

# In Search of the Remnant



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*The following notes contain some of the material presented in the series "Is God for Real?"*

When Jesus Christ was here on earth two thousand years ago He said He would build His church, Matthew 16:18. Does God have a church on earth today, and if so can it be easily found? With many thousands of different denominations in the world today, how could we find God's end time church? Does the Bible give us any clues as to how to find God's last day remnant church?

There are many reasons why people choose to go to a particular church. Some attend the church nearest to their home, for convenience sake. Others attend the church their family has attended for generations. Some might attend a particular church because it has a good children's program and therefore meets their own families' needs. Others might choose a church with a good music program, or because they like the architecture of the building, or perhaps they provide really good lunches! But what should be the main reason for going to church?

When Jesus prayed for His disciples shortly before going to the cross, He asked His Father to sanctify His disciples by the truth. In other words, the followers of God were to be set apart from the rest of the world by biblical truth, John 17:17; John 8:32. The Word of God should be our only guide in Christian belief and practice, and God's remnant church will practice biblical Christianity.

The church is compared to a body in the Bible, with Christ being the head of the body. The Bible says there is one body, not many. 1Cor 12:27; 1Cor 12:12-13; Eph 4:4-6

God intends for us to gather together as a people to worship Him. This is called church. Heb 10:25. Unity is important in the church and it is not God's desire that we should be divided, John 17:21, 1Cor 12:25. But unity in the church must always be built upon the teachings of God found in the Bible. If this is the case, then where did all the different denominations come from?

Acts 20:28-30 to draw away the disciples after themselves

The Bible predicts that problems would arise after the original apostles had died. Compromise and corruption slowly began to infect the church and Bible teachings were replaced by traditions.

Rev 12:1-3 a woman, a Child and a dragon

Revelation 12 is a prophecy about the history of the church. The woman in this passage represents God's people. The child she is about to give birth to represents Christ, and the Dragon is Satan.

Eph 5:25 husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church 2 Cor 11:2 I have betrothed you to one husband – Christ

There are two notable women in the book of Revelation. The faithful woman in chapter 12 represents God's church. The unfaithful woman in chapter 17 represents an unfaithful church.

Rev 12:4-5 she gave birth to a male Child who would rule

The Dragon, or Satan (Rev 12:9), tries to destroy the Child. It was he who inspired the attempts by Herod to kill Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem. Today he continues his attacks on God's church. Rev 12:13 he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the child

Initially the church came under attack from persecution, but the church continued to grow. In our time the Devil uses a different method – that of deception. He has been successfully using this method for decades. In the early church compromises were gradually made, and some pagan practises began to replace biblical teachings. Church traditions became more important than God's clear commands. The church became corrupt and entered a period known as the Dark Ages.

The church employed the state to enforce its teachings and those who wished to practise their faith differently were persecuted.

Rev 12:6 God prepared a place for the woman for 1260 days

This prophetic time period is mentioned seven different times in the Bible. It represents the 1260 literal years of Papal supremacy from 538 to 1798 AD. Toward the end of this period many reformers arose to challenge the church to change – to return to the teachings of the Bible.

Rev 12:17 the dragon made war with the remnant

At the end of time the Devil focuses his attention on God's faithful remnant people. They are identified by six characteristics:

1. They keep all of God's Commandments. Rev 12:17
2. Their faith in Jesus is central to their experience. Rev 14:12
3. They proclaim the end time warning of the three angels' messages. Rev 14:6-12
4. They are a global movement with a worldwide message. Rev 14:6
5. They emerge after the 1260 years in the wilderness, or after 1798. Rev 12:6, 14
6. They have a special emphasis on the Spirit of Prophecy. Rev 12:17, 19:10

Only one church movement matches these six characteristics: The Seventh-day Adventist Church

This church does not claim to be filled with perfect people, but they follow a perfect Saviour. God has raised up this remnant church to call people back to God and to the teachings of His Word. Notice what one Catholic source said:

"People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become Seventhday Adventists, and keep Saturday holy." Saint Catherine Catholic Church Sentinel, 21 May 1995

In Revelation 12:17 the Bible reveals that God's end time remnant church will keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. God is preparing a people for the return of Jesus. He is calling His followers out of the spiritual confusion of Babylon into His Remnant church.

Would you like to be a part of God's last day remnant people?

*If you would like to know more about this subject, or others in the series, 'Is God for Real?' then please contact one of our staff and they will be happy to help you.*