

Antichrist – True

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In contrast to the harlot women of Revelation 17 there's a pure women that represents God's holy people, which make up His church. The word "church" literally means "the called out ones." God has always called out His people, from Abraham, to Israel, to the captives in literal Babylon, to us today. He is calling us out of confusion, or spiritual Babylon, to serve the true God in the beauty of holiness (See Revelation 18:4).

Revelation 12:1-4 - This describes God's covenant people through the ages. This woman is clothed with the glory of God, the "Sun of righteousness" (Malachi 4:2), the moon, or that which reflects the glory of the sun, is under her feet. (A possible reference to the law of God, which reflects His character, as the foundation of her government.) Upon her head there is a crown, representing royalty, of twelve stars—the kingdom number of God. (12 tribes, 12 apostles, 12 gates in the city, 12 foundations, etc.) She is nine months pregnant, travailing, or in the birthing process, and in great pain. (Thus showing the dramatic time period) A red dragon, red for persecution (6:4), and the beast or dragon representing a kingdom (Daniel 7:23). The dragon also is depicted as Satan, vs. 9. What kingdom was that? There is a clue from verse four. This kingdom stood before the church to devour her child. What child was this? The One that is written of in verse five, Jesus Christ. What kingdom was a persecuting power during the time Christ was on this earth? Pagan Rome. This was fulfilled in the scene of Herod the king sending forth a death decree on all children two years old and under, trying to persecute the Messiah (Matthew 2:16).

Revelation 12:4 - "His tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven." His tail? See Isaiah 9:15. By the devil's deceptive words, and actions he caused a third of the heavenly angels to fall. This is seen in verses 7-9 of this chapter.

Zechariah 13:8-9 - A third will be left after two thirds are cut off; this remnant third will be brought through the fires of affliction to be refined as pure silver, and they will be God's people, and He will be their God. Could this be a reference to the third that was taken from heaven by the deceptions of the devil? A people that are restored to God in place of those that were lost?

Genesis 3 - The devil was cast out of heaven. Here on earth, in the garden of Eden, is where he appeared the first time in Scripture on this earth. This chapter has so many insights into his deceptive trickery that it would do well to know this chapter very thoroughly.

Revelation 12:5-6 - God's church, the Jewish nation, brought forth Christ. After His ascension to Heaven to sit on the right hand of power, the new church, spiritual Israel (made up of the apostles and all that believed in Jesus as the promised Messiah, due the fact that the nation of Israel rejected Christ, Matthew 27:25, and Christ had said to them, "Your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:38), fled into the wilderness for a period of 1260 days. A day = a year in Biblical prophecy. This is referring to the period of 1260 years of papal supremacy which history calls the Dark Ages. God's church was hiding in the wilderness because of persecution.

Revelation 12:7-12 - We again see the war in heaven which finally resulted with Satan being completely cast down at the cross. "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** [at the cross] is come **salvation**, and **strength**, and the **kingdom** of our God, and the **power of His Christ: for the accuser or our brethren is cast down** (See John 12:31), which accused them before our God day and night." Is there any Scriptural evidence of Satan accusing us before God? See Job 1:6-12 & Zechariah 3:1-7. We then have the warning of verse 12, but... Romans 8:31!

Revelation 12:13-14 - Right after the cross the devil came down "having great wrath," and he persecuted God's church, this is what sent them into the wilderness of verse 14 where God was going to nourish her "for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." This is again the same time of the reign of the little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13, but is also a parallel verse with Revelation 12:6. The "thousand two hundred and threescore days" is the same exact amount of time as the "time, and times, and half a time." In fact this time period is referred to 7 times in the Bible, Daniel 7:25, 12:7, Revelation 11:2,3, Revelation 12:6,14, and Revelation 13:5. This period of time was important to God. He took special interest in His people during that time because they were so weak and few. This time period was from **538 A.D. to 1798 A.D.** beginning when Emperor Justinian gave the civil and religious affairs to the pope at that time, Pope Vigilius. The time ended when Napoleon Bonaparte sent in his general, Berthier, into the church/city of Rome and took Pope Pius VI captive, thus the papacy received its 'deadly wound'.

Revelation 12:15 - "The **serpent** [devil, 12:9] cast out of his mouth **water** [people, 17:15] as a flood after the **woman** [church, 2 Corinthians 11:2], that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood." The devils first strategy was persecution, but that never works for his benefit, for he tried that in Egypt as well. "The more they afflicted them, [the children of Israel] they more they multiplied and grew, Exodus 1:12. Since that did not work out to his benefit, he tried plan B. "If you can't beat em, join em." He sent his people into the church to corrupt it, and this was successful. As a result, today we have **professed** Christians that believe almost any way no matter what is shown them from the Scriptures. We have **professed** Christians that have no standards, they follow tradition rather than the truth of God, they have beliefs totally contrary to the teachings of the Bible, and yet they call themselves Christians! Christ Himself said, "**Why** call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). If we call ourselves Christians we ought to walk even as He walked (1 John 2:6).

Revelation 12:16 - "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 earth helping the woman leads us to conclude again that it was an unpopulated area which was a safe haven for God's church. During the time of the dark ages, or the 1260 years, the people of God were being severely persecuted in Europe. They were fed up and took ship to sail across the ocean to be met with the beautiful land of America, October 12th, 1492. "The arrival of his [Christopher Columbus] ships in the Western hemisphere was one of the pivotal events in world history. It opened up a new world for Europeans and initiated the spread of Western civilization to a new hemisphere" (Taken from the Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia). These were our Pilgrim Fathers that came across on the Mayflower. We today celebrate that day under the title of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving to Who? God of course, for delivering His people from the tyranny of that time in Europe. They did not leave Europe for the commonly taught reason of taxation without representation, no. They were Christians who wanted **civil and religious liberty**; a **church without a Pope and a state without a king**. This is why the United States is a nation with two **lamb like horns** (horns often represent strength, see 1 Samuel 2:10, Jeremiah 48:25, Lamentations 2:3,17, Micah 4:13, etc.). These horns, or strengths, represent **republicanism** and **Protestantism** (Revelation 13:11). Republicanism proclaims "We the people." Protestantism is a protest, against what? The Roman Catholic **church** and European **state** unity, and the false teachings, or the "wine of her fornication" (Revelation 17:2). During this time there was great persecution among Christians. Some of the documents read thus: "Great numbers were driven from their habitations with their wives and their children, stripped naked...many of them inhumanely massacred" (The History of the Popes, Vol. 2, pg. 334).

During this time of the 1260 years of persecution and beyond, God has raised up His people to proclaim specific messages for this time. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). From the 1400's till today we can see the pattern of God raising up men and women to proclaim special light from heaven to His people; the Waldenses upheld the sacredness of the Bible, Huss learned of obedience, Luther taught grace, Calvin taught church growth, the Anabaptists taught baptism, Wesley taught holiness, Miller proclaimed the nearness of the second coming of Christ, and finally the Advent movement has been teaching the truths of death, health, and Biblical Sabbath keeping, with a great emphasis on eschatology, end time events. God has always had His faithful people on this earth to represent Him. Will you follow the light that has shined more and more unto this day?

Revelation 12:17 - "The **dragon** [Satan] was wroth with the woman, [God's church] and went to make **war** [persecution] with the **remnant** [remainder] of her seed [children], which **keep the commandments** of God, and have the **testimony of Jesus**."

God's last day church will; **(1)** Keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus (14:12), **(2)** have a prophet (12:17, 19:10, 22:8-9), **(3)** come up after 1798 (12:14,17), **(4)** will be a world-wide church (14:6), **(5)** have an emphasis on prophecy (14:7-12), **(6)** have God's "hour of judgment" message (14:7), **(7)** be calling people specifically to worship on the true seventh day Sabbath (14:7, Exodus 20:11), **(8)** have the devil wroth, or very angry with them (12:17), **(9)** and will call God's people out of spiritual Babylon (18:4).

God has always had His people:

Adam and Eve

Abraham & family

Moses and Israelites

Joshua and Israelites

The faithful Jews

Christ and His 12

The early Apostles

The wilderness church

What about at the end of time?

He cares for all and wants every person to be saved and "to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

The Bible has shown us what to look for to find His last day people. There have always been those that follow God, and those that follow Him not. Those that are not following God's truths He is trying to lead into further truth. If we had to use just one of these identifying characteristics to find out who God's last day people are, I would suggest using the seventh day Sabbath of the 10 Commandments. This one identifying characteristic would cut out almost all of the percentage of 4200+ denominations in the world today. You would have less than 10 groups of people that would possibly fit even half of these descriptions. Having done the homework I can say with all surety that the Seventh-day Adventist movement is the precise fulfillment of this prophecy. God has a people on this earth that are holding up His truth banner high. Are you willing to look past the barrage of misrepresentations and seek God's truth in His Bible? Then seek out a Seventh-day Adventist church, and may God bless you.