

THE REMNANT

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Take a minute to pray for God to guide you as you study...

In our last lesson, we learned that God has given His end-time movement of faithful followers the Spirit of Prophecy! Take some time to recap the previous lesson. What were some main points that stuck with you? Are there any new questions that arose during the week?

In this lesson, we will be learning that just before the second coming, God will have a group of faithful followers who will hold fast to the knowledge of His Law and direct others to Jesus as the true revelation of God's character.

John the Revelator tells us how God's people end up being just a remaining group just before Jesus comes. He describes them in prophecy as "the woman," who really is The Church. The Church, starting out as followers of Jesus, continue through the apostolic time (New Testament Church), down through to the last group of God's faithful (The Remnant) before the second coming of Jesus. Here's how John describes this group:

Revelation 12:13-17: "When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage _____ against the rest of her offspring (The Remnant)—those who _____ God's _____ and hold fast their _____ about Jesus."

We previously learned that there was a "great apostasy" predicted in Bible prophecy and that this apostasy would come in the form of a religious system opposing God's law. The Apostle Paul could already see this system coming into place in his day. He writes:

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8: "For the secret power of lawlessness is **already at work**; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming."

We noted in a previous lesson that this system indeed came about in the Church of Rome and that the Church of Rome has changed "times and law" (Daniel 7:25). All of this makes total sense, because in our first lesson of Ecclesia, we learned that Israel was gifted a message to proclaim to the world, and as they proclaimed this message, they'd be considered wise. Israel was given God's law to govern them and show them how to love their surrounding neighbors. Through time, Satan has sought to cast lies to entice God's people to disregard Him and His governance. But John the Revelator says at the end of time there will be a group of people who:

Revelation 12:17: "Keep the _____ of God and have the _____ of Jesus Christ." (NKJV)

Keeping the Commandments:

Just as prophesied, the Millerite Movement that later became the Advent Movement, arising in the early 19th century, was perfectly in historical context with what John was writing in Revelation. While Catholicism and most Protestant denominations come up with answers regarding why they no longer are subjected to the 10 commandments; the Advent Movement has proclaimed the law of God as His unchangeable character. Thus the Seventh-day Adventist Church has played a major role in restoring the Sabbath as well as abolishing idols. By proclaiming God's law, the Advent Movement opened the door for God's character to be revealed to the world.

The Testimony of Jesus:

John not only said God's end-time movement would keep the commandments, but they would also have the "Testimony of Jesus." The same John of Revelation wrote:

1 John 2:18: "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that [he who will oppose Christ in the guise of Christ] is coming, even now many antichrists have come" (Amplified Bible)

John also wrote a few verses later:

1 John 2:22-23: "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also" (NKJV)

John paints this picture that there would be many ideas circulating about Jesus Christ. Satan has sought to confuse many about the true Jesus and His true Gospel. Prophecy predicted this when it said, "He sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

BASIC POINT

God's end-time people stay faithful to Him no matter what!

In order for us to understand what John means by "Testimony of Jesus" we need to figure out how the Bible defines testimony.

Read the following verses to see how the Bible defines it. John 3:32-33; John 1:1-18; John 3:11; John 5:19; John 10:15, 25, 30, 32; John 14:9; John 16:27

The bible pretty much says, “the Testimony of Jesus” is the fullest revelation of God and His character of love in the person of Jesus given to the world. It is this end-time movement that is to bear witness of the beautiful character of God in the person of Jesus. They will do so by honoring the commandments of God and being transformed by God’s love, they will walk in God’s law.

Ezekiel the prophet says:

Ezekiel 26:36: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

God promises to change our hearts and by that change, we will walk in His commandments. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Sometimes we read this as a command to prove our love. However, Jesus is speaking it as a promise. When we fall in love with Him we will naturally keep His commandments because “love is the fulfillment of the Law,” (Romans 13:10). God had a magnificent plan to use ordinary people to proclaim the truth about Him! What a wonderful God we serve!

NOTES:

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. What is your reaction to knowing that God has an end-time people that remain faithful to Him through it all?
2. What are your feelings about being a part of The Remnant?

LESSON 7: THE REMNANT

