
Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

LESSON EIGHTEEN

REVELATION'S DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S CHURCH

Teaching code - in "teacher notes".

1. Underlining - designed to get class participation.
2. Bold items - messages to instructor.
3. All other copy - information designed to go directly to class.

Place Lesson #19, Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and Partners Folder, at each student location before session begins.

Warm Greeting and Opening Prayer

RS-018

Lesson Eighteen

REVELATION'S DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S CHURCH

Materials for distribution: Lesson 19 and Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and Partners Folder.

WARM GREETINGS

Teachers – Please Note:

Tonight, introduce “In His Steps” baptismal lessons. Show “In His Steps” materials and mention that some have been asking about what the Seventh-day Adventist church believes. These materials explain the teachings of the church. Ask, “How many of you would like to have these materials?” Then ask, “If we stayed a little later each night, how many of you would like to spend 8-10 minutes each night reviewing these outlines?” (Most people will raise their hands.) Assure them that you will have enough lessons for all – and when you meet in the coming nights – you WILL STOP EARLY and go briefly through the materials.

- 1. TRY TO INCLUDE EVERYONE IN THE “IN HIS STEPS” STUDY.**
- 2. Begin visiting and finalizing commitments for baptism.**
- 3. Your faithfulness in using the decision questions and visiting in the homes of your class will give you results.**

Last lesson we learned

God's true church
will have Spirit (gift) of Prophecy

Tonight I want to start off by telling you three things:

- 1. God has a special message for these last days in Revelation 14:6-12 and 18:4.**

Read Scriptures and get excited as you briefly explain.

- 2. The church of Revelation 12:17 (read) is the church that will preach this three-fold message.**
- 3. And friends,**
The call to “Come out of Babylon” into the Remnant church has finally come to you.

Let us begin with prayer, asking God to impress us with the seriousness of following His counsel!

- 1. Noah's Day = Ark (of Safety) 8 people survived.**
Last days = Ark of Safety (true church)
survivors include 144,000 + millions that were faithful to Jesus and His truth!

Decision Questions

Please place “X's” on your envelope tonight in response to the following questions.

- 1. I feel the lesson was clear and understandable. Mark an “X” if this is your feeling.**
- 2. Place another “X” if you are ready to say, “I believe what I've heard tonight is truth and I have decided to follow Jesus all the way by joining the church, which is calling people out of Babylon – who keep the commandments of God by His grace and have the gift of prophecy.**

If you are ready to say “yes” to God tonight – to unite with God's last day church – place the second “X” on your envelope.

Mention a thousand a day (1000 Days of Reaping). Tell your class that at this time many thousands of God's people are coming out of Babylon and are uniting with His church. This is a gigantic last day movement encircling the world – God is gathering His people together under the banner of truth, and we've set a date for a beautiful Bible baptism – we want all of you to come.

- 3. Please place the third “X” if there are still questions in your mind, but you are open to God's leading, because you love Him and want to please Him.**

**Stop early and present “In His Steps” material.
8-10 minutes**

Talk up next lesson.

Closing Prayer

QUIZ QUESTIONS

(Fill in the blank)

1. "Revelation" pictures God's last day church (called-out people) as a beautiful _____ woman
2. A Great Prophecy in Revelation talks of a man child (Jesus) who was caught up to God's _____ to intercede for us. throne
3. The "dark ages" persecution of God's faithful followers lasted for _____ years. 1260
4. The two major characteristics of God's last day church are:
keeping the commandments of God; and Spirit
having the _____ of Prophecy. (gift)
5. God's true church for today will be calling God's people out of _____ (confusion). Babylon

OFFERING APPEAL

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS



REVELATION'S DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S CHURCH

Recently someone cried out in anguish, "I'm trying desperately to find God's church but what hope do I have? There are hundreds of church denominations and sects in the world. Most claim to be God's true church, and all are alike in certain areas, yet different in others. I could never, in my entire lifetime, examine the teachings of all these groups. I feel frustrated and traumatized. It is almost as if God were playing games with me. It all seems so futile and so pointless." Tragically, millions share such sentiments. Perhaps you, yourself, feel the same way.

Did you know that, in Revelation, God so clearly describes His church for these last days that once you know what he says you can as easily select His true church from among all the churches as you could select your country's flag from among all other flags?

This is dynamite! No wonder Satan panics when people begin studying the book of Revelation. He knows that God's church is clearly described in the book and he utilizes every imaginable tactic to prevent our getting serious over its study. If everyone understood Revelation, Satan's kingdom would be in immediate jeopardy, and God's great name and His noble church would be exalted in a most exciting manner.

Let's look at Revelation's amazing description of God's church. It is found in Chapter 12. Please read the entire chapter before beginning this lesson.

GOD'S CHURCH TODAY

1. Jesus says in Luke 17:26 (1528), that the time just before His second coming will be like Noah's day. How many ways of escape were there in Noah's day? Genesis 7:1 (9)

Ans: ONE.

2. God's "early N.T. Church" – was simple and Biblical.
God's "last day church" – is simple and Biblical.
They are the same!
Let's compare them.

3. Jesus – Shepherd
the Shepherd (Jesus) speaks
(in His Word)
and His sheep
(hear His voice)
and follow Him
(brief comment on Rev. 18:4)

4. "Woman" symbol of church.

5. God's "last day" church of Revelation:
–Depicted as beautiful woman
–Identified by symbols
which point to Christ
–The Center: Jesus Christ and His Righteousness!

PRAISE THE LORD!

19. Once one recognizes God's true church, is it necessary to become a member? Acts 2:47 (1594)

Ans: "And the Lord ADDED to the CHURCH
daily SUCH as SHOULD be SAVED."

NOTE: Notice the following:

- a. We are all called into one body — Col. 3:15 (1731)
- b. That body is the church — Col. 1:18 (1729)
- c. We enter the church by baptism — I Cor. 12:13 (1683)

IT IS JUST AS IMPERATIVE TO ENTER GOD'S ARK OR CHURCH TODAY, AS IT WAS TO ENTER THE ARK IN NOAH'S DAY. REMEMBER THAT JESUS INTENDS TO SAVE THE CHURCH, Ephesians 5:25-27 (1719).

20. Revelation 1:12,13,20 (1801) pictures Jesus walking among His churches. He still walks among the churches today calling His people, Hebrews 13:8 (1772). As He speaks to you and calls you into His blessed ark of safety for these last days will you respond to His loving call? You are very precious to Him.

Ans: _____



19. THE CHURCH comes from Greek word ekklesia which means "the called out ones"

If you are being called out of:

A. The World – you need Jesus and His church

B. Babylon – you need Jesus and His church

Yes, God does have a modern day
Ark of Safety.

– God HAS A SPECIAL MESSAGE
for these last days

– God HAS A SPECIAL CHURCH
that will preach His special
three-fold message

– God HAS A SPECIAL CALL
in the last days for His people to
come out of Babylon (confusion)

– and, my friend, He has a special
love for you because His special
call has come to you tonight.

CLASS APPEAL

Read comments under #20 lovingly, kindly, and earnestly –
then pray for your class like never before!

PRAYER APPEAL

2. How many faiths or churches did Paul say Jesus has? Ephesians 4:5 (1717)

Ans: "One Lord, ONE faith, one baptism."

NOTE: As in Noah's day, God has but one boat or church that is going through to safety. Be certain that you board the right boat. Ephesians 5:25-27 (1719) points out clearly that Jesus died to bring His **CHURCH** into His kingdom.

3. Obviously, there are many beautiful Christians in all churches. Since God has only one true church, which He will save, what will happen to the sincere Christians in other churches? John 10:16,27 (1567)

Ans: "Them ALSO I must BRING . . . and there shall be one FOLD and one SHEPHERD .".

NOTE: Here Jesus is pictured as the good shepherd, His people as sheep and His church as the fold. Jesus plainly says that some of **HIS SHEEP** are not yet in His church but that He will call them, and they will follow Him into His church, John 10:27 (1568).

GOD'S CHURCH SYMBOLIZED

4. How does God symbolize Zion or His church in prophecy? Jeremiah 6:2 (1115); Isaiah 51:16 (1088)

Ans: "I have likened . . . Zion to a comely . . . WOMAN."

NOTE: The Bible repeatedly symbolizes God's church as a virtuous woman. For additional references see Exhibit #1, Lesson 1.

5. In Revelation 12:1 (1812), Jesus introduces His church under the symbolism of a virtuous woman. a. Where did John see the woman?
b. What was she clothed with? c. What was she standing on?
d. What was on her head?

Ans: a. IN HEAVEN b. THE SUN
c. THE MOON d. A CROWN OF 12 STARS

NOTE:

a. HEAVEN here refers to the sky where the birds fly, Genesis 1:20 (2).

b. The SUN represents Jesus and His righteousness, Psalm 84:11 (920); Romans 13:14 (1664); Malachi 4:2 (1394); John 9:5 (1565).

c. The MOON has no light except that reflected from the sun. It represents the Old Testament sacrificial system which had no

6. None other than Jesus Christ
 "Caught up to God's Throne"
 Christ resurrected
 and ascended
 to heaven

Point out how visible the Lord (Jesus) is in the Throne Room of God (Rev. 4-5)!

7. Jesus is our Saviour,
 "No one — but no one"
 could think of duplicating His efforts.
HE IS THE SON OF GOD!
8. The enemy is exposed!
 A fallen angel —
9. The intentions of Satan were from the beginning:
a. TO DECEIVE THE UNIVERSE
 All the angels!
 Adam & Eve and all mankind.
b. TO DESTROY ALL OPPONENTS
 Kill Jesus
 and now to destroy us, too!

NOTE: God's church will make it very clear that salvation and righteousness come by faith in Jesus Christ alone, Acts 4;12 (1596).



**The Bible
 identifies
 God's Church.**

GOD'S CHURCH IDENTIFIED

According to Revelation, chapters 12 and 14, the following seven great points identify God's church for today into which He is calling all His people. God's church:

1. Will appear after the wilderness — Dark Ages experience — that is, after 1798.
2. Will hold same truths as apostles (teachings will square with the Bible).
3. Will keep the Ten Commandments, including the fourth (seventh-day Sabbath).
4. Will have the gift of prophecy.
5. Will preach the final, end-time, three-point message of Revelation 14:6-12.
6. Will be a world-wide missionary church (to every nation, tongue & people).
7. Will teach salvation through Jesus Christ (the everlasting gospel).

17. **Jesus hands you these seven specifications and says, "go find my church". What does He promise when we seek? Luke 11:9 (1514)**

Ans: "Seek and ye shall FIND".

18. **How many church organizations in the world fit these seven points? Ephesians 4:5 (1717)**

Ans: ONE ONLY

NOTE: a. The church which is bringing you this Revelation Seminar fits all seven points. Let's review quickly how it fits each point. b. Let's review also the "Partners" folder.

GOD'S CHURCH IDENTIFIED

1. Experienced great persecution –
Surfaces again and becomes vigorous in last days –
Christ's true church has always existed!
2. Early Church = pure, simple, Biblical
Last Day Church = pure, simple, Biblical
EASILY IDENTIFIED!
3. The Sabbath (a sign of loyalty to God – the Creator)
4. God bestows special favor on this group
and reveals the future by visions and dreams.

**Great Controversy – vision given to
Ellen White, plus hundreds of other visions!**

5. Seventh-day Adventist church has been preaching
Revelation 14:6-12 for over 100 years.
6. **Show and discuss “Partners” (compiled by American Bible
Society).**
7. The last day church will “lift up” Jesus as the only one who can save
us, Eph. 2:8,9.

light except that reflected from the gospel, Hebrews 10:1 (1766).

d. The CROWN of 12 stars represents the work of the 12 disciples which crowned the early years of the church, Matthew 10:1-4 (1411).

SUMMARY: Since the sun and the moon make a complete whole, this symbolism represents the sum total of the church in history: the church before the cross and the church after the cross.

6. **What next takes place in this great prophecy of God's church?
Revelation 12:2,5 (1812)**

Ans: a. A BABY is born into the church.

b. The child is later caught up to God's THRONE.

7. **Who is this baby who is destined to rule all nations and who ascended
up to heaven? Psalm 2:7-9 (860); Revelation 19:13-16 (1821); Acts 1:9-
11 (1590)**

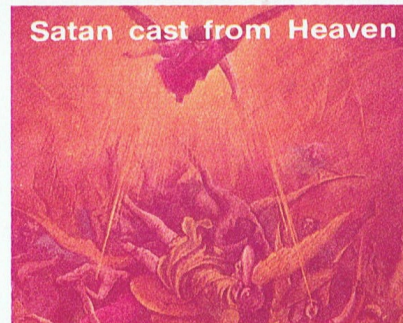
Ans: JESUS

THE GREAT RED DRAGON

8. **A great red dragon is next pictured. a. Who is this dragon? b. Where
did he come from? Revelation 12:7-9 (1813); Revelation 12:3,4 (1812)**

Ans: a. DEVIL b. He was cast out of HEAVEN.

Satan cast from Heaven



The Great Red Dragon



9. **When the devil left heaven, a. Whom did he bring with him? b. What
did he try to do to the child? Revelation 12:3,4 (1812); 12:7-9 (1813)**

Ans: a. “The THIRD part of the STARS of heaven”.

NOTE: Stars are angels, Revelation 1:20 (1801). Satan deceived one-third of the angels and “his angels were cast out with him”.

Ans: b. “To DEVOUR her child as soon as it was born”.

10. The Biblical Scenario:
 Satan a rebel,
 Cast out of heaven.
 Jesus Christ sent to rescue man
 by giving His life.
 It's almost over (the Great controversy)!
 The Devil is
 Angry,
 Frustrated,
 Running out of time,
 An eternal loser!

11. Satan not only deceives,
 He attempts to destroy.
 He also "persecutes"
 (makes it hard on Christians).

HE TRIES TO GET THEM TO GIVE UP THEIR FAITH.

12. For 1260 bloody, cruel years "the church"
 persecuted and killed
 millions of Bible following
 Christians.

However, NONE of these churches CAN BE GOD'S LAST DAY REMNANT CHURCH, into which He is calling ALL HIS PEOPLE. His Church must qualify in BOTH AREAS.

THREE SPECIAL MESSAGES

Here is something startling! Jesus assigns us THREE GREAT POINTS in proclaiming TO ALL THE WORLD the EVER-LASTING GOSPEL in these last days. Revelation 14:6 (1815); Matthew 24:14 (1439)

15. What are these "three great points"? Rev. 14:6-11 (1815); 18:2,4 (1819)

a. Rev. 14:7 (1815) - "The hour of God's JUDGMENT is come. . . worship Him which made HEAVEN and EARTH .".

NOTE: God's church will be teaching that God's judgment is now in session and that we must worship and honor Him as Creator by keeping His Sabbath, the sign of His creative power. (See Lesson 10).

b. Rev. 14:8 (1815); 18:2,4 (1819) - "Babylon is FALLEN; come OUT of HER my PEOPLE .".

NOTE: Is it possible that you are in Babylon? God's church for today must be calling people out of Babylon. We will take up a detailed study of Babylon in Lesson 21.

c. Rev. 14:9 (1815) - Beware of the beast and his image and his MARK .

NOTE: God's church for today will be telling people how to avoid the mark of the beast.

God's true CHURCH for TODAY will be presenting the THREE POWERFUL MESSAGES WORLD-WIDE. Many devout loyal Christians are members of churches which do not teach this three-point message. However, SUCH churches CANNOT be GOD's SPECIAL CHURCH FOR TODAY, INTO WHICH HE IS CALLING ALL HIS PEOPLE, because God's LAST DAY CHURCH must be preaching these three messages WORLD-WIDE.

16. What other key point will God's true church for the last days stress? Revelation 12:11 (1813)

Ans: "And they OVERCAME by the BLOOD of the LAMB .".

15. 1. Last day emphasis on, **WORSHIP THE CREATOR** –
 God's judgments on those who don't.
 2. "Babylon" false system of **WORSHIP** –
 the issue is Worship.
 3. Avoid "Mark of the Beast"
 (Next lesson deals with "Mark of the Beast" –
 it is imperative that you study the next lesson thoroughly!)

16. God's special "last day people"
 are "overcomers".

They overcome
 self,

Satan,

sin,

by the blood of Jesus (Lamb).

**THEY BECOME LIKE THEIR MASTER IN PURPOSE AND
 CHARACTER.**

NOTE: Satan, through Herod, tried to kill Jesus at his birth by destroying all the babies of Bethlehem, Matthew 2:1-18 (1398). Joseph and Mary were forewarned by an angel and fled to Egypt. These two events were predicted by Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah 31:15 (1157); Hosea 11:1 (1330). Though the dragon represents Satan, it also has a secondary application to Pagan Rome. Herod was a Roman ruler, whom Satan used to try to kill Jesus at birth. A beast, normally, represents a kingdom or political power, Daniel 7:23 (1310).

10. What outstanding and extremely crucial facts are mentioned in Revelation 12:10-12 (1813)?

Ans: a. The accuser . . . is cast DOWN.
 b. They overcame by the BLOOD of the Lamb.
 c. The devil is angry because time is SHORT.

NOTE: See Exhibit #1, Point 1.

GOD'S CHURCH PERSECUTED

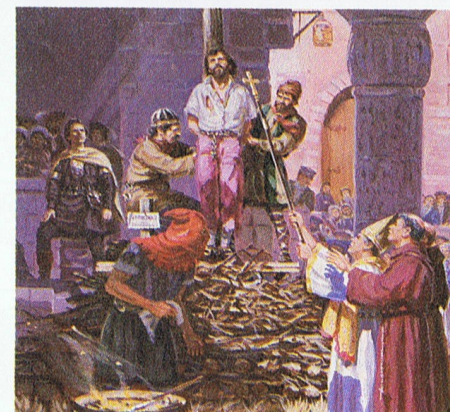
11. After Satan failed in destroying Jesus when he was here on earth, what did he do to the woman or church? Revelation 12:13 (1813)

Ans: "He PERSECUTED the WOMAN".

12. Using the prophetic rule of **ONE PROPHETIC DAY EQUALS ONE LITERAL YEAR**, how long was this persecution to last? Revelation 12:6,14 (1813)

Ans: 1260 YEARS

NOTE: See Exhibit #1, Point 2.



"He went to make war against . . . her seed".

13. The real church (true followers of Christ) were protected by God in solitary places –
Waldenses –
Huguenots –
and other groups of Christians
fled to mountains and other hiding places.

**Recommend that if anyone is interested in learning more:
Read Great Controversy, chapter 4, "The Waldenses" – have a
few paperbacks available for loan or gifts.**

14. Now we are getting down to basics!
God's last day people will:
a. Be commandment-keepers
b. Have the Spirit (gift) of Prophecy

13. What did the church do when this persecution began? Revelation 12:6 (1813)

Ans: "And the woman FLED into the WILDERNESS".

NOTE: The wilderness typifies the deserted and remote places of earth. God's people fled for their lives and hid in solitary places of the earth. The church dared not operate in the open else its members would not have survived. God's true church did not exist OPENLY as an ORGANIZATION from 538 to 1798 AD.

MANY WONDERFUL CHRISTIANS are members of churches which WERE ORGANIZED and OPENLY FUNCTIONING between 538 and 1798 AD. However, NONE of these churches CAN BE GOD'S REMNANT CHURCH, into which HE IS CALLING ALL HIS PEOPLE TODAY because God makes it clear that His last church WOULD NOT EXIST OPENLY as a formal organization DURING THIS PERIOD.

GOD'S REMNANT (LAST DAY) CHURCH

Look at the symbols of Revelation 12:17 (1813):

- a. Dragon** — Devil, Revelation 12:9 (1813)
- b. Woman** — True church (see question #5)
- c. Remnant** — Last day or end time
- d. Commandments** — The 10 commandments, Exodus 20:3-17 (119)
- e. Testimony of Jesus** — Spirit or gift of Prophecy, Revelation 19:10 (1821)

Now, let's put the verse in today's language: "AND THE DEVIL WAS INFURIATED WITH THE TRUE CHURCH AND WENT TO FIGHT AGAINST GOD'S CHURCH IN THE VERY LAST DAYS WHICH KEEPS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND HAS THE GIFT OF PROPHECY".

14. What two characteristics of God's last day remnant church are mentioned in Revelation 12:17 (1813); Revelation 19:10 (1821)

Ans: KEEP the commandments, have the GIFT of prophecy.

NOTE: So God's last day church will have the gift of prophecy and will keep all the commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment, Jesus is still saying, "If you love me, keep my commandments," John 14:15 (1576). It is impossible to really love Him and knowingly break His commandments. I John 5:3 (1794).

THERE ARE MANY TRUE CHRISTIANS in churches which do not keep the Sabbath or have the gift of prophecy.