

**TOTAL TRUTH #20**  
**Recovering A Comprehensive Christianity**

**"The Rising of the Remnant"**

**I. Introduction**

My title tonight is, "The Rising of the Remnant".

**Myles Rutherford**

**"Raise Your Voice: An Urgent Call to Speak Out in a Collapsing Culture"**  
**Since the Bible uses the word 'remnant' 540 times, it is important for us to know what it is.**

Here is the dictionary definition of the word...

**"Remnant"**

**A small piece or amount of something left from a larger, original piece or amount.**

**Cambridge Dictionary**

A remnant can refer to scraps of food, or a piece of cloth; carpet remnants are pieces left over from the full roll; but **in the Bible 'remnant' refers to a small group of people who remain faithful to God when the majority do not.**

We read of remnants in the Bible where God's cause seems to be losing; we read of remnants during times when righteous are in the minority; we read of remnants as what's left over after God sends judgment on a nation.

I'm taking my first text tonight from a remnant mentioned in the Old Testament, 1 Kings 19, when the Prophet Elijah cried out to God in an hour of great personal discouragement...it was a time much like our own day.

God's people had turned away from God's law and had fallen into idolatry. King Ahab was on the throne; the Bible says he was the worst king Israel ever had. His wife was Jezebel had killed all the prophets and had now sworn to kill Elijah...

who ends up alone hiding in a cave...

**1 Kings 19:9-10**

And the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" **"I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. *I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.*"**  
(Have you ever felt alone like this? Actually, this is an encouragement)

**Theme**

**Even God's best, like Elijah, can feel overwhelmed and outnumbered amidst a flood of evil that leaves you feeling like the only one left who really cares about God.**

As the conversation continues, God agrees that He is sending judgment that will thin out the crowd; but then He says...

**1 Kings 19:18**

**"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."**

God says, "You are not alone-I HAVE RESERVED A REMNANT—7,000 like you—who have not bowed the knee to Baal".

The Apostle Paul confirms this truth in Romans 11...

**Romans 11:2-4**

**Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? But what was God's reply to him?**

**Romans 11:5-6**

**"I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." *Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.***

God always reserves Himself a remnant!

### **Theme**

**So this is not a day for us to be downcast or discouraged; even in the midst of morally declining culture. We need to know that even now, as back then, God has reserved a 'remnant' unto Himself...and that remnant will arise!**

Tonight I want to build your faith by showing you: (1) The remnant principle in the Word; (2) How the principle applies in our own day; (3) What God expects of His remnant in this hour. So let's begin with what the Bible says about remnants.

## **II. God Always Reserves A Remnant For Himself**

### **A. Remnants Arise in Seasons of Judgment**

1. We see sin enter the world by one man in Genesis 3; but generations later, (about 1600 years), during the days of Noah in Genesis 6, the whole race was infected with great wickedness.

#### **Genesis 6:5-6**

**Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.**

a. The sin was so bad God decides to destroy them all:

#### **Genesis 6:7-8**

**So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."**

b. God decreed His judgment upon all flesh—but God always reserves a remnant! The last line of the verse...

#### **Genesis 6:7-8**

**So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." *BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.***

c. The Bible tells us it took Noah 120 years to build the Ark! And he was preaching the whole time! He preached 120 years and only had 8 converts!

**2 Peter 2:5**

**And God did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly...**

**1 Peter 3:20-21**

**The Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.**

d. Bible scholars estimate that there were at least 750 million people drowned in the flood; some say as many as 4 billion! The point is, God reserved a remnant for Himself.

2. We see the principle applied in God's judgment on the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah...

**2 Peter 2:6-7**

**Later, (after the flood), God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. But He rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him.**

a. Even in Sodom, God had a remnant!

b. In Egypt, Pharaoh killed all the newborn male children born to Israel; but God preserved Moses.

c. After the Exodus, Israel sent 12 men to spy out the land; 10 of them returned an evil report; but God reserved Joshua and Caleb as His faithful remnant. (Numbers 13 & 14)

d. Later, in the land, when the priesthood was corrupted by the sons of Eli, God raised up Samuel as a faithful priest and prophet. (1 Samuel 2:25-26)

3. After Samuel's death, Israel had a succession of mostly evil kings, corrupt political leaders who led the nation into idolatry and brought the judgment of God.

a. The prophet Isaiah paints a picture of what God's judgment upon a nation looks like...

**Isaiah 1:7-9**

(See if this sounds like modern America)

**Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire; strangers devour your land in your presence; and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. So the daughter of Zion is left as a booth in a vineyard, as a hut in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.**

(v. 7 clearly reminds us of what's happening because of open borders)

**Isaiah 1:7**

**...foreigners devour your fields—a desolation overthrown by foreigners. (HCSB)  
Foreigners plunder your fields before your eyes and destroy everything they see.  
(NLT)**

b. The whole nation seems to be beyond hope; BUT in v.9...

**Isaiah 1:9**

**Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.**

4. This verse is a prophetic message that ought to encourage every one of us! God always reserves a remnant! Even if its 'very small'!

**Pastor Mark Dunagan**

**The idea that God always has His faithful few and that the truly faithful are always a smaller percentage than those who claim to believe is found throughout Scripture.**

5. **God always reserves a remnant unto Himself!** Consider the conditions when Christ came into the world.

a. Jesus was not born in a day of revival; Israel had been looking for the Messiah for 1000 years; but when He came, only a few lowly shepherds knew about it; when His parents took Him to the Temple only 2 elderly people recognized Him; the prophet Simeon, and the prophetess Anna, 84 yrs. a widow.

b. When He was 2 years old the only ones who came to worship Him were 3 'wise men from the East'...and they were Gentiles!

c. Jesus' miracles attracted crowds; 5,000 in John 6; but by the end of the chapter, there are only 12! When He went to the Cross they all ran away.

d. But after the resurrection, He appeared to the 12—the remnant—and they changed the world!

6. So our first point is that there is a biblical basis for the remnant.

## **B. Second: Why Does This Message Matter So Much Right Now?**

1. The Christian Church in America, as a whole, has been in a gradual decline for many years; but it went into a freefall with the advent of the COVID Crisis in February of 2020.

a. A few months later, in July 2020, **Barna Research** reported that 33% of churchgoers were not watching services online nor had any plans to return to attending church. ONE-THIRD GONE!

b. But it gets worse: A few months later, in March 2021, the Gallup Poll showed that for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in American history, churchgoers had become the minority in America! (Below 50%); this is remarkable because the Gallup Poll in 1937, 73% of Americans went to Church.

c. A later poll reported that 66% of those who had dropped out of church said they would not be returning.

2. All some see in all this is gloom and doom; like Elijah, moaning about the rise of evil and the fall of our numbers. But what if we look at it another way?

**Myles Rutherford**

**COVID was not only a plague in the world, it was also a purge in the Church.**

a. What if God is separating the wheat from the chaff? What is He shaking all things so the remnant can be revealed?

#### **Hebrews 12:25-26**

**See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth;**

#### **Hebrews 12:26-27**

**But now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.**

3. God is shaking everything right now! Not only 'earthly' things but also 'heavenly' things. But He has a purpose:

- a. To REMOVE things that can be shaken.
- b. So that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.
- c. Remember, a 'remnant' is what 'remains'!
- d. This does not sound like the rapture!!!

4. I don't pretend to be a prophet; but if I was, this would be my 'thus says the Lord'! God is going to shake and keep on shaking, until we are not looking at the things which are removed but looking at the things that remain!

5. Here's the most important thing you need to know tonight....

#### **Myles Rutherford**

**If you are still here and resolute about the things of God, you remain. You are part of the remnant. The purpose of the shaking is not to focus on who left but on who is left! While the statistics seem bad, the truth is that God is cleaning the house to purify the voice of the remnant.**

- a. Tonight, if you remain in the fight, you are part of the remnant.
- b. Don't focus on who left but who is left! (Like Gideon's 300)

c. Know that God is cleaning His house, cleansing His temple, purifying the voice of the remnant. Which leads me to my final point...

### **C. What Does God Expect Of His Remnant?**

1. God reserves a remnant unto Himself to be His faithful witness in the world, especially when so many are falling away!

2. In the Book of Micah, God reserves a remnant that will speak up for God:

**Micah 2:12**

**"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people."**

**Micah 2:12**

**... like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men. (ESV)**

**...like a flock in the midst of its pasture, they will be noisy with men. (NASB)**

3. The main mark of the remnant is how they speak up for God while the majority remain silent.

4. I've been quoting Pastor Myles Rutherford's new book, "Raise Your Voice: An Urgent Call To Speak Out in a Collapsing Culture". He has some great revelation on the remnant...

**Myles Rutherford**

**The remnant of God is an army of believers 'inside' the Church, not exempt or excluded from it. They are not better than anyone; they are just bolder than most. They are normal, everyday people—but they are vocal about God's heart.**

**Myles Rutherford**

**They are soldiers—completely committed to the Word of God—and will be a voice for Him come hell or high water. They don't relent. They are not moved by praise or criticism. They not only speak of God, but for God and they refuse to bow to anything that culture or religion wants them to unethically tolerate.**



**Myles Rutherford**

**The remnant are not rebels, renegades or radicals. They are normal people who are offended at what offends God.**

a. I like his use of the term 'normal people' lest anyone walk away with the idea that God's remnant has earned some higher mark.

5. The fact that you and I are God's remnant must never make us think that we are better than other believers! (There's a cult called 'The Remnant Church' right down the road from here!)

**Pastor Mark Dunagan**

**No one deserves to be a part of the remnant. It is not something that can be purchased, grandfathered in, inherited from parents, or earned by doing humanly devised good deeds. We only remain faithful because of God's grace.**

6. All the glory goes to God! Go back and look at the scriptures....

**1 Kings 19:18**

**"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, who have not bowed their knee to Baal..."**

a. Here we see the sovereignty of God and the free will of man at work in the remnant: free will in that they did not bow their knee to Baal; but why did they not bow? It was because God had 'reserved' them! (The sovereignty of God)

b. Paul says the same thing...

**Romans 11:5-6**

**"I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." *Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.***

**III. Close: Review**

1. in the Bible the term 'remnant' refers to a small group of people who remain faithful to God when the majority do not.

2. Even in the darkest times, God always reserves Himself a remnant

3. The primary purpose of the remnant is to represent God and stand for His word in the midst of a declining culture.

**Myles Rutherford**

**We need an army in God's church right now that will procure a revival of sanity and sanctification, not only on the streets but in the sanctuary. A remnant that is not afraid to raise its voice for the sake of getting the Church back to the governance of God through Jesus Christ.**

**Closing Prayer/Title**