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## ***“Are We At the End? Chapter 4, Part 1”***

### ***“The Remnant Church and People”***

By Apostle Jerry Upton

Over the years of church history, many denominations, revival movements, and charisma leaders have made vast claims that they were the remnant that God has spoken about in the scriptures. Attributing certain characteristics and signs that related directly to their leadership, many were convinced that indeed they were the **ONLY** people on the earth that made up the remnant church and people; and unless you were a part of their particular persuasion, you were not a part of the remnant church or people.

This is the first error that was commonly made by those who taught on the remnant church, and throughout this teaching I will clearly show you who the remnant church is and the people that make up the remnant. The first revelation you need to know is this:

**The remnant church and people are not called this because of some special characteristic that they possess; but rather they are called the remnant because of the special relationship they have with the Most High God.**

As I take you through the many scriptures in God's Word concerning the remnant, you will begin to see just why they are called by this particular name, and you will also see how important their function, role, and assignment is at the end of the last days. Let me list a few scriptures for your research:

*“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we have been like unto Gomorrah.” {Isaiah 1:9}*

*<sup>20</sup>And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. {Isaiah 10:20}*

*<sup>3</sup>And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. {Jeremiah 23:3}*

*7 For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. {Jeremiah 31:7}*

*<sup>32</sup>And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call. {Joel 2:32}*

*<sup>14</sup>And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, {Haggai 1:14}*

*27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: {Romans 9:27}*

There is a common thread that I discovered years ago about the remnant people of God that is coming to pass more and more as we

approach the end of the last days, and it is this: Because of the calling, anointing, assignment, and special intimate relationship that they have with their Heavenly Father, they are the most persecuted, rejected, and are continuously in a state of spiritual warfare. This is clearly identified in the scriptures that are in **Revelation 12:7-17 {Stop and read these verses, but especially note verse 17}**:

*<sup>17</sup> And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. {Revelation 12:17}*

While I realize that in America we have been blessed to enjoy an extreme amount of liberty as we serve God, I also know that just like our brothers and sisters throughout the nations of the earth that are a part of the remnant church that:

*<sup>12</sup> Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. {2 Timothy 3:12}*

The persecution for those who are sold out for Jesus in every way possible has escalated in America already; and this is why many churches, ministries, and non-profits are compromising for the sake of convenience and not wanting to draw rejection from the demonic controlled society that we are living in. Many years ago the Holy Spirit led me to teach people about the persecution that was coming to this small part of the world; and when I taught it many pastors and leaders in this geographical region let it be known that I was in error and that it would never take place.

I taught people that one of the reasons that God's Word requires us to be people of faith is that regardless of what comes our way that we will stand, stay fully committed to the Word, not compromise for acceptance from a demonic inspired society, and remain steadfast and immovable as we exalt and magnify the Name of Jesus. If you want to see a clear

picture of the remnant people of God, you only need to read the **11th** chapter of **Hebrews** and here's what you will find:

**\*\*The remnant people of God seek to please God in every way, and try to live a life that brings honor and praise to God. {Hebrews 11:5}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God walk in the fear of God, and seek to obey God regardless if they clearly understand what God is instructing them to do. {Hebrews 11:7}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God are called by God to fulfill His will, purpose, and plan; and this is their top priority regardless of what it may require. {Hebrews 11:8-9}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God walk by faith and not by sight; and understand that this world is not their home because they are citizens of another Kingdom. {Hebrews 11:13-16}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God are willing and ready to obey God in all things, allowing nothing or no one to have first place in their lives but God. {Hebrews 11:17-19}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God recognize and understand that they carry upon their lives the blessing of God, and are willing to release that blessing on the lives of others. {Hebrews 11:20-22}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God choose God and His will above comfort, man's acceptance, material possessions, and the pleasures of this present world. They know what the true treasures are, and are willing to follow God regardless of the cost. {Hebrews 11:23-30}**

**\*\*The remnant people of God allow God to do supernatural exploits through their lives; and are willing to lay down their lives even to the point of death. {Hebrews 11:32-40}**

These are only 8 of the characteristics of the remnant church and the people of God, but they give you a clear picture that the brand of Christianity that is displayed in the western world looks nothing like the remnant church and people outlined in the Word of God. I am striving each day to be a part of the remnant church and the people of God, but I say just like Paul:

*<sup>13</sup> I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,*

*<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. {Philippians 3:13-14 Amplified Bible}*

Paul said I have one aspiration, to obtain the heavenly prize that is in Christ Jesus who is calling me to come up higher. I take this to mean that what should be the most important goal, ambition, dream, desire in the life of the believer is found in Christ Jesus and not the accomplishments of this present world. I am well aware that recognition, exhortation, achievement is very essential for all of us, but they should never be our top priority. The present church in America tried to fit God into their busy schedule, and fails to understand that dwelling in the secret place of the Most High God should be the most important function in our lives.

I have watched over the past 39 years of being a believer that there have been many times that I became sidetracked, distracted, consumed, and obsessed with the things of this world. Thank God that every time this happened the Holy Spirit would lead me back to where I needed to be, and would help me to reprioritize and refocus and make Jesus my top priority. I know that many will say that this way is too narrow and hard to accept, but I want you to hear what Jesus said:

<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

<sup>14</sup> *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. {Matthew 7:13-14}*

The strait gate is a narrow way, and there are few {the remnant} that find it. The present day believer especially in America is consumed with activities, having fun, leisure entertainment, and 'living the life of Riley.' While all of this may have its place at times in our lives they should never be our top priority; and this is one of the reasons that the Word of God tells us:

<sup>2</sup> *Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. {Romans 12:2 Amplified Bible}*

It doesn't get any plainer than this, the remnant people of God have a different focus than the world and even those who have been converted; and are not really disciples of Jesus. I want you to see from the words of Jesus Himself what a true disciple looks like:

<sup>31</sup> *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

<sup>32</sup> *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. {John 8:31-32}*

I hear repeatedly by many that they are living by grace, and therefore there are no requirements that they have to follow; but this is due to the fact that they don't really understand what true grace is and what it does. The true grace of God changes you from the inside out, and

releases God's ability within you enabling you to do what you are naturally incapable of doing. New desires, new dreams, new focus, new beliefs, new ambitions, new thoughts, new actions; this is what true grace releases in the life of the believer.

True grace doesn't have a nonchalant attitude about serving God; true grace doesn't have a flippant attitude about seeking God; true grace doesn't attempt to fit God in their schedule and give Him the crumbs of their time; true grace doesn't just seek God and listen for His instruction once a week when they come to a church service; true grace doesn't make excuses on why they can't obey God or follow His plan for their life; true grace is a divine release of the Holy Spirit that will make us spiritually whole and complete; will establish us with a sure foundation; will strengthen and settle us in the time of trouble, calamity, and despair:

*<sup>10</sup>But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

*<sup>11</sup>To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

*<sup>12</sup>By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. {1 Peter 5:10-12}*

In our part II teaching we will study in great detail the 2 chapters of the book of Haggai, and break open the typology that is found in this book that relates to the remnant church and the people of God in the last days.