

GOD'S LAST MESSAGE

The central theme of the Bible is the redemption plan, with the resulting restoration in the believing person of the image of God. Acts 4:12 makes it plain that Jesus alone saves the sinner, and 1 John 3:2 clearly tells us that we will be like Jesus, restored to His image, when He comes the second time to take us to heaven.

Bible prophecy makes it very clear that we are in the last days, living very near to that second coming. Scripture also teaches some very difficult conditions on earth just before Christ returns, times of terrible calamity and confusion for the unrepentant, times of testing and purification for the followers of Christ. Faithful and unfaithful stewards will be clearly identified as their loyalty to Christ or to Satan is finalized.

With this lesson, we begin a tying together of what we have thus far studied. If we are actually in the "last days," which the many signs of Matthew 24 and the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation make very plain, does God have special instruction for us for such a time in earth's history? Are there any special messages to help us be fully prepared? Does He have a special mission for us? Is there a special church responsibility for us? It will take several lessons to answer these serious, vital questions.

1. Let us begin here. The truth is that in times past, God has always given special messages, clear warnings, when the world and His people were faced with calamity. Note the famous example of Noah, in Genesis 6.
 - (a) What was the problem? Verses 5-7, 11, 12. _____

 - (b) What kind of a man did God call? Verse 8,9. _____
(Compare Hebrews 11:7.)
 - (c) What was to be Noah's warning message? Verse 13-22. _____

2. When Christ came to the earth many centuries later, calamity was about to befall the Jewish nation. Their 490 years of probation (see Daniel 9:24-27 and lesson 16) were fast running out. God sent a special messenger, John the Baptist, both to call the Jewish people to repentance and to be the forerunner of Jesus who forgives the repentant.
 - (a) What was his call in Matthew 3:1-3? _____
 - (b) What was Jesus' similar call in Mark 1:14,15? _____
 - (c) What was the tragedy of Jesus' day in John 1:10,11 and John 5:39,40?

3. From previous studies we know that the 490 year period which ended with the rejection of the Jewish nation, was also the first part of a longer period of 2,300 years (Daniel 8:14) which ended in 1844, and which marked the beginning of God's final judgment, at the close of which the probation of the entire human race will be forever decided (Revelation 22:11). As in Noah's day all mankind will be involved. Today, we are living in the last days of this earth's history. For us God has a great, climatic, closing, and warning message in the entire last book of the Bible--Revelation.
 - (a) What is the general time to which its message pointed in Revelation 1:1-3?

- (b) What time was "at hand" in verse 7? _____
4. In the very heart of this book we find God's last warning message to this world--Revelation 14:6-12. In the five verses that precede it (14:1-5), God pictures the redeemed. In the verses that follow it (particularly 14:14-16), God gives a description of the "harvest" which takes place at His second coming. The great, last warning message in the middle (14:6-12) is to be proclaimed for the development of the redeemed who would be ready for the harvest. Read the entire chapter carefully. Then summarize the messages of the three angels in the following questions.
5. What was the message of the first angel in Revelation 14:6,7? As you study its content, note how it ties together vital points we have already studied. Summarize each part.
- (a) Verse 6--"the everlasting gospel." Review Genesis 3:15; Acts 4:12.

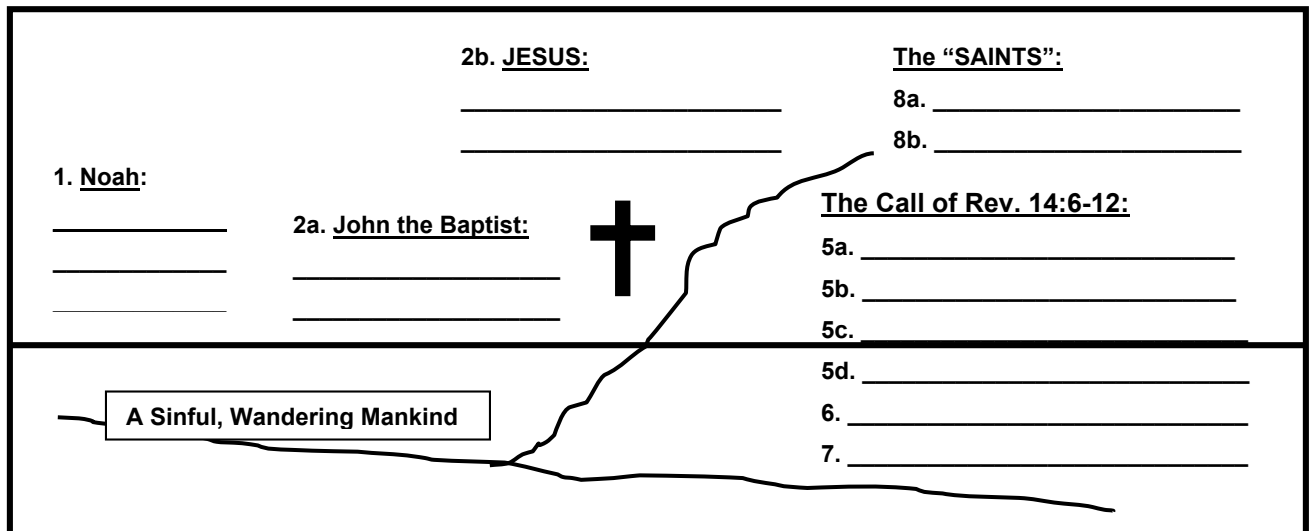
- (b) Verse 6--"to preach unto them." Compare Matthew 24:14.

- (c) Verse 7--"the hour of his judgment." Review Daniel 7:9:13; 8:14.

- (d) Verse 7--"and worship him." Review Exodus 20:11.

6. What was the message of the second angel in Revelation 14:8? Read also its amplification in Revelation 18:1-4 and summarize. (Our next lesson will focus on the meaning and importance of this message.)

7. What about the fearful message of the third angel in Revelation 14:9-11? What is meant by the "beast," the "image," and the "mark?" (Lesson 28 will focus on this message.)
8. The messages close with verse 12, in Revelation 14. What an appeal! In light of our previous studies, what would it mean for the "saints"
- (a) To have the faith of, or faith in, Jesus? _____
- (b) To be commandment keepers? _____



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Notes for the Instructor

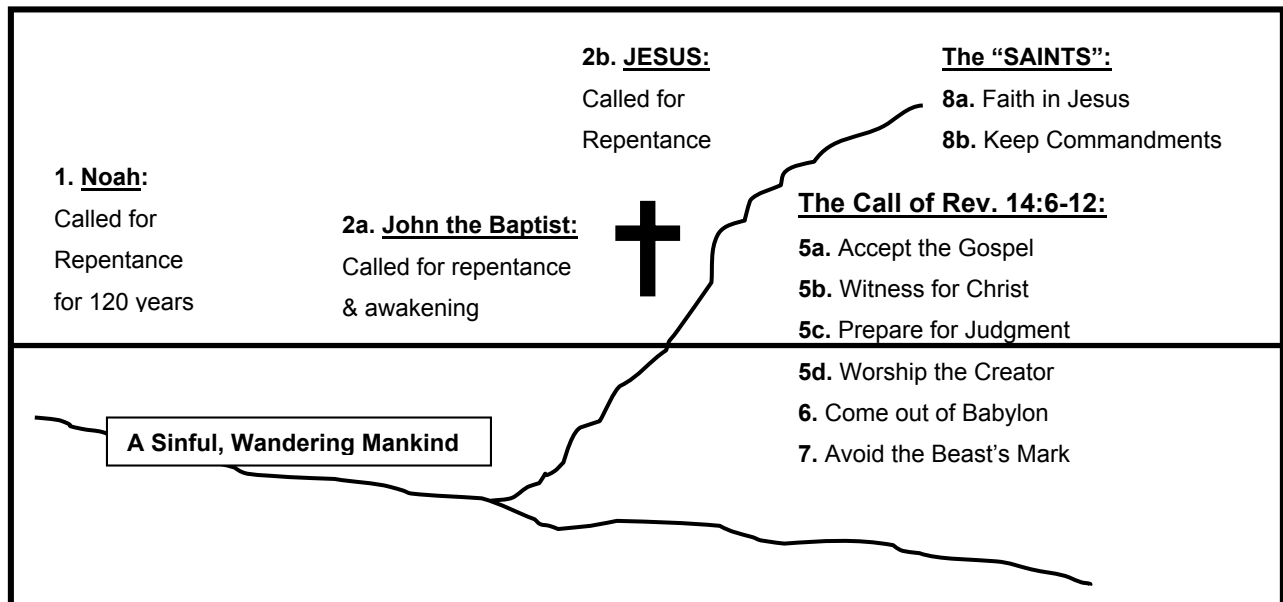
Purpose of lesson 26: At this point in the series, we turn into the home "stretch" so-to-speak, to our last section of lessons which are intended to lead the student into a church home. In lessons 1-8, the student was led into a relationship with his Lord. In lessons 9-18, subjects were presented to mature that relationship as he found an increased knowledge of the plans, the ways, the work of Christ. In lessons 19-25, many of the "testing truths" were given, to further mature his conversion experience and to clarify what it means to walk in his Lord's steps. Lessons 26-33 attempt to identify God's last true church, with its message and mission for the world, and the witnessing responsibility of every member as a faithful steward in finishing God's work to the world.

During the study itself: In connection with question 2, briefly review the dates of the 490 year period and, in part (b), clarify and explain the emphasis on "time," and the "kingdom." The point in question 3(a) is the "shortly" of Rev. 1:1, and the "time is at hand" in verse 3. In connection with question 4, read the entire chapter through carefully with the student. Restudy 7BC 824-835 on Rev. 14. Questions come easily on this chapter.

Question 5 is meant to show that the last warning message of Rev. 14:6,7 contains elements that have been around for a long time, but here are set into the urgency of preparation for the close of time. Develop them that way so that they will have the impact on the student that God intends them to have. Questions 6 and 7 are introductory to a careful study of their contents in lessons 27 and 28. Review Unto a Perfect Man, pages 153-155 before presenting this lesson.

Appeal: Question 8 forms a wonderful appeal. Emphasize the faith element first, then the resulting obedience to God's commandments. Also emphasize what it means to be righteous in connection with this verse and Rev. 22:11. See Unto a Perfect Man, page 155.

Illustration: Let the student see clearly the relation of Noah's day, of John the Baptist's day, to the end of time. Let them see the similar content of the warnings as God has, in the past and today, attempted to help men and women get ready for the judgment and "the end."



Introduction**Acts 4:12**

²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1a. Genesis 6**Genesis 6:5-7, 11, 12**

⁵Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

¹¹The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

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| Answer: Man had become very wicked, everything man did was wicked and the earth was filled with violence. |
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1b. Genesis 6:8, 9

⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

⁹This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

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| Answer: God called a man who was just and who walked with Him. |
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1c. Genesis 6:13-22

¹³And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*. ¹⁷And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. ²¹And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them."

²²Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Answer: God was going to destroy the earth, but He would provide a way to escape that destruction if they would go into the ark that God instructed Noah to build.

2. Daniel 9:24-27

- ²⁴ “Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.
- ²⁵ “Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.
- ²⁶ “And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it *shall be* with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.
- ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate.”

2a. Matthew 3:1-3

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.’”*

Answer: Repent (change your ways), the Lord is coming.

2b. Mark 1:14, 15

¹⁴Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
¹⁵and saying, “**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**”

Answer: Repent (change your ways), the kingdom of God is at hand.

2c. John 1:10, 11

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

John 5:39, 40

³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Answer: Jesus and His message were not recognized and few people accepted Him or His message.

3. Daniel 8:14

¹⁴And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."

Revelation 22:11

¹¹He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

3a. Revelation 1:1-3

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

Answer: The "end" time, the time close to the end of the world.

3b. Revelation 1:7

⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Answer: Jesus 2nd Coming, the end of the world.

4. Revelation 14:6-12

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— ⁷saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

⁸And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

¹²Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

5. Revelation 14:6, 7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— ⁷saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

5a. Genesis 3:15

a. "the everlasting gospel"

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

Acts 4:12

¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Answer: God the creator is to be worshiped, He is the only One who can provide fallen man with salvation because He has overcome Satan (the serpent).

5b. Matthew 24:14

b. "to preach unto them"

¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Answer: The Good News about what God has done on our behalf is to be preached in all the world.

5c. Daniel 7:9, 13

c. "the hour of his judgement"

⁹ "I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment *was* white as snow,

And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool.
His throne *was* a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;

¹³ “I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

Daniel 8:14

¹⁴And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”

Answer: Jesus is the judge and He will deal with the sin problem and cleanse the sanctuary.

5d. Exodus 20:11

d. “and worship him”

¹¹For *in* six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Answer: God set aside the Sabbath as a special time to worship Him each 7th day of the weekly cycle.

6. Revelation 14:8

⁸And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Revelation 18:1-4

¹After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Answer: God is calling His people (those who trust Him) to come out of Babylon (those who have rejected God) because they will suffer the consequences of their rebellion against God.

7. Revelation 14:9-11

⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke

of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

8. Revelation 14:12

¹²Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Answer: a. To have the faith “of” Jesus or faith “in” Jesus means to either trust God as Jesus trusted His Father or to trust Jesus and “follow Him” in our daily life by living according to the reality as stated in the 10 Commandments.

b. To follow where Jesus leads and doing what He has asked His disciples to do.