

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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Seventh-Day Adventism: True or False?



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Seventh-day Adventists False Prophets?*
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HOW DID ADVENTISM ARISE ?

Adventism is a product of the great religious revivals that repeatedly swept through America, especially the "burnt-over" districts of New England and New York, in the early nineteenth century. William Miller, a God fearing farmer and veteran of the War of 1812, became convinced through his study of the Bible that the 2,300 prophetic days of Daniel 8:14 represented 2,300 years, beginning in 457 B.C. with the decree of Artaxerxes I to rebuild Jerusalem, and continuing down to 1843 or 1844 when Christ would return to Earth. He began preaching this message in the 1820s and continued into the 1840s. His message gathered a million adherents through the Middle Atlantic and New England states. When Jesus did not come in March of 1844, as he had projected, Miller accepted the chronology espoused by S.S. Snow, a strange fellow who rode around the countryside in a long white robe, calling himself Elijah. This particular chronology, held only by the obscure Karaite Hebrew sect, showed that the 2,300 years would end on October 22, 1844.

The psychological shock of the Great Disappointment, as the "nonevent" on that night came to be called, was enormous and terrible. Many thousands of Adventist believers had stayed up all night awaiting Christ's return— only to be grievously disappointed.

Following the Great Disappointment

of 1844, Adventism remnants divided into two movements: the Open-Door Adventists, who set new dates and preached the soon-coming of Christ, and the Shut-Door movement, which maintained that probation had closed for sinners in general, that no more work for unbelievers could be carried on in the Millerite movement. Ellen Harmon, a 17-year-old girl who belonged to the latter group, taught that God had shown her in a vision that probation for the people of Earth had closed on October 22 and that Christ would come in the immediate future.

When this did not materialize, Hiram Edson, a leader in the Shut-Door movement, got an impression that the October 22 experience merely marked a transfer of Christ's heavenly mission from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary, where Jesus then began the "final atonement" for sinners. This belief was adopted by the young sect, which now commenced active mission work in the world for the first time.

About this time (the later 1840s to the early 1850s) the doctrine of keeping the seventh day (Saturday) holy came into the church. Joseph Bates, an Adventist former sea captain with Seventh-day Baptist ties, convinced the believers that the Jewish Sabbath was still obligatory for Christians. When the doctrine was confirmed in a vision by Ellen Harmon White (now married to James White), it was officially adopted. This short, dynamic woman would be the pillar of fire and driving wind of Adventism for the next 65 years.

One of the twin girls born in Gorham, Maine, Ellen Harmon White, or Ellen G. White, as she is commonly known, led a normal active childhood until she was hit in the left forehead by a stone thrown by a spiteful school

mate. The blow nearly killed her, and undoubtedly left her badly brain damaged. Unable to continue her formal schooling, she stayed home as an invalid.

In January of 1845, three months after the Great Disappointment, she had her first vision, which confirmed the Shut-Door teaching to the other believers. From this moment her career as a "Messenger" from God was born. For the rest of her life she and her husband, James, worked to establish the Adventist Church. Often she had visions concerning various questions facing the little group. Later in life her visions seemed to fade away, being replaced by 3 a.m. visits from angels, who told her what to write. Even so, I'm convinced that Sister White never actually originated a new belief by means of a vision. Rather, after a question had been thoroughly discussed and a decision tentatively arrived at, she had a vision "confirming" what the Church leaders already begun to accept.

The group was incorporated in 1861 as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Throughout the late nineteenth century the Whites gave leadership to the sect, which had its headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan. After James White's death in 1881, Sister White continued to be the elder stateswoman and counselor to the movement for many more years. She died in 1915 at the age of 87, highly honored by her church, but never having seen the coming of Christ she had so long predicted.

Shortly after the turn of the century the Church voted to move its headquarters to Washington D.C., where it is still based today. The

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"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)

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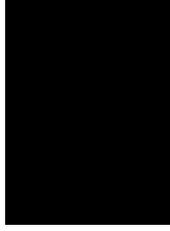
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THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

(See also Acts 10:36-43)

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Larry Wessels

Welcome once again to another edition of our newsletter. As many of you already know, we try to provide our readers with Biblical information relevant to subjects that affect the lives of friends, neighbors, loved ones, total strangers and the readers themselves. What is the value of claiming to be a Christian if one is not dedicated to the proposition that life should be lived to the glory of God? And how is that done? It is done by the Christian conforming his life to the image of Jesus Christ on a daily basis. And how is that done? It is done by studying the Word of God (the Bible), believing the truths (doctrines) of the Word of God, living life according to the Word of God and sharing those truths of the Word of God with others as God gives opportunity.

Unfortunately, few it seems, do what I just said in the above paragraph. Why? Because that would require real effort, heaven forbid! It is so much easier to read the newspaper, read a magazine, watch soap operas or sports on TV, go to the movies, listen to music on the radio, engage in countless hours of idle chatter, or a host of other activities that does not include a conscious, systematic, organized devotion to real Bible study. Worse yet, many people, rather than carefully studying the Bible themselves rely instead on some TV or radio preacher for their Bible information, usually without discernment, and unwittingly elevate the words of that preacher to the level of an infallible pope! They never stop to think that that preacher might be wrong on key issues.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is just another example among multitudes that demonstrate the fact that people take the easy way out of devotional Bible study by replacing that study with a pope-like Bible teacher who will do all their thinking for them. For the Jehovah's Witnesses it is the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, for the Mormons it is Joseph Smith, Jr. and his successors, and for Seventh-day Adventists it is Ellen G. White, the "Messenger of God" or the "Spirit of

Prophecy" (as she is called in Adventist circles). As our readers will see from Wallace Slattery's lead article in this issue, Mrs. White brings a distorted and confused message to her followers, which in turn leaves them confused as to the things of God. Based on the facts in this case, more appropriate names for Mrs. White would be "Confused Messenger of God" or "Distorted Spirit of Prophecy." "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing..." (Matt. 7:15).

I've often said, "If the root of the tree is corrupt, so is the fruit of the tree." The fact of the matter is that the founders of the SDA were strong anti-Trinitarians, including Ellen White's husband James White, while Ellen White herself never clearly stated if Jesus was eternally divine or not (she said, "The man Christ Jesus was not the Lord Almighty... (Lift Him Up, page 235).

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, 1 Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

next decades were occupied peacefully with building schools, missions, and medical works throughout the world and in preaching the Adventist message worldwide.

Adventism has many doctrines that set it apart from orthodox Christianity:

1. The Sabbath.— Seventh-day Adventism grounds its membership from the cradle to the grave in the “scriptural obligation” to keep the Jewish Sabbath. Adventists believe that from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown they must do nothing more than is absolutely necessary to carry on life, with the exception of religious observances. Disallowed activities include TV watching, secular radio listening, sports, one’s vocation (with exception of medical services and the ministry), and school study.

2. An emphasis on Old Testament dietary laws and on vegetarianism. Adventism teaches that the Old Testament dietary laws of Leviticus 11 still apply to everyone. Thus pork, scaleless fish, shellfish, birds other than fowl, reptiles, and most mammals are forbidden foods. Adventism also emphasizes vegetarianism, believing that meat is becoming more unacceptable for food as time progresses. Any intake of alcohol is forbidden, along with smoking and of course, illegal drugs. Coffee and tea are also heavily frowned upon.

3. The atonement and the sanctuary. Where Christianity has always taught that the atonement for our sins was completed at the cross, Adventism teaches that it is an ongoing event. “We dissent,” Adventism says, “from the view that the atonement was made upon the cross as is generally held.” This view is maintained in order to accommodate the SDA doctrine that Christ entered the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844, having ministered only in the Holy Place from the time of his ascent into heaven. *This is the only unique SDA doctrine*, as all other doctrines are shared by various other sects and cults.

4. Redemption. Adventism is divided into right and left wings regarding salvation. The left wing comes close to evangelical Christian theology, believing that salvation comes from acceptance of Christ alone. It does differ from evangelical Christianity in its belief that the “fruits of the Spirit” in

clude Sabbath-keeping, dietary law observance, and so forth.

The right wing of Adventism teaches that at conversion God forgives one’s sins up to that point and provides the sinner opportunity to become sinless over a period of time, through an ever-closer relationship with Christ. It also teaches that Christ was born with the same tendency to sin as every person, thus showing mankind that one can *become sinless!* Interestingly, both sides “prove” their respective case with Sister White’s writing, because she herself vacillated between a perfectionistic stand and a more “justification by faith” position.

5. The Divine Mission of Ellen G. White as the Messenger of God. Here again Adventism seems to divide itself into right and left wings. The right wing uses Mrs. White even more heavily than it does the Bible and considers her to be the equal of, if not superior to, the Bible for three reasons: (1) she is more contemporary to us than were Bible writers; (2) we have her original manuscripts and (3) she is more detailed and easier to understand than were Bible writers. Although the right wing will generally deny that its adherents hold her to be superior to the Bible, right-wing Adventist literature clearly shows a greater use of her writings than that of the Bible.

The left wing is more ambivalent concerning Mrs. White. Nowadays one of its favorite lines seems to be, “Oh, we don’t need her writings to justify our stand as Adventists anyway.” They recognize her mistakes and her unethical copying but justify these as being no worse than the Bible writers’ use of source materials by divine inspiration. It seems that the left wing would like to see her quietly fade away and stop being an embarrassment to the Church.

Belief in Mrs. White’s divine inspiration is part of the 1980 *Dallas Statement of Beliefs*, but its application is left to the believer. Most Adventists today unquestioningly accept her in principle, but “pick and choose” which of her dictates they will obey or ignore. Even so, Adventists tend to view obeying all of her dictates (at least those they choose to follow) as a necessary part of their spiritual process of growth (sanctification).

6. Prophecy. Adventism, because of its

origins, emphasizes an interpretation of prophecy developed during the nineteenth century. Usually its evangelistic meetings are billed as: “Prophetic Seminars,” which then lead into other Adventist doctrines. The evangelists are normally not introduced as Seventh-day Adventist ministers, but merely as “ministers of the gospel,” and the seminars are usually held in some building other than an Adventist church for the first few meetings, *a nifty little piece of deception in itself*.

According to the Adventist prophetic schema, each prophetic “day” mentioned in the Bible, especially in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation, stands for a year of chronological time. Thus Adventism teaches that the 2,300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14 extends from 457 B.C., when the Persian ruler Artaxerxes ordered that Jerusalem be fully rebuilt, to 1844 when Christ entered the Most Holy Place to investigate the saints and offer “final” atonement.

Coming down to the present, Adventism teaches that since it keeps all ten of the Commandments and has a latter-day propheticess in Sister White, who is often called the “Spirit of Prophecy,” it alone meets the requisites for the remnant church of Revelation 12:17. According to this theology all other churches make up Babylon. In the end of time “apostate Protestantism” (all other Protestant churches) will join hands with Catholicism and Spiritualism to rule the world.

Was Ellen White a “Messenger of God”?

Certainly no aspect of Adventism is more widely debated today, both within and outside of Adventism, than the question of Sister White (as Ellen White preferred to be called). Even today Adventism has difficulty determining her exact role in the Church. Seventh-day Adventists often assure others that their theology is based on the Bible alone. But these same Adventists will defend her as a “Messenger of God,” almost to the death, it seems, rather than admit that she did not fit the role. And the Adventist Church has gone on official record a number of times to show that it depends on the *Bible plus Sister White*.

To my knowledge, not once has Adventism ever taken any position on a

doctrine that contradicts her teachings. Adventism will stand or fall on her word. To prove her divine revelation to the new convert, Adventists assert that Mrs. White is in complete agreement with the Bible and then offer a number of Bible "proofs." After the convert accepts this "evidence," he is expected to follow her writings unquestioningly. But was Sister White a true prophet?

1. Did she ever make substantive mistakes in her teachings?

"I was shown the company present at the Conference. Said the angel: "Some food for worms, some subjects of the seven last plagues, some will be alive and remain upon the earth to be translated at the coming of Jesus." Ellen G. White, Testimonies 1:131-132. In 1856 Sister White taught that there were people alive who would live to see the seven last plagues.

Of course Jesus did not come in the lifetime of anyone at that conference. F.D. Nichol, in his defense of her statement, claims that her prophecy was conditional, that it would come true only if people fulfilled certain conditions. He points out as an example Jonah's prophecy of Ninevah's destruction, which was not fulfilled when the city repented (Jonah 3). However there is a condition implicit in Jonah's and any such similar prophecy. There is no condition in Ellen's prophecy, as any perusal of it demonstrates.

Is it not apparent that any so-called prophet can make prophecies and later label them conditional when they do not come true? What good is prophecy if nonfulfillment can be ascribed to unspecified unfulfilled conditions?

Ellen White taught that masturbation causes cancer, small heads and busts, misshapen heads, a peculiar gait, small eyes that appear swollen at times, a sieve-like memory, spinal trouble, and weakened mental powers, among other disastrous results. Although masturbation is a spiritually and mentally unsatisfactory method of sexual gratification, there is no medical evidence that it causes any of the diseases or health problems listed by Sister White. Actually Ellen was merely following the then-established thinking of the medical profession in her pronouncements, as she did in so many of her teachings. Indeed, her writings have

often impressed me as a veritable library of Victorian thinking. For example, this explains her statements that wigs overheat the brain and needlessly excite the system. (Ellen White, "Words to Christian Mothers," *The Health Reformer*, 6, 4 (Oct. 1871):121).

The most serious error ever taught by White was the "Shut Door" error, promulgated from 1844 to around 1851, in which she declared that God had shown her in vision that probation for the world had closed on October 22, 1844.

Finally, in the White Estate's book, "*One Hundred and One Questions About Ellen White and the sanctuary*," the White Estate admitted:

"Ellen misinterpreted this vision. She correctly understood that the day of salvation for the latter two groups [those who had either rejected or eventually left the Millerites] was past. For them the door was shut.....But she incorrectly concluded that no one could accept Christ after October 22, that only the little flock remaining in the household of faith would be saved, and that everyone else would be lost."

By Ellen White's reasoning millions of Christians would have been consigned to hell.

Does White fill the criterion that a messenger of God cannot teach error? Even by the White Estate's own admissions, *she completely fails this test*.

Did She Ever Contradict the Bible?

Compare some of Sister White's more astonishing statements with what the Bible teaches.

A. Was Christ Michael the archangel?

The Bible says no: "Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me....." (Dan. 10:13). Moreover, "even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (Jude 9). Notice that the Bible describes Michael as an archangel, or a chief heavenly prince, as such he in an angel, a created being, only one among other archangels, a lesser being than a member of the Godhead.

Ellen White said yes: "Michael, or Christ, with the angels that buried Moses, came down from Heaven, after he had remained in the grave a short time, and resurrected him, and took him to heaven. (E. White, "*Spiritual Gifts*", 4a:58)." Likewise, "the words of the angel, "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God," show that he holds

a position of high honor in the heavenly courts. When he came with a message to Daniel, he said, 'There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael (Christ) your prince' (E. White, "*The Desire of Ages*," pg 99.).

The average lifelong SDA will be dumbfounded to learn that orthodox Christianity does not accept that Michael is Christ. This SDA doctrine is denied by Christianity.

B. Was the plan of salvation made before the fall of mankind?

The Bible says yes: "Resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, *promised before the beginning of time*" (Titus 1:2). Furthermore, "he chose us in him *before the creation of the world...*" (Eph. 1:4). See also I Peter 1:18-20 and II Timothy 1:9.

Ellen White said no: "The Kingdom of Grace was instituted ... *after the fall of man when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race*" (E. White, "*The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*," pg 347).

C. Does God require trespass and sin offerings today?

The Bible says no: "But when this priest [Christ] had offered for *all time* one sacrifice for sins..." (Heb. 10:12); therefore, "there is no longer any sacrifice for sin" (Heb. 10:18).

Ellen White said yes: "The best you can do is to bring a trespass offering to the altar of the Lord, and he will accept and pardon you" (E. White, "*Testimonies*," 5:339).

D. Does Christ's blood cancel sin?

The Bible says yes: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (Eph.1:7). Likewise, "Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy though his own blood" (Heb. 13:12).

Ellen White said no: "The blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, *was not to cancel sin...*It will stand in the sanctuary until the final atonement" (E. White, "*Patriarchs and Prophets*," pg. 357).

E. Was Christ's atonement completed at the cross?

The Bible says yes: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved though his life. And not only so,

but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *we have now received the atonement*" (Rom. 5:10-11, KJV).

Ellen White said no: "Now while our Great High Priest is making the final atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ" (E. White, *The Great Controversy*, pg. 623).

F. Did Jesus die to bring us salvation?

The Bible says yes: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him....Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" (Rom. 5:8,9,11).

Ellen White said no: "Christ gave his life that man should have another trial. He did not die on the cross to abolish the law of God, but to secure for man a second probation" (E. White, *Testimony to Ministers*, pg. 134).

G. Can we attain a sinless state in life?

The Bible says no: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.....If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives" (I John 1:8,10). "For there is no one who does not sin...." (II Chron. 6:36; cf. Rom 6:1-4).

Ellen White said yes: "Everyone who surrenders fully to God is given the privilege of living without sin" (E. White, *Review and Herald*, Sept. 27, 1906). "We need not retain one sinful propensity." "Those only who through faith in Christ obey all of God's commandments will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression" (E. White, *Bible Commentary*, 5:1128). "In order to let Jesus into our hearts, we must stop sinning" (Ibid., 6:1118). "Christ died to make it possible for you to cease to sin" (*Signs of the Times*, 3 Mar. 1898).

H. Were sins blotted out at Calvary?

The Bible says yes: "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (II Cor. 5:18,19). Likewise, "now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you

holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Col. 1:22).

Ellen White said no: "The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sin is to be accomplished before the second advent of our Lord" (*Review and Herald* Aug. 28, 1894). "At the time appointed for the judgment-the close of the 2300 days in 1844-began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins" (E. White, *The Great Controversy*, pg. 458).

I. Can Christians say they are saved?

The Bible says yes: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us..." (Eph. 1:7,8). Furthermore, "God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace *you have been saved* (Eph. 2:4,5).

Ellen White said no: "Those who accept the Savior, however sincere, *should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved*" (E. White, *Christ in His Sanctuary*, pg. 122).

Sister White contradicts the Bible in some of the most basic doctrines and teachings. Adventists may argue that some of these contradictions are minor, but can we allow Ellen White the luxury of even minor mistakes if she is a "messenger of God?" And besides these "minor" doctrines, her *major* doctrines directly contradict both the letter and spirit of the Scriptures.

J. Did Sister White display the proper ethics required of one who claims to write as a divine messenger?

Some of the best research relating to Mrs. White has been conducted by Walter Rea, Ron Numbers, Ron Graybill, Donald MacAdams, and others. Their findings may be summarized thus: Ellen White along with her staff paraphrased vast segments of other divines' writings to use for her own purposes. The actual amount will probably never be known, but certain facts are well documented: A. She copied over 50 percent of The Great Controversy alone. "There is no question in Ellen White's mind about the overall inspiration of *The Great Controversy*, although possibly 50% or more of the material in the book was drawn from other sources," admits Robert Olson. Dr. Donald MacAdams, who wrote his doctoral thesis on *The*

Great Controversy, states that almost all paragraphs of the book should be footnoted to do their sources justice. She even copied many pictures and tables of contents from others' books without credit!

B. Ellen White was promiscuous in her copying, extrapolating from many authors on matters of health, history, doctrine, theology, and even what she "saw" in her visions.

Walter Rea has amassed inescapable evidence that much of her work was compiled by secretaries and family members. (reference: W. Rea, The White Lie, pp. 199, 203, M&R Pub., Box 2056, Turlock, CA, 95381).

What is Adventism's Gospel?

Ellen White is the chief cause of this confusion because of her extreme legalism and her contradictory writings. On the one hand she writes: "Christ gave his life that man should have another trial. He did not die on the cross to abolish the law of God, but to secure for man a second probation." (E. White, *Testimonies to Ministers*, pg. 134).

But on the other hand she wrote these beautiful gospel statements: "We must not trust in our own merits at all, but in the merits of Jesus of Nazareth." (Ibid, Mar. 11, 1890"). "The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought." (*Gospel Workers*, pg 161).

You can imagine the confusion caused among Adventists when they compare such "Spirit of Prophecy" statements! This sad state of affairs must be attributed directly to Mrs. White's own confused statements. Is it not interesting that Adventism, which claims to have the truth of God while calling other churches "Babylon" (confusion), cannot even agree on something so basic.

What is the Bible's Gospel?

First, the gospel is about Christ (Rom. 1:3); it is as simple as that! Prophecy and sabbatizing or vegetarianism and the condition of the dead are nothing in comparison. The gospel means the good news of Christ's victory. He fought our battle with the enemies of mankind and won (Col. 2:15). In a sense the gospel is a past event; it describes Christ's victory on the cross.

Second, the gospel is a work God did

for mankind; it is never dependent on what a person can do for God. As Paul says in Romans 5:6-10: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.....God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.....if when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! The Bible specifically states that justification is by the grace of Christ's sacrifice alone (Gal. 3:1-5, 10-14; Rom. 11:6). God's law demands unconditional and total obedience (Gal. 3:10); God will destroy all lawbreakers (Rom. 4:15; 7:10); all have sinned and fall short of God's law. Only Christ has lived up to God's standard (Heb. 10:5-10), and thus he fulfilled the law (Matt. 5:17, 18). Furthermore, Jesus became our high priest, offering atonement for us in heaven (Heb. 9:7-14, 24-28). We are thus justified in God's sight. Adventism does not comprehend this grace.

Adventism has inherent problems with the gospel. The liberality and freedom of Paul's epistles conflict strongly with the restrictive legality of Adventism. I challenge my SDA reader to study Paul's epistles in themselves, apart from the context of Ellen White's writings-the two cannot be reconciled.

Adventism teaches the Trinity (at least after 1890), the all-sufficiency of the atonement of Christ (in its own way), and the power of the Golden Rule. It is to be commended for that. Adventism also burdens its followers with needless restrictions and rules, just as the ancient Hebrew Christians sought to burden the Galatians. Paul's inspired denunciation of those Hebrews applies equally to Adventists today. Adventism shouts "Come out of Babylon!" to members of other churches, Adventism itself is utterly confused as to what constitutes the basis of the Christian message-the gospel. Thus Adventism itself is part of Babylon!

Adventists need to come into the sunshine of the pure gospel, and experience new life given freely in Christ.

Are Seventh-day Adventists False Prophets?
This excellent book by Wallace D. Slattery is available for \$6.00 + S&H, BK-33.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM VS. THE BIBLE

(GAL. 1:6-9)

(II TIM. 3:16-17)

SDA (ELLEN WHITE)

VS.

THE SCRIPTURES

1. **A)** You must keep the ten commandments and other ordinances (to pass probation and investigative judgment teachings) to have a chance or opportunity for salvation,

B) especially keeping the Sabbath (the so-called "seal of God.") which means church services are held on Saturdays.

C) If your church worships on Sunday then it has the "**mark of the beast.**"

2) You must obey Old Testament dietary laws. Vegetarianism is very acceptable.

3. The SDA believes in general "soul sleep" for all and annihilation of the wicked. They believe the dead are unconscious and inactive in the grave until resurrection. Resurrected wicked will be annihilated into non-existence after judgment day.

1. The Bible says no. **A)** Eph. 2:15, "by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances that in Himself He might make the two into one, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity." See also Rom. 2, 7, 8, Col. 2, Heb. 8, 9, 10, Rom. 13:8-10, Gal. 4:9-11. Christians are saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ, not by their works of righteousness and keeping commandments: Tit. 3:5, Eph. 2:8-10. A person cannot "work" their way into heaven (see Rom. 10:4, Rom. 3:24-31, II Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9, James 2:10). **B)** The Holy Spirit is the "seal of God" to the believer. II Cor. 1:21-22, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." See also Eph. 1:13-14 cf. Eph. 4:30. Even Jesus was accused of not keeping the Sabbath (John 5:18). **C)** The Bible allows liberty to worship on any given day. Rom. 14:5, "One man regards one day above another... Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind."

2) The Bible says no. Christians are now under New Testament directions for living and eating. Rom 14:14-15, "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. For if because of food your brother is hurt...Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died." See also Col. 2:16, Acts 10:9-16.

3) The Bible says no. II Cor. 5:8 says, "to be absent from the body is to be at home [or present] with the Lord." See also John 11:26, Eph. 2:1-5, Phil. 2:1-5, Rev. 6:9-11. As for the wicked, Rev. 14:9-11 says, "...he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angles...the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, they have no rest day and night..." See also Matt. 25:41-46, Matt. 5:22, 29-30, Rev. 20:10, 14-15, II Thess. 1:9, II Peter 2:4-9, Luke 12:47-48, Mark 14:21. Damnation, Hell, and the Lake of Fire are realities

MINISTRY UPDATE



Steve Morrison

Our Director of Research, Steve Morrison, PhD, has been invited to be one of the featured teachers at the Horizons International Summer Training Institute for Muslim Evangelism in Boulder, Colorado this coming June 6-July 1. Steve's outstanding research on Islam as featured on our website www.muslimhope.com has earned him distinction among Christian missionary organizations. For more information contact www.histime.org or call (303) 442-3333. Upcoming newsletters will update our readers on new videos we have produced on Islam including one of our latest, "Did Mohammed Marry A 9-year Old Girl?", VT or DVD-86, \$6 + S&H, 2 hours.

TOPICAL VIDEOS

Hear experts and apologists analyze these topics (perfect for study groups). You may choose any four of the 28 minute videos below for the single price of \$6.00 + S&H. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order Bahaism, Church of Christ, Mormonism, and Islam; list on order form as CATV- 1, 8, 12, and 16. Four videos on one tape for one low price of \$6.00+ S&H.

- Bahaism (Dr. Frank Beckwith)
- Roman Catholicism #1 (Rob Zins)
- Roman Catholicism #2 (Rob Zins)
- The "King James Only" Cult #1 (Gary Hudson)
- The "King James Only" Cult #2 (Gary Hudson)
- Seventh-day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
- Seventh-day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
- The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
- United Pentecostals (Steve Morrison)
- Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Michael Horton)
- Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Michael Horton)
- Mormonism (Robert McKay)
- Jehovah's Witnesses #1 (Larry Wessels)
- Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
- Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
- Islam (Dr. Samuel Shahid)

If you have friends who wish to be added to the *Christian Answers* mailing list please enclose their names and addresses with your order or correspondence. A free newsletter will be sent to them at your request. There is no subscription price for our newsletter. As each newsletter is ready for distribution it is sent out to our mailing list at no charge. What a deal! Matt. 10:8b.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM VIDEO SERIES

" For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, of if ye receive another Spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel which ye have not accepted, ye might bear with him."
-II Corinthians 11:4

Former members of the Seventh-day Adventist church, Carole and Wallace Slattery (left) join host Larry Wessels in this series.

To most people Seventh-day Adventists are an enigma. Generally all that is known about them is that they go to church on Saturday rather than Sunday and keep rather interesting dietary rules. This video series, featuring two former members with 88 years combined experience in the SDA, investigates the history and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the light of Biblical truth.

- Program #1: History and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventists
- Program #2: Distinctive Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs (continued)
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LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE



Dear Webmaster,

I'm truly impressed with what I've just had a chance to read on your site. Myself a Middle Eastern Studies student, I could say I share every single idea contained in the Source Materials section. Your writing is very insightful and opinionated, the latter probably being the one prominent thing my department at the university totally lacks. Your article on the "Alawites is going to be immensely helpful for the report I have to make.

Faithfully Yours,
Nikita (from the web)

Dear Brethren in the Lord,

I am sending to you today \$50.00 –Australian as a gift. There is no need to send to me free cassettes or other reading material. We are quite happy with the *Christian Answers Newsletter*. My wife and I myself have been most of our lives Jehovah's Witnesses. Twenty-four years ago the living Christ set us free from this demonic cult who are masquerading as angels of light (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Yours In Christ,
S. S. (Tasmania, Australia)

Dear Christian Answers,

Excellent! I have a better understanding of spiritual warfare. I have learned so much from Dr. Ice's article. I thank God for allowing me to be exposed to sound Biblical teachers. I too was caught up in some of these teachings. I prayed and asked God to deliver me and give me His wisdom and give me understanding of His word. He answered my prayers in Jesus' name. I wanted so much to be close to God, to know my

Savior and Lord Jesus –most times we Christians try too hard and yet I have found it is only difficult when we try though our spirit and not by the Holy Spirit. I am, as they say, a work-in-progress. I pray daily for God to help me overcome my flesh, the world, and Satan.

May God Bless You Continually,
M.W. (Silver Spring, Maryland)

Dear Brother Larry,

Greetings and salutations to you. You have a done a great teaching on Catholicism and Islam, and also on Hell, and the TV Evangelists on Austin Cable Access Television.

E.M. (Austin, Texas)

Dear Larry,

Many thanks for kindly sending me materials on a whole range of issues.

May God Bless and Guide You,
J.W. (West York, England)

Dear Christian Answers,

I lost my latest *Christian Answers Newsletter* the one on spiritual warfare. Would you be so kind as to send me a replacement? I would appreciate that very much. Enclosed is a \$50 contribution. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,
H.D.R. (Roseville, MN)

Dear Biblequery.org,

Hi there....I think your site is great!

Sincerely,
Dejan (from the web)

Dear Christian Answers,

Thank you for putting me on your mailing list.

In Christ,
W.E.G. (Taylors, SC)

Dear Muslimhope.com,

Hi there! I am a German who would like to ask if you would allow me to translate some of your articles into German to post them on a German information webpage about Islam? Thanks for an answer.

Bye,
Katrin (from the web)

Dear Larry and Friends,

The "Spurgeon Country" DVD/video arrived the other day and has already been enjoyed! Much thanks! Please accept this \$10 as payment. May God richly bless your ministry and service for Christ!

Yours By Divine Mercy,
Pastor D.B. (Cliffton Park, NY)

Larry,

Great job you are doing. The Thomas Ice article on spiritual warfare was outstanding. Two scriptures I had been wrestling with and had given up understanding in my 34 years as a Christian were fully clarified. Matthew 16:19 was put in proper order and the scripture referring to Christ's saying about binding the strong man presently being misinterpreted to "binding Satan" by us was clarified. I never could understand how we could "bind" Satan and he was continually getting loose again. I look forward to receiving the book and tape. God bless and guide you.

In Christ,
K.O. (Lynchburg, VA)

Dear Steve Morrison,

Your site was sent to our staff members who are interested in Islam and I have to say that I think this is wonderful! Thank you for putting it all together. I'm sure it will be very useful. God bless.

Marj (from the web)

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Address Correction Requested

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- page 1: S.D.A.— True or False?
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- page 6: Ministry Update
- page 8: Letters from the Frontline

“exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict” (Titus1:9)