

SIGNS of the Times

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

A war that has already been won

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**)

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,

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**)

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 a vision that the woman fled into the _____ . (**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)

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

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

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

“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**)

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. Who will win the war? (**Revelation 17:7-14**)

The answer is Jesus. As a matter of fact, the war has already been won. The book of Revelation has revealed much to us about Jesus and we know how it all ends. We have read the end of the book and we chose the winning team. God is a God of Love, and He longs to be with us. As we see the signs around us and join in by sharing the message of His Love throughout the whole world He calls us to be patient and faithful to the end. The Beast and the powers wage war on us, however, that is the same as waging war on Jesus. The Lamb shall overcome them. For He is our Lord and our King, and we are called, chosen and faithful.

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.

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