

Many sincere people are in search of the true church. They long to belong to a body of believers that faithfully adheres to the teachings of scripture. Unfortunately, however, many have become discouraged as they have seemingly searched in vain to locate God's true church on earth. Furthermore, their perusal through the religious maze and bewildering array of churches have often left them feeling more confused than when they first began their search! It has left them with more questions than answers and with more frustration than satisfaction. This has led some to wonder if God actually has an identifiable and distinguishable church on earth. A careful study of Bible prophecy provides clear and convincing answers to these inquiries. God does have a church on earth and it is identified in the book of Revelation as the remnant of the woman's seed (Revelation 12:17). Who is the woman and who is the remnant of her seed? The answers to these important questions will become abundantly clear as we study and learn What God Says About…"The Remnant Church."

GOD'S LAST DAY CHURCH

1. **According to Revelation 12:17, the dragon is enraged at whom? Who is the primary target of the dragon's wrath?**

   "And the dragon was wroth with _____ _____, and went to make war with _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." *Revelation 12:17*

   Note: *Clearly, Satan hates everyone. This includes those who are affiliated with a church as well as those who have no church affiliation. However, based on Revelation 12:17, Satan especially hates God's remnant church, which is identified as the remnant of the woman's seed. Hence, his targeted attacks are aimed against this distinct body of believers who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Remnant means last and is just like the original. For example, a remnant*

cloth is the last piece of the original cloth. In like manner, God's remnant church is the last remaining part or phase of God's enduring original church. We will learn more about the testimony of Jesus Christ in our next lesson.

THE PURE WOMAN OF BIBLE PROPHECY

2. According to John the Revelator, what great symbol appeared in heaven?

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; _____ _____ clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." *Revelation 12:1*

Note: *A woman in Bible Prophecy represents a church (Isaiah 51:16; Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2). God's true church is described in Revelation 12, and the false church is described in Revelation 17. The sun of which the woman is clothed in Revelation 12:1 symbolizes the brightness of the gospel, and the moon under her feet symbolizes the sacrificial system or law of types and shadows that pointed forward to Christ and was fulfilled by Him. The twelve stars upon the woman's head symbolizes the twelve patriarchs and/or twelve apostles.*

3. Why was the woman crying and in so much agony?

"And _____ _____ _____ _____ cried, travailing in birth, and _____ _____ _____ _____." *Revelation 12:2*

Note: *The woman or God's true church experienced intense birth pangs as she prepared to bring forth baby Jesus into this sinful and hostile world.*

THE GREAT RED DRAGON

4. What other symbol did John the Revelator see in vision?

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold _____ _____ _____ _____, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." *Revelation 12:3*

Note: *While in vision, John saw a great red dragon in contrast to the woman that he had first seen. The great red dragon primarily represents Satan (Revelation 12:9). However, according to the symbolism of the prophecy, the great red dragon denotes Satan working through earthly or kingly powers represented by the heads, horns and crowns of the dragon (see Daniel 7:24 as an example that horns represent kings or kingdoms).*

THE MOVEMENT OF THE DRAGON

5. How did the angry red dragon position itself as the woman prepared to give birth? What did the dragon desire to do as soon as the woman gave birth?

"And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon _____ _____ _____ _____ which was ready to be delivered, for to _____ _____ _____ as soon as it was born." *Revelation 12:4*

Note: *The first part of Revelation 12:4 refers to Satan deceiving one-third of the angels in heaven who were ultimately cast down to the earth through his tail of lies (see Isaiah 9:15 as an example of the tail being associated with false prophets who tell lies). The last half of this verse refers to Satan's intent and deliberate attempt to devour baby Jesus shortly after his birth. Historically, Satan attempted to kill baby Jesus through the pagan Roman power. This occurred when King Herod decreed that all male children two years old and under be slain (Matthew 2:13-18).*

THE MAN CHILD

6. What type of child did the woman birth? Unto whom was the child caught up? Where did he go?

"And she brought forth _____ _____ _____, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto _____, and to _____ _____." *Revelation 12:5*

Note: *The man child brought forth by the woman or God's church unmistakably is Jesus Christ. Indeed, He is the ruler of all nations. Furthermore, numerous Biblical accounts indicate that Jesus was prophesied to return to heaven and did so after His mission on earth was accomplished (John 16:28; Acts 1:1-3, 9-11; 1 Timothy 3:16).*

THE DRAGON PERSECUTES THE WOMAN

7. Where did the woman flee when the dragon persecuted her? Who prepared this special place for her? How long was she fed in the wilderness?

"And the woman fled _____ _____ _____, where she hath a place prepared of _____, that they should feed her there _____ _____ _____ _____ and _____ _____." *Revelation 12:6*

Note: *God's church, symbolized by the woman, fled into the wilderness and went into hiding during the Dark Ages. This period of papal supremacy and persecution lasted for 1,260 years, extending from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. Although God's church was not visible during this period of tyranny, the church preserved the light of truth and kept the torch burning bright amid the darkness. While many protested papal Rome and its dogmas, the Waldenses in the Piedmont Alps in North Italy stood out as faithful guardians of truth during this critical period. Later in our study, we will discover that the remnant of the woman's seed or the remnant church of whom the dragon is angry with would emerge on the scene after 1798 A.D.—sometime after the period of the Dark Ages.*

8. What occurred in heaven? Who fought against the dragon and his angels?

[7]"And there was _____ in heaven: _____ _____ _____ _____ fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, [8]And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." *Revelation 12:7, 8*

Note: *The cosmic conflict began in heaven. The war between Christ and his heavenly host and Satan and the fallen angels occurred as a result of Lucifer's deliberate rebellion and misrepresentation of God's character of love. Satan's seeds of discord spread throughout heaven resulting in an eruption and active revolt against God's law, government and authority.*

9. Who was cast out after being defeated in heaven? Where was the devil cast out? Who was cast out of heaven with him?

"And _____ _____ _____ was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ were cast out with him." *Revelation 12:9*

10. Who was forever banished from heaven as a result of Christ's victory at Calvary?

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." *Revelation 12:10*

Note: *Clearly, Satan lost the war in heaven against Christ. Consequently, he and his angels were cast to the earth in defeat. Satan battled Christ on earth, but was dealt a death blow when Jesus died on Calvary for the sins of the world. When this occurred, Satan lost all access to heaven and was banished forever. When Satan inspired wicked men to crucify Jesus, the*

innocent and spotless Lamb of God, his evil character was unmasked before the universe!

11. According to Revelation 12:11, in what two ways did God's people overcome the dragon?

"And they overcame him _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____; and they loved not their lives unto the death." *Revelation 12:11*

12. Knowing that his time is short, who has come down with great wrath to those who inhabit the earth?

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for _____ _____ is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." *Revelation 12:12*

13. Who did the dragon persecute when he was cast to the earth?

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted _____ _____ which brought forth the man child." *Revelation 12:13*

Note: *When Satan was cast out of heaven, he aimed his attack against Christ in the person of His followers—the church. He was determined to do all in his devilish power to destroy Christ's church.*

THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

14. Symbolically, the woman flew into what desolate place to hide? How long was she nourished in the wilderness?

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into _____ _____, into her place, where she is nourished for ____ _____, and _____, and _____ _____ _____, from the face of the serpent." *Revelation 12:14*

Note: *Revelation 12:14 parallels with Revelation 12:6 as the period of the Dark Ages during which God preserved His church that went into hiding in the wilderness from the Roman Papacy's violent attacks. The time frame in verse 14 is identical to the 1,260 years of verse 6 and calculates as such: A "time" equals one year or 360 days. "Times" equals two years or 720 days. Lastly, "half a time" equals a half year or 180 days. Therefore, 360+720+180=1,260 prophetic days or literal years. It is important to note that in symbolic Bible prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year (see Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34). One biblical year consists of 360 days.*

15. In his effort to drown the woman, what did the serpent cast out of his mouth?

"And the serpent cast out of his mouth _____ _____ ____ _____ after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood." *Revelation 12:15*

Note: *Water represents people in Bible prophecy (Revelation 17:15). Hence, during papal Rome's rule, the dragon assuming the form of a serpent symbolically spews a flood of people out of his mouth in an attempt to drown and destroy God's faithful people who fled religious persecution from the Old World of Europe (see Isaiah 8:7 and Jeremiah 46:7, 8 as examples of invading armies being symbolized as water).*

16. Who helped the woman when the flood rushed toward her? What did the earth do to the flood waters when it opened its mouth?

"And _____ _____ helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and _____ _____ _____ _____ which the dragon cast out of his mouth." *Revelation 12:16*

Note: *America is symbolized as the earth that helped the woman in this passage of scripture. History records that the pilgrims who fled the Old World of Europe found a place of refuge in America. They established a government based on civil and religious freedom in this sparsely populated land. Their intent was to never again be ruled by a king or a pope.*

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REMNANT CHURCH

17. To whom is the dragon's wrath primarily aimed at in the last days? What are the two identifying characteristics of the remnant church?

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, which _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____."
Revelation 12:17

Note: *Revelation 12:17 clearly reveals that in the last days Satan's wrath is aimed at God's remnant church—those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. It's a historical fact that Satan couldn't destroy the man child brought forth by the woman—the church. So he sought to annihilate the church in the wilderness, but was*

unsuccessful. Finally, in his last desperate attempt to stamp out the true church, he has launched a targeted attack against the remnant of the woman's seed. According to Bible prophecy, the remnant church would emerge on the prophetic scene sometime after 1798 A.D. — after the period of the Dark Ages. Thus far, we have identified three of the identifying marks of the remnant church: (1) arises sometime after 1798 A.D., (2) keeps the commandments of God, including the seventh-day Sabbath, and (3) has the testimony of Jesus Christ—the spirit of prophecy or gift of prophecy (Revelation 19:10).

THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

18. What does the first angel's message proclaim? To whom is this gospel-centered message to be preached?

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having _____ _____ _____ to preach _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and to _____ _____, and _____, and _____, and _____." *Revelation 14:6*

19. What does the first angel command the world to do? The hour of what has come? What does this angel command the world to do regarding the Creator?

"Saying with a loud voice, _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____; for the hour of _____ _____ is come: and _____ _____ that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." *Revelation 14:7*

***Note:** The first angel commands the world to fear God, give glory to Him, and worship Him for the hour of His judgment has come (see Lesson 20).*

20. The second angel announces the fall of whom? How many nations did Babylon make drink of her wine?

"And there followed another angel, saying, _____ is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made _____ _____ drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." *Revelation 14:8*

***Note:** The second angel announces the fall of Babylon. The term Babylon means spiritual confusion, and it refers to the apostate religious bodies or organizations that have fallen away from the truth of God's Word. In Revelation 14:8, the wine (false doctrines) of Babylon intoxicate all nations, but her fall is not yet complete. However, in Revelation 18:1-5, the fall of Babylon becomes complete when her sins reach up to heaven. This occurs when the church and state unite through legislation (see Lesson 24).*

21. The third angel warns against worshipping whom? This angel warns against receiving what from the beast?

[9]"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship _____ _____ and _____ _____, and receive _____ _____ in his forehead, or in his hand, [10]The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. [11]And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." *Revelation 14:9-11*

Note: *The third angel gives the most fearful warning in all of scripture. He warns against worshipping the beast and his image and receiving his dreadful mark (see Lesson 23).*

22. According to John the Revelator, the saints keep and have what?

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep _____ _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____." *Revelation 14:12*

Note: *The remnant church is a worldwide prophetic movement that will proclaim the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12 to the entire world. This urgent three-fold message is God's last warning message to a doomed and dying world, and it also reveals the last three identifying marks of the remnant church: (4) proclaims the three angels' messages announcing the hour of God's judgment, (5) a gospel-centered movement, and (6) a worldwide movement. The Seventh-day Adventist Church uniquely fits the description and possesses the identifying characteristics of the remnant church as revealed in the book of Revelation. Therefore, this Christ-centered movement, based on scripture and established by the sure word of prophecy, is the remnant church of Bible prophecy.*

SUMMARY

Revelation 12 provides clear and convincing answers regarding the identity of God's remnant church. In this chapter, we observe the movement of the dragon who attempts to destroy baby Jesus, the woman (the church), and finally the remnant of the woman's seed—those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. In addition to these two identifying characteristics, the remnant church possesses four other key distinguishing marks. Thus, the Seventh-day Adventist Church uniquely fits the description and possesses the identifying characteristics of the remnant church as revealed in the book of Revelation.

23. Dear friend, will you accept that Revelation 12 reveals the identifying characteristics of the remnant church? _____

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