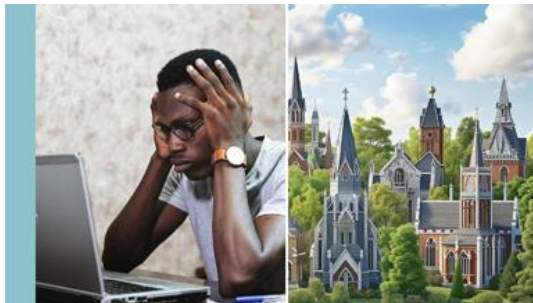




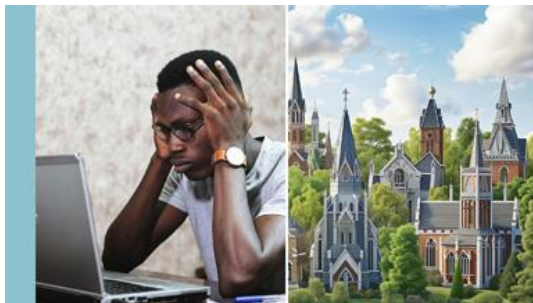
1. Revelation's Two Women: Truth and Error



- Tom had decided that it was time for his family to start going to church. So, he got on the internet and began searching for a good Christian church for his family to go to. But it wasn't as easy as he thought. To his amazement, he discovered there were literally hundreds of different churches in his city alone. Many of them had names he had never heard of. Some of those denominations had names that he couldn't even pronounce. The more he scrolled down on the screen, the more names appeared. All of them had different sets of doctrines.



- After about 20 minutes of searching, Tom was thoroughly frustrated. To him, it just seemed like a bunch of confusion. He scratched his head and thought to himself, *"This is crazy! There's one God. There's one Bible. There was one Christian church. How in the world did we get all of these different denominations?"*



- Now, I have a feeling Tom is not the only one who has ever asked that question. Chances are pretty high that you've asked it too. I've asked it. Somebody we know has asked it. If there's one God, if there's one Bible, where did we get all these different groups with thousands of different doctrines and teachings?



5. Did you know the book of Revelation prophesied that this would happen? Revelation told us that throughout the centuries the Christian church would eventually fall away from truth and would begin to split up into many different groups.
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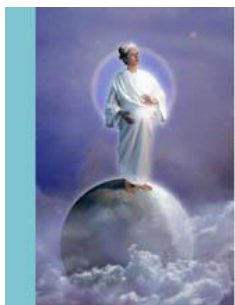


6. Tonight, we're going to take a look at that prophecy in the Book of Revelation that predicted the emergence of all these groups. Then we're going to go back and trace the steps of history to see how it happened, and how that prophecy was fulfilled. Then we are going to take a look at how God would restore His truth in the last days. It's going to be a fascinating study.
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REVELATION CHAPTER 12

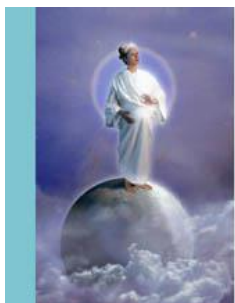
7. So, let's get out our Bibles and start by turning to Revelation chapter 12. We studied this chapter on a previous night, but we focused on the last part of that chapter. Tonight, we're going to focus on the first part. As I read these first five verses, I want to invite you to use your imagination and picture the things that John is describing in this vision.
-



REVELATION 12:1-2

"Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars."

8. Revelation chapter 12 verse one. The Bible says, *"Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars."*



REVELATION 12:1-2

Then being with child,
she cried out in labor
and in pain to give
birth."

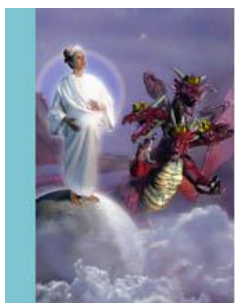
9. *Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth."*



REVELATION 12:3-5

"And another sign
appeared in heaven:
behold, a great, fiery
red dragon having
seven heads and ten
horns, and seven
diadems on his heads.

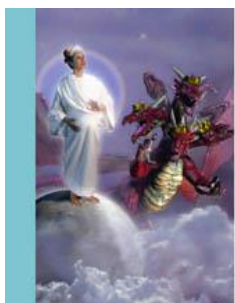
10. *Now look at verse 3. "And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.*



REVELATION 12:3-5

His tail drew a third of
the stars of heaven and
threw them to the
earth. And the dragon
stood before the
woman who was ready
to give birth, to devour

11. *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour*



REVELATION 12:3-5

her Child as soon as it
was born. She bore a
male Child who was to
rule all nations with a
rod of iron. And her
Child was caught up to
God and His throne."

12. *her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne."*

Now let's stop there for a second. How many of you would agree that's a pretty vivid description that John gives us? Can I see your hands?



- 13.** Here's the picture we see in this passage. We have a woman and her child being attacked by a dragon with seven heads and ten horns. But the question is, what does that mean? What does it represent? Well, that passage has a number of symbols that we have already interpreted throughout this seminar, so let's just take a look at them on the screen.

THE SYMBOLS



- 14.** We've already learned that a woman in Bible prophecy represents God's people, or the church. Though Revelation doesn't come right out and say it, the sun and the moon seem to be symbols of righteousness because the sun gives light and the moon reflects light. The garland of twelve stars around the woman's head no doubt represents the twelve apostles.

THE SYMBOLS



- 15.** The Child in verse 5 clearly represents Jesus Christ. He rules all nations. He's caught up to God and His throne. There's no doubt that's Jesus. Then we have the dragon, who we already learned represents Satan. And we've studied that this beast with seven heads and 10 horns represents the persecuting power of Rome.

We have Jesus Christ and His church being attacked by Satan through the Roman Empire.



- 16.** When you put all those symbols together, here is the picture that Revelation is giving us. You have a picture of Jesus Christ and His church being attacked by Satan through the Roman Empire. That's how Revelation 12 begins.

We have Jesus Christ and His church being attacked by Satan through the Roman Empire.



- 17.** Now the question is, did that actually happen in history? And the answer is “yes.” No sooner was Jesus Christ born than Mary and Joseph had to take Him and hide away in Egypt for a while. Do you remember why? Because King Herod had made the decree to murder all children aged two years and under because he had heard that the king of the Jews was born. Now Herod was a Roman ruler who tried to kill Christ from the moment that He was born.

We have Jesus Christ and His church being attacked by Satan through the Roman Empire.



- 18.** All through His life, the devil dogged Jesus’ steps and tried to destroy Him. Eventually, Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers, beaten by those soldiers, tried in Roman courts, and nailed on a Roman cross. But when Jesus was crucified on the cross, three days later he resurrected from the grave. He gained the victory over death and the victory over sin. Can you say, Amen?

We have Jesus Christ and His church being attacked by Satan through the Roman Empire.



- 19.** When Jesus laid his life down on the cross it sealed the devil’s fate. When He ascended back to heaven, back to the throne of God, it was clear the dragon could not conquer the male Child.

We have Jesus Christ and His church being attacked by Satan through the Roman Empire.

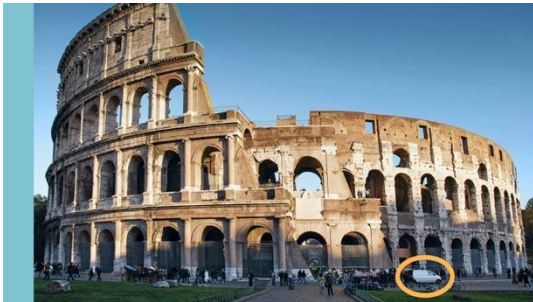


- 20.** Now, the dragon, Satan, turns his attention towards whom? The followers of Jesus. The church of Christ. All we have to do is look at the first, second, and third centuries of Christian history where you read all about the persecution the early Christian church faced. You see, to be a Christian in the pagan Roman Empire was illegal. Christianity was forbidden. If you chose to follow Jesus, if you chose to be a disciple of His, you risked your home, your business, and even your life.



- 21.** To give you an idea how ferocious the persecution was, I'm going to put a symbol of that persecution up on the screen. As soon as you see the picture, you're going to immediately recognize what it is. What's that a picture of?

The Roman Colosseum. How many of you have ever been to Rome and have had the opportunity to go through the coliseum? Can I see your hands?



- 22.** Now to give you an idea how large this colosseum is, can you see the little van that's parked right there in the first level? Compare the size of that van to the size of the Roman Colosseum. The colosseum was a huge monstrosity of a structure, 3-4 levels high. It was estimated to accommodate sixty to seventy thousand screaming fans. It would rival any large stadium today.



- 23.** Do you know what would happen inside that coliseum? Inside that coliseum is where Rome would throw their prisoners, the enemies of the state, those who were condemned to die. They were then forced to defend themselves against armed gladiators or wild, ravenous beasts.

If you look closely, you can see the circular playing field in the middle of the colosseum. Half of the playing field is excavated so you can see the tunnels that have been carved out underneath the field.



- 24.** They would keep the wild beasts in underground tunnels below the field. Then they would bring those animals up to the playing field when the games were ready to begin. Christians would be thrown into the middle of the field to defend themselves against these wild beasts—all with seventy thousand people screaming to see their death—seventy thousand people calling for their blood to be spilled.



- 25.** Can you imagine a society so depraved that you are eager to watch people die in front of your face? That's what sin does to us. It twists our minds and our perceptions. Yet you read in history that these Christians could look death in the face. They could look wild beasts in the eyes. They could stand before the Roman Emperor and say, "I will not give up my faith in Jesus Christ. I will not give up the truths of Scripture that I know."



- 26.** I believe Jesus is looking for Christians today like those early believers. People who are willing to stand for Christ and His truth no matter what the cost, people who are not willing to make excuses, people who are not going to compromise, people who are not going to straddle the fence, people who are willing to put Jesus above everyone else and to put His Word above everything else.



- 27.** You see, the dragon was not able to conquer the male Child, and the dragon was also not able to conquer the woman, the church of Jesus Christ in those early centuries. But then a shift occurred in the Roman world. Satan decided to follow an old adage. Have you ever heard that saying which says, "if you can't beat them, join them"? That is exactly what happened. Satan, the dragon, changed his strategy. He knew that persecution would never stamp out the Christian church.



- 28.** In fact, all throughout history, when you persecute the followers of Christ, that's when the church grows. Because for every Christian martyr whose blood was shed, four or five more would stand up in their place. The devil realized this is not working, so here's what happened within the Roman Empire. A major shift took place. The Roman Emperor, Constantine, apparently converted to Christianity, though some question whether it was a true conversion. But as a result, Christianity went from being an illegal religion to being legal and acceptable.



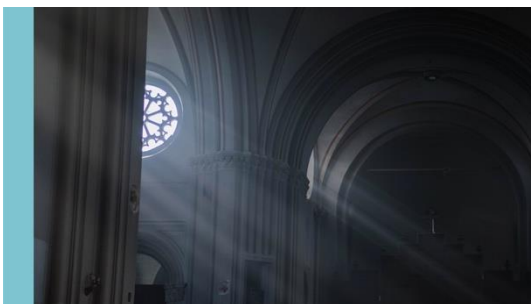
- 29.** Then in A.D. 313, Constantine issues the Edict of Milan which provided religious freedom to the Christian faith and enabled them to construct churches. Eventually, things changed so much that Christianity became the official state religion of the Roman Empire.



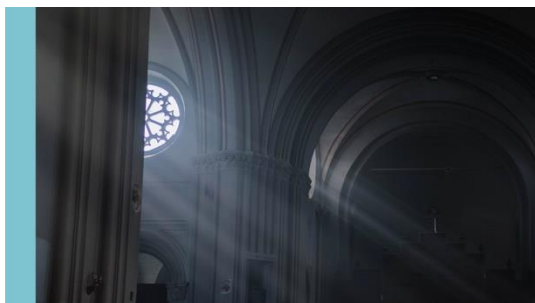
- 30.** Can you imagine that? Going from an illegal religion where you could be executed for being a Christian to becoming the official state religion! Now at first, that may sound like a good thing. It may sound like a great victory for the Christian church. But it wasn't.



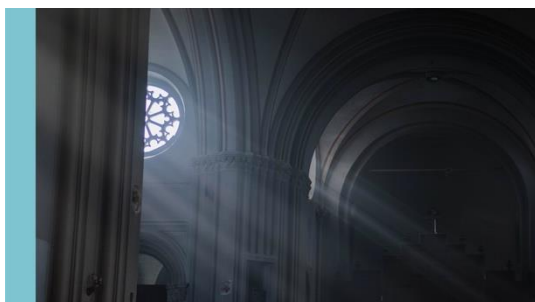
- 31.** Here's why. Constantine was formerly a pagan. He was steeped in the pagan religions of Rome. Those pagan teachings and rituals were deeply ingrained in him.



- 32.** So, when he supposedly became a Christian, he brought many of the false pagan teachings into the Christian church and combined them with the Christian faith. It was a mixture of truth and error. And out of Rome came a religious system where the traditions of men took the place of the truth of Scripture, and the commandments of men and human authority were placed above the commandments of God.



- 33.** This religious system became known as the Papacy or Roman Catholicism and it became a concoction of pagan tradition combined with Christian truth. Eventually in the middle ages, Papal Rome gained civil power and church and state combined.



- 34.** As a result of this church and state union, Papal Rome became a persecuting power for over a thousand years and spread their doctrines throughout much of the world. That's why Revelation chapter 12, verse six talks about the woman having to hide in the wilderness for 1260 days or years. Why is she hiding in the wilderness? Because she's being persecuted.



REVELATION 12:6

"Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."

- 35.** Let's read verse six. The Bible says, *"Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."*

1260 YEARS



- 36.** Now we already know from our previous study those 1260 days refer to the 1260 years when church and state united and Papal Rome persecuted Bible-believing Christians. Remember, in Bible prophecy a day is symbolic of a year. So, when it talks about the woman having to hide in the wilderness for 1260 days, this is referring to the 1260 years of persecution in the Middle Ages

1260 YEARS



37. This was a time when Papal Rome dominated the world scene. If you chose not to follow the doctrines of Rome, you were considered a heretic who could be tortured and put to death. If you wanted to follow what the Bible said, if you wanted to follow God's authority instead of man's authority, you could lose your life. If you believed that you could go to Jesus Christ directly for forgiveness and salvation instead of to saints or priests, you were considered to be a heretic and traitor to Rome who was not fit to live. You could lose everything.

1260 YEARS



38. That's why Revelation describes that time period as the woman hiding in the wilderness. It's the time of great persecution. What's amazing is that when you look back at what happened in history, this period of Papal domination and persecution was exactly 1260 years. 538 A.D. is when the Roman Emperor Justinian handed political power over to the Pope and church and state were united.

1260 YEARS

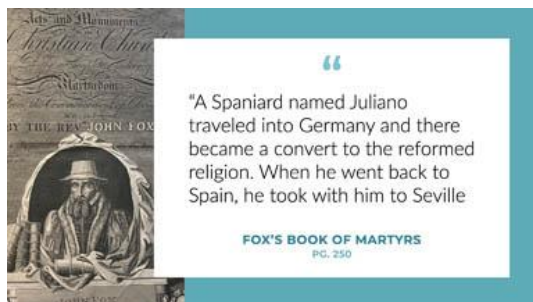


39. The Papacy then had power to enforce its religious decrees. This union lasted all the way until 1798 when the Papal government was abolished by Napoleon in the French Revolution. If you do the math, that is exactly 1260 years. It was a time when the Bible was forbidden to the people. God's Word was taken from them. You couldn't translate it and you couldn't own it. That's why people were in spiritual darkness and believed many of the false doctrines of the day. They couldn't just open the Bible for themselves and discover truth.

1260 YEARS

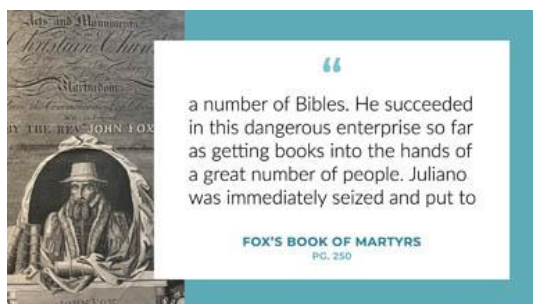


40. In fact, just to give you a little illustration of what it was like during those 1260 years, I want to read you a couple quotes from a book called Foxe's Book of Martyrs. This is a very well-known book that details some of the horrible persecutions that God's people and His church went through during that time.

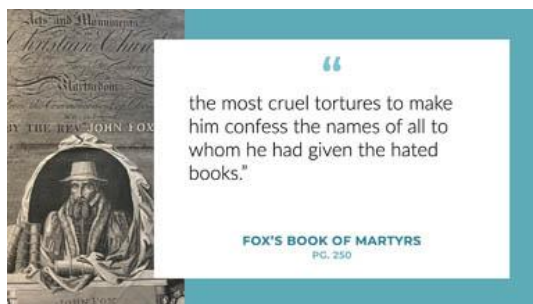


41. On page 250, it says, *"A Spaniard named Juliano traveled into Germany and there became a convert to the reformed religion."* Now do you know what the reformed religion is? That's talking about Protestantism. That's talking about the movement in the Middle Ages which said we need to start coming back to the Bible and the Bible alone.

It goes on to say, *"When he went back to Spain, he took with him to Seville*

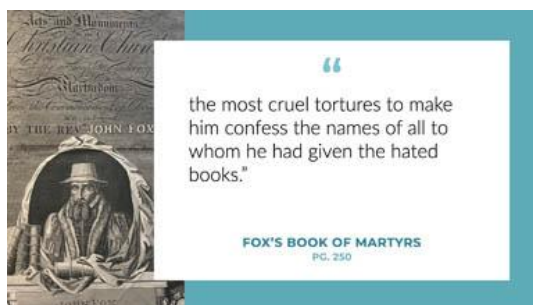


42. *a number of Bibles. He succeeded in this dangerous enterprise so far as getting books into the hands of a great number of people. Juliano was immediately seized and put to*

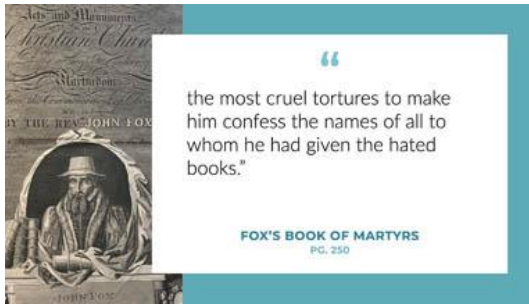


43. *the most cruel tortures to make him confess the names of all to whom he had given the hated books."*

Now I want you to notice the word that's used there. What book was Juliano sharing with people? The Bible. How is the Bible described here? As the "hated book." Just for owning or sharing a Bible you could be persecuted. There's a reason that time period was called the "Dark Ages." People were living in darkness because the light of truth was not able to shine—not in its full brightness.



44. There was no such thing as religious liberty. People were tortured until they were willing to reject the Bible and go with the traditions of men. You and I can't imagine that because we have only known religious liberty, praise God for that!



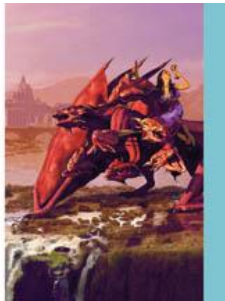
45. Again, this is the time period when the woman was in the wilderness. It's the time of Papal persecution. There's a reason Revelation symbolizes Rome of the Middle Ages as the beast. Now I don't say that to be unkind or offensive in any way. It's just one of those unfortunate facts of human history. Hopefully, we learn from it. Whenever we stray from the Word of God, whether as an institution or as a person, it always changes our characters for the worst.



46. Now I want you to take a journey to Revelation 17, and you're going to see the picture of another woman. I want to start by reading the first four verses. As I do, I want you to take note here. You saw how the pure woman of Revelation 12 is described. I want you to notice how the woman of Revelation 17 is described, and you're going to notice a very distinct difference. The woman of Revelation 12 is the early Christian church being faithful to God's Word. Revelation 17 is the Middle Ages church who is unfaithful to the Word of God and has become a persecuting power.

REVELATION 17:1-4

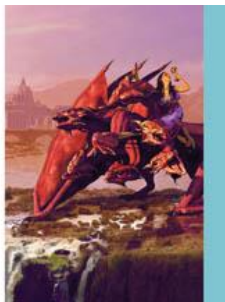
"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who



47. Revelation 17 verse one, the Bible says, *"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who*

REVELATION 17:1-4

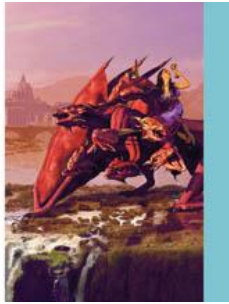
sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her



48. *sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her*

REVELATION 17:1-4

fornication.' So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of



- 49.** *fornication. So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of*

REVELATION 17:1-4

blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,



- 50.** *blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,*

REVELATION 17:1-4

having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication."



- 51.** *having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication."*

Now let's stop there for a second. Now we may not know what all that means just yet, but let's ask a simple question. Does that description sound like a positive one or a negative one? What do you think? That doesn't sound very good.

We have an impure woman dressed in scarlet and purple and adorned with jewels. She is holding a cup of fornication and riding on the beast.



- 52.** Now here's the summary of what John is describing for us. You have the picture of an impure woman dressed in scarlet and purple and adorned with jewels. She is holding a cup of fornication and riding on the beast. Now back in Revelation 12, the woman was being attacked by the dragon and the beast. Here in Revelation 17, it's as though she has now partnered with the beast because she is riding on the beast. That gives us a clue that something has drastically changed. There has been a shift.

THE SYMBOLS



- 53.** Now again, let's look at these symbols and let the Bible interpret them for us. We already know the woman represents the church or God's people. When it's a pure woman, it represents God's faithful people, or a faithful church. When it's an impure woman or a prostitute, it represents God's unfaithful people, or an unfaithful church.

THE SYMBOLS



- 54.** The scarlet, purple, and jewels of which she is adorned was the adornment of a prostitute in ancient times. Even back in Biblical times, there was a certain way harlots would dress. The same thing happens today. It's interesting that here in Revelation 17 the woman is adorned, like a prostitute, representing that she is unfaithful. It also says that she's holding a cup of fornication. What's fornication? It's unfaithfulness to God and His Word. And we already know the beast is Rome.

UNFAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S WORD



- You have the church of the Middle Ages acting like a prostitute and being unfaithful by joining with Rome and accepting her errors and traditions.
- Church and state have united together to become a persecuting power.

- 55.** Put all those symbols together, and here's what you have. You have the church of the Middle Ages acting like a prostitute and being unfaithful by joining with Rome and accepting her errors and traditions. In other words, instead of staying true to the pure Word of God, they have now left the Word of God to follow the traditions and the commandments of men that are coming from Rome. That's why the woman is no longer being persecuted by the dragon. She's now riding with the beast. Church and state have united to persecute those who are faithful to God's Word.



- 56.** Revelation 12 give us a picture of a pure woman, a faithful church of the early centuries. Revelation 17 give us the opposite picture--an impure woman or an unfaithful church of the middle ages. The impure woman of Revelation 17 persecutes the pure woman of Revelation 12. You see, the truth is when you face persecution and have to go through difficult times because of your faith in Jesus, sometimes it's just easier to compromise and give in. For many people during the Middle Ages, it was easier to just simply go with the majority.



57. It was easier to give in to Rome. Because if you went along with Rome, if you went along with the traditions of men, you could live a normal life and not be persecuted. But if you chose to stand for the truths of the Word of God, if you chose to stand for Jesus Christ, they considered you a heretic, and you were persecuted, and you risked everything. There was only a few who decided to remain faithful.



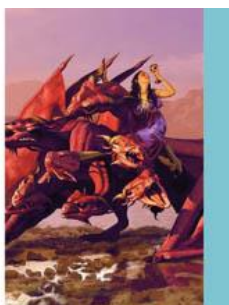
58. Friends, that doesn't just happen in the Middle Ages. It even happens in our lives today. Sometimes to be a believer in Christ and His Word causes persecution. It may not be the same kind of persecution of the Middle Ages, but people may criticize you, make fun of you, talk behind your back, or even taunt you.



59. But if Jesus Christ could have abuse heaped upon Him, if He could go to the cross because He wanted you and I to be saved, if He will confess our names before the Father, then we need to be willing to confess the name of Jesus before men. We need not be ashamed of following the Scriptures and loving Jesus with all our hearts.

REVELATION 17:5

"And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth."



60. Then comes verse five, and verse five answers the sometimes perplexing question, why are there so many different denominations? Notice what it says. *"And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth."*

REVELATION 17:5

"And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth."



- 61.** Let's pause there. Now that's a pretty hard-hitting verse. It's definitely not a verse that would be politically correct, but God's not in the business of being politically correct. God's in the business of being truthful. On the woman's forehead, the unfaithful church of the Middle Ages, it says, "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth." Wow! That's heavy stuff, isn't it?

REVELATION 17:5

"And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth."



- 62.** Remember what Babylon means? Religious confusion. It was the church of the Middle Ages that was responsible for all the religious confusion and traditions of men replacing Biblical doctrines. During the Middle Ages human authority was put above God's authority. Then it says she's the mother of harlots. The unfaithful woman has given birth to daughters. She's the mother of harlots.

**MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH**

The Unfaithful Church of the Middle Ages Has Given Birth to Other Churches



- 63.** When you connect that with history, what is it saying? The unfaithful church of the Middle Ages has given birth to other churches. Isn't it interesting that even today, Rome is considered to be the mother church? What Revelation 17:5 is telling us is that in the Middle Ages there would be groups that would start to break away from Rome. They would break away from the mother church. Why? Because Rome was the Babylon the Great!

**MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
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The Unfaithful Church of the Middle Ages Has Given Birth to Other Churches



- 64.** She was filling the world with the doctrines and traditions of men. That's the wine of Babylon. She was hiding the Word of God from the people. So these groups of reformers protested what Rome was doing. And when Rome would not reform, they eventually broke away into many different denominations—which is what we see today.

When God ignited the Protestant Reformation, people rebelled against the idea that man's word can be placed above God's Word.

MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
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65. The Protestant Reformation started to bring people back to the Bible, so when Rome realized persecution didn't stop the Reformation, she changed her tactics. She befriended Protestants and influenced them to start churches which looked less like reform and more like Rome. Fast forward through the centuries and now we have hundreds of different denominations, and it all started when the woman gave birth to daughters, when other churches came out of Rome. Revelation predicted it all the way back in the first century, and it happened just the way God said it would.

MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH

The Unfaithful Church of the
Middle Ages Has Given Birth
to Other Churches



66. But now let's trace the steps of history and look in a little bit more detail how that actually happened. We're going to see how this prophecy was fulfilled. Then we're going to see how God began to restore truth.

So, let's start by taking a look at how the church fell from truth during the Middle Ages. When you fall away from truth, does that happen in one day? Not usually. It happens over time. In the case of the Middle Ages, it happened over centuries.

MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH

The Unfaithful Church of the
Middle Ages Has Given Birth
to Other Churches



67. I want you to take your Bibles and let's go to Second Thessalonians chapter two and verse three.

68. The Bible says, *"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition."*

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3

"Let no one deceive
you by any means; for
that Day will not come
unless the falling away
comes first, and the
man of sin is revealed,
the son of perdition."

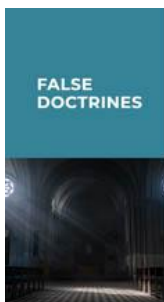




2 THESSALONIANS 2:3

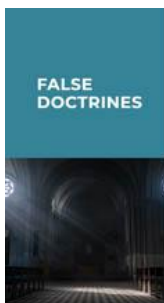
"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition."

- 69.** Now did you notice what Paul warned about? He said before Jesus comes again there's going to be a falling away from truth. Paul already saw it starting to happen in his day. Why do you think most of the books of the New Testament are simply letters that were written to Christian churches? In most of those letters, they were trying to combat false teachings that were already trying to come into the Christian church. Paul knew when they were dead and gone, it would just accelerate.



100-200 A.D.
Arianism—Belief That Jesus Wasn't Fully Divine
321 A.D.
First Sunday Law Passed by Constantine
327 A.D.
Pagan Image Worship Introduced in the Church
538 A.D.
Church & State Combine to Enforce Compliance
590 A.D.
Concept of Purgatory Invented To Raise Funds

- 70.** Let me show you a little summary of the falling away from truth over the centuries. In the early centuries it started with Arianism—the belief that Jesus was not fully divine. In 321, Constantine passes one of the first Sunday laws and the Sabbath starts to be lost sight of. In 327, pagan images were introduced into the church and image worship began. In 538, church and state combine and enforce compliance with Rome's doctrines. In 590, the false doctrine of purgatory was invented.



850 A.D.
Worship of Mary Introduced as Intercessor
1198 A.D.
Confessional—Confess to a Priest, Not Christ
1229 A.D.
The Bible Was Officially Banned
1311 A.D.
Many Kinds of Baptism Replaced Immersion
1480 A.D.
Spanish Inquisition, Persecution of Bible Believing Christians Intensified

- 71.** In 850, the worship of Mary as intercessor was introduced, and Jesus as our only mediator and High Priest was lost sight of. In 1198, confessional began where you confessed to an earthly human being instead of directly to Christ. In 1229, the Bible was officially banned. In 1311, different forms of baptism were introduced. And in 1480, the Spanish inquisition began and persecution of Bible believing Christians intensified.



850 A.D.
Worship of Mary Introduced as Intercessor
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Spanish Inquisition, Persecution of Bible Believing Christians Intensified

- 72.** Now that seems like a depressing story, doesn't it? It seems like the church of the Middle Ages completely turned from truth. When the Bible was banned and those who wanted to follow it were condemned as heretics, you would think that all hope is lost. But when all hope seems lost is when God steps in! Can you say "amen"? At that time, He ignited a series of events known as the Protestant Reformation. Even while this falling away was occurring, behind the scenes God was already raising up people who were going to restore His truth.



TRACING THE STEPS OF HISTORY:
RESTORING THE TRUTH

73. Now, let's take a look at how God began to restore His truth from the latter part of the Middle Ages all the way to the end of time. This is going to be a fascinating study.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1300s
JOHN WYCLIFFE

- Translated the Bible Into the Common Language



74. Let's start with the 1300s. God raised up a man by the name of John Wycliffe. Now how many of you ever heard of him? John Wycliffe was a parish priest in the Roman church in Oxford, England, but he thought that it was wrong of the church to keep the Bible from the people. He believed the Bible ought to be put in people's hand in the common language, so they can read truth for themselves and understand. He knew reading the Bible does something miraculous in the human heart.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1300s
JOHN WYCLIFFE

- Translated the Bible Into the Common Language



75. That's why the Bible says, *"faith comes by hearing."* So, Wycliffe translated the Bible into the English language. Now we may not think that's a big deal, but the fact that we have an English Bible in our hands tonight we owe to the courage and fortitude of John Wycliffe. He translated the Bible into English at the risk of his life. When he died, in order to show their contempt for the man that put the Bible in the hands of the people, Rome dug up his bones and burned them publicly.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1400s
JOHN HUSS

- Taught That the Bible Was the Highest Authority



76. In the 1400s, God raised up a man named John Huss. Now Huss was a disciple of John Wycliffe. Huss believed that the Bible is the supreme authority. Now you and I are thinking, *"Well, yeah, that's fundamental, isn't it?"* Remember, back then you were taught the church is the final authority. The church has the power to place its laws and its traditions above the Bible. It was taught that the church can even change the Bible if it wants to. But John Huss said, *"No, the Bible is the final authority not the church, not religious leaders."*

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1400s
JOHN HUSS

- Taught That the Bible Was the Highest Authority



77. In other words, the church doesn't change the Bible, the Bible ought to change the church. Just for teaching that, this man was burned alive at the stake in the year 1415.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1500s
WILLIAM TYNDALE

- Continued the Work of Bible Translation



78. But it didn't stop with John Huss. In the 1500s, came William Tyndale who continued the work of translation.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1500s
MARTIN LUTHER

- Salvation Is by Grace Through Faith in Jesus



79. Then in the 1500s, God raised up a mighty man many of us have heard of. His name is Martin Luther. How many of you have heard of him? Why was Martin Luther significant? Let me tell you his story.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1500s
MARTIN LUTHER

- Salvation Is by Grace Through Faith in Jesus



80. Martin Luther was also a parish priest in the Roman Church, but he never felt the assurance of salvation with God. No matter how many rosaries he offered, how many prayers he prayed, or how many penances he performed, he just never felt like he was forgiven. Then one day he came across a Bible that was chained in a convent cell. He read one simple verse that changed his life forever.



ROMANS 1:17

"The just shall live by faith."

81. It was Romans 1:17: *"The just shall live by faith."*

He discovered salvation is not by works, not by penance, not by going to a human leader. Eternal life comes by faith. Faith in what? Faith in Jesus Christ as a personal Savior. Martin Luther realized for the first time that he could go to Jesus and find forgiveness. He realized that Jesus's perfect life would cover him, that Jesus offered him His righteousness.



ROMANS 1:17

"The just shall live by faith."

82. You see, when you accept Jesus as our personal Savior, the perfect life which Jesus lived counts for you. His perfect life gets placed in our record book. So, when God looks at the record of our life during the time of judgment, He doesn't see all our sins and failures. He sees the perfect life of Jesus that counts for you. How would it feel to know that God could look at you as though you were perfect?



ROMANS 1:17

"The just shall live by faith."

83. When Martin Luther finally understood this concept of righteousness by faith, it transformed His entire ministry. He saw that he couldn't save himself, but Jesus could change him and give him assurance. It's about what Jesus has done. Luther began preaching the cross of Christ. He began directing people to pray and talk to Jesus directly.



ROMANS 1:17

"The just shall live by faith."

84. Now here's a little side note. The Roman church in the Middle Ages had something called indulgences. Now I don't know if you know what indulgences are. Most people have read about them in the history books. Basically, if you gave enough money to the church, you could buy your own salvation, or rescue a loved one out of purgatory and into the kingdom.

JOHANN TETZEL

Selling Indulgences



85. This lit a fire in Martin's soul, and he began preaching against indulgences. Then a man named Tetzel came to Luther's town. Tetzel had been commissioned by the church to sell indulgence. But when he came to Martin Luther's town, you know how many indulgences he sold? Not one, because Martin Luther had taught people to look to Jesus for their salvation.

OCTOBER 31, 1517
95 THESES

Martin Luther nailed 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517.



86. From there, Martin Luther nailed on the door of the Wittenberg church 95 theses. You say, *"Well, what are those?"* He basically wrote down 95 ways in which the church had strayed from the Bible. You say, *"Why did he put them on the door of the church?"* Well, you've got to understand that 500 years ago in the 1500s, that was basically the internet of the day.

OCTOBER 31, 1517
95 THESES

Martin Luther nailed 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517.



87. Anything that was going on in town, you nailed it on the door of the church. It was the town's bulletin board. When he did that, it was like posting something on the internet. Everybody read it and it quickly went viral. That event is commonly known as the beginning of the Reformation.

OCTOBER 31, 1517
95 THESES

Martin Luther nailed 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517.



88. Do you know what day that happened on? October 31, 1517. That is one of the most important events in Christian history. It represents the rediscovery of the truth of salvation by faith in Jesus. It represents the cross being brought back to people's mind.

OCTOBER 31, 1517
95 THESES

Martin Luther nailed 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517.



89. Eventually, Martin Luther was called before the leaders of the world at the Diet of Worms. They tried to force him to recant. Their attitude was, "If he does not recant, he's not going back home. We'll burn him at the stake right here."

“

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason. . . I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word

MARTIN LUTHER

BRECHT, MARTIN. MARTIN LUTHER. TR. JAMES L. SCHAAF. PHILADELPHIA: FORTRESS PRESS, 1985-93, 1:460.



90. Most people wilted under that pressure, but do you know what Martin Luther did? As he stood before that council of kings and princes and religious leaders, he looked them in the eye and said, *"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason. . . I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word*

“

of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

MARTIN LUTHER

BRECHT, MARTIN. MARTIN LUTHER. TR. JAMES L. SCHAAF. PHILADELPHIA: FORTRESS PRESS, 1985-93, 1:460.



91. *of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."* (Brecht, Martin. Martin Luther. tr. James L. Schaaf, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985-93, 1:460.)

Then he walked out of the council and nobody dared to lay a hand on him. Of all the reformers, Martin Luther died a natural death because God's grace was upon him. We could spend all night talking about how God raised up men, women, and children to restore Bible truth at this time.

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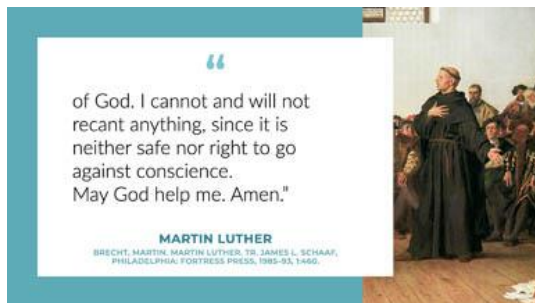
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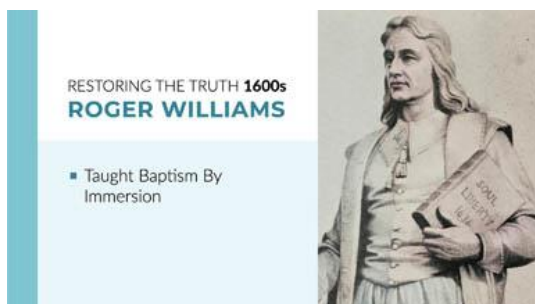
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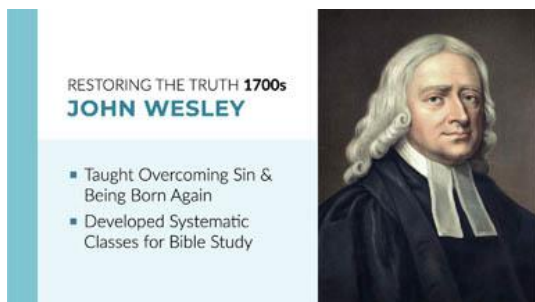
92. By the way, I want to add something important here. Sometimes people look at what happened during the Middle Ages and want to blame Catholic people today. First of all, Catholic people today had nothing to do with what happened in the Middle Ages. Second, who started the Reformation? I want you to think about that question. Who started the Reformation? Roman Catholics of the Middle Ages.



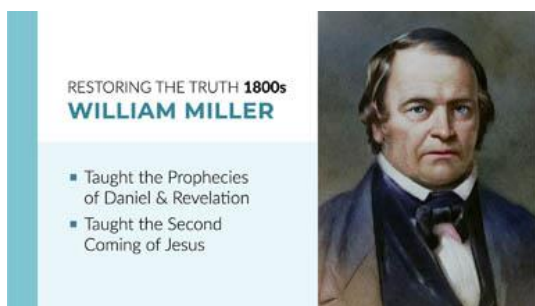
93. John Wycliffe and Martin Luther were parish priests who decided that they wanted to stand up and follow the Bible and the Bible alone. We need to remember it was many dear Roman Christians who were also part of that Reformation and led people back to the Bible. The question is, are we still doing that today? Whether I'm Protestant or Catholic is not as important as whether I am following the Bible. Now back to our list of reformers.



94. In the 1600s came Roger Williams, forerunner of the Baptist church. He restored the truth of baptism by immersion.



95. Then in the 1700s came a man named John Wesley, forerunner of the Methodist church. Wesley talked about being born again and overcoming sin. He developed systematic classes for Bible study which would become known as Sunday Schools and Sabbath Schools. He believed in discipleship and that believers needed to grow in their faith even after baptism.



96. Then in the 1800s came a man named William Miller who was a Baptist lay preacher. Miller began to emphasize the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and brought attention back to the soon coming of Jesus. Back then most churches didn't talk about the end time prophecies or the return of Jesus because they assumed it was far in the future.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1800s
WILLIAM MILLER

- Taught the Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation
- Taught the Second Coming of Jesus



97. Bit by bit, little by little, God restored the truth. Now you notice, He didn't do it all in one century. Why do you think that is? Because it is too much for us to handle at one time. Think about it. When you turn a light on in the middle of the night after you've been sleeping in darkness for a while, it blinds you. It's too much light. You can't handle it. So, God restored the light of truth one century at a time.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1800s
WILLIAM MILLER

- Taught the Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation
- Taught the Second Coming of Jesus



98. But unfortunately, something happened that is all too common to the human nature. What happened is that many of the people who followed these reformers began to build churches around them and they stopped following the light. Those who followed Huss became Hussites. Those who followed Luther became Lutherans. Those who followed Roger Williams became Baptists.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1800s
WILLIAM MILLER

- Taught the Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation
- Taught the Second Coming of Jesus



99. Many of these reformers did not want a church to be built around them because they knew there was still more light and more truth to discover. But the problem was, those who followed a reformer would many times not follow the truth the next reformer uncovered. Some who followed Luther wouldn't go on to follow the light that John Calvin found. Some who followed Calvin wouldn't go on to accept Wesley's light.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1800s
WILLIAM MILLER

- Taught the Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation
- Taught the Second Coming of Jesus



100. In other words, many times the search for truth slowed down because many people centered their beliefs around their leader and didn't move on to discover more truth from other reformers.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1800s WILLIAM MILLER

- Taught the Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation
- Taught the Second Coming of Jesus



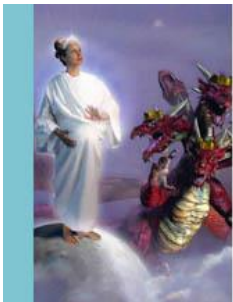
101. That happens so much even in our world today. We follow this person. We follow this preacher. We follow this leader. We all have our favorites. But putting all our stock in one person can be dangerous. What they teach may be well and good, but when God brings us to a knowledge of truth that I didn't know before, we need to follow it, regardless of whether our favorite preacher believes it or not.

RESTORING THE TRUTH 1800s WILLIAM MILLER

- Taught the Prophecies of Daniel & Revelation
- Taught the Second Coming of Jesus



102. By the time the 1800s came, that's when Revelation 12:17 kicks in where God said there would be a remnant. After the church was in the wilderness for 1260 years, God said a remnant would emerge. God said there would be one final movement of truth before Jesus comes. Remember what we read last night? Let's read it again.



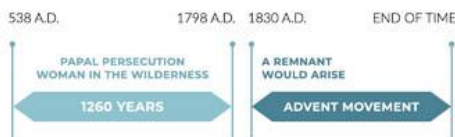
REVELATION 12:17 KJV

"And the dragon was wrath with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

103. *"And the dragon was wrath 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."*

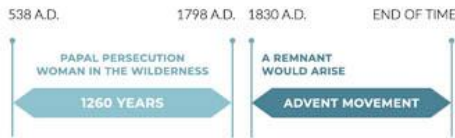
Revelation is telling us that after the time when the woman is in the wilderness, after the 1260 years of persecution is over, there's going to be a remnant. The remnant movement is going to be a movement that calls people back to the commandments of God, which includes the true Sabbath, and back to the testimony of Jesus.

EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT



104. Wow! Revelation is actually telling us the time period when we should expect to see the rise of the remnant. According verse 6, the woman was in the wilderness for 1260 days, or years. That was the period when church and state united in the Roman Empire and persecution ensued. We've already learned that 1260-year period lasted from 538 to 1798 when Napoleon abolished the Papal government during the French Revolution.

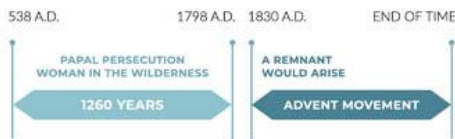
EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT



105. So according to Revelation, sometime after 1798, sometime in the early 1800s, we should see a remnant rising.

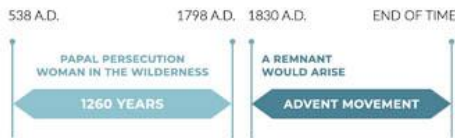
We should see a movement of people rising into existence that is characterized in two ways: 1. They keep the commandments of God, including the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath, 2. They have the testimony of Jesus. When you look at history in the early 1800s, that's exactly what happened.

EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT



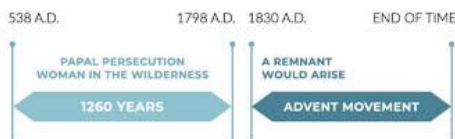
106. It was the early 1800s. Rome had lost its power and church and state were no longer united. America had been founded and religious liberty was ringing. The printing press was improved upon. Bible societies were formed. Bibles were widely made available and people from various churches began to study the Scriptures together. Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Catholics alike thought, *“Now that we have religious liberty and freedom, and Bibles are widely available, let’s open the Bible and study it together. Let’s see what the Bible says instead of tradition.”*

EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT



107. This began a mighty movement. As they studied the Scriptures, these people from all different denominations discovered truths that had been lost during the apostasy of the Middle Ages. Two of the truths they discovered were the soon return of Jesus and the seventh-day Sabbath. These were two truths that had been buried beneath centuries of tradition. Remember, what did Revelation say the remnant would do? *“Keep the commandments of God,”* which includes the Sabbath, and *“have the testimony of Jesus.”*

EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT

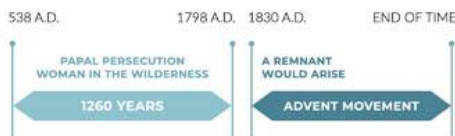


108. These faithful Christians of all different denominations were excited about what they discovered. So, they took these truths and they went back to their churches to share them. The sad part of the story is the churches of the 1800s rejected those two truths of the seventh-day Sabbath and the soon coming of Jesus. They were not willing to move forward with the light. As a result, many of those dear Christians were disfellowshipped from their churches.



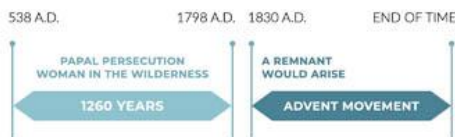
- 109.** They were eventually forced to band together, and they began a powerful movement known as the Seventh-day Adventist movement.

EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT



- 110.** It wasn't their original intent to start a new denomination. They just wanted to bring people back to truth. But when the churches of the day rejected it, they had no choice. When the Seventh-day Adventist movement began in the 1800s, it was simply a continuation of the Reformation. It was a fulfillment of this prophecy in Revelation 12:17 that God would have a movement that brings people back to his commandments, back to his Sabbath, back to the testimony of Jesus—and it came right on time according to Bible prophecy.

EMERGENCE OF A REMNANT MOVEMENT



- 111.** I've showed you where other churches played a part in the restoration of truth. Now you see where the Seventh-day Adventist church fits into the end time scenario. This is Revelation's end time remnant movement.

(THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO SHARE A BIT OF YOUR TESTIMONY— HOW YOU DISCOVERED TRUTH--- AND HOW YOU BECAME A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN.)

REVELATION 18:1-3

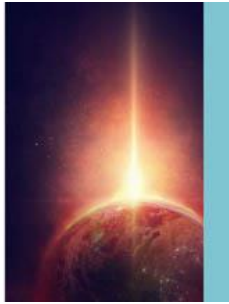
"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.



- 112.** We learned the other night that Revelation chapter 18 calls God's people to come out of the religious confusion, to come out of tradition, and back to truth in the last days. Let's look at this all-important appeal God gives to His people. *"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.*

REVELATION 18:1-3

And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen. . . For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath



113. *And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen . . . For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath*

REVELATION 18:1-3

of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her."



114. *of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her."*

Remember, Babylon represents false religious systems who confuse people by teaching the commandments and traditions of men. It represents an unfaithful church—like the church of the Middle Ages.



REVELATION 18:4

"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'"

115. Now, here comes God's call to His people, in verse four, *"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'"*



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COME OUT OF BABYLON?

116. He says to us, *"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins."* But here is the super important question. **What does it mean to come out of Babylon?** Remember, Babylon represents false religious systems who confuse people by teaching the commandments and traditions of men in place of the Word God. It represents an unfaithful church. It represents the part of the Christian world that has apostatized from truth.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COME
OUT OF BABYLON?

117. The wine of Babylon is all the false, un-Biblical doctrines that have been spread throughout the world and misrepresented the character of God. Just as it happened in the Middle Ages, God is saying today, *“I want you to come out of that.”*



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

118. To come out of Babylon means to reject the traditions and commandments of men and return to following the truths of the Bible. God is calling us to be part of the remnant movement of the last days.



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

119. He's calling Baptists, He's calling Catholics, He's calling Episcopalians, and He's calling non-denominational folks. He's calling atheists and agnostics. He's calling Buddhists and Muslims. He's calling all of us, no matter what language we speak, no matter what the color of our skin is. He says, *“I want you to come out of the religious confusion. I want you to come back to following the Bible and the Bible alone. If you love Me, I want you to keep My commandments.”*



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

120. The call to come out of Babylon is simply a call to put Jesus above everyone else, and to put His Word above everything else. Friends in these last days, I believe God is looking for a remnant, people who aren't worried about what the majority says, people who aren't willing to compromise, people who willing to stand on the Word of God. God is looking for a remnant who will follow Him with all their heart, all their soul, and all their mind.



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

121. Let's be honest. I know the commandments of God aren't popular. I know the Sabbath isn't popular. I know truth isn't popular. But when I see Jesus Christ lying prostrate in the Garden of Gethsemane with drops of blood dripping from His forehead as He decides to sacrifice His life so that you and I can be saved my heart is touched.



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

122. When I recognize that He gave up all of heaven to go to the cross so you and I could have eternal life, my heart is moved. When I remember that He left heaven, a place where He's worshiped and adored by millions of angelic beings to pay for my sins so that I could live with Him forever, I am speechless.



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

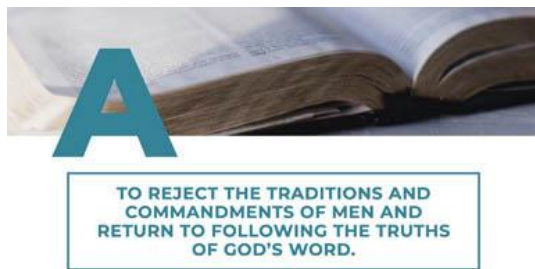
123. I must ask myself; how will I respond to Jesus? How will I respond to His call to come out of Babylon and back to Bible truth? It's a call to surrender. It's a call to surrender to Jesus above everyone else, and to surrender to His Word above everything else. I can choose to follow Him with all my heart. Or I can choose to keep making excuses as to why I can't come out of Babylon and follow His truth.

Tonight, are you willing to take your stand for Jesus? Are you willing to take your stand on His Word? It may not be an easy decision.



TO REJECT THE TRADITIONS AND
COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND
RETURN TO FOLLOWING THE TRUTHS
OF GOD'S WORD.

124. For some of us, it might mean changing our minds about some things. For some of us, it might mean following new truth. For some of us, it might mean finding a new path, or even finding a new church. But when we know we're following Jesus, we can have peace in our hearts. When we know we're following Jesus, we can have the assurance that He will guide us. When we know we're following Jesus, we can have the confidence that we're standing on the right side.



125. I want to invite you to get out your response cards for tonight. Now as you came in, you should have gotten a special response card just for tonight's topic. If you don't have one, kindly raise your hand and an usher will give you one. Is there anyone that needs a card? Please raise your hand.



126. You may wonder why we use response cards so much. Here's why? I believe when people hear the Word of God, we should always give them an opportunity to respond. You never know how God's Spirit may be working on the human heart. Many times, people are experiencing the conviction of the Holy Spirit. When a person has a chance to respond by raising their hand or filling out a card, taking that action strengthens the decision they are making in their heart. That's why God invites us to take a step of action when we are choosing to follow Him. Taking the action strengthens the decision.



127. So, let's review the card together. You complete the card as God leads you. The first box says, "I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and should be our guide." If you can say, "Yes, I believe we should follow the Bible and the Bible alone," I invite you to check that box.



128. The second box says, "I want to be baptized one day soon." I don't know your situation or what's going on in your life, but if you've never taken the step of publicly confessing Jesus through baptism by immersion, I would invite you to check that box. Maybe you sense God's Spirit speaking to you, and you know it's time to take the step of baptism and declare your desire to follow Him. If that's the desire of your heart, I invite you to check that box.



- ☒ I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and should be our guide.
- ☒ I want to be baptized one day soon.
- ☒ I want to be part of the remnant movement and honor the commandments of God.
- ☒ I'd like to become part of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

129. Box number three says, "I want to be part of the remnant movement and honor the commandments of God." In other words, you want to keep God's commandments in your life, including His Bible Sabbath, and you want to ask the Holy Spirit if He will help you to do that." If that's the desire of your heart, I want to invite you to check that box.



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- ☒ I want to be part of the remnant movement and honor the commandments of God.
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- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

130. The fourth box says, "I'd like to become part of the Seventh-day Adventist church." Maybe you are searching for truth. Maybe you are searching for a church that is part of this remnant movement of Bible prophecy to lead people back to the commandments of God. Maybe you're searching for a place that keeps God's seventh-day Sabbath and believes Jesus is coming soon. If you'd like to become part of this Seventh-day Adventist movement, or if you'd like to become part of this local church, I invite you to check this box.



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- ☒ I'd like to become part of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

131. Right now, the Seventh-day Adventist movement is the fastest growing Protestant movement in the world with churches in almost every country around the world. People of every nation, every race, every language are answering the call to come out of Babylon and come back to the truth of the Bible. If that's your desire, or you'd like more information about this movement or about this local church, I invite you to check this box.



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- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

132. The final box says, "I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor." It may be that as you've heard the message tonight, or any of the topics in this seminar, you have some questions. We are here to serve. If you'd like to meet together for a few minutes to pray, or talk, or address any questions you may have, we are more than willing to do so. We can meet anywhere you like: at your home, here at the church/hall, or at a restaurant, wherever you are comfortable.



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- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

133. I have often found that spending 15-20 minutes with someone one on one, or with a couple, or with a family, is more effective than a 60-minute sermon. So, if you'd like to sit down and talk about something, we are here to help. Just check that box and someone will get in touch with you.



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- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

134. (Make sure you give clear instructions what the people are supposed to do with the cards. Explain how you want them collected. Below is an example of what you could do. But if you choose to do something different, make sure to explain it to the audience).



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- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

135. When you've filled out your card, you can place those cards in the offering plate or container being passed around. The ushers will then bring me the stack of cards and I want to close by having a special prayer of blessing over the cards. These cards represent the names of people and families who love Jesus. They represent individuals who are considering important decisions in their life. And I want to take some time to pray for you. So, ushers, could you bring me the cards so we can pray over them tonight?



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136. "Heavenly Father, there are many times in our lives when You call us to decision. Lord, these cards represent people who love You, people who are considering important decisions for You. I ask You to guide them and bless them. Bless their homes. Bless their marriages. Bless their families.



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- ☒ I'd like to become part of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- ☒ I've got some questions and I would like to speak to the pastor or Bible instructor.

137. We ask You to give us the courage to put You first in every aspect of our life. Lord, if there's some decision we need to make, make it clear to us. Help us to see the path that You would have us to take. But most of all, help us to know that You are by our side, that You would never leave us, that You would never forsake us. We pray and ask in Jesus' name, Amen.



138.