

# DISCOVER PROPHECY



## Revelation's Remnant

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### God's Church

Does God have a church on earth today? In the Old Testament He had the Israelites, they were His special chosen people called to proclaim a message with a particular mission. They were His church. Later, God left that people and began working among spiritual Israel. In the New Testament, there was a special people of God, those followers of His that were preaching the gospel message of the coming of the Messiah.

If God were to have a church today in our world, how would I know how to find it? Among the Christian faiths alone there are some 300 different denominational groups. There would be no way you could give each a fair evaluation to determine whether it was the true church of God, being used by Him in the last days to prepare the world for Jesus' second coming.

According to Time magazine's religion section, new religious groups are exploding all over the place. With these new groups there are over 1187 faiths on the North American continent. "...there is but one question,... 'Which is the true church?' If you answer that one question, you solve every question of religious controversy..."

Yet despite all of the controversy, there is but one true Church of God. The Bible says that, "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism" Ephesians 4:4,5 (NIV).

### A Beautiful Woman

In the book of Revelation, chapter twelve describes an enormous struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. Here we see a depiction of a beautiful woman being pursued by a large, scary dragon. His sole objection is to destroy her. "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in great pain to give birth" Revelation 12:1,2.

Here we see a biblical depiction of the church; God's people. Where as the whore was a depiction of the false church or religious movement in the last days that is working contrary to God's word, here we have a movement, a church, a people who are faithfully

following God.

Here this beautiful woman, the church, was under attack from the dragon. "And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war... And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him" Revelation 12:7,9.

This is nothing new to us. The devil and his angels rebelled in heaven and sought to cause conflict in heaven. Having succeeded in persuading a third of the angels with him, the devil was cast out of heaven, along with his fallen angels. They were cast here to this earth where they have been intend on causing great pain to the faithful followers of God. So the devil and his angels go after God's church.

"And...the dragon...persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child" Revelation 12:13. In a great attempt to kill the male child, the devil sought to kill Jesus Christ, the male child born of the church (the Jewish people at the time). Working through the dragon (Rome) the devil tried to kill Jesus Christ at His birth having all of the children two years of age and under killed in the city of Bethlehem. However, in the middle of the night, the Lord came to Joseph and Mary and told them to flee from Bethlehem. So they did, despite the dragon's attempt to destroy the child, Jesus. "And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne" Revelation 12:5. After feeble attempts to kill the child born of the woman, he becomes vengeful. Jesus succeeds in making salvation available to all mankind, and defeats the devil's scheming plans once again.

### The Church Under Fire

Angry and very vindictive, the devil goes after the woman, the bride of God; the apple of His eye. If He can't kill Jesus, he would go after that which was special and dear to him, the church.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death" Revelation 12:11. So the devil

begins by attempting to kill the people of God. Using forces of the dragon (Rome) decrees and laws were set up to kill those who proclaimed Christ. They were taken to the coliseums, burned at the stake and crucified upon crosses. But despite his attempt to rid the earth of the church, the more the devil killed and persecuted, the more people became Christians and followers of Christ.

Realizing his plan to kill the Christians wasn't working, the devil begins working from among the church. Instead of killing them (which only seemed to add to their numbers) the devil begins integrating teachings and practices into the church not founded in scripture. Instead of faithfully following Christ, the people think they are but following after the dragon, the devil.

The devil begins integrating into the church pagan rituals that corrupt the church, "This tendency...to meet paganism halfway was very early developed...Upright men strove to stem the tide, but...the apostasy went on, 'til the Church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under pagan superstition" The Two Babylons, page 93.

Now as the church changes, there still remains a faithful body of believers in the truth of God's word. These are fleeing from the apostasy and running to the wilderness. "And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for 1260 days" Revelation 12: 6.

The true believers and followers of Christ were forced from their homes and villages into the wilderness in order to flee from the persecution that the majority of the Christian church promoted. Where as the Christians had been under a great deal of persecution in the past, they now, under the direction of the dragon, are persecuting those who do not faithfully follow their teachings and practices. Thus the true Bible believing Christians are forced to flee into the wilderness.

This time period lasted for 1260 days, or as you study Bible prophecy, for 1260 years. Remember that in Bible prophecy, a day equals a year (Ezekiel 4:6). Therefore the Bible believing Christians were forced into hiding for 1260 years.

At that time (the 1260 years of church and state union) the true believers were forced into hiding. There is no official church, no open body of believers. They had all gone underground. They lived and worshipped in the mountains in secret during that time.

"Great numbers were driven from their habitations

with their wives and children, stripped and naked...many of them inhumanely massacred" The History of the Popes, Volume 2, page 334.

Though the church had fled into the wilderness, the dragon still pursues her... "And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth" Revelation 12:15,16.

In Bible prophecy, water represents "peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues" Revelation 17:15. So the devil did all he could by sending masses of people in after the followers of Christ and though at times they succeeded, most of the time, the Lord protected them by the natural environment of the rocks, hills and mountains. The earth (a place where there is not many people) protected the people from harm. The people of God would flee to an unpopulated place where they might find freedom and security.

Just so, some of the faithful followers of Christ came here to America where they could have the freedom of worship.

### **The Remnant**

According to the Bible, the church was in hiding for 1260 years, from about 538 to 1798 AD. At that time, the church would no longer be in hiding. God's church would arise sometime after 1798 in a land of political and religious freedom. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went off to make war with the *remnant* of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12: 17. The Bible says that there would still be a remnant people that the devil would seek to destroy.

A *remnant* is that which remains and is like the original. God has always, throughout history had a remnant people, faithfully following Him. Even so now in the last days, there would be a remnant, that the devil is seeking to hurt and destroy.

The book of Revelation reveals the characteristics of this remnant people. Note the characteristics of the remnant:

1. *Arise After 1798*: Since the church comes out of hiding in 1798, the remnant people would arise sometime after that time in history.
2. *Keep the Commandments*: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went off to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of

Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17. The devil is not happy with those who are faithfully following the commandments of God. Especially all ten of them! “Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith in Jesus” Revelation 14:12. “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” Revelation 22:14 (KJV).

3. *Have the Testimony of Jesus:* “...and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17. What is the testimony of Jesus Christ? “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” Revelation 19:10.

According to the Bible, the remnant people would believe in the spirit of prophecy. They would believe in the continuing of the spiritual gift of prophecy. A prophet is a spokesperson for God. Therefore we each have and share our testimony of Jesus Christ and believe that God still uses a special person as a spokesperson to His church.

4. *Proclaim God's Final Message:* The remnant people are called by God to proclaim the gospel message of salvation and the final events of the Bible in preparation for the soon second coming of Jesus Christ. One aspect of preparing people for the second coming of Jesus Christ is to baptize them into Jesus Christ!

### **One Mad Dragon**

Remember that the devil is very angry at God and especially those who seek to follow after Him. As you are making choices to follow the Bible and become part of God's remnant people, understand that there will be difficulty as the devil seeks to make life more difficult. But, despite the trials, you will find greater happiness and joy in Jesus Christ!



