"SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS"

(Modern Day Judaizers)

The Development of the Movement:

Founder: William Miller (1782-1849)

Prediction: Based on Daniel 8:14, Miller predicted that Christ would return to this world between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844

His reasoning - In Daniel 8:14, the "*2,300 evenings and mornings"* mean 2,300 years. Fixing this 2,300 years from 457 B.C. (when the 70 weeks began to be fulfilled), he found that the year the "cleansing" of Christ's return would be between 1843 and 1844.

2,300
- 457
1,843 or 1,844

His followers were called "Millerites".

When Christ did not return as predicted, Miller confessed his error, stopped all chronological speculation, and left the Seventh Day Adventist movement.

After Miller's departure, three segments of Millerites fused to produce the Seventh Day denomination:

1) Hiram Edson and O.R.L. Crozier received "revelation the day after "the great Disappointment" (October 23, 1844) that Miller was correct about the date but wrong about the place. The sanctuary was not on earth but in Heaven ("Investigative Judgment").

2) Joseph Bates - an early convert to Millerism taught that Sabbath worship must be practiced.

3) Ellen G. White became the pillar of the movement by means of "revelations" she received on Bible interpretation.

Is Seventh Day Adventism a cult?

Yes, for the following reasons:

1. Adventism holds the writings of E.G. White as <u>authoritative</u>.

Ellen G. White's writings are placed on par with the Scriptures (MacGregor citing: <u>Ministry</u> magazine, October, 1981, p. 8).

Strange prophecies and teachings of Ellen G. White:

a. She is claimed to have been a "<u>prophet</u>" and to have to "gift of prophecy" ("Seventh Day Adventists believe . . . A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines" [March, 1989], p. 224-228)

b. She had a "vision" and taught what she called the "<u>shut door</u>" doctrine

(The door of salvation was closed by the Bridegroom [Jesus Christ], based on the parable of Matthew 25:1-13 on October 22, 1844. Only the *"wise virgins"* [obedient Seventh Day Adventists] would be raptured.)

When Christ did not return in 1844, she attempted to cover up and excuse her false prophecy (Selected Messages, Vol. 1, p. 63).

<u>How to Detect a False Prophet</u>:

1. Is his <u>message</u> consistent with Scripture? (Deut. 12:32 - 13:5)

Deut. 12:32-13:5

What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

[13:1] If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, [2] And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; [3] Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. [4] Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. [5] And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

2. Is his <u>life</u> consistent with Biblical Godliness? (Jer. 23:14)

Jeremiah 23:14

I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

3. Does he claim to have received unique revelation from Heaven? (Jer. 23:16, 21, 25-26)

Jeremiah 23:16
Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:21
I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

Jeremiah 23:25-26
I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. [26] How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

4. Does he preach a message of peace and safety to the wicked? (Jer. 23:17)

Jeremiah 23:17
They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

5. What is the fruit of the "prophet's" ministry? (Jer. 23:28-32)

Jeremiah 23:28-32
The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord. [29] Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? [30] Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. [31] Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. [32] Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord.

6. Does he draw disciples to Christ? Or to himself or his religion? (Acts 20:30)

Acts 20:30
Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

c. She taught a "Health Reform" gospel

--"The Gospel includes health reform in all its phases" (Selected Messages, Vol. 3, p. 75)

--"If we subsist largely upon the flesh of dead animals, we shall partake of their nature" (Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 390)

Other strange doctrines:

"He (Adam) was more than twice as tall as men now living upon the earth" (Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 3, p. 34).

"All the angels that are commissioned to visit the earth hold a golden card, which they present to the angel at the gates of the city as they pass in and out" (Early Writings, first edition, p. 30, 32).

While affirming that Jesus is divine, they say that "Jesus is Michael the Archangel."

Note: Daniel 10:13 says Michael is *"one of the chief princes"* (Jesus is not "one of" any group!) (MacGregor, p. 63).

2. Adventism claims exclusivity

They alone avoid the "mark of the Beast" by observing the Sabbath. They alone are the "remnant church."

White accused all other churches of being corrupt, apostate, and Satanic (Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 1, p. 189) (SEE: MacGregor, p. 62).

3. Adventism teaches the doctrine of "Soul Sleep"

(that believers exist in a state of unconsciousness until Resurrection Day.)

Samuel's soul did not sleep (I Sam. 28:18-19).

Moses' and Elijah's souls did not sleep (Mt. 17:1-8).

The thief on the cross's soul did not sleep (Luke 23:43).

When the believer dies, he is:

present with the Lord (II Cor. 5:1-8)

2 Cor. 5:1-8
For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. [2] For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: [3] If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. [4] For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. [5] Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. [6] Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: [7] (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) [8] We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

departed and with Christ (Phil. 1:21-24)

Philip. 1:21-24
For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [22] But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. [23] For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: [24] Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

with Christ at His return (I Th. 4:14)

1 Thes. 4:14
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

a soul in Heaven (Rev. 6:9, 10)

NOTE: When the Bible uses the euphemism of "sleep" in connection with death, it is the language of appearance (our dead physical body has the appearance of sleep, and as it lies in the ground, becomes as a sleeping person, unconscious to the environment and world around it). (Cp. Dan. 12:2; I Th. 4:14).

4. Adventism denies Hell and teaches the doctrine of "Conditional Immortality"

Only believers will exist forever; unbelievers will be annihilated (Questions on Doctrine, p. 543).

The Bible teaches that:

--Unbelievers will endure everlasting punishment as long as the righteous enjoy eternal life (Mt. 25:46).

Matthew 25:46
And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

--See: Mark 9:43, 44, 47, 48

Mark 9:43
And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mark 9:44
Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:47-48
And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: [48] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

--See: II Thes. 1:8, 9
2 Thes. 1:8-9
In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: [9] Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

--See: Rev. 14:10, 11 (cp. Rev. 19:20 & 20:10)
Rev. 14:10-11
The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: [11] And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

5. Adventism teaches the doctrine of Investigative Judgment

Since Christ did not return in 1844 as predicted, Adventism declared that in a sense He partially came (He entered into the second compartment of Heaven's Holy of Holies in 1844), so as to begin what is called "Investigative Judgment."

This "investigation" by Christ is to see who is worthy of eternal life.

Adventists teach that 1844 came to be the date when a work of "final atonement" began which would blot out a believers' sin (MacGregor, p. 71).

However, the Bible teaches that atonement is complete.

Jn. 19:30 - *"It is finished"*
Heb. 10:12 - *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."*
Rom. 5:11 - *"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."*

Christ already knows all (what need does He have to start an investigation?) (Heb. 4:13).
"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

We already have eternal life (Jn. 5:24).
John 5:24
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

6. Adventism teaches that our sins were laid on Satan, who, as the "scapegoat," will bear them (The Great Controversy)
The Bible teaches that our sins were laid on Christ (Is. 53:6, 12; I Pet. 2:24; II Cor. 5:21).
Isaiah 53:6
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:12
Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29).

7. Adventists view themselves as bound to keep "<u>The Law</u>" of the Old Testament

They restrict the Old Testament Law to the Ten Commandments, but God nowhere restricts His Law to ten.

The civil and ceremonial Laws were restricted to the nation of Israel.

<u>Reasons why we cannot be saved by the Law</u>:

1) None has ever kept the Law (Rom. 3:10, 23; Ja. 2:10)

Romans 3:10
As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
Romans 3:23
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

James 2:10
For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

2) The New Covenant <u>replaced</u> the Old Covenant (Jer. 31:31; I Cor. 11:25; Rom. 10:4)

Jeremiah 31:31
Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
1 Cor. 11:25
After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
Romans 10:4
For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

3) The Law was given to condemn, not save (Rom. 3:20; Ga. 3:19)
Romans 3:20
Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
Galatians 3:19
Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

8. Adventists teach total abstinence from *"unclean meats"*

(Such meats as pork, ham, shrimp, lobster, and clams, etc., are forbidden based on Lev. 11.)

Note: Christ ate fish and lamb. Jesus taught that *"meat"* does not defile, but what comes out of the heart does (Mk. 7:18-23).

Paul taught that we could eat any meat (I Cor. 10:25).

--Forbidding the eating of meat would be a doctrine of demons in the Last Days (I Thes. 4:1ff)

--The Old Testament Jewish dietary laws are no longer binding on the church (Acts 10:15).

9. Adventists make the <u>Saturday Sabbath</u> of extreme importance in their plan of salvation

Their name "Seventh Day" shows the importance of this command to their religion.

--The Sabbath was only for the nation of Israel (**Ex. 31:12-18**; Deut. 5:15; Ezek. 20:12).

--The Sabbath was only a shadow of the reality which is in Christ (Col. 2:16, 17).
Col. 2:16-17
Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: [17] Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

--The Sabbath was not an issue over which Christians should judge one another (Rom. 14:4-5).

Romans 14:4-5
Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. [5] One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

--Paul seriously questioned the salvation of those who depended on keeping of Sabbaths and holidays for salvation (Ga. 4:9-11).
Galatians 4:9-11
But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in

bondage? [10] Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. [11] I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

--The early church met on Sunday, evidently in commemoration of the Lord's resurrection (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2).

--There is no command for New Testament Christians to keep the Saturday Sabbath. (See: Romans 13:9)

Romans 13:9
For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

If we are required to keep the Sabbath, then we must keep it exactly as God commanded -

--no fire kindled in your house (Exod. 35:3)
--no baking or boiling done (Exod. 16:23)
--no burden to be borne (Jer. 17:21)
--no work at all (Exod. 31:14)
--no departure from your house (Exod. 16:29)

--stoning for violation (Num. 15:32-36)

If Adventists keep the seventh day, why not also keep the seventh year (the Year of Jubilee)? (Lev. 25:1-22).

Christians would all have to live in warm climates if we strictly kept the Sabbath (Exod. 35:3).

A Christian should not look down upon someone whose ignorant conscience is bound on Sabbath observation.

The problem comes when the Sabbath observer makes keeping the Sabbath a requirement for salvation or an evidence of salvation.

10. Adventism has contaminated grace with extreme legalism and works.

Seventh Day Adventists are Judaizers in modern clothing. The book of Galatians is best in dealing with them.

See: Galatians

1) We are saved by grace not works of the Law (Gal. 2:16, 21: 3:10-13)

2) Our works of the flesh cannot save us or even help keep us saved (Gal. 3:1-3)

3) We are liberated from legalism in Christ (Gal. 2:4; 5:1)

   Legalism is the addition of rules to produce spirituality or salvation. We are free from the civil and ceremonial Law's binding restrictions and condemnation (NOTE: Gal. 5:13).

4) Let us glory only in the cross (Gal. 6:14)

CONCLUSION:

How to Witness to Seventh Day Adventists:

1) Know their doctrine
   (their deviations are subtle)

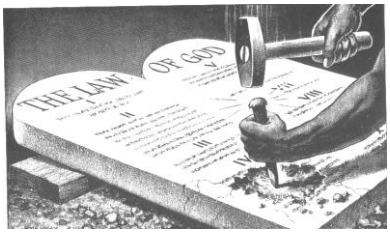
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   They don't have any assurance of salvation.

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The Bible teaches that our sins were laid on Christ (Is. 53:6, 12; I Pet. 2:24; II Cor. 5:21). Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29).

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How to Detect a False Prophet:

1. Is his message consistent with Scripture? (Deut. 12:32 - 13:5)

2. Is his life consistent with Biblical Godliness? (Jer. 23:14)

3. Does he claim to have received unique revelation from Heaven? (Jer. 23:16, 21, 25-26)

4. Does he preach a message of peace and safety to the wicked? (Jer. 23:17)

5. What is the fruit of the "prophet's" ministry? (Jer. 23:28-32)

6. Does he draw disciples to Christ? Or to himself or his religion? (Acts 20:30)

2. **Adventism claims <u>exclusivity</u>**

3. **Adventism teaches the doctrine of "<u>Soul Sleep</u>"**

4. **Adventism denies Hell and teaches the doctrine of "<u>Conditional Immortality</u>"**

5. **Adventism teaches the doctrine of <u>Investigative Judgment</u>**

Since Christ did not return in 1844 as predicted, Adventism declared that in a sense He partially came (He entered into the second compartment of Heaven's Holy of Holies in 1844), so as to begin what is called "<u>Investigative Judgment</u>."
This "investigation" by Christ is to see who is worthy of eternal life.
Adventists teach that 1844 came to be the date when a work of "final <u>atonement</u>" began which would blot out a believers' sin (MacGregor, p. 71).
However, the Bible teaches that atonement is <u>complete</u>.

Jn. 19:30 - *"It is finished"*

Heb. 10:12 - *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."*

Rom. 5:11 - *"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."*

6. **Adventism teaches that our sins were laid on <u>Satan</u>, who, as the "scapegoat," will bear them** (The Great Controversy)

   The Bible teaches that our sins were laid on Christ (Is. 53:6, 12; I Pet. 2:24; II Cor. 5:21).
   Christ is the Lamb of God who <u>takes away</u> the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29).

7. **Adventists view themselves as bound to keep "<u>The Law</u>" of the Old Testament**

   <u>Reasons why we cannot be saved by the Law</u>:

   1) None has ever kept the Law (Rom. 3:10, 23; Ja. 2:10)
   2) The New Covenant <u>replaced</u> the Old Covenant (Jer. 31:31; I Cor. 11:25; Rom. 10:4)
   3) The Law was given to condemn, not save (Rom. 3:20; Ga. 3:19)

8. **Adventists teach total abstinence from *"unclean meats"***
   Jesus taught that *"meat"* does not defile, but what comes out of the heart does (Mk. 7:18-23).

   Paul taught that we could eat any meat (I Cor. 10:25).
   --Forbidding the eating of meat would be a doctrine of demons in the Last Days (I Thes. 4:1ff)
   --The Old Testament Jewish dietary laws are no longer binding on the church (Acts 10:15).

9. Adventists make the <u>Saturday Sabbath</u> of extreme importance in their plan of salvation

--The Sabbath was only for the nation of Israel (Ex. 31:12-18; Deut. 5:15; Ezek. 20:12).

--The Sabbath was only a shadow of the reality which is in Christ (Col. 2:16, 17).

--The Sabbath was not an issue over which Christians should judge one another (Rom. 14:4-5).

--Paul seriously questioned the salvation of those who depended on keeping of Sabbaths and holidays for salvation (Ga. 4:9-11).

--The early church met on Sunday, evidently in commemoration of the Lord's resurrection (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2).

--There is <u>no</u> command for New Testament Christians to keep the Saturday Sabbath. (See: Romans 13:9)

If we are required to keep the Sabbath, then we must keep it exactly as God commanded -

--no fire kindled in your house (Exod. 35:3)
--no baking or boiling done (Exod. 16:23)
--no burden to be borne (Jer. 17:21)
--no work at all (Exod. 31:14)
--no departure from your house (Exod. 16:29)
--<u>stoning</u> for violation (Num. 15:32-36)

10. Adventism has contaminated grace with extreme legalism and works.

Seventh Day Adventists are Judaizers in modern clothing. The book of Galatians is best in dealing with them.

1) We are saved by grace not works of the Law (Gal. 2:16, 21: 3:10-13)

2) Our works of the flesh cannot save us or even help keep us saved (Gal. 3:1-3)

3) We are liberated from legalism in Christ (Gal. 2:4; 5:1)

   Legalism is the addition of rules to produce spirituality or salvation. We are free from the civil and ceremonial Law's binding restrictions and condemnation (NOTE: Gal. 5:13).

4) Let us glory only in the cross (Gal. 6:14)

How to Witness to Seventh Day Adventists:

1) Know their doctrine
   (their deviations are subtle)
2) Give them the Gospel
   (emphasize the finished work of Christ)
3) Stress their need to separate from the S.D.A. church
   (Rom. 16:17)