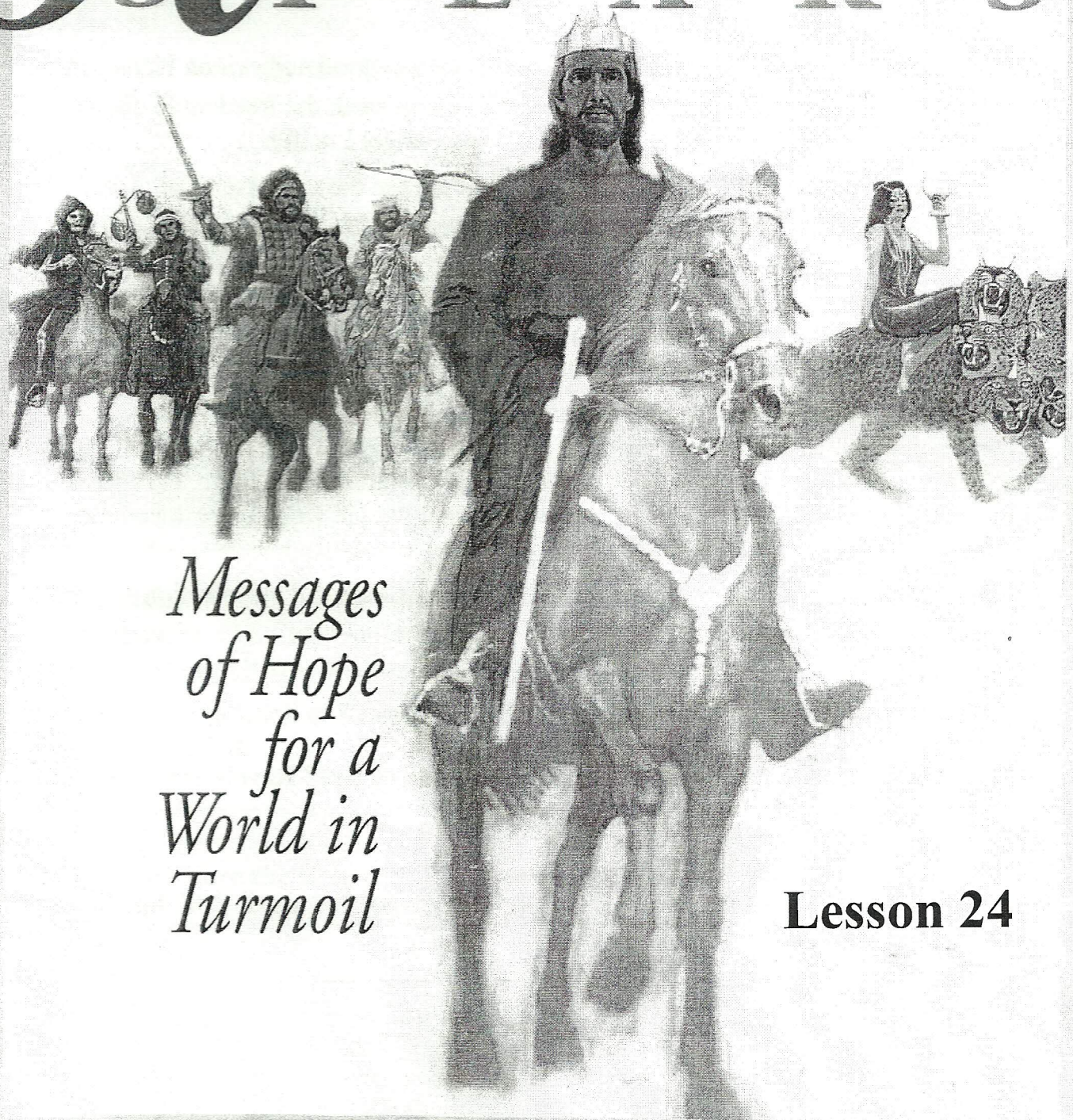


Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 24

Revelation's Lake of Fire

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 20]

From the beginning of the great controversy between good and evil on Planet Earth, God has been perfectly fair, allowing His children on earth the freedom to choose whether they will follow their Creator or the rebel angel Lucifer.

Who will your master be in this great battle raging in the universe? The great controversy is drawing to a close. God's love and justice will forever be vindicated before the universe.

The stakes are high, and the battle is heating up. There are only two sides involved in this battle: 1) those who choose to follow God and are loyal to Him, and 2) those who choose to follow Satan, and in so doing die with him when the fire falls.

God said, "I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." Deuteronomy 30:15. You see, we can't have it both ways! There is no middle ground. However, God's heart of love goes out to His children on Planet Earth. He isn't willing that any should perish. He wants to save everyone, but He won't force anyone to follow Him-that wouldn't be fair.

Let's look closely at the consequences of refusing God's gift' of salvation so freely given.

READ: Revelation 20:8-15.

1. At the final judgment, who is cast into the lake of fire? Revelation 20:14, 15.

2. Where does the fire come from that destroys the devil and his followers? Revelation 20:9.

Revelation Speaks - 2

3. When will the unsaved be punished? 2 Peter 2:9.

NOTE: According to the Bible, when a man dies, he does not go immediately to his reward. He must first be judged and sentenced. Doesn't that make good sense? Isn't that the only fair way? Think for a moment. Would a just God send a person to suffer in hell and then centuries later call him up to stand trial to see if he deserved that punishment? Would that be justice? No! Never! That teaching undermines God's love and justice!

4. When did Jesus say that the wicked will be gathered and burned? Matthew 13:40-43.

5. In connection with what event did Jesus declare that everyone would be rewarded? Revelation 22:12.

6. What is God's gift of love to those who believe in Jesus? John 3:16.

7. What wages are given to those who turn against God and refuse the gift of salvation? Romans 6:23.

NOTE: Christ came to be our Substitute, to die for our sins and take the punishment that we deserve. Did Christ suffer on the cross forever? No! He died! That was man's punishment-death! It was not burning forever and never dying.

8. What does the Book of Revelation call the death that is the "wages of sin." Revelation 21:7, 8.

9. For whom were the fires of hell prepared? Matthew 25:41.

Revelation Speaks – 3

NOTE: The fires of hell were prepared for the devil and his angels; however, if we choose to follow the devil, the path will lead us to the same destination: the lake of fire and brimstone.

10. How completely will the devil be destroyed in the lake of fire? Ezekiel 28:18, 19.

11. How complete will be the destruction of those who follow Satan in his rebellion against God? Matthew 10:28.

12. How much of the sinner will be left when the fire of purification has completed its work? Malachi 4:1-3.

NOTE: Some people say that it's just man's body that will be destroyed-that his soul will live forever! However, here we see that both the body and soul will be destroyed. In fact, the Bible says, "They shall be as though they had not been." Obadiah 16.

13. What did Jesus call the fire used in this destruction? Mark 9:45-48.

14. What kind of fire destroyed the ancient city of Jerusalem when the Israelites failed to heed God's warning? Jeremiah 17:27.

NOTE: Our firemen use the same expression when they can't keep a fire from burning up a house. They say, "It was unquenchable." The fire goes out when there is nothing left to burn.

15. How does God describe the fire that burns up the wicked? Matthew 25:41, 46.

16. What type of fire was used by God to eliminate the sin cities-Sodom and Gomorrha? Jude 7.

Revelation Speaks - 4

NOTE: Are Sodom and Gomorrha burning now? Of course not! But the effects have been eternal. Peter said that the destruction of those cities was an example to us of what the future holds for the ungodly. 'And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly.' 2 Peter 2:6!

17. When does this eternal fire come down from God to destroy the wicked?
Revelation 20:9, 14, 15.

NOTE: God must remove the cancer of sin to save the world. If sin were allowed to continue! it would contaminate the universe.

18. What choice does God give to each of us concerning salvation? Isaiah 1:18-20.

NOTE: Yes, man has a choice, and God must honor that choice. It is the only loving thing to do. Heaven would be a miserable place for those who have chosen a lifestyle contrary to God's Word.

Think for a moment. In heaven there will be no casinos for the gambler, no saloons for the alcoholic, no heroin for the addict, no nightclub for the pleasure seeker, and no money for the greedy to hoard! Don't you suppose that heaven would actually be hell for these people? They would not be safe to save. . . . The sins they refuse to give up would be passed on to others like a plague, on this earth made new.

My Response

___ More than anything else! I want to share eternity with Jesus.

___ I want to be a part of those who are inside the city when the fire falls.

___ Pray for me that I will have the courage to surrender my life completely to Jesus and follow what He asks me to do.