

CHRIST'S LAST REMNANT

In our last three studies we have focused our attention on the messages of three mighty angels (Revelation 14:6-12) who invite and warn, clearly in the setting of the last days (Revelation 14:1-5; 14:14-16). They invite us to follow Christ and His way of life, and warn us to flee from error and every deception of Satan.

During these studies, we briefly compared Revelation 12 and 17, the pure woman and the harlot woman, truth and error, God's way and apostasy. If the woman of Revelation 12 represents God's true followers, then it would be certain that her followers of the last days would accept and proclaim the truth of the three angels whose messages are in the setting of the last days. Is anyone today doing this? Does God have such an army on earth today, proclaiming these vital messages? We need clear identity in relation to these vital questions.

1. First, let us examine Revelation 12 and the "woman" we find there more closely. Read the following verses and answer the questions carefully.
 - (a) In Revelation 12:1 we have the woman pictured. Read Jeremiah 6:2 and 2 Corinthians 11:2. What does the symbol of a "woman" represent in the Bible?

 - (b) The Lord of the church is pictured in verses 2-5. What events in connection with the life of Christ are pictured in
Verse 2? _____ Verse 4? _____ Verse 5? _____
 - (c) Verses 7-9 drop back in time to the beginning of the great struggle between Christ and Satan which began in heaven. (See lesson 13.)
What event is pictured in verse 10? _____
 - (d) How does the true follower of Christ overcome the attacks of the devil, according to verse 11? _____
 - (e) What is the attitude of Satan as he faces the end of time, in verse 12?

 - (f) Because of the devil's wrath against God's people, what are they forced to do, in verses 6, 13-16? _____
(Note that the time for God's persecuted people to be in the "wilderness" (verses 6, 14) is identical to the time of the little horn of Daniel 7:25 and the leopard-like beast of Revelation 13:5.)
 - (g) After the period of the church in the wilderness of persecution, what does the devil do in verse 17? _____
2. Revelation 12:17 portrays God's last "remnant" of people ("her seed") who would live on earth after the 1260 years of apostasy and persecution. The original word in the New Testament translated in the King James Version "remnant," means "remaining ones,"--that is, remaining on earth after verses 13-16. How are they identified in verse 17?
 - (a) They "keep" _____
 - (b) They "have" _____
(Our next lesson will discuss the meaning of this term.)


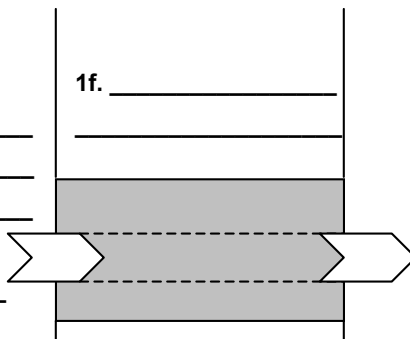
- (c) They live after 1798, after the close of the 1260 years.
(Both Daniel and Revelation help us to see this point. Daniel 12:4 points to an opening of the sealed portion of the book of Daniel in "the time of the end." The key part of the book of Daniel which has been "unsealed" in the last days is found in Daniel 8:14, the 2,300 years which ended in 1844, and which began the investigative judgment in heaven (Revelation 14:7). God's last day bride or church, "the remnant of her seed," finds a part of its identity in connection with these great prophecies.)
3. How else can we identify Christ's last remnant "seed" on earth? It is certain that the remnant would be found believing and teaching the same truths that Christ Himself taught when He was upon earth. Note a few parallels.
- (a) What does that last day, first angel's message, emphasize as central in all Christian belief? Revelation 14:6.
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- (Compare the teaching of Jesus Himself in Matthew 9:13; John 3:16.)
- (b) According to verses we have studied, the remnant will keep the ten commandments of God (Revelation 12:17; 14:12) and the seventh-day Sabbath (Revelation 14:7). What was Christ's teaching and practice in relation to the commandments in John 15:10?
And the Sabbath, in Luke 4:16? _____
- (c) The first angel says clearly that they will believe in and teach the judgment (Revelation 14:7). What was Christ's teaching on the same subject in John 5:22,23,26,27?
In Matthew 12:36,37? _____
- (d) The remnant will teach that Jesus will come the second time and reap the earth (Revelation 14:14-16). What did Christ teach in John 14:1-3 and Matthew 25:31-34? _____
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- (e) The remnant will be involved in the proclamation of God's truth all over the earth, as we have read in Revelation 14:6. In the setting of the last days, what did Jesus teach as a sign of His second coming in Matthew 24:14 and Acts 1:8? _____
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4. The above comparisons are only samples of the beliefs and work of God's true followers of the last days. To safely identify them, they should be:
- Found believing and practicing and teaching all of the truths of the Bible, and
 - Fleeing from every evil that the Bible warns against.

Where can we find such a people today on earth? To answer such a question requires careful searching, prayerful study, God's clear guidance. Following the great disappointment of October 22, 1844 (see lessons 16 to 18), and at the time of the beginnings of the preaching of the three angels messages in modern times, three general groups emerged.

- First, a small group continued to set time for the Lord to come, even though there were no Bible prophecies upon which to base their predictions.
- A second group, the largest, rejected the idea of a sanctuary to be cleansed in heaven, and might be called by the term "first-day Adventists."
- A third group, small at first, searched for further truth and understanding of the heavenly sanctuary. They searched the Bible and shortly came under the conviction that the seventh day was God's true Sabbath day.

The earlier "Adventist" leaders had proclaimed the first and second angels' messages, and now the Sabbath-keeping Adventists saw the meaning of the message of the third angel, an understanding of which was possible only after the Sabbath truth came to light. This group later became known as **Seventh-day Adventists** and was organized in **1863**. It has since enlarged its mission until today it proclaims in all parts of the world the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of the three angels, His Sabbath and commandments, and His soon coming.

Seventh-day Adventists, in humility and sensing their great responsibility to God, ask the student of the Bible to examine history and prophecy and mission, to determine whether they fulfill the specifications laid down for the last remnant of the church of Christ. They are the first to admit that God has true followers in every denomination and sect of Christendom, often called by some the "invisible remnant." But does God also have a visible remnant, a church that truly does meet the specifications of the Bible? Prayerfully consider this question in light of all the lessons and the truths taught therein in this series.

1a. _____			<u>A Remnant remains:</u>
			2a. _____
			2b. _____
			2c. _____
1b. _____ _____	<u>Christ taught:</u> 3a. _____ 3b. _____ 3c. _____ 3d. _____ 3e. _____	1f. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<u>Remnant Teach:</u> 3a. _____ 3b. _____ 3c. _____ 3d. _____ 3e. _____
			
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