

## The Remnant and Its MISSION

*“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”*  
**(Revelation 12:17).**

Commitment is an important concept in life.

Commitment is a concept about which the Bible speaks often. The Bible speaks of three mighty men of David (**2 Samuel 23:8-12**). They loved David and had one great desire - to make him king. Adino alone slew 800 of the enemy on one occasion. Brave Eleazar, when all the men of Israel fled, defied the Philistines, and the Lord wrought a great victory that day through him. Shammah stood alone in a field of lentils. Though all the others fled, God used totally committed Shammah to gain a great victory. These three men’s hearts were knit together in commitment. God used this loyal remnant of just three men to exalt David.

Throughout history, God has always had a small group of people, a remnant, who have remained faithful to Him.

### Preview

The remnant theme exists throughout the Bible. Noah’s family formed the first remnant in Scripture. Here, remnant denotes those who are left.

**Genesis 7:23:** *“and Noah only remained \_\_\_\_\_, and they that were with him in the \_\_\_\_\_.”*

Why did God destroy all the wicked and yet save the remnant?

**Genesis 6:8:** *“But Noah found \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the Lord.”*

The reason?

**Genesis 6:22:** *Thus did Noah; according to all that God \_\_\_\_\_ him, so did he.”*

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Obviously, the remnant are saved by God's grace and remain obedient to Him.

In Abraham, we find another characteristic of the remnant.

**Genesis 17:1:** "Walk before me, and be thou \_\_\_\_\_."

Joseph testified that God is the One who preserves the remnant, when he said to his brothers.

**Genesis 45:7:** "And God sent me before you to \_\_\_\_\_ you a posterity in the earth, and to \_\_\_\_\_ your lives by a great deliverance."

God gave through Isaiah many warnings of judgment and doom but also hope.

**Isaiah 10:21:** "The remnant shall \_\_\_\_\_, even the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jacob, unto the \_\_\_\_\_ God."

Jesus taught the remnant theme in the parable of the ten virgins (**Matthew 25:1-13**), the sower (**Mark 4:1-20**), the wheat and the tares (**Matthew 13:24-43**), and the marriage feast (**Matthew 22:1-14**).

Paul emphasized that, "there is a remnant according to the election of \_\_\_\_\_" (**Romans 11:5**).

**Revelation** gives the clearest picture of God's last-day remnant.

## **Points to Ponder**

1. How is the devil's hatred of the faithful remnant graphically symbolized in John's vision of **Revelation 12**?

The pure woman is Christ's church. Satan, the great red dragon, is waiting to devour the church. **Verse 17** says that the devil particularly hates the last-day remnant church. Why? The last phrase gives the clue. The remnant of God's true believers have chosen to follow the same truths Jesus and the apostles taught. And Satan is violently angry.

2. How did Paul describe the falling way from truth?

Paul predicted there would be "falling away" from God's truth and that the "man of sin" would rise to oppose and exalt himself above God. This deceiver would exalt himself and

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declare “that he as God sitteth in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, shewing himself that he is \_\_\_\_\_” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

3. The ugly history of this mixture of truth and error, lasting for 1260 years during the Dark Ages, is graphically depicted in **Revelation 12**. Compare the following biblical position with teachings of the Catholic Church. Do some independent research.

**Biblical Teaching**

1. Christ is the head of the church on earth.
2. What claims does the Bible make for the church and its head?  
**Hebrews 9:28:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the Bible say about the blessings the believer receives by coming directly to Christ the Mediator? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the Bible say as to how a sinner is saved?  
**Ephesians 2:8:** \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the Bible say about repentance and forgiveness?  
**1 John 1:9:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the Bible teach about truth and how you can find it?  
**1 Timothy 3:16:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Catholic Teaching**

1. The Pope is the head of the church on earth.
2. What claims does the Catholics make for the church and its head?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the Catholic Church do to replace the blessing of the believer coming directly to Christ the Mediator? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the Catholic Church teach about how a sinner is saved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What are penance and indulgence? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who has the authority to interpret truth, according to the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Nuts and Bolts**

1. Name at least two factors that led to the Reformation.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name two prominent reformers: \_\_\_\_\_
3. What three basic bible truths did the Reformation establish?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Explain why the flame of the Reformation died out and the Protestant churches became cold, formal, and in need of reform. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. The remnant have the faith of Jesus. List three characteristics that show they reflect that faith.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
6. In addition to having the faith of Jesus, what other characteristic does the remnant have?  
**Revelation 14:12:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The remnant are guided by the testimony of Jesus, which is the “\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” (**Revelation 19:10**).
8. At the end of the 1260-year prophecy many Christians all over the world recognized that the “\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_” had come (**Daniel 12:4**) and began to prepare for Christ’s soon return.
9. **Revelation 14:6-12** clearly outlines the mission of the remnant as the preaching of the three angels’ message.
10. The First Angel’s Message is to preach the “\_\_\_\_\_” to all on the earth (**Revelation 14:6**).
11. This message calls the world to “\_\_\_\_\_” God and give Him “\_\_\_\_\_” in words and actions. It also warns that the “\_\_\_\_\_” of His \_\_\_\_\_ is come.
12. The message is also a call to “\_\_\_\_\_” the Creator on the day that is a memorial to creation, the \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ (**Exodus 20:11**).
13. The Second Angel’s Message warns against all systems of false worship. **Revelation 14:8** states “\_\_\_\_\_ is fallen” Spiritual Babylon, the enemy of God’s people, refers to all apostate religious organizations. Babylon has fallen because she has “*made all nations drink of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wrath of her \_\_\_\_\_.*”
  - a. What does the wine of Babylon represent?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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b. What is symbolized by fornication?

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14. Because many of God's people are still in Babylon's false churches, God is giving a special call in **Revelation 18:4**: "\_\_\_\_\_ out of her; my \_\_\_\_\_, that ye be not \_\_\_\_\_ of her \_\_\_\_\_."
15. The Third Angel's Message warns against worshipping the beast and his image (**Revelation 14:9-12**)
- a. Who is the beast? Read **Revelation 13:1-10**. This is a church-state union that ruled the Christian world for centuries. Paul describes it as the "\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**). Daniel called it the "\_\_\_\_\_ power" (**Daniel 7:8**). That thought "to \_\_\_\_\_ times and \_\_\_\_\_" (**Daniel 7:25**).
- The image of the beast represents a union between church and state to enforce their teachings on others.

## Words to Remember

**Man of Sin:** The beast power - the papal system or Catholic Church.

**Arianism:** The teaching that Christ the Son was not of the same nature as God the Father.

**Purgatory:** The Catholic belief that souls who have sinned go to a temporary place of punishment and suffering until they are cleansed for mortal sins forgiven on earth.

**Time of the End:** Time that begins after the 1260-year prophecy, around A.D. 1798 (**Revelation 12:4; Daniel 12:4**).

**Great Apostasy:** Departure from God's truth. Forsaking God's way in preference for human ways.

**Mark of the Beast:** The mark of the beast represents a symbol of loyalty to Satan in his opposition to God's law. This opposition is to be seen primarily in keeping Sunday as the Sabbath instead of the seventh day. However, Sunday observance becomes the "mark of the beast" only when civil laws enforce it, as is predicted in **Revelation 13:15, 17**. Only when government laws issue a death decree and enforce a law that no one can buy or sell unless the person submits to the decrees of the "beast power," do we have the "mark" of the beast.

## **The Difference Between**

**Paganism and Christianity:** Paganism is the worship of many gods. Christianity is the worship of only one God - the Creator of the universe.

**The Reformation and the counter-reformation:** The Reformation began when conscientious persons cried out for reforms within the established Catholic Church, such as: following the Bible and the Bible only instead of tradition, salvation by faith alone, abolition of indulgences, denial of papal infallibility, etc. When the Catholic Church failed to respond and instead began persecuting those who called for reforms, the Protestant Church was born.

Counter-reformation is the Catholic reaction to Protestant reformation. It expressed itself mainly in the form of the Jesuit Movement.

## **I Truly Believe**

Please think carefully about each statement below. If you agree, check the box.

- [ ] At this end time I choose to decide to worship God and accept His righteousness.
- [ ] I choose to be among God's faithful remnant, which He is calling out to accept these messages of justification by faith.
- [ ] By God's abundant grace, I ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to share these last messages whenever possible.

## **My Prayer**

Our Father,

We thank You for Your grace to the faithful remnant throughout salvation's history. We ask for Your grace to keep us close to You until Jesus comes. Enable us to keep all of Your commandments and to have the faith of Jesus. Give us the power to spread the message of the three angels. Amen.

## The Remnant and Its Mission

### Quiz

Read the following Bible texts and with the help from the lesson above, answer the following questions by circling “T” if the statement is true or “F” if the statement is false. (**Hint:** there are 8 true and 2 false)

### KEY TEXTS

Psalm 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 21:1-14

2 Peter 3:10-14

1 Peter 1:16-19

Jude 1:14

2 Corinthians 5:10

1. **T or F** The remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His Second Advent (see pg. 152).
2. **T or F** Historically, it was conscientious people, both laity and clergy, who, seeing unbiblical doctrines and practices in the church that prayed and worked for reformation and a return to a church founded only on Christ and His principles (see pg. 159).
3. **T or F** Examples of unbiblical doctrines and practices that crept into the church in ages past include the doctrines of penance and indulgences for sin (see pg. 158).
4. **T or F** The Protestant Reformation that began with great promise waned as the focus turned to the words and legacy of the reformers rather than a continuing search for the truths of the Bible that had been buried or set aside by the medieval church (see pg. 160).
5. **T or F** The Bible portrays the remnant as a small group of people who, despite wars, calamities, and apostasy, remain loyal to God (see pg. 161).



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6. **T or F** The remnant at the time of the end keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, along with being guided by the testimony of Jesus conveyed through the gift of prophecy (see pg. 162).
7. **T or F** The three angels' messages of **Revelation 14:6-12** reveal the proclamation of the remnant that will bring a full and final restoration of the gospel truth (see pg. 163).
8. **T or F** The second angel's message declares the fall of Babylon but does not call people out of unbiblical and/or corrupt religious systems (see pg. 166).
9. **T or F** God only has children in the Seventh-day Adventist Church (see pg. 168).
10. **T or F** At its core, the third angel's message, proclaimed by the remnant, is about justification by faith in Jesus Christ (see pg. 166-167).