"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 authoritative.

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

Strange prophecies and teachings of Ellen G. White:

a. She is claimed to have been a "prophet" 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 "shut door" 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).

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)

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)
departed and with Christ (Phil. 1:21-24)
with Christ at His return (I Th. 4:14)
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).

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

--See: II Thes. 1:8, 9

--See: Rev. 14:10, 11 (cp. Rev. 19:20 & 20:10)

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).

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).

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 "The Law" 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.

Reasons why we cannot be saved by the Law:

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

2) The New Covenant replaced 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"*

(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 Saturday Sabbath 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).

--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 no 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)

--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.

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)

2) Give them the Gospel
   (emphasize the finished work of Christ)

   They don't have any assurance of salvation.

3) Stress their need to separate from the S.D.A. church
   (Rom. 16:17)

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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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