

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them."

"I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested."

Revelation 14:13-16

1. Are there hints about when this all takes place?
2. Would this suggest the time before which the three angels messages are to be announced?
3. Those who die are blessed because of what?

The New International Version of the Bible is used throughout

Discovering the Bible

Lesson 51

The Remnant Church

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness."

Fundamental Belief — 13

"When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus."

Revelation 12:13-17

1. Read the whole of Revelation 12 if you can
2. Do you think that the chapter describes spiritual warfare?
Who is involved in the battle?
3. Verse 17 appears to reveal a retreat by 'the woman' and her offspring
4. Could you identify 'the offspring' simply from that passage?
5. The verse talks about 'the rest' of her offspring. Does this suggest that the woman has offspring other than those described as keeping God's commandments and who have the faith of Jesus?
6. Other translations use the word remnant instead of rest. We could say that a remnant is a small number left. They are identical to the rest—but this group can be identified by their relationship to Jesus and by the keeping of the commandments.
7. Does this group appear to be removed to hiding? Why?
8. This group appear later in the book of Revelation

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

"A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

"This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."

Revelation 14:6-12

1. This passage outlines the task of the 'remnant'. Angels in the book of Revelation work closely with churches existing at particular periods of time. The remnant appear to be around at a particular time with a particular message
2. The first angel's message is to proclaim 'the eternal gospel'. What do you understand this to be? What do you recognise as the call to fear God—and what is the reference to judgement?
3. The second angel's message speaks of Babylon. What could this be referring to?
4. The third angels message could be seen as frightening. How could a person, "worship the beast and his image," or "receive the mark of his name"?
5. Why would a church need to announce these messages? When? The following passage suggests a time frame to spread these messages.