

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
SDA Compared to What We Believe Pt1
Seventh-Day Adventist Background
Scripture Text: Romans 14:1–6
04/29/2018

Romans 14:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴ Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

“We want God to change our circumstances, but God wants to use our circumstances to change us.”

¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things.

There are some key differences in every faith (belief). I try to separate them into two categories, those things that are essential and those things that are non-essential. For example, to me, what any religion or denomination thinks of Jesus is very essential. We call it the Litmus test. The practice of observing the Lord's Supper once a month is not an essential item. It just may be a matter of choice.

We will begin looking at the denomination of Seventh-Day Adventist. Let me say from the outset that this denomination is probably closer to what we believe than the others we looked

What is the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination?

The **Seventh-day Adventist Church** is a Protestant Christian denomination distinguished by its observance of Saturday, the **seventh day** of the week in Christian and Jewish calendars, as the Sabbath, and by its emphasis on the imminent Second Coming (advent) of Jesus Christ.

The word “ADVENT” is defined as the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. ² In Christianity it refers to the coming or second coming of Christ. (MW)

Some facts about the SDA”

- Founded: May 21, 1863, Battle Creek, MI
- Aid organization: Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- Hospitals: 175
- Headquarters: Silver Spring, MD
- Members: 20,008,779
- Founders: Ellen G. White, James Springer White, Joseph Bates, J. N. Andrews

Seventh-day Adventists compose 0.5% percent of the U.S. adult population, and 1.2 million people in the North America belong to the denomination. But around the world there are 18.1 million SDAs,

making them a larger global presence than the Southern Baptist Convention (15.5 million), the United Methodist Church (12.8 million), or Mormonism (15.3 million).

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-seventh-day-adventism/>

The most prominent founder of the SDA is Ellen G. White. (1827-1915). Ellen, with her twin sister Elizabeth, was born November 26, 1827, to Robert and Eunice Harmon.

The family of eight children lived on a small farm near the village of Gorham, Maine.

During her lifetime she wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books; but today, including compilations from her 50,000 pages of manuscript, more than 100 titles. She is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender.

The Adventist began In 1840 and 1842, Ellen, with other members of the family, attended Adventist meetings in Portland, accepted the views presented by William Miller, a Baptist convert Who preach that the Second Advent of Jesus would occur somewhere between March 1843 and March 1844, based on his interpretation of Daniel 8:14. The Seventh-day Adventist Church formed out of this movement known today as the Millerites Ellen and her family began to confidently look for Christ's imminent return..

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Seventh-day_Adventist_Church

The Great Disappointment that Jesus did not return to earth on October 22, 1844 prompted Ellen with others, to study the Bible and pray earnestly for light and guidance.

Ellen Harmon, one morning late in December, joined four other women in family worship at the home of a fellow believer in South Portland. Ellen said that she witnessed in a vision the travels of the Advent people to the city of God. (*Early Writings*, pp. 13-20.). The Adventist group in Portland accepted it as light from God.

Seventh-Day Sabbath

Ellen met a young Adventist preacher, James White. They later married. James and Ellen gave earnest study to a 46-page tract published by Joseph Bates, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The tract, entitled *Seventh-day Sabbath*, set forth the Biblical evidence for the sacredness of the seventh day. Convinced that the views set forth were scriptural, they began to keep Saturday as the Sabbath.

Some six months later, on April 3, 1847, Ellen White said she was shown in vision the law of God in the heavenly sanctuary, with a halo of light around the fourth commandment *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.* (*Exodus 20:8*) (*Early Writings*, pp. 32-35.)

Ellen G White claimed that God gave her approximately 2,000 visions and dreams. To their credit, as stated in *Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .*, “The writings of Ellen White are not a substitute for Scripture. They cannot be placed on the same level.

Its Size and Influence

Under White's guidance the denomination in the 1870s turned to missionary work and revivals, tripling its membership to 16,000 by 1880; rapid growth continued, with 75,000 members in 1901. By this time

operated two colleges, a medical school, a dozen academies, 27 hospitals, and 13 publishing houses. By 1945, the church reported 226,000 members in the US and Canada, and 380,000 elsewhere; the budget was \$29 million and enrollment in church schools was 40,000.

SDA Personalities

Dr. Ben Carson, Prince, Malcom X early years, Magic Johnson, Sojourner Truth
Busta Rhymes, Little Richard, Brian McKnight, Isley Brothers, Judge Greg Mathis and
Clifton Davis

<https://www.ranker.com/list/famous-seventh-day-adventists/celebrity-lists>

Their Holy Book

They make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.

<https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>

To their credit they do not hold to their own produced more accurate translation or version of the Bible as do the JW's nor do they find it necessary to publish their own supplements, additions or correction to the Bible as do the LDS.

Today we can only cover one of their key foundation points:

1. The requirement or special significance of the Seventh or Sabbath Day

The Sabbath Day was designed as a DAY OF Rest not established as a specific day of worship.

Genesis 2:2 (NKJV) ² ... and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Exodus 16:23 (NKJV) ²³ Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' "

It related as **a day of rest**. Remember they could not gather the manna from heaven on that day but to gather a double portion the day before. They could gather no wood

Another problem arises when we understand that there were many other days that were designated as Sabbaths. They are found in the following passages (*Exod. 31:13–17, Leviticus 16:29–31, Leviticus 23:39*). So, in the seventh month there are at least three additional days of Sabbath, (1st, 8th and the 10th.)

If you put yourself under the OT law of the Sabbath how can they justify going to their church which would require some form of labor and cause others to work as well like parking services, those performing duties in the church. The command not to work extended to the whole family, animals, servants and even strangers.

Exodus 20:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Jesus on the Sabbath was reprimanded by those seeking to make man a slave to man-made regulations.

Mark 2:27–28 (NKJV) ²⁷ And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

It is a sign of a weaker Christian that enslaves himself to any law that has been fulfilled by Christ. We who may be stronger Christians in this understanding must show grace to those that are growing in faith.

. ⁵ **One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike.** Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ **He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.**

In short, I do not think it is essential to try to convince someone one way or the other. Let them be convinced in their own minds for this is not an essential item of the Christian faith.

What Paul says in Colossians is essential

Colossians 2:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

Their second key doctrine focuses on the imminent Second Coming (**advent**) of Jesus Christ the second coming of Christ. We believe that as well the difference is that we know better than to set a date

Mark 13:32 (NKJV) ³² *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

Message Scriptures: **Romans 14:1–6**, *Exodus 20:8–11, Exodus 16:23, Exodus 16:29–30, Leviticus 16:29–31, Exod. 31:13–17, Leviticus 23:39, Job 1:5, Mark 2:27–28, Colossians 2:16–18.*

END

RESOURCES

9 Things you Should Know about Seventh-Day Adventist

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-seventh-day-adventism>

History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Seventh-day_Adventist_Church

Famous-seventh-day-Adventists

<https://www.ranker.com/list/famous-seventh-day-adventists/celebrity-lists>

Adventist Official Statements

<https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>

The Jewish Months

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/526874/jewish/The-Jewish-Month.htm

How Do Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Beliefs Differ from Evangelical Christian Beliefs?

<https://www.epm.org/resources/2016/Jan/20/how-do-seventh-day-adventist-sda-beliefs-differ-ev/>

What Foods are on the 7th Day Adventist Diet

<https://www.livestrong.com/article/441583-what-foods-are-on-the-7th-day-adventist-diet/>

Is It Proper to Eat Meat

<http://perspectives.adventist.org/en/questions-answers/questions/go/2016-12-30/is-it-proper-to-eat-meat/>

28 Fundamental Beliefs

<https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>

Seventh-Day Adventist Quote on Doctrine

<http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/books/qod/q08.htm>