

Fundamental Belief Number Thirteen

The Remnant and its Mission

Part 1

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Memory Text

Revelation 12:17 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.

Bible Study Summary Introduction Statement

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.

BIBLE STUDY

The Two Distinguishing Features of the Remnant Church

What two distinguishing features does Revelation give us to determine which is the Remnant Church?

Revelation 12:17 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.

How many Commandments are there in the covenant made with His people or the Remnant Church in the last days?

Hebrews 8:10 For this *is* the **covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a **people**:

Deuteronomy 4:13 And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, *even* **ten** commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

The Seventh-day Sabbath a distinguishing sign of the Remnant Church

Which Commandment will make a clear distinction between the Remnant Church and other mainstream Churches?

Exodus 20:8 **Remember** the **sabbath** day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exodus 20:10 But the **seventh** day *is* the **sabbath** of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

Exodus 20:11 For *in* six days the LORD **made** heaven and **earth**, the **sea**, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Which part of the last gospel message of mercy to the world upholds “the keeping of the Seventh-day Sabbath?”

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting **gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that **made** heaven, and **earth**, and the **sea**, and the fountains of waters.

What are some Bible evidences that prove the continuation of the Seventh-day Sabbath Commandment into the New Testament Church?

Jesus Christ's prophecy of Christian Seventh-day Sabbath keeping in 70 AD

Matthew 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the **sabbath** day:

Paul and his Seventh-day Sabbath keeping custom

Acts 13:13 Now when **Paul** and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the **synagogue** on the **sabbath** day, and sat down.

The Gentiles keep the Seventh-day Sabbath

Acts 13:42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles** besought that these words might be preached to them the next **sabbath**.

Acts 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 13:44 And the next **sabbath** day came almost the **whole** city together to hear the **word** of **God**.

The Seventh-day Sabbath kept even where there is no Jewish synagogue

Acts 16:13 And on the **sabbath** we went **out** of the **city** by a **river** side, where **prayer** was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which **worshipped** God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Acts 16:15 And when she was **baptized**, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

Paul ministered to both Jews and Greeks on the Seventh-day Sabbath

Acts 17:2 And **Paul**, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three **sabbath** days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that **Christ** must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this **Jesus**, whom I **preach** unto you, is Christ.

Acts 17:4 And some of them **believed**, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout **Greeks** a great **multitude**, and of the chief women not a few.

Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every **sabbath**, and persuaded the **Jews** and the **Greeks**.

How did Paul declare in around 64 AD that the Seventh-day Sabbath was still to be kept by God's Church in Hebrews 4:9? Notice this verse as it is translated by eleven different versions?

Hebrews 4:9 So there **remains** a **Sabbath** rest for the **people** of God.

Analytical-literal Translation

Hebrews 4:9 There **remaineth** therefore a **sabbath** rest for the **people** of God.

American Standard Version

Hebrews 4:9 So that there is **still** a **Sabbath-keeping** for the **people** of God. **Bible in Basic English**

Hebrews 4:9 So there **remains** a **Shabbat-keeping** for **God's** people. **Complete Jewish Bible**

Hebrews 4:9 There **remains**, then, a **Sabbath-rest** for the **people** of God; **New International Version**

Hebrews 4:9 So there **remains** a **Sabbath-keeping** for the **people** of Elohim. **The Scriptures '98**

Hebrews 4:9 A **Sabbath** rest **remains**, therefore, for God's **people**. **Holman Christian Standard Bible**

Hebrews 4:9 [So] then, a **Sabbath** “rest **day**” [still] **remains** for God’s people. **An Understandable Version New Testament (1994)**

Hebrews 4:9 There does **remain**, then, a **sabbatic** rest to the people of God, **Revised Young’s literal translation of the New Testament (1898)**

Hebrews 4:9 There **remains** then a **sabbatism** to the people of God. **1889 Darby Bible**

Hebrews 4:9 There **remains** therefore a **Shabbat-keeping** for the people of God. **Messianic Renewed Covenant**

Note: The Greek work sabbatismos is only found once in the New Testament and is defined in Thayer’s Greek dictionary as “a keeping Sabbath” as correctly translated in at least 31 different English Translations.

The Testimony of Jesus Christ the second distinguishing sign of the Remnant Church

What is the “Testimony of Jesus Christ” which is the second distinguishing sign of the remnant Church mentioned in Revelation 12:17?

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy **brethren** that have the **testimony** of **Jesus**: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus **is** the **spirit** of **prophecy**.

Revelation 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

Revelation 22:9 Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy **brethren** the **prophets**, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Women were also included with the prophetic gift

Name some prophetesses in the Old Testament?

Exodus 15:20 And **Miriam** the **prophetess**, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Judges 4:4 And **Deborah**, a **prophetess**, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

2 Kings 22:14 So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto **Huldah** the **prophetess**, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.

Nehemiah 6:14 My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the **prophetess Noadiah**, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

Isaiah 8:3 And I went unto the **prophetess** (Isaiah's wife); and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz.

Who were prophetesses in the New Testament?

Luke 2:36 And there was one **Anna**, a **prophetess**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

Acts 21:8 And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of **Philip** the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him.

Acts 21:9 And the same man had **four daughters**, virgins, which did **prophesy**.

Some inspired books and epistles written by some of the prophets were not included in the Bible

Name some inspired books not found in the Bible?

1 Chronicles 29:29 Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the **book** of **Nathan** the **prophet**, and in the **book** of **Gad** the **seer**,

2 Chronicles 20:34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the **book** of **Jehu** the son of Hanani, who *is* mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

1 Kings 16:7 And also by the hand of the **prophet Jehu** the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD against Baasha, and against his house, even for all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam; and because he killed him.

Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise **read** the **epistle** (written by the Paul) from **Laodicea**.

The Gift of Prophecy is to extend until the end of time

How long does the Bible say the gift of prophecy will continue?

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, **prophets**; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 **Till** we **all** come in the **unity** of the **faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ellen G. White a prophetess fulfilling the accurate prediction of Revelation 12:17 and Joel 2:28-32 that there would be prophets and prophetesses in the Remnant Church

Did the Bible foretell in another place that there would be prophets and prophetesses in the remnant Church?

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass **afterward**, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your **sons** and your **daughters** shall **prophesy**, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the **handmaids** in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Joel 2:30 And I will shew **wonders** in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Joel 2:31 The **sun** shall be turned into **darkness**, and the **moon** into **blood**, before the great and the terrible **day** of the **LORD** come.

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the **remnant** whom the LORD shall call.

How does the book of Acts make it clear that the prophets and prophetesses of the Remnant Church are in the last days?

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet **Joel**;

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the **last** days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your **sons** and your **daughters** shall **prophesy**, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Note: Ellen G. White was a messenger of God whose work embraced the work of a prophet and even more. We will examine in the following questions the Biblical Tests of a prophet that were clearly demonstrated in her life and some of the predictions that have been fulfilled exactly as God revealed to Ellen G. White in dreams and visions over a period of 69 years. In 1844 AD when earth entered into the judgment hour and God began calling His remnant people back to His law and Sabbath, God also restored the gift of prophecy through a young woman whose maiden name was Ellen Gould Harmon. She later married James White and became known as Ellen G. White (1827 – 1915). Along with several other prominent leaders, Ellen was used to help start and guide God's Remnant Church. Her first vision was as a young girl in the year 1844. Mrs. White, through inspiration, became probably the most prolific woman author of all time, hand writing tens of thousands of pages of text and authoring a large number of books. Her books, and compilations from her writings, have sold in the tens, perhaps hundreds of millions of copies.

In brief, she was a woman of remarkable spiritual gifts who lived most of her life during the nineteenth century, yet through her writings and public ministry has made a revolutionary impact on millions of people around the world in the twentieth century. **{YRP 5.2}**

During her lifetime she wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 26 books; but today, including compilations from her 55,000 pages of manuscript, more than 100 titles are available in English. From the information available, she may well be the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender. Her writings cover a broad range of subjects, including education, health,

prophecy, nutrition, cultural and ethno-linguistic issues, creationism, and the origin of life. Her life-changing masterpiece on successful Christian living, steps to Christ, has been published in more than 135 languages. **{YRP 5.3}**

Seventh-day Adventists believe that Mrs. White was more than a gifted writer; they believe she was appointed by God as a special messenger to draw the world's attention to the Holy Scriptures and help prepare people for Christ's Second Advent. From the time she was 17 years old until she died 70 years later, God gave her approximately 2,000 visions and dreams. The visions varied in length from less than a minute to nearly four hours. The knowledge and counsel received through these revelations she wrote out to be shared with others. Thus her special writings are accepted by Seventh-day Adventists as inspired, and their exceptional quality is recognized even by casual readers. **{YRP 5.4}**

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As stated in *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, "the writings of Ellen White are not a substitute for scripture. They cannot be placed on the same level. The holy scriptures stand alone, the unique standard by which her and all other writings must be judged and to which they must be subject" **(p. 227)**. "yet," as Ellen White herself noted, "the fact that God has revealed his will to men through his word has not rendered needless the continued presence and guiding of the Holy Spirit. On the contrary, the Spirit was promised by our Saviour, to open the word to his servants, to illuminate and apply its teachings" **(The Great Controversy, p. Vii)**. **{YRP 6.1}**

This devotional book consists of choice selections from the writings of this remarkable woman who, meeting all the tests of a true prophet as set forth in the Holy Scriptures, helped found the Seventh-day Adventist church. **{YRP 6.2} written in the introduction of the book *Ye Shall Receive Power* by Ellen G. White**

Would you like to have and keep the two distinguishing features that Jesus gives to the Remnant Church? Yes!

Research Questions

What are the two distinguishing features of the Remnant Church? The Commandments of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ

How many Commandments are included in the Remnant Church? Ten

Which Commandment distinguishes the Remnant Church from other churches? The fourth Commandment which reminds us to remember the Seventh-day Sabbath

Which text in Revelation, quotes part of the fourth Seventh-day Sabbath Commandment calling us to return to this worshipping practice? Revelation 14:7

Did Jesus prophesy that His followers would be keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath about 40 years after His resurrection? Yes

Which great apostle directly called by Jesus on the road to Damascus to go and teach the Gentiles also kept the Seventh-day Sabbath? Paul

Which day did all of the early Christian Gentiles worship on? **The Seventh-day Sabbath**

Which text in the Bible tells us clearly that there remains a Seventh-day Sabbath keeping for God's people even today? **Hebrews 4:9**

What is the second distinguishing feature of the Remnant Church of God? **The Testimony of Jesus Christ**

What is the Testimony of Jesus Christ? **The Spirit of Prophecy**

Who had the Spirit of Prophecy? **Prophets**

Name some women who also had the Spirit of Prophecy? **Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Noadiah, Isaiah's wife, Anna and the four daughters of Philip**

Name some prophets that wrote inspired books that were not included in the Bible? **Nathan, Gad, Jehu and Paul.**

How long does the Bible say that the gift of prophecy will be found among God's people **Until Last Days or the End of Time in this world**

In Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:16-18 which days does it say the Remnant Church will have prophets and Prophetesses? **The last days**

Who was a prophetess who had the Spirit of Prophecy in 1844 at the beginning of the last days of earth's history? **Ellen G. White.**