

13. The Remnant and Its Mission

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.

In these last days God has a special people called the remnant. They may be described as those who remain loyal to Him in a time of terrible apostasy.

- Revelation predicts that the remnant will exist after the persecution of the dark ages. Revelation 12:13-17
- God calls out His special remnant in a time of terrible apostasy. Revelation 18:1-4
- The remnant are faithful to God's commandments. Revelation 12:17, 14:12
- The remnant have the testimony of Jesus -- the spirit of prophecy — the prophetic gift. Revelation 12:17, 19:10

The remnant proclaim an urgent message about the commencement of the time of judgment, salvation through Christ, and the nearness of His second coming.

- They point to salvation through Christ alone. Revelation 12:10-11
- They proclaim the message of the judgment hour. Revelation 14:6-12
- This message is a reference to the judgment that takes place in heaven before Christ returns to earth. Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- They proclaim the nearness of Christ's return. 2 Peter 3:10-14

Texts for further study: Jude 3, 14; Revelation 12:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10

Personal Application

-  Why does the remnant need especially strong faith?
-  What is the relationship between the faith of Jesus and obedience to God?
-  In what way can the Seventh-day Adventist Church be identified with the remnant of the last days?
-  It is especially challenging to live in these last days, but the challenge brings with it the privilege of participating in spreading God's last day message and helping people prepare to meet Jesus at His second coming.

Commitment

- Father, I want to be a part of Your remnant people in these last days. I am answering Your call and choose to follow Jesus in a life of faith and obedience. With You guiding me, I will tell others of Your special message for the end time.