no middle ground in that day!

My Response

- ☐ I want to remember God's holy day and be on His side.
- ☐ I would also like to become part of God's commandment keeping church.
- ☐ I would like to be baptized soon.