



Who are the Seventh-day Adventists?



Even if you've never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, chances are you've probably known one at some point in your life. They're all around you. The Seventh-day Adventist church is a major Protestant denomination with global missions aiding in disaster and famine relief worldwide, such as ADRA. Their radio and television shows like *It Is Written* and *Voice of Prophecy* air in most major cities. They have hospitals and medical centers, like Kettering and Loma Linda. Their colleges train young people across the globe. Did you know that Adventist leaders founded Little Debbie snacks, and Kellogg's Cereal came from Adventists? Some Adventists you may have heard of are Neurosurgeon and Presidential candidate Ben Carson, original *Little Rascal* Darwood Kaye, and Desmond Doss, who the film *Hacksaw Ridge* was based on. But what do the Adventists believe? Why don't you take a moment to see for yourself?

Savior

Adventists believe that Jesus is God. Some people claim that Jesus was just a good man or only a prophet. Others say Jesus was

created, but the Bible says that Jesus was “before all things” and “by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible” (Col. 1:16, 17). Adventists simply follow the Bible. We believe, like other Protestants, that Jesus is God. Why else was Jesus called “Emmanuel, God with us” (Mt. 1:23)? Paul also said, speaking of Jesus, “God was manifested in the flesh” (1 Tim. 3:16). Even Jesus called Himself “I AM” (John 8:58), a direct reference to the time God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai (Ex. 3:14). That’s why the Jews tried to stone Him (John 8:59). Clearly, Jesus is God, and like other Protestants, the Adventist church believes that Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit are One God.

Scriptures

Adventists use the same Bible that all other Protestants use. Like other Protestants, we believe that the “Bible and the Bible only” should be our rule of faith. While some claim that the Bible was written by men and only parts of it can be trusted, the Bible says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2

Tim. 3:16). That means, while men wrote the Bible, God is the One who inspired these men with the words to write. That's why the Bible is not called the word of man, but the word of God. Also, while some claim that the Bible has been changed over the years, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls revealed that the minor discrepancies in the writings were not significant enough to change the meaning of the original text. God has miraculously preserved His word (Prov. 22:12), and Adventists believe the Bible is still a trustworthy guide for us today.

Salvation

Like all Protestants, Adventists believe that "by grace you have been saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8). While many think they will be in heaven because they are basically good, we cannot be saved by good works because God's standard of good is much higher than man's standard. Even our best without God is just not enough. That's why Jesus said, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3:3). Still, while some today seem to think the new birth is the end of

the Christian experience, the Bible says it's only the beginning. Once we are born again, God then gives us His grace, or power, to obey the law (2 Cor. 12:9). While we do not get saved by our good works will be judged by our works (Rev. 20:13). Those who are saved still have to keep God's law, and only those who "do His commandments...have the right to the tree of life" (Rev. 22:14).

Sabbath

Adventists believe we should obey all ten of the commandments, including the fourth command to keep the Sabbath. According to the Bible, the Sabbath day is Saturday, "the seventh day" (Gen. 2:3). While some claim the Sabbath is only for Jews, God instituted the seventh day Sabbath long before the Jewish nation existed. Then, God put it in the heart of the Ten Commandments, saying, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). Others claim Jesus changed the Sabbath in honor of the resurrection, but there is no clear command for any such change in the Bible. The fact is, Jesus and His followers went to church on Saturday (Lk. 4:16, 23:56).

After the resurrection, Paul and the apostles kept worshipping on the Sabbath (Acts 17:2, 18:4). And Christians who love God will honor Him by obeying His commandments, including the Sabbath (John 14:15).

Second Coming

Adventists believe Jesus is coming back soon. While no one knows the “day and hour” Jesus will return (Mt. 24:36), Paul says that “you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you a thief” (1 Thes. 5:4). We don’t have to be surprised when Jesus returns because the signs are all around us. Wars and terrorism, immorality, national debt, increasing technology, violent weather, and more are all signs of Jesus’ soon return. Sadly, many people “cannot discern the signs of the times” (Mt. 16:3). As a result, some “scoffers” claim, “all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation” (2 Pet. 3:3, 4), but it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see that the world is no longer what it used to be. While Adventists don’t believe in date-setting, like many other Protestants, we believe Jesus is coming back soon.

You are Invited!

Perhaps your beliefs vary a little from the things presented here, or maybe they don't. Either way, if you want to learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist church, there are several things you can do. For free media or reading materials, just visit itiswritten.com or amazingfacts.org to access online audio and video programs, reading material, or sermons with Adventist teachings. To learn more about our beliefs, you can go to adventist.org and look under the 'beliefs' tap. Or, to visit an Adventist church in your area, just go to adventist.org and click on the 'find a church' link. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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