

In her hand she had a her name was the mother She was drunk with and with.....of Jesus.

- ✓ In contrast with that pure woman, God reveals the existence of another woman, an impure one, who is compared to a harlot. The Bible specifies what that adultery was: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?" James 4:4.
- ✓ Their policy and government in this world is called fornication.
- ✓ That mixture with civil power gave the church many riches. The cup is a symbol of its doctrines full of abominations. Its message is not pure, but it is mixed with politics, since it is adapted to the moment and the social circumstances of the time in which we live. Therefore, its name is BABY-LON, which means confusion. One of the main characteristics of this apostate church is in fact the role played by the Inquisition in the Middle Ages. Its hands are full of the blood of Jesus' martyrs. It is drunk, full of death, tortures, oppression, etc.
- ✓ This church is not alone. It has daughters, or another church that follows its same thoughts, doctrines or working methods. For example, they observe Sunday as the rest day, they believe in the immortality of the soul, etc.
- ✓ We can easily identify this church whose characteristics agree with the ones described above. It is the Roman Catholic Church. Her daughters are all churches that in one way or another follow its teachings, even if they are not based on the Bible. Revelation 17:1-5 is an appeal to leave a religious system and to submit to the commandments of God. There is always the question:



Which church will you join?

Take sides for the Lord and His people!

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Topic 10

The Church of God in the book of



When we speak about church, we immediately imagine a building where people gather to worship God. We may imagine a tall or low, large or small building. Other people understand for church a denomination and each time they refer to themselves they identify themselves with that denomination. Let us see how this wonderful book of Revelation describes the identity and history of the church projected to our times.

1. What vision was shown to prophet John? Revelation 12:1.

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven:....., and the moon under her feet of twelve starsde."

- ✓ As we have seen up to now, the book of Revelation is full of symbols, whose characteristics illustrate or describe certain qualities or virtues that want to be emphasized. We have seen how each symbol perfectly represents the history or condition of each element described. Therefore, the study of this woman will make us familiar with characteristics that will help us identify the church of God.

2. What is the relation between Christ and His church compared to? Ephesians 5:25-27.

The relationship between a husband and a.....

- ✓ Both in the Old and New Testament, the relation between God and His people is compared to the one between a bride and a bridegroom. Therefore, the symbol of a woman represents the characteristic or virtues of a church. Let us see the following examples:
- ✓ Isaiah 62:5. *".... and [as] the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, [so] shall thy God rejoice over thee..."*
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 11:2. *"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ."*
- ✓ Hosea 2:19-20. *"And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord."*

3. If the woman represents a church, how many churches does Christ have? Songs 6:8-9.

"There are threescore queens, without number. is but one."

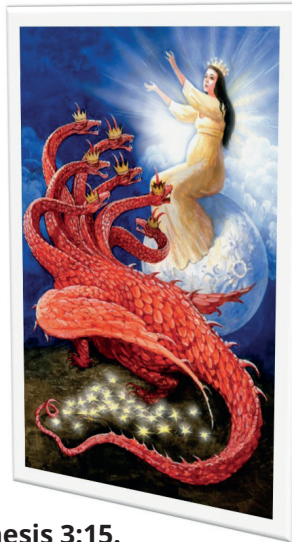
4. What elements surround the woman and what are they? Revelation 12:1.

The following signs are characteristics of the true church of Christ:

Dressed This symbolizes Christ, the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2.) as He appears in the New Testament.

Under her feet she had It represents the fact that the church is founded on the Old Testament. The moon does not have its own light, but it reflects the light of the sun. Likewise, the Old Testament does not have its own light, but it shines because Christ gives it His light.

The twelve symbolize the twelve apostles, who are the crown of God's church.



5. What other characteristic is described? Revelation 12:2, 5.

"And she being, travailing in birth. And she brought forth a, who was to rule with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

6. Who was that Son? Psalms 2:7.

That son was

7. What promise made to the church was fulfilled? Genesis 3:15.

In Eden the promise was given that a would be risen who would defeat the serpent.

In Galatians 3:16 is clear that the Seed is

- ✓ If we consider the anguish caused by the trip and the lack of accommodation in Bethlehem before birth, we can understand the prophecy states that the woman was anguish in his delivery.

8. What sign appears in heaven and what is about to take place? Revelation 12:3-4.

"And... behold a great, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, as soon as it was born."

- ✓ The dragon was Satan who used the Roman Empire to try to destroy Christ when He was a baby, as it happened with genocide of children commanded by Herodes.

9. What did the woman (the church) have to do before the persecution caused by Satan? Revelation 12:6, 13-16.

"And the woman, where she had a place prepared of God, and to his throne."

- ✓ She flees to the wilderness, unpopulated and inaccessible places, during the Middle Ages, where the Satanic forces could not reach it.

"And the woman was given two, that she might fly into the wilderness."

- ✓ Those wings represent the speed or urgency with which the children of God had to flee in order not to suffer martyrdom under the Papacy during the Middle Ages, at hands of the Inquisition.

"And the serpent cast out of his mouth , that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth,..... out of his mouth."

- ✓ The many waters are multitudes (Revelation 17:15), people that were urged by Satan to persecute the believers. The fact that the earth opened its mouth refers to the Reformation, which took place in XVI century and whose adherents were persecuted, but many European governments protected their lives. When America was discovered in 1492, governments were established that gave religious freedom, so the victims of persecution found a place of refuge and the impact of persecution was not so great. Moreover, the atheist French Revolution put an end to the supremacy of the Papacy and persecution.
- ✓ Notice the days that the woman was hidden in the wilderness (literally "empty abandoned place"). It is said that she is hidden from either the sight of men or from their influence during 1260 days or "a time, and times, and half time." Keep these numbers in mind and we shall study them further.

10. What characteristics of the church made the dragon furious? Revelation 12:17.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make, which keep of Jesus Christ."

Let us see those 4 characteristics:

- 1. It is persecuted**, since the dragon wanted to *The faithfulness of the church of God was always a reason for Satan to attack it. The means he mostly used was persecution and martyrdom.*
- 2. It is a**, that is to say, few. (Zephaniah 3:12). *The church of Christ was never a majority. Its members were always poor and rejected.*
- 3. The church keeps of God.** *As children of God, the members of the church of Christ keep and obey the divine requests which are comprised in the Ten Commandments, as they were given in Exodus 20:1-17. When we say: "keep the commandments", it is understood all of them. If a church keeps one, for example the 4th one that commands us to keep the Sabbath day but takes part in war, thus transgressing the 6th commandment that says "thou shalt not kill", it does not fulfill the requirements in the prophecy.*
- 4. They have the testimony of** *which according to Revelation 19:10, it is the Spirit of Prophecy, the special gift of God with specific instructions for the church in this very solemn period of the world history.*

11. What great contrast was shown in another vision? Revelation 17:1-6.

There was a..... fornication. This woman was arrayed in and.....