APPRAISING THE APOCALYPSE

Danish author Søren Kierkegaard told a parable about the end-time. It went something like this: A fire broke out backstage in a big theater. A clown, who had been part of the performance, came out to warn the audience: Get out; the place is on fire! The audience thought it was just a big joke, part of the show, that’s all, and just applauded. He repeated the warning: Get out! Get out! But the more emphatically he warned them, the greater the applause. For Kierkegaard, that was how the world is going to end: to the general applause of people who believe it’s a joke.

The end of the world and the events leading up to it are, as we know, no joke. The world faces the most serious crisis since the Flood. In fact, Peter himself uses the story of the Flood as a symbol of the end, warning that just as the world of old perished by water, in the end-times, “the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). Having been warned about what is coming, we must be prepared for it.
Write out Revelation 14:7, 12 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How would you explain to someone, in a positive way, why “the fear of God” is a good thing?

How do Jesus’ words in Matthew 10:28 help us understand what it means to fear God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am04-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What can you do to make sure you are indeed glorifying God with your body, mind, and emotions?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am04-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 14:7, 12?

Genesis 22:12
Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14
Colossians 3:1, 2
Hebrews 12:1, 2
1 Corinthians 3:16, 17
Matthew 6:33
1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31

What other verses come to mind in connection with Revelation 14:7, 12?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 14:7, 12.
Meditate on Revelation 14 again and look for where Jesus is.

What are things in your life that you desire to overcome?

How do you see Jesus differently in light of this week’s lesson?

What is Jesus saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/3am04-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what are some honest decisions you are struggling with?

What are some honest decisions you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/3am04-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How do we balance the gravity of last-day events with the necessity to live life abundantly?

Think about the incredible power of the One who created and sustains the entire cosmos. Think about how much greater and more powerful He is than we are. How do these facts help us understand the idea of the “fear of God” and what it means?

How can we avoid legalism when we discuss the biblical concepts of holiness, overcoming, and victory?

What mistakes are we making that don’t allow Christ to do His work? What does that look like in everyday life?

How can we translate our spiritual desires into action?

What practical steps can we take to be one of Revelation’s “overcomers”?