

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Adventism began in Massachusetts in 1831, under the leadership of Wm. Miller. In 1833, in Low Hampton, New York, he began to preach that the end of the world was at hand, publishing a pamphlet entitled, "Evidences from Scripture and History of the Second Coming of Christ about the year 1843, and of His Personal Reign of One Thousand Years".

When this prophecy failed, he declared he had erred in his calculation and set the time in 1844. This likewise failing, he set 1845 as the year. The third failure divided his followers and out of the fragments Seventh-Day Adventism was constructed. Adding some new doctrine, the principal one of which was Sabbath-keeping, that is, Saturday,—for to this time all the followers of Miller had kept Sunday—Elder James White and his wife, in 1846, became the leaders of the Seventh-Day branch of Adventism.

As a result of various divisions, there are now six bodies of Adventists, viz.: Advent Christians, Church of God, Churches of God in Jesus Christ, Evangelical Adventists, Life and Advent Union and Seventh-Day Adventists. As a rule, all these divisions now simply wait for the second coming of Christ without making any attempt to set the date thereof. Three things characterize all Adventist teaching: Prophecy, the Sabbath and the Sleep of the Soul.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM TEACHES:

- I. That there were two separate laws given at Sinai.
 1. The one written on stones which was deposited in the ark and related only to moral duties.
 2. The other given to Moses privately and written with a pen in a book which was deposited in a receptacle by the side of the ark and related only to ceremonial duties (Deut. 31: 26).
(Synopsis of Present Truth, page 255.)

THE BIBLE:

- I. Knows only one law (II Chron. 31: 3; Neh. 8: 2, 3, 8, 14, 18; Psa. 19: 7; Mal. 4: 4).
 1. King David had a copy of the book of the law Deut. 17: 15-19).
 2. The "book of the law" contained all five books of the Pentateuch.
 - (1.) I Cor. 14: 34 refers to Gen. 3: 16.
 - (2.) Joshua 8: 31 quotes Ex. 20: 25.
 - (3.) Ezra 6: 18 quotes Num. 3: 6.
 - (4.) Matt. 22: 36-40 quotes Lev. 19: 18.
 - (5.) II Kings 14: 6 quotes Deut 24: 16.
 3. The "Book of the Law" deposited in the receptacle by the side of the ark quotes the ten commandments twice (Ex. 20: 1-17; Deut. 5: 6-22).
 4. The law of the Lord contained both so-called moral and ceremonial law (II Chron. 31: 3; Matt. 22: 36-40; Lev. 19: 1-37).
 5. Moral things are holy in themselves, but ceremonial things are made holy by commandment (Mark 2: 27).
 6. The Sabbath commandment is part of the ceremonial law and was made holy by commandment (Ex. 20: 8).
 7. Greatest commandment not found in the decalogue (Matt. 22: 36-40; Mark 12: 29, 31).
- II. That the ceremonial law "only" was nailed to the cross and that the decalogue is still binding.

THE BIBLE:

1. The law includes all of the Pentateuch.
2. The law only given to the Jew (Ex. 20: 1-17; Deut 4: 8; 5: 1; Mal. 4: 4; Rom. 2: 14).
3. The ten commandments done away (II Cor. 3: 7-11).
4. The ten commandments called a covenant (Ex.

34: 27, 28; Deut. 4: 12; 9: 9; I Kings 8: 9, 21; II Chron. 5: 10; 6: 11).

5. Covenant of the decalogue abolished (Jer. 31: 31-34; Zech. 11: 10-14; Heb. 8: 6-13; Heb. 9: 15-17).
6. Decalogue consists of ordinances because they are laws, statutes and commandments and as such are done away (Eph. 2: 15; Cor. 2: 14-17).
7. The whole law done away at the cross (Acts 15: 1-11; Rom. 6: 14; 7: 1-7; Gal. 3: 23-25; 4: 1-8, 21; Heb. 7: 11-12).
8. The law was a curse and we are redeemed from the curse (Gal. 3: 13).

III. That we are to keep the Sabbath Day.

THE BIBLE:

1. The Sabbath is part of the decalogue and the ten commandments are done away (II Cor. 3: 7-11).
2. The weekly sabbath associated with meats, drinks and feast days (Num. 28: 3, 4, 9, 10, 11-15, 16; 29: 39; I Chron. 23: 30, 31; II Chron. 2: 4; 8: 13; 31: 3; Neh. 10: 33; Ezek. 45: 17).
 - (1.) All blotted out (Hosea 2: 11; Col. 2: 14-17).
3. Sabbath only a shadow and the shadow is supplanted by the substance (Heb. 4: 1-11; 10: 1; Gal. 4: 10, 11).
4. Apostles never taught Sabbath keeping, but they DID teach meeting upon the first day of the week (Acts 20: 7; I Cor. 16: 1-2).

NOTE: If it was intended that we should keep the Sabbath it is strange that the apostles did not teach the heathen, who knew nothing about Sabbath keeping, to keep the Sabbath.

5. All days are of equal importance now (Rom. 14: 5).

IV. That the decalogue was not done away in the abolition of the old covenant.

"If the ten commandments constituted the old covenant, then they are gone forever." (Two Covenants, page 5, Elder Smith.)

THE BIBLE:

1. The ten commandments are called a covenant (Ex. 34: 27, 28; Deut. 4: 12, 13; Deut. 5: 2-7; 9: 9; I Kings 8: 9, 21; II Chron. 5: 10; 6: 11).

(1.) A covenant is an agreement between two people to do a certain thing.

(Ex. 19: 3-8) People promise to obey.

(Ex. 19: 9-25) People prepare to hear God's voice.

(Ex. 20: 1-17) God speaks the ten commandments to the people.

(Ex. 24: 3) Moses rehearses to the people the words of the Lord.

(Ex. 24: 3) The people agree to obey.

(Ex. 24: 4) Moses wrote all the words of the Lord in a book and read it to them.

(Ex. 24: 7) The third time the people agreed to obey.

(Ex. 24: 8) Moses sealed this covenant with blood.

(2.) This is the first covenant because Paul, quoting (Ex. 24: 8), calls it the first covenant (Heb. 9: 18-20).

a. The decalogue was written on stones called the "tables of the covenant" (Ex. 24: 7).

b. The decalogue was written in a book called the "book of the covenant" (Ex. 24: 7).

c. The ark in which the decalogue was placed is called the ark of the covenant (Deut. 31: 26).

2. It was prophesied that the covenant was to be

done away (Jer. 31: 31-34). Israel broke this covenant.

3. The prophecy fulfilled (Heb. 8: 6-13). Paul quotes (Jer. 31: 31-34), and says it is fulfilled in the Gospel.
4. The decalogue covenant is done away (II Cor. 3: 3-11; Gal. 4: 21-24).
5. Christians do not go to Mt. Sinai or the Old Testament or covenant any more, but to Jesus and the new covenant (Heb. 12: 18-24).
6. The ark of the covenant is to be forgotten (Jer. 3: 16, 17).
7. The new covenant is sealed with blood (Heb. 9: 11-22; Col. 2: 14).

V. That the soul sleeps after death.

1. God is the Father of spirits (John 3: 6; Acts 17: 29; James 2: 26).
2. Paul speaks of the spirits of just men made perfect (Heb. 12: 22-24).
3. The spirit does not die with the body (Eccl. 3: 21; 12: 7; Luke 23: 42, 43; Acts 7: 59; II Cor. 4: 16; 5: 1-8).
4. The departed spirits are conscious (Matt. 17: 3; 22: 32; Luke 16: 19-31; Rev. 6: 9-11; I Peter 3: 18-21).
5. The body is said to sleep in the grave, but not the spirit (Matt. 27: 52).

VI. That it doesn't make any difference what name you wear.

1. Adam and his wife wore the same name (Gen. 5: 2).
2. Adam is a type of Christ (Rom. 5: 14).

NOTE: Adam being a type or figure of Christ, then his wife would be a type of Christ's wife—the Church. Adam and his wife wearing the same name and both being types pictures the

fact that Christ and His wife should wear the same name.

3. It was prophesied that when salvation went out from Jerusalem and the Gentiles should see righteousness that a new name should be given by the mouth of the Lord.
4. This prophecy fulfilled.
 - (1.) Salvation went out from Jerusalem (Luke 24: 47; Acts 2: 1-47).
 - (2.) The Gentiles saw His righteousness (Acts 10: 1-48; 11: 1).
 - (3.) The new name was immediately given when these prophecies were fulfilled (Acts 11: 25, 26).

NOTE: The name, "Christian", is a new name. The name, disciple, is not new, for Moses had disciples. The name, "brethren", is not a new name, for they were called brethren in the Old Testament. The name, "saint", is not a new name, for they were called saints in times past, but the name, "Christian", is absolutely new.

5. We are to suffer in the name, "Christian" (I Peter 4: 16).
6. There is no salvation promised in any other name (Acts 4: 12).

VII. That the observance of the Lord's Supper at regular intervals is unimportant.

THE BIBLE:

1. The early Church observed the Lord's Supper weekly (Acts 2: 42; Acts 20: 7).
2. There is no life in us if we do not observe this (John 6: 53).

VIII. That we may expect Christ's return any time now.

NOTE: The Adventists had set dates for the second advent of Christ in 1843, Oct. 1844. (Life Incidents, pp. 72, 166, 167), 1845. (A Word for the Little Flock, by James White,

p. 22), 1847, '50, '52, '54, '55, '63, '66, '68, '77
(dates set by other Adventists).

THE BIBLE:

1. There is to come a time of blessedness when man's length of life shall be increased, when man shall enjoy the labor of his hands, when the land shall bring forth abundantly, when prayer shall be answered before the call is made, and when peace shall reign supreme, and since this has not come yet, Christ can not return (Isa. 65: 20-25).
2. The heavens must receive Christ until the restitution of all things (Acts 3: 20, 21).
NOTE: There are still thorns whereas before the curse was placed on the earth there were none.
3. The Jews are yet to believe before Christ returns (Rom. 11: 1-36).
4. He is to come when all enemies have been put under His feet and when the last enemy, which is death, shall be destroyed (I Cor. 15: 24-26).
NOTE: There still is death.

WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO

1. No man is justified by the law (Gal. 2: 16).
2. Those looking to the law for salvation are called fools by Paul (Gal. 2: 16).
3. No Old Testament law was based on faith, therefore could not save, for "the just shall live by faith" (Gal. 3: 11, 12; Rom. 1: 17; Heb. 11: 6).
4. All under the law were under the curse (Gal. 3: 13).
5. No inheritance through any Old Testament law (Gal. 3: 18).
6. The law was not given to save people, but to bring a Saviour (Gal. 3: 19).
7. If any Old Testament law could have given life, Christ would not have come (Gal. 3: 21).

8. Those under the law had to be redeemed (Gal. 4: 1-5).
9. Those who keep the law are fallen from grace (Gal. 5: 4).

All quotations taken from Synopsis of Present Truth and Two Covenants.