

of time. They will, in fact, be teaching the same truths as the Apostolic church. A remnant of material used for dressmaking etc. is the same pattern and colour as the original material in that bolt of cloth. So the remnant church will preach the same gospel truths taught by Jesus and the apostles.

In summary, how do we ascertain which is God's true church today? Here are seven clear specifications:

1. A REMNANT = LAST PART. It will exist just prior to Christ's coming.
2. A REMNANT = USUALLY SMALL. Truth is usually in the minority. So, God's last church will be small in number.
3. A REMNANT = SAME AS ORIGINAL. Identical teachings as church of apostles.
4. WOULD RISE AFTER 1798. The remnant was not to arise before 1798 as the woman in the wilderness existed till then. In 1798 Christian believers began a diligent study of the Bible – particularly Daniel and Revelation, which led to the rise of the Seventh-day Adventist movement in 1844.
5. Revelation 12:17. Keep the commandments of God.
6. IT IS A SABBATH-KEEPING CHURCH. Isaiah 58:12,13. Revelation 12:17. HAS TESTIMONY OF JESUS. Revelation 19:10 = SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.

The Seventh-day Adventist church fulfils these specifications. God has set up this movement, not to be another denomination, but to take the last warning message to the world. Many of God's faithful followers are in different churches, not knowing the full truth of the Bible. God uses His people wherever they are, but soon He is going to call His children into the fold. Revelation 18:2-4. Will you respond to the call of God to your heart and become one of the faithful remnant? God has a glorious future planned for His people, a future that will last forever. This He gives to those who are faithful, those who love Jesus and keep His commandments.

Do you believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church fulfils the specifications of the Remnant church? _____



Life's VITAL ANSWERS

God's True Church.



In ages past, God has revealed through the prophets, His plans, and warnings of coming destruction, for He is "not willing that any should perish." 2 Peter 3:9. Just so, God has given to us in these last days, a great message of warning concerning what is coming on the world. In these prophecies, He has revealed certain truths He wants you to know and to understand. These are revealed in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:7 Look, _____, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

The keynote of the book of Revelation is the Second Coming of Christ. This theme runs through all the book as a golden thread. Because of this dominant theme it has often been called, "The Book of the Advent", i.e. the Second Coming of Christ.

Revelation 14:14-16 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

When Jesus returns, He comes as a king (golden crown). He also comes as a judge, (sickle) to gather His saved ones to Him. He comes as both King and Redeemer.

In Revelation 14:6-12, John saw a vision of three mighty angels proclaiming three very important messages to the world just preceding the second coming of the Lord. An "angel" means simply, "a messenger", and in prophecy is often used to represent a message being proclaimed in the earth. These verses show that just prior to the Advent, three great messages are to be sounded in the earth. These messages comprise the greatest sign of Christ's soon appearing. Actually, their whole purpose is to prepare men and women for that important event. Just before His first advent, Jesus had a messenger to go before Him with a special message. The prophecy is recorded in Malachi 3:1, and its message was preached by John the Baptist. See Matthew 11:10,11. And so, before Jesus comes the second time, another special message is to be proclaimed to the world — the message of the three angels.



Revelation 12:14,6 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach . . . _____
_____ to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

The true church fled to uninhabited places to escape persecution. This persecution of small Christian groups by the Papacy continued for 1260 days, (or years — for a day equals a year in Bible prophecy). In the year A.D. 538 Justinian issued a decree that everyone within the empire must join the Catholic church within 90 days or leave the empire, and have their goods confiscated. This forced the faithful few to withdraw to the mountainous regions, to the shelter of valleys and caves for protection. The year 538 was the commencement of Papal supremacy. Adding on 1260 years brings us to 1798.

These 1260 years coincide exactly with the 1260 years of Daniel 7, and Revelation 13. In the year 1798 the church and the state were separated in Italy. Napoleon dethroned the Pope, abolished his government, and religious freedom was given to all Italians. So Papal supremacy ceased in 1798. During these dark ages, no less than 150 million of the true people of God became martyrs, simply because they did not submit to the rule of Rome, but rather, upheld the Word of God as their guide in life.



Revelation 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and _____—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Here is the devil's final attempt to destroy God's truth. His attack is made against the rest of her offspring, or the last of God's church. Here God's people are identified in the last days by the fact that they keep God's commandments and also have the testimony of Jesus. This is the vital identifying mark of the true church of God at the end

In 2 Corinthians 11:2, the New Testament church is also likened to a pure woman. In this prophecy, the pure woman is the pure church. Notice she is clothed with the sun. This represents the glory surrounding the church, which is the gospel, God's people being clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

Revelation 12:2,4-5 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.



The church is figured as an expectant mother, who gives birth to a man child, who rules all nations, and is caught up to God's throne. Who is the man child? In Psalm 2:6-9 Christ, God's Son is revealed as the One who rules all nations with a rod of iron at His Second Coming. In these verses we see both the Old Testament church and Satan waiting for the birth of Christ. In verse 4 we see the devil's attempt to destroy Christ at birth. This was fulfilled when Herod tried to kill Jesus at birth (Matt 2:16)

Revelation 12:13 When _____ saw that he had been hurled to the earth, _____ who had given birth to the male child.

When Jesus conquered Satan and death through the cross and His resurrection, He went back to heaven to aid His church from there. Satan turned his fury on the church. Violent persecution of the early Christian church followed, first by the Jews, then by the hand of Rome, when two and a half million faithful followers of Jesus lost their lives because of their belief in the Saviour. However, this did not stop the church from flourishing. The martyrs' determination to be faithful to death, inspired others to join the church.

The First Angel's Message

Revelation 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he _____ to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

The Everlasting Gospel: It is not something new or strange, not something people have invented. The first message will preach the everlasting gospel – the message of salvation through faith in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. It will herald the glorious news that men and women are saved by grace. Not only will it proclaim the everlasting gospel, but it will also proclaim special messages for the last days to meet last day situations.



Revelation 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because _____ . Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.

The statement "has come" is very significant. It indicates arrival; not something to occur in the future, but something that has actually taken place. Here it refers to the investigative judgment. The Apostle Paul talked about judgment as future from his time (Acts 24:25) but now in this message, the Judgment has come.

This last day message will herald the fact that God's judgment hour "has come", or has arrived. This last message must commence when the judgment commences. In the study of the 2,300 day prophecy, Daniel clearly shows the judgment commenced in 1844. The last day message of the three angels are to be heard in the earth after 1844.

Also in Revelation 14:7 is a call to return to the worship of the Creator. It is interesting to note the similarity in wording to the fourth commandment concerning God's creatorship. When all the world is turning to the worship of the beast power of Revelation 13, God's last great message will belt the globe, calling men and women to fear God and worship Him as Creator. How can we best worship the Creator?

