

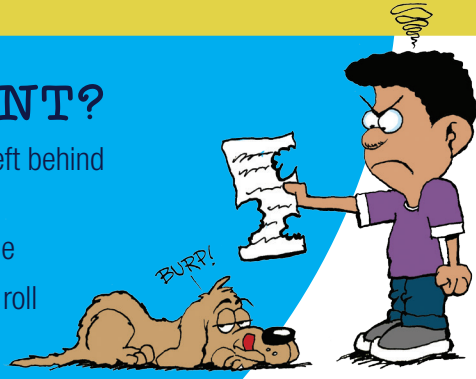
The Remnant and Its Mission

[Bible texts from NIV unless otherwise noted]

WHAT'S A REMNANT?

Remnant: a small part of something that is left behind after the rest has gone away, such as . . .

- Leftovers of your mom's split-pea casserole
- A small piece of carpet left at the end of a roll
- What's left of your homework after your dog ate it
- A small group of God's people who stay loyal to Him when the rest have stopped following Him.

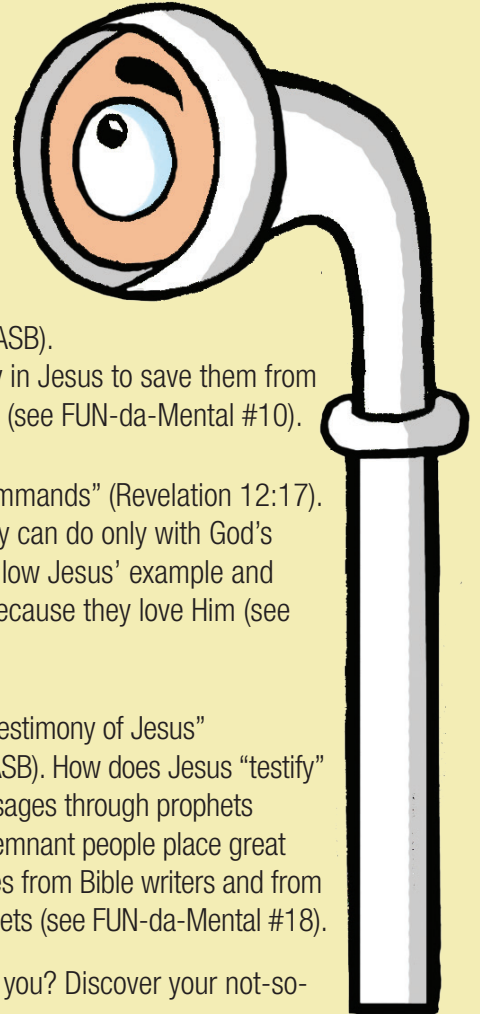


GOD ALWAYS HAS A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

These people (the remnant) are faithful to the Father and Jesus and the Holy Spirit no matter how bad things get.

3 WAYS TO SPOT THE END-TIME REMNANT

- ✓ **1.** They "keep . . . their faith in Jesus" (Revelation 14:12, NASB). They trust completely in Jesus to save them from sin and eternal death (see FUN-da-Mental #10).
- ✓ **2.** "They obey God's commands" (Revelation 12:17). That's something they can do only with God's help! The remnant follow Jesus' example and obey His teachings because they love Him (see FUN-da-Mental #19).
- ✓ **3.** They hold on to "the testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 12:17, NASB). How does Jesus "testify" to us? He sends messages through prophets (Revelation 19:10). Remnant people place great value on the messages from Bible writers and from God's end-time prophets (see FUN-da-Mental #18).



Does this sound like the group for you? Discover your not-so-secret mission.

3 Famous Remnants in History

1. Even though God destroys the sinful world with a flood, Noah and his family are saved in the ark.
2. God punishes the Israelites by letting Babylon take them captive, but later a small group comes back to rebuild Israel.
3. Most Jewish people reject Jesus as the Messiah, but some Jews believe in Jesus and become part of the Christian church.



3 STEPS TO AN END-TIME REMNANT

1. Rebels

Christians started out following Jesus' teachings in the Bible. But over the years, false ideas crept in.

- "Everyone must obey the church leader."
- "Pray to Mary. She will help you."
- "You must confess your sins to a priest."
- "The church can change God's law."

Church leaders grew greedy for power and money. They used their power to persecute and kill anyone who disagreed with them—especially the small remnant that obeyed God.

The Bible predicted that this corrupt church would rule for 1,260 years (Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5–7). It had the greatest power from AD 538 to 1798.



2. Reformers

After nearly 1,000 years of this time period had passed, some Christians began to speak out against the wrong teachings and actions of the church. We call this time "the Reformation." John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and many others pointed people back to the Bible. They said, "Trust only in Jesus as your Savior." Many new churches started as people rediscovered the truth in the Bible.



3. Remnant

- As the 1,260 years ended, some believers realized that prophecies were being fulfilled. Jesus was coming soon!
- People from different churches came together to study the Bible and prepare for Jesus' return.
- They learned what Jesus is doing in the heavenly sanctuary; why we should keep the seventh-day Sabbath; what happens when people die; and how to make veggie hot dogs.

Some of these believers joined to form the Seventh-day Adventist Church—a "remnant" group dedicated to sharing God's awesome truth with the world.



THE 3-PART JOB OF THE END-OF-TIME REMNANT

Just before Jesus comes back to earth, the remnant must share three important messages with the whole world. These are called the "three angels' messages" because in a vision (like a dream), the disciple John saw three angels shouting them out.

MESSAGE 1

It's time for God's judgment! (Revelation 14:6, 7).

Does this sound like bad news? It's actually good news, because when God's judgment is done, He'll rescue His people from this messed-up world.

People need to do something when they hear this message: Worship God. The remnant reminds everyone that God created us and that our lives should honor Him. A key part of worshipping God is honoring His Sabbath, which He set aside to remind us that He's the Creator.

MESSAGE 2

A powerful false religion is trying to make everyone follow its teachings, but the false religion is doomed! (Revelation 14:8).

In Bible times, the city of Babylon opposed God and His people. Sadly, the Bible predicts that at the end of time most Christian churches will become so corrupt that they'll be just as anti-God as Babylon was. They'll work with the government to try to force their human-made beliefs on everyone. But God's truth will win in the end.

MESSAGE 3

Don't follow this false religion, or you'll suffer the penalty of eternal death! (Revelation 14:9-11).

Scary! But this message is scary on purpose. God doesn't want anyone to get confused and "accidentally" worship a human power (controlled by Satan) instead of Him. He warns people that giving in to this false religion is even more dangerous than standing up against its death threats.

The third angel's message is God's giant, flashing, neon warning sign: "This is your last chance. Don't choose false worship and death. Choose Me! Choose life!"

God's faithful few people, the remnant, deliver the three messages until Jesus returns to this earth.