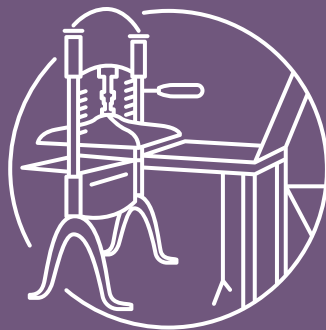


Organized for Service



Week Six

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Revelation 12



See videos at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH06-a

ORGANIZING THE CHURCH

The Reformation began a long process of rediscovering truths that were lost in the Dark Ages. When it ended in the late 1700s, the United States became the epicenter of Christian progress. In the 1830s, earnest believers from a wide variety of Christian churches began rallying around the hope of Christ's return, and in the 1840s and 50s, the early Adventist pioneers made key doctrinal breakthroughs that shaped our history and message. At that time, the fledgling movement was held together by shared beliefs and the magazine *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, which communicated beliefs and connected believers.

Publishing was an integral part of early Adventism that made a legally organized association vital. The publications needed to be attached to an official entity and the church needed to avoid registering property in an individual's name. Slow steps were taken toward organizing their publications and congregations. They needed to adopt the correct beliefs and then establish the proper structure to facilitate sharing the message with the world.

Adventist congregations in Michigan formed the first state conference in 1861. In the next few years, believers in New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota followed suit, and in 1863, state conferences worked together to form the General Conference. The church had officially been organized into three successive levels.

Our church's structure has been developed further since 1863, but our purpose remains the same: to spread the gospel around the globe. This week we will briefly look at the purpose and essence of God's end-time church.



inScribe

Write out Revelation 12 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out a portion of the primary passage. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Have we grown stagnant in our church's growth? If so, how can we reverse it, and if not, how can we prevent it?

How can we remain humble when we are part of such a significant history and prophetic identity?



Read more at www.inversebible.org/SDAH06-3



inTerpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What other characteristics do we see in the early church that we can expect to find in the remnant church?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH06-4

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What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 12?

Ephesians 5:22–30

1 Corinthians 12:12–31

Colossians 1:18

John 10:16

Ephesians 2:20, 21

John 17:21

Acts 20:28–30

Revelation 14:6–12

What other verses/promises come to mind with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 12.



inVite

Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.



In what ways did Jesus' wilderness experience prepare Him for ministry and what lessons can we as a church learn from that?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

Prayer Response:



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH06-6

Organized for Service



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?

After this week’s study, what are
some personal applications you
are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical
applications you must make in
your school, family, workplace,
and church life?



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH06-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Why do you think the commandments and the gift of prophecy are the two identifying marks in Revelation 12:17? Why not choose something else?

What characteristics from the church in Acts do we need to regain?

How do we reconcile the fact that many died during the 1,260 years with the promise that God would provide for His church during this time (Rev. 12:6, 14)?

Why does God lead people through wilderness experiences?

What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of having an organized world church? How can the drawbacks be overcome?

How do we keep the gospel movement going and not grow stale in our church communities?