

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?


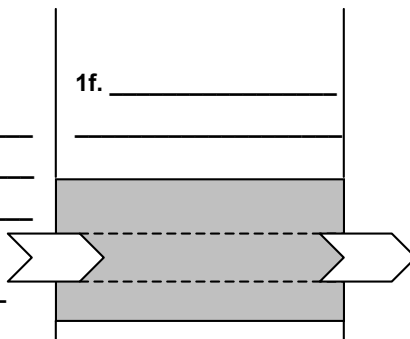
- (e) The remnant will be involved in the proclamation of God's truth all over the earth, as we have read in Revelation 14:6. In the setting of the last days, what did Jesus teach as a sign of His second coming in Matthew 24:14 and Acts 1:8? _____
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4. 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.

<p>1a. _____</p>		<p><u>A Remnant remains:</u></p> <p>2a. _____</p> <p>2b. _____</p> <p>2c. _____</p>
<p>1b. _____</p>	<p><u>Christ taught:</u></p> <p>3a. _____</p> <p>3b. _____</p> <p>3c. _____</p> <p>3d. _____</p> <p>3e. _____</p>	<p>1f. _____</p>
		<p><u>Remnant Teach:</u></p> <p>3a. _____</p> <p>3b. _____</p> <p>3c. _____</p> <p>3d. _____</p> <p>3e. _____</p>
<p>538</p>	<p>1798</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Introduction**Revelation 14:1-16**

¹Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

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.

¹³Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

1a. Revelation 12:1

¹Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

Jeremiah 6:2

² I have likened the daughter of Zion
To a lovely and delicate woman.

2 Corinthians 11:2

²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

Answer: A woman is a symbol of a church
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1b. Revelation 12:2-5

²Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Answer: a) The birth of Christ

b) Herod's attempt to kill the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

c) Jesus found safety from Herod in Egypt. After Jesus' death & resurrection, He went back to heaven and sits on the right hand of God.

1c. Revelation 12:7-9

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Answer: Eventually, Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven and he eventually established a hold on this world through his temptation and deception of Adam and Eve.

1d. Revelation 12:11

¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Answer: Satan is overcome through the "blood of the Lamb" and "their testimony" of what Jesus has done for them through the Plan of Salvation.

1e. Revelation 12:12

¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Answer: Satan is furious and energized against God and he attacks the people of the world.

1f. Revelation 12:6, 13-16

⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

¹³Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might

cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

Answer: God's people find safety and protection from the attacks of Satan in the wilderness.

1g. Revelation 12:17

¹⁷And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Answer: Satan (dragon) makes war against the followers of Jesus and those who keep the commandments of God.

2. Revelation 12:17

¹⁷And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Answer: a) They "keep the commandments of God".

b) They "have the testimony of Jesus Christ".

c) They live after 1798 (the close of the 1260 day prophecy).

3a. Revelation 14:6

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—

Answer: The "everlasting Gospel".

Matthew 9:13

¹³*But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'* For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

John 3:16

¹⁶*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

3b. Revelation 12:17

¹⁷And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:12

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

Revelation 14:7

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."

John 15:10

¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Luke 4:16

¹⁶So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Answer: Jesus regularly went to the synagogue on Sabbath to worship and participate in the worship service.
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3c. Revelation 14:7

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."

John 5:22, 23, 26, 27

²²For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Matthew 12:36, 37

³⁶But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Answers: Each person will give an account of his life in the judgment and Jesus will be the judge
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3d. Revelation 14:14-16

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

John 14:1-3

¹"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Matthew 25:31-34

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Answer: Jesus is coming again to gather those who love and follow Him.

3e. Revelation 14:6

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—

Matthew 24:14

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.

Acts 1:8

⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Answer: The Holy Spirit will move His followers to preach the soon coming of Jesus back to this earth.

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Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 29: Every study in a Bible study series calls for some decision. Three of the great decisions to be made are first, to accept Christ, second, to accept the Sabbath, and third, to accept Christ's church home on earth, and join it. In this study on the true church, seek to do more than portray it as closer to the Bible than other churches. Help your student to see that the Seventh-day Adventist church arose at a specific time, to proclaim a specific message to the world. In lesson 30, you will add that the remnant can also be identified as it witnessed the fulfillment of Rev. 12:17 in its midst, the presence of a specific messenger. In a day when our identity is being blurred, let the Lord lead you to teach this lesson in greater clarity than ever before. Teach it with conviction, and humility. Invite your student to commit himself to such a marvelous movement which has fulfilled prophecy, has a great message, and a clear sense of mission.

During the study itself: In connection with question 1(a), review 7BC 807 so that you can handle questions as to the meaning of the sun, moon, and stars. In connection with question 1(c), re-read Rev. 12:7-9, then verse 10, for the sake of review and continuity. If necessary, review the computation of the 1260 days and the dates connected with it, in connection with question 1(f). With question 2(b), simply add that the remnant also keeps the Sabbath of the fourth commandment.

Add to the subjects of question 3, if you have time, and if you see need to do so.

Appeal: It is made clear in the statement of purpose above. The statements of question 4 are meant to lead to commitment to join the church.

Illustration: The visual aid has great eye appeal meant to lead to an easy retention of the truths of this vital lesson. Use it as part of your appeal at the close of the study.

