

“Remnant—Part 2”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of June 29, 2024.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I completed a two-part series. I gave a presentation titled “Remnant—Part 2.”

Reminder of last week

Here is what we discussed at last week’s presentation.

- We discussed the population of the world—which is often quoted as 7.9 billion.
- I asked: “Is God directly working to save the entire world all at the same time?”
- I listed 11 sections of Scripture about a “calling.”
- In the conclusion, I briefly mentioned John 12:47-48.

Goals for this week

Here were the goals for this week’s presentation.

- John 12:47-48 offers important concepts about judgment.
- We will notice the major religions of the world.
- We will notice scriptures to see if God is actively connected to the religions of the world.
- We will quote some biblical numbers that are used to refer to a remnant.
- Then, we will focus upon Christian living.

Important concept about judgment

The Son of God explained to His disciples that judgment is based upon understanding.

- John 12:47—The Son of God said: “If anyone hears My words and does not believe [understand], I do not judge him—for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”

■ John 12:48—The Son of God said: “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words [after understanding the words] has one that judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

Religions of the world

Following is a listing of the top religions of the world. The total number of an expanded list is 7.79 billion people.

1. Christianity—2.382 billion
2. Islam—1.907 billion
3. Nonreligious—1.193 billion
4. Hinduism—1.161 billion
5. Buddhism—506 million
6. Chinese traditional religion—394 million
7. African traditional religion—100 million
8. Sikhism—26 million
9. Spiritism—15 million
10. Judaism—14.7 million

Biblical references about gods

■ Genesis 35:1-2—After God told Jacob to build an altar to Him, Jacob told his household: “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves.”

■ Exodus 12:12—When the Lord foretold Him passing through the land of Egypt, He mentioned that He was executing judgment against all the gods of Egypt.

■ Exodus 20:3—It is not surprising that the First Commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

■ 1 Corinthians 8:4—“Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.”

■ 1 Corinthians 8:5-6—“For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

Size of the remnant

Those of you who know me will not be surprised that I will not make any dogmatic proclamation about the size of the remnant. In fact, I will warn you to be cautious around religious people who routinely make bold proclamations about

their personal opinions. Bold proclamations may be interesting, but you would be crazy to base your life upon man's opinions. (See Jeremiah 23:16-21.)

The number 7,000 is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments.

- 1 Kings 19:18—After Elijah complained to the Lord that he was the only person doing the correct things (in verses 10 and 14), the Lord informed Elijah that there were 7,000 people in Israel who were not involved in Baal worship.

- Romans 11:1-5—When Paul mentioned that there was a remnant (verse 5), he quoted (verse 4) the 7,000 number mentioned in 1 Kings 19:18.

The number 144,000 is mentioned twice in the book of Revelation.

- Revelation 7:4-8—"I heard the number of those who were sealed."

- Revelation 14:1-3—John was about to list the qualities of the 144,000 who were standing with the Lamb ("redeemed from the earth").

- Revelation 14:4-5—Their characteristics were: (1) These were not defiled with women for they are virgins; (2) these were the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes; (3) these were redeemed from men as the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb; (4) in their mouth was found no deceit; and (5) they were without fault before the throne of God.

Focus on Christian living

- Deuteronomy 13:1-3—Beware of people (even those who perform successful signs and wonders) who seek to lead you toward other gods.

- Matthew 20:25-26—Beware of people who seek to "lord it over" people and who seek to "exercise authority over" people.

- Matthew 23:13—Woe unto those who shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men—who will not enter the Kingdom and who will not allow others to enter the Kingdom.

- Matthew 23:14—Woe unto those who devour widows with their appearance of religion.

- Matthew 23:15—Woe unto those who work hard to get a following, but they influence the followers to imitate their erroneous ways.

- Matthew 25:34-40—The Father has prepared a place for the disciples who serve the Lord by serving the needs of other people.