

Daniel



Lesson 22-The Faithful Woman of the Dark Ages

Focus: Daniel 11:32-35

- ❖ **In the Middle Ages, after many “forsook the Holy covenant” (Dan. 11:30), “...casting the truth down to the ground” (Dan. 8:12), and thinking “...to change the set times and Laws” of God (Dan. 7:25) there were still some smaller groups of Christians who wanted to remain faithful to God, and to His commandments.**
 - **After the corrupted church** received “...arms [or military/political support]” (Dan. 11:31) for their corrupt business, **they began to persecute** or “...make war with the saints” (Dan. 7:21) who wanted to follow the truths of God’s word (and who disagreed with the corrupt, orthodox teachings of the large, polluted, and worldly church). **This lasted for a period of 1260 years [538 AD to 1798 AD].** “...a time, times, and a half...” (Dan. 7:25) [3.5 prophetic years or 1260 prophetic days, equaling 1260 literal years in the dark ages]
 - **The corrupted church** “polluted the sanctuary of strength,” took away focus from the “daily” mediation work of Christ in the Heavenly Sanctuary, and “placed the abomination that made desolate” (Dan. 11:31). [man’s authority and power was put above God’s—they set a Pope over the head of the church instead of Christ, and they took military support to further their purposes]. In 508 AD the Roman church received a great boost in military support. By 538 AD, the last of the three European nations opposing the Papacy was taken out of existence [the Ostrogoths], thus beginning their 1260 year reign as a persecuting power.
- ❖ **Daniel 11:32-35 describes the persecution that was going to happen in the Middle Ages towards God’s faithful ones.** It tells of how a polluted and corrupted brand of the Christian faith, “such as do wickedly against the covenant [of Jesus Christ]” (v.32) would persecute those people who did “know their God.”
 - (v.32,33) **Those who understood** and obeyed the truth of God’s word would do missions to teach and to “**instruct many**” in regard to the Bible’s truth. But, many of these faithful ones who suffer and lose their life for the cause they held dear—they were martyred for their faith. The history of the middle ages tells us this is exactly what happened. The faithful Waldenses, Abigenses, and others strived to remain as faithful to the Bible’s teachings as they could (though copies of the Bible were scarce—these ones would make hand copies of various portions of the Scripture, and would share that with whoever they could. If they were caught or betrayed to the authorities, they often lost their lives). This lasted for “many days” (1260 prophetic days or literal years to be exact).
 - The “earth” or wilderness was a great help to them during this time. Many of them found refuge in the mountains, such as the Alps in France. Persecution continued until the “time of the end” (that would have been the end of the 1260 years which was 1798).
- ❖ **How did the Apostle John record this prophecy in the Book of Revelation? (See Revelation 12)** Keep in mind that Revelation was written around the year AD 90. This was just after the time of Jesus Christ, and was foretelling the events that were going to happen to Christ’s church over the

next 2000 years of earth's history (from the 1st Century until the Return of Jesus—the early, middle, and modern Ages). (See Revelation 12:1-6)

- **What does a woman represent in Bible prophecy?** _____ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25, 31,32; Jeremiah 6:2)
- **A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon was under her feet (v.1):** She is covered with the glory of the light of Jesus Christ (John 8:12; Malachi 4:2) which is found in the New Testament, but she stands on the moon which only dimly reflects the glory of the Sun. So, the foundation on which the church stands is that of the Old covenant (animal sacrifices and offerings, etc.), but she is now clothed with the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ—the true Lamb of God.
- **A Garland (crown) of twelve stars around her head (v.1):** The garland or crown around her head represents leadership. The early people of God were led by twelve tribes. The New Testament church was set in motion by the work of the twelve apostles.
- **The dragon stood before the woman ready to devour her child as soon as it was born (v.2-4):** God's people were waiting a long time for the Messiah to be born. Finally, when Jesus was born, the devil tried to kill him. Satan used the 10 horned beast (4th Empire—Rome) to try and destroy Jesus as a baby. He led Herod to have all the baby boys under two years old to be slain, but God kept baby Jesus safe (Matthew 2:13)
- **Jesus was caught up to God's throne** after he had accomplished his work on this earth (v.5)
- **Where did the woman (faithful church of God) go for 1260 prophetic days (literal years)?** _____ (v.6) So, could God's faithful church have been some big, glorious church with great Cathedrals all during the dark ages? Or, was God's faithful church in hiding? _____ (when the Devil couldn't persecute and kill Jesus directly he again turned his attacks against God's church)
- (verses 7 to 12 describe the fall of Lucifer and his angels from heaven. Also, how we can overcome him—v.11)
- ❖ **Christ's church (the pure woman) was persecuted for "a time, times, and a half a time" (1260 years). She found her refuge in the wilderness shelters— "...the earth helped the woman" (Rev. 12:13-17) (that is the "help" described by Daniel 11:34).**
 - (v.15) The waters mentioned here are some kinds of armies raised up to persecute and attack the faithful church in the wilderness (the Papal authorities) (Rev.17:15 explains waters are peoples).
 - "...the earth helped the woman" (v.16). The wilderness, the Alps of France, the unpopulated areas. Even when many fled from Europe to America—the new land—to escape the persecutions and religious intolerance of Papal Europe.
 - (v.17) **The Faithful woman has children or "offspring" who the Devil hates very much!!**
- ❖ **The characteristics of the Faithful woman/church's offspring are clear in prophecy (v.17)**
 - Her offspring **must be a visible church** that **comes into focus sometime after 1798 AD**. Before this time, the church was hiding in the wilderness, now she becomes visible.
 - She **has the faith of Jesus** (see also Rev. 14:12).
 - **They keep all the "commandments of God"—that would include even the 7th day Sabbath—not just nine commandments, but all of them.**
 - **They have "the testimony of Jesus"** or the gift of prophecy—they understand God's prophetic message and are guided by the prophetic gift. (comp. Rev.19:10; 22:8,9)
 - Not many churches today can claim to fill all of those marks.

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to be a part of God's faithful remnant church at the end of time? _____ Jesus said, "Enter in at the narrow gate...broad is the way that leads to destruction...narrow the way of life" (Matt. 7:14).