

Hope Channel presents

# DISCOVERIES '08

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By Mark Finley

## Hope Beyond Tomorrow

Like an unconscious sky diver hurtling out of control toward the earth, we are rushing headlong toward an impact with the end time, speeding toward a collision with earth's final events. Prophetic signs reveal history is coming to a climax. As we plummet toward ground zero, many don't have a parachute on. Even more don't realize the horizon is rushing up to meet them.

But even at this late hour, God has devised a way to help us pull our rip cord. God's rescue is described in Revelation, the last book of the Bible. Note what John saw happening near the close of time: "I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people" (Revelation 14:6).

What a dramatic picture! God attempting to rescue every person on planet Earth! This angel is the first of three John saw who issue loud proclamations over the earth. These are God's final, last-day messages – words He shouts at us, seconds from impact. God has always sent messages to warn His people of events that would affect millions. Before the Flood, God had Noah build the Ark and plead with people to take refuge in it. Before Egypt's great famine, God sent Joseph to have the Egyptians stockpile supplies to meet the famine. God want us to be prepared for what's coming. **Amos 3:7** puts it this way: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." Prophecy reveals what is coming and Revelation's prophecies reveal what is coming *especially at end time*. Revelation sends a message that something big is coming. What is this big event? Look carefully at Revelation 14 and you see that the third angel ends his message in verse 13. Then verse 14 describes the next event: The Son of Man returns with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. This is the Second Coming, the final judgment, when history climaxes and all human destinies are sealed. So obviously the messages that come right before this are vitally important. They're God's last warning, telling us exactly how to open our parachutes as the end of time rushes up to meet us!

Look again at the angel's message: "I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people" (Revelation 14:6). Who is this message for? Is it aimed only at Americans or those who speak Spanish or those who live in big cities? No, it's for everyone, a universal message for the whole world.

The angel is preaching "the everlasting gospel." The gospel doesn't change. The good news that saved Paul is the *same* good news that will save the last person on earth. There's only one parachute ever made that can rescue sinful human beings – Jesus' love and salvation. The everlasting gospel answers the most important question you'll ever face – What must I do to be saved? We're sinners, both in nature and in behavior. But we can't see the problem if we just keep saying, "I'm OK, everything's fine. I'm no worse than most other people. If we don't understand our fall from grace, we won't see the day of final judgment rushing up to meet us. We won't pull the ripcord. Then the everlasting gospel, that essential parachute, can't save us.

The angel continues in **Revelation 14:7**: “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.” This message has four parts. *First*, “**FEAR GOD.**” To *fear* means to stand in awe, deeply admire, reverence, or respect. Those we respect we long to please or obey. Fearing or respecting God and obeying Him are often linked together. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** says, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.”

God’s last-day message calls us to obey Him at a time when millions feel responsible only to their own “inner sense” of right. Millions feel “I can do whatever I choose; I’m accountable only to myself, there’s no standard of right or wrong outside of my own mind.” But the Book of Revelation shouts an urgent call: “Fear God” – obey God. There is a standard outside of your mind. God sends an urgent, loving, truth-filled message calling us back to obedience to Him.

*Second*, **Revelation 14:7** says, **Give GLORY to Him.**” Giving God glory means honoring Him in everything we do. Glory is a word reserved for the highest form of adoration. To give God glory means our entire lifestyle is surrendered to His will. **1 Corinthians 10:31** says, “Therefore whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” **1 Corinthians 6:20** adds, “For you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s.” Glorify God in all your actions. You don’t glorify God by placing abusive substances in your body or by polluting your mind with this world’s filth. You do it by saying, “Lord, my body, mind, and spirit are Yours.”

*Third*, **Revelation 14:7** says: “**Worship Him who MADE** heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” Why should we *fear* and *glorify* and *worship* God? One good reason the Bible gives is that He’s the Creator. We worship the true God, the One who created us. **Revelation 4:11** echoes: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You **created** all things and by Your will they exist and were created.” In an age when popular, so-called scientific view is that we evolved over millions of years from simple life forms like amoebas to complex forms of life called humans, God calls us back to worshipping Him as the Creator, back to exalting Him as the One who made all things.

Earth’s final conflict will pivot on this subject of worship: While **Revelation 14:7** calls us to worship the Creator, **Revelation 14:9** calls us to avoid worshipping the beast. These two worships – of the Creator or the beast – form the heart of a titanic struggle between good and evil. The coming economic boycott, the enforcement of the Mark of the Beast, the mysterious #666 all have to do with this final battle over worship. We’ll fully explain the significance of what it means to worship the Creator and how to avoid receiving the Mark of the Beast in future presentations.

*Fourth*, **Revelation 14:7** says, “**The hour of God’s JUDGMENT has come.**” Here is a double meaning. Certainly God will execute judgment and put an end to sin. But in another sense He Himself is the subject of judgment. Remember that at the beginning of time, a rebel angel challenged God’s character. Lucifer claimed that God was unfair, unjust. He made these accusations before the whole universe. Now, ages later, He wants to clear His good name and vindicate His actions. The universe has seen the results of Satan’s evil work as well as all God has done to save us. The judgment proves God has been fair with each individual. His character is vindicated. At the end of time, the whole *universe* will joyfully proclaim in one chorus of praise, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments” (Revelation 16:7).

Jesus is coming back, not to destroy sinners, but to destroy sin. That’s why He’s given us this urgent message about His judgment, so He can rescue you.

## THE BIBLE SAYS

- Revelation 14:6-12** God's urgent message in earth's last hour is His final call to a dying planet.
- Revelation 14:6** (first part) The "everlasting gospel" never changes – it's always new, always true.
- Revelation 14:6** (last part) This message is to go to all the world, to everyone, everywhere.
- Revelation 14:7** (first part) God calls us to "give glory to Him" in every aspect of life.
- 1 Corinthians 10:31** Paul says we can glorify God in what we eat or drink or whatever we do.
- 1 Corinthians 6:20** Since Jesus brought us – ransomed us – with His blood, we should glorify Him.
- Revelation 14:7** (middle) The angel announces that "the hour of God's judgment has come."
- Revelation 22:12** Since Jesus comes to give out His rewards, there must be judgment before He comes, to determine who receives what reward, when He comes.
- Daniel 7:9-10** Daniel saw the sitting of the Supreme Court of the Universe and the opening of the judgment while events proceeded on earth before the Second Coming.
- Ecclesiastes 12:14** God will bring every secret thing into judgment.
- Hebrews 4:13** All things are open unto God.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10** We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.
- Romans 14:12** Everyone must give account of himself to God.
- Psalms 87:4-6** In the judgment the Lord considers where we were born.
- Revelation 14:7** (last part) Heaven's final message calls all humanity to worship God as the Creator – to "worship Him who *made*" all things.
- Revelation 4:11** The very basis of all true worship is the fact that God *created* us – He's our Maker.
- John 1:1-3, 10, 14** Since Jesus was the active Agent in creation, Revelation's final call to worship the Creator is a call to honor Jesus.
- Revelation 16:7** All God's judgments are righteous and true.

## Quick Quiz

Our heavenly Father has *so much* He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers **Learning Unlimited!**

### #9 - Hope Beyond Tomorrow

1. Though some feel Revelation is a puzzling and confusing book, God leads us to believe it’s a most revealing and rewarding one when He opens it by saying:

“\_\_\_\_\_ is he that\_\_\_\_\_.”

**To check your answer, see Revelation 1:3.**

2. When God had to warn the world about the coming Flood, He told \_\_\_\_\_. When He wanted to announce Jesus’ First Advent with a message of repentance, He told the \_\_\_\_\_. When He had a message of coming Judgment to prepare a people for Christ’s Second Coming, He told the Apostle \_\_\_\_\_.

**To check your answer, see Genesis 6:13; Mark 1:1-11; Revelation 1:1.**

3.  T If Jesus brings His reward WITH Him **when** He returns, “to give every man according as his work shall be,” there must be an evaluative Judgment **before** He returns, in order to determine **who** gets **what** reward, who are the sheep and the goats, the saved and the lost.

**To check your answer, see Revelation 22:12; Isaiah 40:10; Matthew 16:27 & 25:31-46.**

4. In Paul’s day, God’s Judgment hour was yet future, so the faithful apostle informed us by inspiration: God “hath appointed a day, on which He \_\_\_\_\_ the world in righteousness.”

**To check your answer, see Acts 17:31.**

5. On the lines at the left, **number** the correct **order** of the five **links** in heaven’s **chain of communication** that brought us the divine Book of Revelation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. **Jesus Christ**, God the Son  
\_\_\_\_\_ B. The Apostle **John**  
\_\_\_\_\_ C. **God** the Father  
\_\_\_\_\_ D. The **angel** messenger of Jesus  
\_\_\_\_\_ E. Us – the **church** – from **reading** the Bible’s final book.

**To check your answer, see Revelation 1:1-3.**

6. When part of the Judgment-hour message urges us to “**worship** Him that \_\_\_\_\_ Heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters,” it’s a clear call to worship God as our **Creator**.

**To check your answer, see Revelation 14:7.**

7.  T Since **worship** involves a choice of masters, each individual **must decide** where to place his  
 F allegiance, for Jesus said: “**No** man can serve **two** masters.”

**To check your answer, see Matthew 6:24 & 12:30.**

8. The Bible warns that just before God's people are "delivered" by Christ's Second Coming, "There shall be a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, such as never was."

To check your answer, see **Daniel 12:1**.

9. The Beast power threatens God's people with both **economic boycott** and **death decree** in an attempt to intimidate and coerce, saying "that as many as would not **worship** the image of the Beast to be \_\_\_\_\_," and "that no man might \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, save he that had the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Beast."

To check your answer, see **Revelation 13:15-17**.

10. When **this terrible crisis** comes on the world, what **comfort** and **protection** has God promised?

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To check your answer, see **Isaiah 41:10 & 25:9; Psalm 91:4-10; Matthew 23:37**.

11. Some conceive of God's "Judgment" as one **instantaneous act**. Is that view correct, or is Judgment more of a **process**, with several successive steps or *phases*? Even in *man's imperfect* judicial system, we see an *investigative* phase, called the TRIAL, in which evidence is evaluated. The next phase is the announcement of a *decision*, called the VERDICT, which states the basic guilt or innocence of the accused. If found guilty, the defendant then faces the *penalty* phase, which determines the degree of punishment, called the SENTENCE. Finally, the *executive* phase, called the EXECUTION of the sentence, carries out the punishment – either by fine, prison term, or death. What's your view of God's Judgment – is it a process or simply one instantaneous act?

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To check your answer, see **Matthew 16:27; Revelation 14:7, 22:12, & 20:15 (execution); Luke 12:42-48 (degrees of punishment)**.

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## A Thought for Today

### **Revelation 14:6**

Then 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 saying 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."





