

A Bible Prophecy Series

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The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Lesson #18

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered why there are so many denominations in the world? Have you ever wondered which one Jesus would join?

1. **Did Jesus want His people to be united?** – John 17:21
Jesus desire is for us to be one. Today there are many denominations all claiming to follow God, but their beliefs contradict one another. We are anything but one.
2. **How was the early church divided?** - Acts 20:28-30
Paul warned that people *within* the church (vs. 30 “of your own selves) would arise teaching false doctrines. Like wolves in sheep’s clothing they would harm the flock.
People arose in the church that compromised Bible truth. This soon led to the development of the papacy. After the Protestant Reformation, Protestants made similar mistakes. Churches formed around certain Bible doctrines while neglecting other vital truths. Today there are many churches that have a portion of Bible truth.
3. **Does God have His people in every church?** - John 10:16
God does have His people in every church and some in no church at all. He will call them by His voice (The Word of God) and they will follow the Bible and flock together with others who are doing the same thing. There will be ONE fold, because there is only ONE shepherd.
4. **When will Jesus return?** – Acts 3:20, 21
Heaven must retain Jesus until the restitution of all things. Do you believe Jesus will soon return? Something must be restored; it is the things spoken by God “since the world began.” All the truths of God lost during the dark ages need to be restored before Jesus will return.
God will have a people who follow His restored truth so the universe can see God is worthy of worship and obedience.
5. **What does Revelation 12 symbolize?** - Rev. 12:1, 2, 5, Psalms 2:7-9
This symbolizes God’s true church. Notice how she had a man-child, which was Jesus.
Woman in Bible prophecy represents a church:
Jeremiah 6:2 – woman = church
2 Corinthians 11:2, Rev. 19:7, 8 – Church is married to Jesus

6. **What does the woman of Rev. 17 symbolize?** - Rev. 13:13, 14

This woman is a harlot, her name is Babylon, and she is the mother of harlots (symbolic, of course). If a pure woman represents God's true church, then what does the harlot represent? False churches.

James 4:4 symbolized spiritual adultery; that is, seeking to please the world instead of God. The harlot woman of Revelation is those churches that have compromised truth for world's favor.

These two women represent two churches and two groups of people claiming to worship and follow God. One follows the Bible and the other doesn't. Let's look at the characteristics to discover who they are.

Rev. 17:4 = She is dressed in SCARLET. Rev. 17:9 = She SITS ON SEVEN HILLS. Rev. 17:6 = She has PERSECUTED THE SAINTS. Rev. 18:1-5 = God calls people out of her because SHE CAUSES PEOPLE TO SIN (sin = breaking God's law 1 John 3:4).

All of the Characteristics only fit the Roman Catholic Church. God does have His people, even in this church. This is not a criticism of the people but of the system.

7. **Who are the daughters of the harlot?** – Revelation 17:5

Woman = church, so daughters must equal churches also. The daughters are the Protestant churches that broke away from the Catholic Church yet still follow her unbiblical teachings.

Sunday “observance remains as the reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholics sects broke away. Like a boy running away from his mother but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair.”

(The Faith of Millions, by Rev. John O'Brien pp. 421, 422)

Babylon represents the Catholic and Protestant Churches that continue to keep Sunday and break God's law.

8. **Who is the pure woman of Revelation 12?**

1 – Rev. 12:13, 14 - The dragon is Satan (vs. 9). He used the Roman church to persecute God's true people for 1,260 years when the papacy gained control of Europe from AD 538 to 1798, During this 1,260 year period, this text tells us God's people will hiding the wilderness. They will not be visible and will appear after the 1,260 years. So this church will come to view again after 1798. Therefore, all of the churches that existed between the formation of the papacy and 1798 cannot be the remnant church.

2 – Rev. 12:17 – A remnant is the last part of something. Like a piece of cloth left after the bolt has been sold is called the remnant, it is the same pattern and material as the first part. The remnant church will be like the original church. Since the apostles and Jesus kept the Sabbath, the remnant will do the same. God's last day church will be a Sabbath keeping church. They must keep all 10 commandments to qualify (James 2:10).

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3 – Matthew 24:14, Rev. 14:6 – This church will take the Gospel to the world just before the end comes. The Gospel is about Jesus and His death on Calvary for us, but look at all the truths that the gospel will include and restore:

Rev. 14:7 – Judgment IS come. It will teach we have been in the judgment since 1844, and will teach we should worship God our creator by keeping the Sabbath as a memorial.

Rev. 14:8 – It will teach there is a false system named Babylon that has fallen and that God's people need to come out of it.

Rev. 14:9 – It will teach who the beast is, what the mark is, and warn people not to follow the beast.

Rev. 14:12 – It will teach a balance between faith and works. We are not saved by keeping commandments but if we do have the faith of Jesus we will love Him enough to keep His commandments.

Rev. 14:13 – It will teach that death is a peaceful rest from our works and that we will come forth in the resurrection.

4 – Rev. 12:17, Rev. 19:10 – The remnant will have the testimony of Jesus. This is the spirit of prophecy. The remnant church will be a people of prophecy. They will understand and teach prophecy.

9. **Who fulfills these four identifying marks of God's remnant church?**

1 – Arise after 1798

2 – Keeps the commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

3 – Proclaims the gospel of Revelation 14 to the world.

4 – Has the spirit of prophecy.

There is only one church that fulfills all of these. It is the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

1 – It came into existence after 1798 – in 1860

2 – It keeps the same seventh-day Sabbath that Jesus and the disciples kept.

3 – It is a worldwide church and us in more nations of the world than any other Protestant church. It is the only church preaching the entire gospel as outlined in Revelation 14 in the three angel's message.

4 – It is a church based on prophecy and understands prophecy.

This does not mean that only Adventists will be saved. God has a church that is drawing people from all over the world and from all different religious backgrounds because they are uniting on the Word of God.

10. **Where is Jesus calling me?** – John 10:16, Rev. 18:1-4

Jesus is calling His people out of Babylon (spiritual confusion and false teaching) and into one fold. We have two choices, either follow Jesus or and His Bible truth or follow Babylon and the traditions of man.

What is holding you back from following Jesus all the way today?