

# THE 8<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH - FACT OR FICTION, part 5

## quotes

1) The last church listed in Revelation, the one beyond the 7 churches of chapters 2 & 3 – including Laodicea, thereby making it the 8<sup>th</sup> church if your counting, is found in Revelation 12:17 dealing with the Remnant.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

2) What does Revelation 12:17 mean? Let us briefly understand this chapter and define some of its symbols.

- - Verses 1-5: “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” Revelation 12:1-5.
- - A woman in Bible prophecy represents a church (see Jeremiah 6:2). This woman or church has a crown of 12 stars, showing that this represents the church of Israel, with the 12 stars representing the 12 tribes.
- - The great red dragon would represent Satan; the third part of the stars would represent the number of angels who followed him in rebelling against God and then being cast out.
- - The child would represent Jesus, who lived a sinless righteous life, who then died, was raised, and ascended to Heaven and to God's throne.

3) Verses 7-12: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

- - The great controversy between Christ and Satan began in heaven and then being brought down to this earth.
- - After Christ solidified the plan of Salvation by dying on the cross, Satan was completely restricted to this earth and could no more visit heaven or any other unfallen world, and thus knows that his time is short.
- - The way to overcome Satan is by the blood of the Lamb and by our testimony for Christ. But God's true followers will indeed be persecuted and killed for their confession and following of their Lord God Jesus Christ.

4) Verses 6, 13-16: And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days....And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth."

- - The devil persecuted the woman or the church of God, but this woman depicted here was not the church of Israel because they ceased to be God's chosen people in 34 AD. So the woman or church depicted here would represent the early Christian church and then continuing up through the Reformation of the Protestant churches to the ending of the 1260 years, which was in 1798.

**5)** “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

There are 4 distinct entities:

- 1) the dragon;
- 2) the woman;
- 3) the seed of the woman;
- 4) the remnant of her seed.

- 1 - Who represents “the dragon”? This represents Satan, the Devil or Lucifer.
- 2 - Who represents “the woman” that the devil is wroth with? It would be the Protestant churches who were in existence at the ending of the 1260 years in 1798.
- 3 - Who represents “her seed” or the seed of the woman? The seed would be the offspring from these Protestant churches, therefore making it the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- 4 - Who represents the Remnant of this seed, or of the SDA church, whom the Devil is making war with? A remnant of cloth is something that is left over and separated away from the original material after the pattern is sown and finished. So the remnant depicted here would represent those who have separated away from the SDA apostate church after it was formed!

The Remnant is not the SDA church! The corrupt SDA church represent the seed or the offspring of the Protestant churches. But the Remnant represents those who have separated from the seed – those who have separated themselves out from the SDA church and from all the corrupt churches of Babylon, in obedience to the loud cry message! And it is because these Remnant are not within any Babylonian church, and they keep the commandments of God and follow the Testimony of Jesus Christ – which is the SOP (Revelation 19:10), that the Devil wars against them!

6) Are the Remnant of Revelation 12:17 a church or just a scattered unorganized people?

“Those who love and keep the commandments of God are most obnoxious to the synagogue of Satan, and the powers of evil will manifest their hatred toward them to the fullest extent possible. John foresaw the conflict between **the remnant church** and the power of evil, and said, ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with **the remnant of her seed**, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’” Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 974.

“This has always been applicable to God's people in every age of the world, but how much more so to **the remnant church** who have to meet the constant and most powerful masterly workings of the power of darkness for this last time.” That I May Know Him, p 346.

“The people of God have had their attention called to the ark of the testimony, and the law within it has been revealed with its unalterable precepts. In holy vision, John saw **the remnant church on the earth**, in an age of lawlessness, and he points them out in unmistakable language: ‘Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ They are in harmony with that law that rests in the ark in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.” Signs of the Times, February 3, 1888.

“Christ's true disciples follow Him through sore conflicts, enduring self-denial and experiencing bitter disappointment; but this teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they are led to look upon it with abhorrence. Partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory. In holy vision the prophet saw the ultimate triumph of **God's remnant church**.” Acts of Apostles, p 590.

7) Are you willing to become one of His Remnant people who obey all of God's commands?

**"If the remnant people of God will walk before Him in humility and faith, He will carry out through them His eternal purpose, enabling them to work harmoniously in giving to the world the truth as it is in Jesus.** He will use all --men, women, and children--in making the light shine forth to the world and calling out a people that will be true to His commandments. Through the faith that His people exercise in Him, God will make known to the world that He is the true God, the God of Israel." Testimonies, vol 9, p 274.

8) All heaven is earnestly watching and waiting to see if you will become one of God's Remnant people.

"Coming events, of a solemn character, are opening before us, and God would not have any one of us think that in these last days there is no more that we need to know. This is a continual snare of Satan. He would have us meet coming events without that special preparation which is essential to guide them through every difficulty. He would have all stumbling their way along in ignorance, making self-conceit, self-esteem, self-confidence, take the place of true knowledge. The more satisfied anyone is with himself, and his present knowledge, the less earnestly and humbly will he seek to be guided into all truth. The less of the Holy Spirit of God he has, the more self-satisfied and complacent he will feel. He will not search earnestly and with the deepest interest to know more of truth. But unless he keeps pace with the Leader, who is guiding into all truth, he will be left behind, belated, blinded, confused, because he is not walking in the light....**All heaven is looking upon the remnant people of God, to see if they will make truth alone their shield and buckler.**" Manuscript Releases, vol 5, p 50-51.

Are you willing to follow all of God's truth?

**"Christ would have His followers brought together in church capacity, observing order, having rules and discipline, and all subject one to another, esteeming others better than themselves. Union and confidence are essential to the prosperity of the church.**" Testimonies, vol 3, p 445.

9) Those who make up God's Remnant church and people will be united and organized together in church capacity.

"Through the grace freely given them of God, all will seek to answer the prayer of Christ, that His disciples should be one, even as He and the Father are one. Peace, love, mercy, and benevolence will be the abiding principles of the soul. The love of Christ will be the theme of every tongue...The people of God will be abiding in Christ, the love of Jesus will be revealed, and one Spirit will animate all hearts, regenerating and renewing all in the image of Christ, fashioning all hearts alike. As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the living head. Christ will abide in every heart, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, and presenting to the world **the unity of the followers of Jesus, thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the remnant church. In the oneness of Christ's church it will be proved that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world.**

**"When God's people are one in the unity of the Spirit,** all of Phariseeism, all of self-righteousness, which was the sin of the Jewish nation, will be expelled from all hearts. The mold of Christ will be upon each individual member of His body, and His people will be new bottles into which He can pour His new wine, and the new wine will not break the bottles. God will make known the mystery which hath been hidden for ages. He will make known what are the 'riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Col. 1:27)." Selected Messages, book 1, p 385-386.

"As we near the close of time, Satan comes down with great power, knowing that his time is short. Especially will his power be exercised upon **the remnant. He will war against them, and seek to divide and scatter them, that they may grow weak and be overthrown.** The people of God should move understandingly, and should be united in their efforts. **They should be of the same mind, of the same judgment; then their efforts will not be scattered, but will tell forcibly in the upbuilding of the cause of present truth. Order must be observed, and there must be union in maintaining order, or Satan will take the advantage.**" Testimonies, vol 1, p 210.

**"The oneness and unity of God's truth-believing remnant people carries powerful conviction to the world that they have the truth, and are the peculiar, chosen people of God. This oneness and unity disconcerts the enemy, and he is determined that it shall not exist. The present truth, believed in the heart and exemplified in the life, makes God's people one, and gives them a powerful influence."** Testimonies, vol 1, p 327.