



# DISCOVERING REVELATION

## 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?