



# THE TRUE REMNANT

*The Elect, the Bride, and the Body of Christ*

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## Introduction

As we approach the end times, many believers in the Apostolic Pentecostal tradition hold to the belief that there will be a clear distinction between the true church of the Living God and those who align with a one-world order or ecumenical movement that opposes biblical truths. This overview will explore the concepts of the remnant, the elect, and the bride of Christ, along with scriptural references that support these themes.

## The True Remnant

### Definition of the Remnant

The remnant refers to a group of faithful believers who remain true to God's Word and His teachings, even in the face of widespread apostasy and persecution.

### Scriptural References

#### 1. Isaiah 10:20-22:

- “And it shall come to pass, that in that day, 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. The remnant shall

return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.”

2. Romans 11:5:

- “Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

3. Micah 2:12:

- “I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of the fold, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.”

4. Ezekiel 11:16:

- “Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.”

5. Zephaniah 3:12:

- “I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.”

Story of Elijah

- 1 Kings 19:9-18: After Elijah’s confrontation with

the prophets of Baal, he fled into the wilderness, fearing for his life. He felt alone and believed he was the only faithful one left. God reassured him by revealing that there were still 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed to Baal, demonstrating that even in times of great apostasy, a faithful remnant exists. This story emphasizes God's faithfulness to preserve a group of believers who uphold His truth.

## Plot Expansion: The Remnant's Struggles

Imagine a modern-day scenario where a small church in a secular city faces increasing pressure to conform to societal norms that contradict their beliefs.

Despite the temptation to compromise, the pastor and congregation commit to prayer and fasting, seeking God's guidance. As they face ridicule and isolation, they remember Elijah's story and find strength in their unity and commitment to God's Word. Their unwavering faith becomes a beacon of hope for others seeking truth, ultimately leading to a revival in their community.

## The Elect

### Definition of the Elect

The elect refers to those chosen by God for salvation, who remain faithful to His commandments and

teachings.

## Scriptural References

### 1. Matthew 24:22:

- “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

### 2. 1 Peter 1:2:

- “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

### 3. 2 Thessalonians 2:13:

- “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”

## Story of the Early Church

- Acts 2:42-47: After the day of Pentecost, the early church devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. Despite facing persecution, they remained steadfast in their faith, and many were added to their number. This illustrates the faithfulness of the elect in the face of

opposition.

## Plot Expansion: The Elect's Perseverance

In a contemporary setting, a group of believers decides to hold a public outreach event to share their faith. As they prepare, they encounter opposition from local authorities who threaten to shut down the event. Instead of backing down, they gather to pray for courage and wisdom. Through their unwavering commitment to God's mission, they find favor with some officials who allow them to proceed. The event becomes a powerful testimony, drawing many to Christ and showcasing the strength of the elect in challenging times.

## The Bride of Christ

### Definition of the Bride

The bride of Christ symbolizes the collective body of true believers who are faithful and devoted to Jesus, awaiting His return.

### Scriptural References

#### 1. Revelation 19:7-8:

- “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife

hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

## 2. Ephesians 5:25-27:

- “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

## 3. Matthew 25:1-13 (The Parable of the Ten Virgins):

- This parable illustrates the importance of being prepared and vigilant as the bride of Christ. The wise virgins were ready when the bridegroom came, while the foolish ones were not, emphasizing the need for readiness and faithfulness.

## Plot Expansion: The Bride’s Preparation

As the church prepares for the return of Christ, they hold a series of prayer meetings focused on spiritual renewal and purity. Members share testimonies of how they’ve overcome personal struggles and temptations. The pastor encourages them to remain vigilant and to keep their lamps full of oil, symbolizing their spiritual readiness. This collective effort strengthens their bond as the bride of Christ



and equips them to face external challenges.

## The Conflict with the One World Order

### Opposition to the True Church

The true church of the Living God will face opposition from a one-world order or ecumenical movement that seeks to unify beliefs at the expense of biblical truth.

### Scriptural References

#### 1. Revelation 12:17:

- “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.”

#### 2. Revelation 13:15:

- “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

#### 3. Revelation 17:6:

- “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

#### 4. Revelation 20:4:

- “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

### Story of Stephen

- Acts 7: Stephen, one of the first deacons, boldly preached the Gospel and recounted Israel’s history. His faithfulness led to his martyrdom, as he was stoned to death for proclaiming the truth. This story exemplifies the ultimate sacrifice made by some believers in the face of persecution.

### Plot Expansion: The Martyrdom of Stephen

Imagine the scene of Stephen’s trial, where he stands before the Sanhedrin, filled with the Holy Spirit. As he recounts the history of Israel and boldly accuses them of resisting the Holy Spirit, the atmosphere becomes charged with tension. The crowd becomes enraged, and Stephen, looking up, sees the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. His final words echo with grace and forgiveness, mirroring Christ’s own words on the

cross. This powerful moment not only highlights the cost of discipleship but also serves as a catalyst for the spread of the Gospel, as Saul (later known as Paul) witnesses the event and is transformed by the message he initially opposed.

## Overview of Christian Persecution Worldwide

### 1. Global Statistics on Christian Persecution:

- According to the 2023 World Watch List published by Open Doors, it is estimated that 360 million Christians experience high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. This represents one in seven Christians worldwide.
- In 2022, 5,621 Christians were killed for their faith, while 4,542 were detained without trial and 2,110 churches were attacked or closed.
- The top 10 countries where Christians face the most persecution include:
  - North Korea
  - Afghanistan
  - Somalia
  - Libya
  - Yemen
  - Nigeria
  - Pakistan
  - Iran
  - India
  - Syria

## 2. Types of Persecution:

- **Physical Violence:** Many Christians face violence, including beatings, kidnappings, and killings, particularly in countries where extremist groups are active.
- **Discrimination:** Christians often encounter discrimination in employment, education, and access to services, particularly in predominantly Muslim countries.
- **Legal Restrictions:** In some nations, laws are in place that restrict religious freedom, making it difficult for Christians to worship openly or evangelize.
- **Social Hostility:** Christians may face hostility from their communities, leading to social ostracism or violence from family members or neighbors.

## Stories of Persecution

### 1. North Korea:

- North Korea remains the most dangerous place for Christians. The regime views Christianity as a threat to its authority. Believers are often forced into labor camps, where they face harsh conditions and torture. Those discovered practicing their faith can be executed.

### 2. Nigeria:

- In Nigeria, particularly in the northern regions,

Christians face violent attacks from Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen. Many villages have been attacked, leading to mass killings and displacement. The situation has resulted in thousands of Christians fleeing to refugee camps, where they live in dire conditions.

### 3. Afghanistan:

- Following the Taliban's takeover in 2021, Christians in Afghanistan have faced increased persecution. Many believers have gone into hiding or fled the country to escape the threat of violence and execution. Reports indicate that the Taliban has targeted converts from Islam to Christianity, viewing them as traitors.

### 4. China:

- In China, the government has intensified its crackdown on unregistered churches and has imposed restrictions on religious practices. Many pastors have been arrested, and church buildings have been demolished. The Communist Party seeks to control religious expression, leading to a rise in underground churches.

## Conclusion

The persecution of Christians worldwide is a pressing issue that calls for prayer, awareness, and action from

the global community. The stories of those who suffer for their faith serve as a powerful reminder of the cost of discipleship and the need for solidarity among believers.

As believers in the Apostolic Pentecostal tradition reflect on these challenges, they are encouraged to remain steadfast in their faith, drawing strength from the scriptures and the examples of faithful believers throughout history. The expectation of persecution can lead to a deeper reliance on God and a commitment to the core tenets of their faith, including the necessity of baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins.

### Call to Action

- **Pray for the Persecuted:** Regularly pray for Christians around the world who are facing persecution.
- **Raise Awareness:** Share information about the plight of persecuted Christians with your community and church.
- **Support Organizations:** Consider supporting organizations that provide aid and advocacy for persecuted Christians, such as Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs, and others.

In a world increasingly hostile to the gospel, the

stories of faithful believers throughout history serve as a reminder that God is with His people, empowering them to stand firm and proclaim His truth until the very end.

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