



A Summary of Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs

Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church

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The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a Christian denomination. The name comes from the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath and a belief in the second coming (advent) of Jesus. The Bible is the source of our Christian beliefs. Adventists attend church on Saturday in honor of day upon which God rested from His work of creation, blessed and set it apart for the benefit of His creation. It is also the day upon which Jesus rested in the tomb from His work of salvation so that we could be blessed and set apart for Him.

We welcome all people who wish to join us as we worship God and fellowship with Him and one another. The most important function of the church is to reveal and demonstrate, in our lives and in our teaching, the character of God, which is love. We proclaim His love to people living in a troubled world that they might discover the hope Jesus offers them. We would love to have you become part of our church family.

The beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are summarized below. They are written to convey the basic meaning of each belief and to show how they are consistent with and help us to understand more clearly the character of God. A link to the formal, official statement of our beliefs are found on the last page of this booklet.

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

1. The Holy Scriptures: The Bible is the Word of God, written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit and reveals God's love to us. The Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as the Holy Spirit moved them. The Scriptures are the authoritative (infallible) revelation of God's character and will. (2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Philippians 2:12-16; Psalms 119:105, 111; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:19-20; John 17:14-17; Acts 17:10-11; John 5:39-40; Hebrews 4:12.)

2. The Trinity: There is one God who is revealed in the unity of three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who is the eternal God of love. They have personal characteristics that

distinguish them from humanity, such as their power to create and sustain life. They also have characteristics they convey to us, such as love, compassion, grace and righteousness. God is worthy of our worship, praise and service. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 14:7.)

3. The Father: God the eternal Father, motivated by His unconditional love, is the Creator, Source and Sustainer of life, Redeemer and Ruler of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and overflowing in unconditional love and faithfulness. (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:9-11; 1 Chronicles 29:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 64:8; John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:7-9; Exodus 34:6-7; Exodus 34:6-7; Matthew 7:9-11; Matthew 6:6; John 14:1-11; John 20:15-17; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 3:14-15; Hebrews 12:9-10; 1 John 3:1-2.)

4. The Son: Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity and came to reveal the love of God for sinful humanity. He has always existed with the Father. He, too, is the Creator, Source, and Sustainer of life, Redeemer and Ruler of all creation. He is the true Lamb of God, who voluntarily gave His life to become the Savior of mankind. In the plan of salvation, He chose to be born as a human—conceived of the Holy Spirit and born to Mary. Thus as the unique Son of Man/Son of God and Messiah, He came to reveal the Father to us. He lived for us, died for us, was raised for us and intercedes as our High Priest in heaven. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people, to put an end to sin and to restore all things to their original purpose and intent for which He created them. (John 1:1-5, 10, 14; Colossians 1:12-20; John 10:24-33; 14:1-11; Romans 6:22-23; John 1:29; John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; John 5:18-23; Luke 1:34-35; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:9-18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Hebrews 8:1, 2.)

5. The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who imparts God's love in and through His people. He has always existed with the Father and Son. He was active with the Father and Son at creation, the incarnation and in providing the plan of salvation. He is God's representative on earth. He is the

divine agent of conversion, of transformation of our lives and of empowering and gifting us for ministry to other people. (Genesis 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.)

THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

6. Creation: God, created all things out of His great love for humanity. Scripture states that in six days God made heaven and earth. He rested on the seventh day, the Sabbath, for the purpose of enjoying fellowship and expressing his love to Adam and Eve, the first man and woman who were created in His image as the crowning act of creation. He then charged them with caring for the earth. (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:8-11; Psalms 19:1-6; 33:6-9; 104; Romans 1:18-23; Hebrews 11:3.)

7. Humanity: Man and woman were created in the image of God and for His glory that they might have a relationship with God. Man and woman were created in the image of God, as the crowning work of Creation, with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon God and fell from their high position under God becoming subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences and are born with weaknesses and tendencies to selfishness and evil. Thus our natures are fallen and we are born separated from God. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7; Psalms 8:3-9; Acts 17:24-28; Genesis 3; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Psalms 51:10; Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14, 17-18.)

THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

8. The Great Controversy: The character of God and His love is at the center of the controversy between God and Satan. This controversy began in heaven when sin was found in Lucifer, the archangel. He then led a rebellion against God and a third of the angels fell with him. The rebellion spread to this earth after Lucifer, now called Satan, enticed Adam and Eve to sin. This sin

resulted in the spread of evil and wickedness. The plan of salvation was instituted by God to save humanity and to vindicate His character of love. The death and resurrection of Christ ensured God's victory in the controversy with Satan. (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Genesis 3; Revelation 12:3-12; Romans 1:18-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Genesis 6-8; 1 Corinthians 4:9; Hebrews 1:14; 2 Peter 3:3-7.)

19A. The Law of God: God's law of love reveals His perfect character and our failure to fulfill its demands. The first and primary function of God's law is to reveal the holy character of God and humanity's failure to fulfill its commands. The law points out our sin and need of a savior. It is the standard that is used in the judgment. (Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 7:5-14; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Galatians 3:19-29; Matthew 5:17-20; Psalms 40:1-8; James 2:10-13.)

9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ are the ultimate revelations of God's love for us and is the only provision for the redemption of fallen humanity. Because of the work of Christ, God gives us grace, God's power to forgive our sins, transform our hearts and lives and empower us to serve Him and minister in His behalf. This is received and accomplished by faith, trusting in Him as Savior and Lord. (John 3:16-18; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Isaiah 53; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 20-23; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Romans 1:1-4; 3:21-26; 4:21-25; 8:1-11; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:9-10; Colossians 2:12-15; Philippians 2:5-11.)

10. The Experience of Salvation: Through the love and grace of God we are saved, past present and future. The Christian life includes our conversion or turning to God, our acceptance with God (justification), the inside-out transformation of our lives (sanctification) and the final, ultimate change that will take place at the second coming when we receive our perfect, immortal bodies (glorification). This all occurs through the power of God's grace, which we receive by faith or trusting in His provision as revealed in His Word. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; John 3:14-17; Galatians 1:3-4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:7-11; Galatians 3:13-14; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Romans 10:13-17; Luke 17:3-5; Mark 9:20-24; Ephesians 2:4-10; Romans 3:21-26; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-28; John

3:1-8; 1 Peter 1:21-23; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 8:7-12; Ezekiel 36:25-28; 2 Peter 1:2-4; Romans 8:1-11; 5:6-11.)

11. Growing in Christ: All Christians are called to be followers of Jesus. They are disciples who are secure in the love of God and are continually growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. This is accomplished through the following gifts of grace that are all important means of experiencing freedom in Christ and Christian growth into the likeness of Christ: the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives; the study of God's Word; regular times of prayer, worship, study and fellowship with other believers; and sharing with others our understanding and experience of God's character and His grace. (Psalms 1:1-3; 23:1-4; 77:11-15; Colossians 1:9-14; 2:6-7, 13-15; Ephesians 5:15-21; 6:10-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:17-18; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Philippians 3:7-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Matt 20:25-28; John 20:21-23; Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Hebrews 10:19-25.)

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

12. The Church: The church, created in love by God for the benefit of His people, is the grace-filled community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The church is described and defined in the Bible through the following metaphors: it is a building with Christ as the foundation; it is a body with a variety of parts that function together with Christ as the head; it is a family with God as our Father and we are brothers and sisters who belong to one another and who support, encourage and help one another; it is the bride of Christ, made up of the redeemed of all the ages, whom He loved so much He gave His life that He might present it pure and glorious when He comes again. (Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 7:37-38; Ephesians 4:11-15; 3:8-11; Matthew 28:16-20; 16:13-20; Matthew 18:15-20; Ephesians 2:18-22; 1:22-23; 5:23-27; Colossians 1:16-18.)

13. The Remnant and Its Mission: Before the second coming of Jesus, God sends an end time loving message, to warn and call for people to return and worship Him. The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ. In the last days a remnant has been called out to guard, honor and observe the

commandments of God and to hold to the faith of Jesus. This is accomplished through the proclamation of the gospel and focuses people's attention on the first four commandments with a call to worship God, to give Him glory, to announce the arrival of the judgment hour that will reveal those who have truly accepted God, and urges them to worship the Lord of the Sabbath. (Revelation 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 Peter 1:13-21; 2 Peter 3:9-14.)

14. Unity in the Body of Christ: The church is one body with many members who belong to God and to each other and care for one another. Since we are all purchased by the blood of Christ, we all have the Holy Spirit living in us and all are in the process of being transformed into the likeness of God. We will seek to love, encourage, support and build up one another. This is a miracle of God's grace that takes place without any distinction based on race, gender, social status, educational or cultural privileges, age or material status. We come together and receive forgiveness at the foot of the cross. We stand before the open door of the tomb and find power to change our lives. We come boldly before the throne of grace because we accept God's invitation to live in His presence. (Romans 12:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Matthew 28:16-20; Psalms 133:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Acts 17:26-28; Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:10-17; Ephesians 4:1-6; 4:11-16; John 17:20-23.)

15. Baptism: Baptism is the public demonstration of our love and commitment to Christ and of God's love and commitment to us. Baptism is a symbol of our turning to God, the washing away of our sin, our being raised to live a new life, and our receiving the character of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and declare our death to sin and our purpose to experience and live a new life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior, become His people, and are received as members by His church. (Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:12-13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:12-16; 2:36-39; Matthew 28:16-20.)

16. The Lord's Supper: It is our privilege to participate in the Lord's Supper that Jesus established to give us loving reminders of His work on the cross. When we participate in the foot

washing service and the Lord's Supper we express our faith in Christ as our Lord and Savior. When we receive the symbols of cleansing and of the body and blood of Jesus we joyfully proclaim we believe and accept the Lord's death in our behalf until He comes again. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-43; Matthew 26:17-30; John 6:48-63; John 13:1-17.)

17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries: Because God desires as many as possible to be saved, in love He gives spiritual gifts to all members who are involved in genuine ministry to others. Spiritual gifts are still given, by grace, to God's people in all ages. It is God who determines the gifts that are to be given to His people for the purpose of evangelism, to nurture and bring God's people to spiritual faith and maturity. (Romans 12:3-18; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:7-16; Acts 2; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:8-11.)

18. The Gift of Prophecy: Since God is love, He desires to communicate and guide His people. One of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives the church is to give her prophets. Not every prophet mentioned in the Bible became authors of a Biblical book. God used them at special times to communicate with His people. We believe God has given the Seventh-day Adventist Church a prophet in the person and writings of Ellen G. White. While the Bible is still the ultimate source of truth, her writings are, in her own words, "a lesser light to lead us to a greater light". (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:14-21; Hebrews 1:1-3; Judges 4:4; Luke 2:36-38; Acts 21:8-9; Revelation 12:17; 19:10.)

THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

19B. The Law of God: The law of God expresses God's character, which is love, and as part of the new covenant God writes it on the believers' heart. The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and summed up in our love for God and our love and concern for our fellow man. The law of God has a place in the life of Christians living after the cross under the New Covenant or agreement. Salvation comes to us as a result of God's grace and not because of our good deeds. Under the New Covenant the law is written on our

hearts, thus transforming us by grace and empowering us to an obedience that reaches not just our outward conduct, but our inner attitudes and motives. Obedience to the commandments is not accomplished out of fear of punishment or mere duty, but out of love for God, a desire to please Him and because we have become new creations. (Psalm 40:1-8; Matthew 22:34-40; James 2:10-13; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Hebrews 8:10-13; Psalm 19:7-14; John 15:7-10; 1 John 5:2-3; Romans 8:1-5.)

20. The Sabbath: God created the Sabbath, even before sin entered the world, for the benefit of humanity to give us one day out of seven for spiritual, emotional, social and physical renewal.

The compassionate and caring Creator, after six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. It is an eternal gift of love to remind us of our need to rest in God's finished work of creation and redemption, to depend on our Creator for our physical needs and our Redeemer for our spiritual needs. On the first Sabbath, God rested from His work, blessed it and set it apart as a day for communion and fellowship with Adam and Eve, the crowning work of His creation. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and with one another and a time for rejuvenation. Adventists joyfully celebrate this holy time from Friday evening to Saturday evening, from sunset to sunset, as a special time with God, in fellowship with other Christians and in ministry and service to others. (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 4:16; Isaiah 56:1-7; 58:11-14; Matthew 12:1-12; Exodus 31:12-17; Ezekiel 20:12, 19-20; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Hebrews 4:1-11; Revelation 14:6-7; Mark 1:21, 32-34.)

21. Stewardship: As a means of teaching us to always acknowledge Him, depend on Him and proclaim His loving, generous character to others, God has created a partnership with us. We acknowledge God's claim of ownership on our lives by wisely using our time, talents, physical strength and the money and possessions we have for His glory. We gladly return our tithes and offerings for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel and supporting the church. An important side benefit of returning tithes and giving offerings is that God gives us a generous heart and removes selfishness and greed from our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chronicles 29:10-18; Haggai 1:3-

11; Malachi 3:8-12; 1 Corinthians 9:9-14; Matthew 23:23; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Romans 15:26-27.)

22. A Journey in Christian Living (Lifestyle): Whatever we do in our daily lives, we are doing it for the glory of God. While God accepts us as we are, He loves us too much to leave us that way. We are called to conduct our lives in newness of life. That means that our relationship with God will affect us in our families, in our work, in our recreation, in what we read, watch and listen to. It will affect the way we dress, and how we care for our bodies, in which the Holy Spirit dwells. The fruit of the Spirit will effectively replace the man-made and often devil inspired quests for meaning and purpose in life or for coping with the dilemmas and difficulties we face. Therefore, we won't rely on alcohol or drugs, since the Spirit provides the peace and joy that lasts. The Spirit filled life will create such a lifestyle so that neither God, nor we will be embarrassed or ashamed by how we live. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:3-6; Ephesians 5:1-21; Philippians 4:8-9; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; 6:11-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:31; Leviticus 11:1-47; 3 John 1:2-4.)

23. Marriage and the Family: God divinely established marriage in Eden and Jesus affirmed it to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. Marriage is a commitment to God and to each other, for God is the source of human love. Mutual love, honor, trust, respect, and responsibility are the basis of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. God hates divorce, because He recognizes the deep emotional pain and heartache it usually creates.

God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that God is a loving Father, ever tender and caring, whose greatest desire is for them to become members of His family. God can bring families together in love in far deeper ways than we can experience without Him. (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Ephesians 5:21-33; Matthew 5:31-32; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-4; Mark 10:11, 12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 22:6; Malachi 4:5, 6.)

THE DOCTRINE OF ESCHATOLOGY (LAST DAY EVENTS)

24. The Final Judgment: Before Christ returns to the earth, Christ, as the Son of Man, comes to the Ancient of Days, God the Father, and stands before Him. Both Christ, and the Father are involved in this Judgment. The Final Judgment, which confirms the decision as to who will be saved, must take place before the Second Coming when Christ returns with His rewards. All who have repented and by faith claimed the blood of Christ's atoning sacrifice have received pardon. Christ and the Father can declare salvation to those who follow Christ, not on the basis of how many good deeds they have performed, but because they have accepted Christ's robe of righteousness. God intends this good news of Christ's closing ministry to go to the entire world before Christ's return. Central to this message is the everlasting gospel, which is to be proclaimed with a sense of urgency because the "hour of God's judgment has come" Jesus Christ, in His twofold capacity of sacrifice and priest, ministers before the Father on our behalf. Because we have a great High Priest, Jesus Christ the Son of God, we need not fear the Final Judgment but can come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. (Hebrews 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:1-3; 2:16-18; Daniel 7:9-27; 8:13-14; 9:20-27; Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:5-6; Leviticus 16; Revelation 14:6-7; 20:12; 14:12-13; 22:12-14.)

25. The Second Coming of Christ: The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. His coming will be literal, personal, audible, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, those who have died trusting in Christ will be resurrected. The believers who are alive will join them and they will be glorified and taken to heaven for 1,000 years. (Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:6-11; Matthew 24:3-14; Revelation 1:7-8; Matthew 24:42-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 14:14-20; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10.)

26. Death and Resurrection: In His dealings with the saints (His people) God remains a God of love, holiness and justice. All have sinned. But God will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day, death is an unconscious state, where the dead know

nothing. When Christ appears, the resurrected believers and the living believers will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. (Romans 6:22-23; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6; Psalm 6:1-5; Psalm 115:17-18; John 11:11-14; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 5:26-29; Revelation 20:1-6.)

27. End of Sin and Vindication of God: In His dealings with saints and sinners, God remains a God of love, holiness and justice.

Through the process of the judgment that takes place prior to His return, during the 1,000 years in heaven and the destruction of the wicked at the end of the that time period, sin will be eradicated from the universe. The wages of sin is death. (Revelation 20; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Jeremiah 4:23-26; Romans 6:22-23; Revelation 21:1-8; Malachi 4:1; Ezekiel 28:12-19.)

28. The New Earth: After the 1,000 years in heaven, Christ will return, along with all His angels and the redeemed. He will recreate the earth and will provide a glorious home for the redeemed with a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning. But above all, God Himself will dwell with His people, and sin, suffering and death will exist no more. (Matthew 5:5; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Isaiah 35; 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-27; 22.)

If you have any questions about any of our beliefs or would like someone to study or dialogue with you, please don't hesitate to call our church or contact one of the pastors or members. For the official statement of beliefs, which are written in a more formal and theological manner, you can visit the following link: www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html



The logo of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

The lines at the top of the design suggest a continued upward momentum symbolizing the resurrection and ascension to heaven of Christ's second coming - the ultimate focus of our faith.

The Flame: This shape is formed by three lines encircling an implied sphere. The lines represent the three angels of Revelation 14 circling the globe and our commission to take the gospel to the entire world. The overall shape forms a flame symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

The Cross: The symbol of the cross, representing the gospel of salvation, is positioned in the center of the design to emphasize Christ's sacrifice, which is the central theme of our faith.

The Open Bible: The Bible forms the base of the design and represents the Biblical foundation of our beliefs. It is portrayed in a fully opened position suggesting a full acceptance of God's word.