Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Worship in the Book of Revelation

[Text] Revelation 1:13-18; Job 42:1-6; Revelation 19:1-5; Revelation 13; 14:6-12

[Use] September 24, 2011

One of the deadliest air show accidents took place a week ago (September 16, 2011) in Reno, Nevada when a plane piloted by James K. Leeward crashed near a grandstand killing seven people, including himself. He was flying a North American P-51D Mustang called "The Galloping Ghost." Leeward hit the tarmac in an area containing box seating where seven people died including himself. Three others have died since the time of this writing.

"A photograph of the modified P-51 Mustang taken shortly before it slammed into an airfield at the 48th Annual National Air Championship Races appears to show a component of the plane's tail section falling off... Officials said on Sunday that federal investigators probing the crash wreckage had recovered memory cards that could be from recording devices on the Mustang."1

"At 9 a.m. the next morning, Renown Health hospitals reported treating 35 patients, including two who died... Over the night of September 18, a patient died at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno, bringing the toll to 10. The day after the crash, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) began examining whether the possible loss of a component of the tail played a role in the crash. A photograph taken right before the crash, while the airplane was inverted, showing a missing left elevator trim tab."2

Perhaps the most touching story of this tragedy is what likely happened in the box seating area. The Los Angeles Times interviewed one of the victim's sister-in-law. "John Craig may have died trying to save his son and his son's two friends," it stated. The boys lived. Mr. Craig did not. Sister-in-law, Shannon Wilhite, said, "I think he sheltered his son ... and that is the kind of guy he was."3

You've probably been to an air show. You've no likely sat transfixed at the amazing speed and acrobatic feats of planes whizzing by, holding your breath and staring wide-eyed. Perhaps that describes in some small way how the universe beholds the outplay of good and evil on our planet. They sit on the edge of their seats in amazement at the scene before them. God the Father watches Jesus Christ the Son dying for the sins of our fallen world. Like the 2011 Reno Air Races crash, there is darkness and death.

This week in our Sabbath school lesson we conclude our study on worship by peering into the last book of Scripture—Revelation. Here is revealed the heart of a God who relentlessly pursues sinful people. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is slain as our Savior while the universe watches. Like John Craig, Christ threw Himself on sinful man and died to save us. As we observe the scene with John the Revelator, we cannot help but fall down in worship of One who gave all. "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain..." (Revelation 5:12 NKJV).

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1. Reuters
2. Wikipedia
3. LA Times
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Paul Richardson, Director
Center for Creative Ministry
www.creativeministry.org
O: 800.272.4664