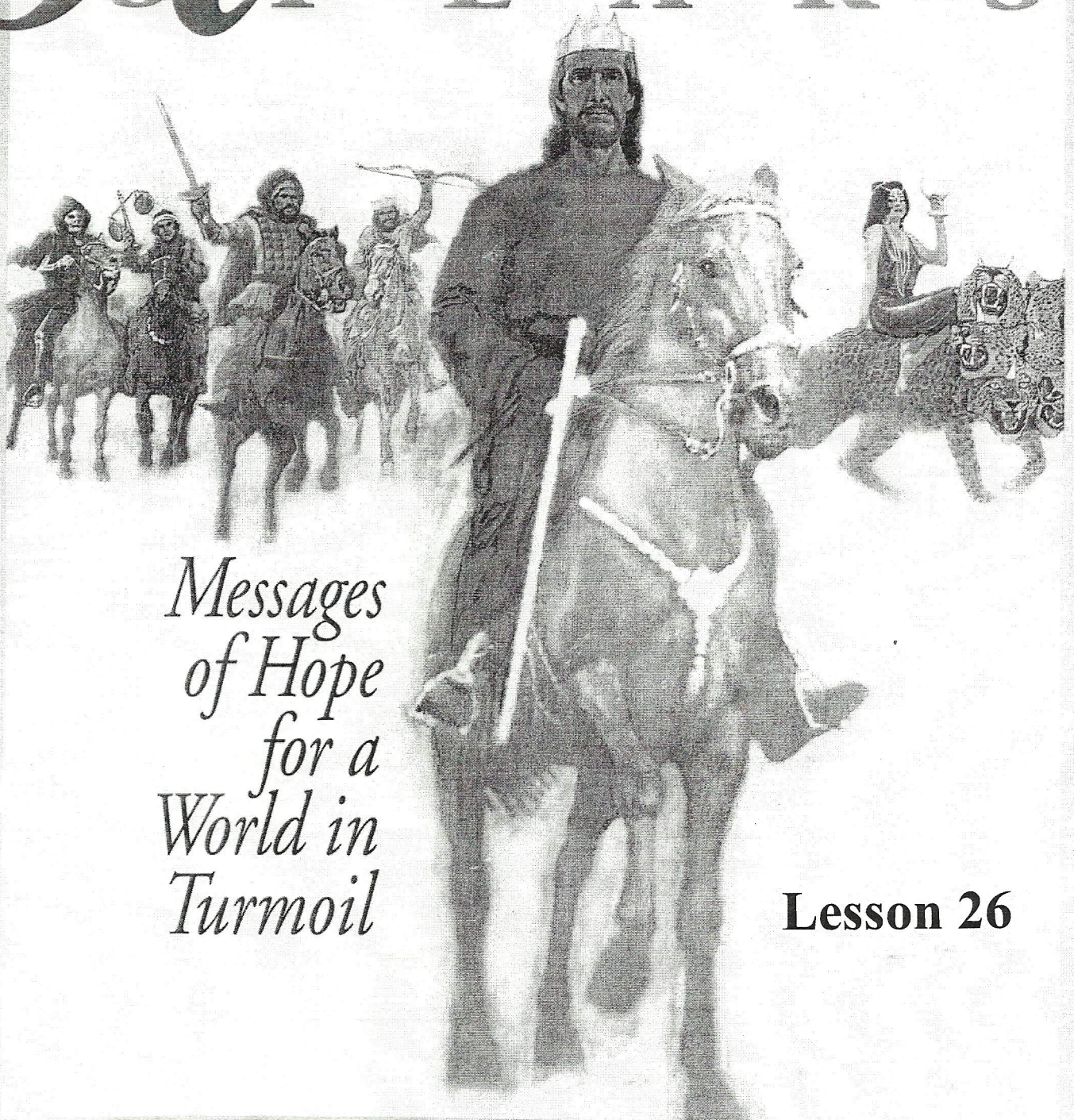


Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 26

"The Spirit and the Bride Say, 'Come'"

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 22]

When God created Planet Earth, it was perfect! And the people He created were perfect! In fact, the Bible says that when God took inventory of all that He had made, He said that it was very good.

God's original plan for Planet Earth and its inhabitants was that they should be perfect forever. However, Adam and Eve were free to choose whom they would believe and obey, so a God of infinite wisdom had an alternate plan in reserve in the event that man should mar His beautiful original plan for Planet Earth.

When God was forced to evict Adam and Eve from their garden home because of their disobedience, God revealed His plan to restore them to His family and eternal life-His original plan. He said, "I will put enmity between you [the serpent] and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15.

It must have been at this time that God instituted the ceremonial system, as He provided Adam and Eve garments to wear made of animal skins, bringing the reality of death to Planet Earth. The sacrifice of animals was instituted to remind mankind that sin brought death, either to the one who had committed the sin or to a substitute who would die in his place.

So it was that a loving God gave His only begotten Son to be forever attached to this world. He paid the supreme sacrifice for our sins so that one day everyone who would choose to be restored to God's family could enjoy the eternal existence that God had originally planned for Adam and Eve. But it was not only mankind that would be restored, but also Planet Earth.

In this chapter we will discover how God's plan for us will be accomplished.

1. How long has the plan of saving mankind been in existence? Revelation 13:8

Revelation Speaks - 2

NOTE: In God's omniscience, He devised a way for taking care of mankind's sin problem-the sacrifice of His Son on Calvary. Jesus paid the debt that was ours, that we might have the life that was His.

2. How does sin affect man's relationship with his God? Isaiah 59:2.

3. What relationship did God plan to restore through the gift of salvation? Revelation 21:3, 6, 7.

NOTE: In the New Covenant that God wanted to make with His people, He said, "For this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people. . . . For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 8:10, 12). Isn't that good news!

4. What did John see in the New Jerusalem that had been in the Garden of Eden? Revelation 22:2.

NOTE: As the saved eat of the tree of Life, they shall experience eternal youth! They will never thirst again, because the Fountain of the Water of Life will be theirs for the taking. Revelation 21:6.

5. Where will God and Christ dwell during eternity? Revelation 22:3, 4; 21:3.

NOTE: No longer is earth the outcast planet of the universe, where sin and sinners have been isolated from the Family of God. Instead, it will be the center or capital of the universe, where God the Father and His Son will reign for all eternity! We are children of the King of the universe, and we shall live and reign with Him forever and ever. Praise the Lord!

6. What figurative term shows that we belong to God? Revelation 22:4.

Revelation Speaks - 3

NOTE: Yes, we shall see His face! His name shall be in our foreheads! What a promise! Here we see God's plan of restoration completed for mankind.

7. Who will be the center of our worship in the New Jerusalem? Revelation 21:22; 22:3.

8. Who will not be able to enter the New Jerusalem? Revelation 13:8; 21:27.

NOTE: Speaking of those who worship the beast (Revelation 13:4-7), the Bible says that their names are not in the Lamb's Book of Life.

9. Who will be able to enter that kingdom? Revelation 3:5; 21:27.

NOTE: Jesus says He will confess the names of those who overcome before His Father, and He will not blot out their names from the Book of Life.

10. How do we become sons and daughters of the heavenly King? John 1:12.

NOTE: When we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour His Father becomes our Father. We are restored to the Family of God from which Adam and Eve were separated because they chose to follow the enemy of God.

11. When asked by the Philippian jailer what he had to do to be saved, what did Paul tell him? Acts 16:31.

NOTE: After Paul instructed them as to what it means to accept Christ, the jailer and his family were all baptized. (Acts 16:32, 33)

12. As we accept Christ as our Saviour, how do we "put Him on" so that the whole world knows that we belong to Him? Galatians 3:27.

Revelation Speaks - 4

NOTE: Young couples who are in love show that they want to live together for the rest of their lives by being married. Newborn Christians show their desire to live and follow Christ for all time and eternity by being baptized, thus declaring that they are one with the Saviour, having "put on Christ."

13. If we have accepted Christ as Saviour, what assurance do we have? Galatians 3:29.

NOTE: It was to Abraham of old that the promise was given that his seed would inherit the earth. The Bible tells us that, "he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). And if we are Christ's, we are heirs according to this promise!

14. What example did Christ set for us in being baptized by John the Baptist? Matthew 3:13-17.

NOTE: Jesus never sinned; therefore, it was not necessary for Him to be baptized for His sin, but He left us a perfect example of what God expects of us by being baptized in order that "He might fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). No wonder we read in verse 17, 'And lo, a voice from heaven saying, this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.'

15. When Paul understood that Jesus was His Saviour and Lord, what question did the prophet ask him? Acts 22:16.

NOTE: When we understand the sacrifice of Christ and God's great love for us, the question comes to us, "Why tarriest thou?" Yes, as we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and "put on Christ" by being baptized, our names will be registered in the Book of Life. What an honor!

16. What urgent message did the angel give John concerning this book? Revelation 22:10.

17. What beautiful invitation is given to all mankind in the last few verses of Revelation? Revelation 22:17.

Revelation Speaks - 5

NOTE: From Genesis to Revelation, God's favorite word to His children on earth seems to be "COME."

For 120 years, Noah gave God's message to the corrupt and evil antediluvian world: "COME." And while everyone else was walking away from God and safety, the people who were committed to God, who had put Him above every other consideration, accepted His last invitation: "COME THOU AND ALL THY HOUSE INTO THE ARK" Genesis 7:1.

Noah and his wife, along with their three sons and their wives, walked up the gangplank into the ark. Then God shut the door, forever sealing the fate of the antediluvians. How sad!

God's invitation to the rebellious Israelites was, "Come now, and let us reason together. . . though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" Isaiah 1:16-18. What love!

Jesus' gracious invitation to His followers was: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28. What a wonderful promise!

God's final invitation to earth's inhabitants is "COME" and receive the "water of life" that will satisfy every longing of your heart. Today the door of mercy is wide open. Your family, like Noah's, can take advantage of the ark of safety in Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful if your family could spend eternity together!

This is the greatest invitation ever given to mankind! Your decision will be the greatest decision you ever make! "The spirit and the Bride say, "COME." Will you come? Will your name be written in the Lamb's Book of Life? It can be! Please" COME."

My Response

___ Yes, my decision is to "Come" today!

___ I have decided to step out and follow Jesus all the way so that my name will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

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