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## Return of the Woman

In John 17:20, 21, Jesus prays that all His followers would be *one*. In Revelation 12:1, 2, we see a pure woman, representing God's pure church. She is waiting for a special child to be born—Jesus Christ. Back in the Garden of Eden, God promised Adam and Eve that the Messiah would come and provide a solution to the sin problem, and God's people lived in eager expectation of Him for thousands of years.

As they waited, the devil continued to attack them. His strategy was to wipe them out so that the Messiah would never come. But God has *always* had a faithful group of people who continue to serve Him in spite of the devil's worst: Noah, Abraham, the faithful of Elijah's day, etc. They were a *remnant* people (Micah 5:7) with a special message for the world: Messiah is coming!

Finally, the long expected Messiah arrived—and the devil tried to kill Him through the Roman government (Revelation 12:4, 5). Jesus came, conquered, rose from the dead, and went back to heaven to serve as our great High Priest in the courts of heaven.

But the devil did enjoy a small victory. Most of Israel—God's special people—refused to accept Christ as the Messiah. They nailed Him to a cross. So what did God do? He raised up another *remnant*—the apostles and the early Christian church (Romans 11:5). When Christ returned to heaven, He charged this remnant with the task of carrying the gospel to the world, and according to Revelation 12:6, Satan made the early church the special target of his wrath.

The church especially suffered persecution for the 1,260 years of the Dark Ages, until “the earth” opened up and helped it (Revelation 12:16). The discovery of the New World made it possible for many to escape ruthless persecution and live according to the dictates of their conscience.

Revelation 12:17 says that after the persecution stops, God raises up another remnant from the woman—a people who will stubbornly stand by the Bible and the Bible alone—for what they will believe. Who is this group? The Bible gives us a number of important clues:

1. **They keep the commandments of God** (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).
2. **They have the testimony of Jesus** (Revelation 12:17). Revelation 19:10 tells us that the “testimony of Jesus” is “the spirit of prophecy.” All of the spiritual gifts are alive and well in this group, including the authentic biblical gift of prophecy.
3. **They appear some time after the close of the Dark Ages** (Revelation 12:16, 17). The last day remnant movement takes place after the 1,260 years of persecution come to a close in 1798.
4. **This group first appears in the New World** (Revelation 12:16, 17). The woman first flees to the “earth,” or the New World, to escape persecution, and then a remnant of the woman's seed appears. The remnant movement cannot possibly represent any group of Christians that got their start in Europe or any group that predates 1798!

5. **Like previous remnant movements, they have a special message for the world.** What is this message? Revelation 14:6-12:

- a. “The hour of His judgment is come” (Revelation 14:6). This group doesn’t declare that the judgment is coming—they declare that it is already here!
- b. “Worship Him that made...” (Revelation 14:6). The remnant movement calls for people to worship God as the Creator. It is no coincidence that this language comes straight from the fourth commandment.
- c. “Babylon is fallen” (Revelation 14:8). They call the world away from superstition, tradition and spiritual confusion back to the simple truths of the Word of God. They have the courage to identify spiritual Babylon and to address corruption—even among Christians.
- d. “Do not receive the Mark of the Beast” (Revelation 14:9-11). They warn the world that the beast is deceiving them into accepting it as their spiritual authority.

6. **The remnant movement is organized and worldwide in scope** (Revelation 14:6).

Only one movement on earth today fits the description of the biblical remnant perfectly. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not merely another denomination. It is a *movement*. It is made of up Christians of all walks of life who are tired of tradition and want to stand on the Bible alone for what they will believe. They carry their message worldwide, and every year, approximately 1 million Christians become a part of this prophetic movement.

Why are there so many denominations? Over the years, God has restored truth progressively (Proverbs 4:18). John Wycliffe gave the Bible to people in their own language. John Huss declared the Bible to be the only rule of faith; Luther rediscovered righteousness by faith; Calvin emphasized the sovereignty and grace of God; the Anabaptists—immersion baptism and freedom of conscience; Wesley—the importance of devotion to Christ and personal holiness; William Miller—the Second Coming; and Seventh-day Baptists—the importance of the Sabbath.

But as each reformer died, some of their followers refused to progress any further. Luther’s followers became “Lutherans,” Calvin’s followers became “Calvinists,” and so on—and the search for truth halted. Then in the 1800s, during the “Great Awakening,” something remarkable happened. Christians from all walks of life got together and searched the Bible for truth. Everybody had things to contribute to the discussion, and everybody had beliefs they had to discard because they weren’t biblical. And thus the last day remnant movement that keeps up the struggle for Bible truth until the day Jesus comes—was born.

“When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) The Bible’s answer is *yes*. Is it a coincidence that you have been at this prophecy seminar? No. God is calling you to take your place in this final movement on planet earth! There are only two sides as history wraps up. Where will you stand?



## Return of the Woman

Just before the cross, Jesus prayed that all His people might “be one.” (John 17:20-22) Yet today, it is estimated that there are approximately 30,000 to 40,000 different *Christian* denominations worldwide—as well as some 4,000 different world *religions*.

Many people don't see this as a problem. “We're all trying to find our own way to spiritual truth,” they say. “The goal is the same; we just reach it in different ways.”

Is God's truth simply whatever works for you? Or does God really have a people today—a church—that stands on objective truth as He has revealed it?

## GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD HIS FAITHFUL FEW IN A WORLD OF SIN

1. What promise did God give Adam and Eve as soon as sin entered the world? (**Genesis 3:15**)

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God promised to send a Messiah, a “Seed” of the woman, who would provide a solution to the sin problem. For thousands of years, God's people—a faithful few among the people living on earth—clung to that promise and lived in eager expectation of the Messiah who would come. “These all died in faith,” the Bible says, “not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, [and] embraced them.” (Hebrews 11:13)

2. What word does the Bible use to describe this faithful little group?  
(**Micah 5:7**) \_\_\_\_\_

A “remnant” is the small remaining part of something larger—like the last bit of a bolt of cloth. In spite of Satan's destructive attacks,

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prior to the cross, there was always a small group of God's people—a remnant—with a special message: “The Messiah is coming!”

### **GOD'S REMNANT PEOPLE AFTER THE CROSS**

3. Did God still have a faithful remnant even after most of Israel refused to accept the Messiah when He appeared as promised? (**Romans 11:5**)

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After the cross, God raised up another remnant—the apostles and the early Christian church—to carry the gospel to the world.

4. John saw in vision a \_\_\_\_\_ clothed with the sun.  
(**Revelation 12:1-6**)



In the Bible, a pure woman represents God's church. (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25, 26) The woman John saw represents God's remnant people after Jesus “was caught up to God and His throne.” (Revelation 12:5) Following his defeat at the cross, Satan made this little group the special target of his anger. Thousands died a martyr's death under the Roman Empire.

Then, during the 1,260 years of the Dark Ages, God's remnant suffered extreme persecution, until eventually “the earth” opened up to help the woman. (Revelation 12:15, 16) The discovery of the New World enabled the persecuted masses to pour across the Atlantic in search of peace and liberty.

### **GOD'S REMNANT PEOPLE IN THE LAST DAYS**

5. What is Satan's response to the woman (God's remnant people)?  
(**Revelation 12:17**)
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At the end of the 1,260 years, God raises up another remnant. Satan is enraged with this little group that continues to stand on the Bible and the Bible alone. He “makes war” against the offspring of the woman.

6. What are two identifying characteristics of this last-day remnant? (Revelation 12:17)

They keep \_\_\_\_\_

They have \_\_\_\_\_

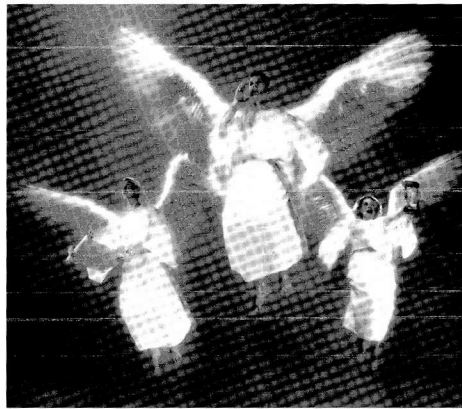
Revelation 19:10 says that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” All the spiritual gifts are present in God’s last-day remnant church, including the authentic gift of prophecy.

According to Revelation 12, this group appears after the close of the 1,260 years of persecution in 1798. This remnant arises in the New World, after the earth opens up to help the woman escape persecution. (Revelation 12:16, 17) So God’s last-day remnant gets its start in the New World around 1798.

Only one movement on earth today perfectly fits this description of the biblical remnant. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not merely another denomination. It is a *movement* made of up Christians from all walks of life who stand on the Bible alone for what they believe.

### **GOD’S FINAL MESSAGE TO THE WORLD**

In every generation, God has had a special message to meet the needs of that time. In the last days, He gives His remnant people the responsibility of proclaiming His special message for the end time—pictured in Revelation 14:6-11 as coming from three angels “flying in the midst of heaven.”



7. What is the message of the first angel? (Revelation 14:6, 7)

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The message is not that the hour of God’s judgment *is coming*—but that it *is already here!* This message calls us to worship God, the Creator. It’s no coincidence that this language comes straight from

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the fourth commandment regarding the seventh-day Sabbath—God’s memorial of creation.

8. What does the second angel announce? (**Revelation 14:8**)

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“Babylon” represents the religious and secular powers opposed to God and His truth. God calls us to reject the spiritual confusion and traditions of men and return to the simple truths of His Word.

9. What warning is contained in the third angel’s message? (**Revelation 14:9-11**)

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This warning is the most awesome and solemn in all of Scripture. God warns the world of the terrible consequences of accepting the spiritual authority of the beast power.

10. What question did Jesus ask about the spiritual state of affairs on earth at the time of His coming? (**Luke 18:8**)

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The answer to Jesus’ question is—Yes! God has always had a faithful remnant in spite of Satan’s opposition. In the last days, God will continue to have a remnant people who are faithful to Him and to His truth. God is calling you to take your place with His last-day remnant. Where will you stand?

### **MY DECISIONS**

- I choose to be a part of God’s last-day remnant—serving Him by keeping His commandments and holding fast to the faith of Jesus.
- Please pray for me as I continue to study God’s Word—the Bible—that I may understand the messages presented, as well as God’s will for my life.

### **MY PRAYER**

*Father, help me to follow Your will for my life and assist me as I take my stand fully with You and with Your people. I ask this in Jesus’ name, Amen.*