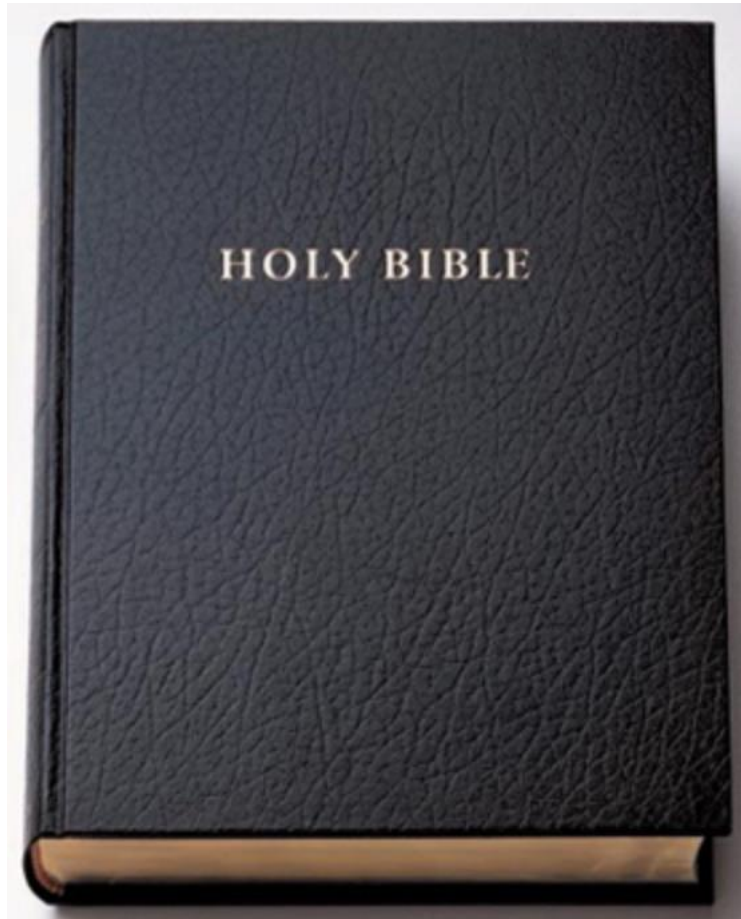


King James Bible Study



A Study Guide On
Seventh-day Adventism

Dr. Joseph Speciale

Seventh-day Adventism

I) BACKGROUND

1) Past

1. The second Great Awakening was occurring in the United States in the early 19th century, along with a renewed interest in Bible prophecy and the Second Coming of Christ
2. In 1818, an itinerant Baptist minister named William Miller concluded after a two-year study of Daniel and Revelation that Jesus Christ would return to the earth between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844
3. He came to this conclusion by making three assumptions regarding Daniel 8:14: (1) the “cleansing of the sanctuary” equated to the purification of the earth by fire at the Second Coming of Christ; (2) the 2300 days equated to 2300 years based on the formula of “each day for a year (Eze 4:6); and (3) the 2300 years began in 457 B.C. which according to the the chronology of Archbishop Ussher, is the date of the decree to restore and build Jerusalem (Dan 9:25)
4. By 1844 about 100,000 were waiting for what Miller termed, “the Blessed Hope”
5. When the date came and passed without Christ returning, Miller changed the date to April 18, 1844 based on the Karaite (i.e.- holds only the Tanakh as authoritative) Jewish calendar rather than the Rabbinical (i.e.- holds oral law and interpretation such as the Talmud as authoritative also) calendar
6. When April 18, 1844 also passed without incident, Miller responded publicly writing, “I confess my error, and acknowledge my disappointment; yet I still believe that the day of the Lord is near, even at the door.”

7. In August 1844, one of Miller's followers, Samuel Snow preached a camp meeting message that became known as the "seventh month message" or the "true midnight cry"
8. The message taught that the "cleansing of the sanctuary" (Dan 8:14) had to occur on the 10th day of the seventh Jewish month to fulfill the typology of the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16
9. As a result, the date for the Second Coming of Christ was revised to October 22, 1844- the date of the Day of Atonement according to the Karaite Jewish calendar
10. Many sincere people believed and prepared themselves for Christ's return by giving away their possessions and waiting up all night, but when he did not return on the predicted date, the result was what became known as the "Great Disappointment"
11. A follower of Miller's named Hiram Edson stated, "Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before... We wept, and wept, till the day dawn"
12. Following the "Great Disappointment", Miller faded into relative obscurity but held firm to his belief of the imminent return of Jesus Christ until his death in 1849
13. Many of Miller's followers abandoned their beliefs while others formed distinct "Adventist" groups
14. The first was formed by Hiram Edson who, the day after the "Great Disappointment", professed to have a great spiritual revelation whereby God told him that instead of returning to the earth on October 22, 1844, Christ passed from one compartment of the heavenly sanctuary (i.e.- the holy place) to the other (i.e.- the most

holy place) to perform what is now known by SDAs as the "investigative judgment"

“We started, and while passing through a large field I was stopped about midway of the field. Heaven seemed opened to my view, and I saw distinctly and clearly that instead of our High Priest coming out of the Most Holy of the heavenly sanctuary to come to this earth on the tenth day of the seventh month, at the end of the 2300 days [calculated to be October 22, 1844], He for the first time entered on that day the second apartment of that sanctuary; and that He had a work to perform in the Most Holy before coming to the earth.” (F.D. Nichol, *The Midnight Cry*, p.458).

15. O.R.L. Crosier, who was with Edson when he had his revelation, convincingly supported the new interpretation in an article published in *The Day Star*, a Millerite publication in Cincinnati, Ohio
16. George Storrs and Charles Fitch further introduced the teaching of the unconscious state of the dead until the resurrection and the annihilation of the wicked into the Adventist movement
17. The second group emerged from another follower of Miller named Joseph Bates, who issued a 48-page pamphlet entitled *The Seventh-day Sabbath a Perpetual Sign*, in which he argued that the Sabbath was ordained and given to man in Eden and should still be observed
18. This second Adventist group also taught the “shut door” doctrine from 1844 to 1851, the belief that anyone who had not accepted the Adventist message by the time Jesus entered the holy of holies would be shut out forever like the five foolish virgins in Matthew 25, and have no hope of eternal life
19. The third group that emerged was led by James and Ellen White; Ellen had visionary experiences that her fellow Adventists believed

were direct messages from God and evidence that she possessed "the spirit of prophecy" (Rev 19:10)

20. Joseph Bates arranged a meeting of all three groups at the farm of Hiram Edson in 1846; it was there that all three groups officially accepted Sabbath observance and agreed to form an alliance that was the foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
21. "Sabbath Conferences" were held in New York and New England beginning in April 1848 where the leaders discussed and established doctrinal issues
22. In 1860, the three consolidated Adventist groups officially took the name, *Seventh-day Adventist* (SDA); and on May 21, 1863, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was formed and the movement became an official organization with a membership of 3,500
23. Organization was maintained through three levels of government: (1) the local churches; (2) the conference; and (3) the General Conference (Union Conferences were added in the 1890s)
24. While she never held an official leadership position, Ellen White became the most prominent and influential voice of SDAs
 - She had hundreds of visions from 1844 until the time of her death in 1915, and transcriptions of those visions often contained doctrinal instruction, prophecy, or counsel to individuals or SDA leaders that were (and still are) regarded as direct revelations from God
 - On November 18, 1848, she had a vision that God wanted her husband James to start a paper, so the first issue of *The Present Truth* was published in 1849; it would later become *The Review And Herald*
 - While at a funeral in Ohio in March 1858, she had a vision of the ages long conflict between Christ and Satan that served the basis for her book, *The Great Controversy*

- Her visions also influenced health and diet reforms (White was a vegetarian) and the establishment of SDA schools and hospitals
 - She wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books including *The Great Controversy*, *The Desire Of Ages*, and *Steps To Christ*; but her most influential work is a 9-volume series of books entitled, *Testimonies For The Church*, which contains edited testimonies for the instruction and edification of SDAs
25. SDAs concentrated on world wide missions and evangelism during the 1870s and tripled their membership to 16,000 by 1880
26. The 1888 General Conference in Minneapolis was a landmark event in SDA history
- The session discussed crucial issues facing SDAs including: (1) the meaning of “righteousness by faith”; (2) the nature of the Godhead; (3) the relationship between law and grace; and (4) the relationship between justification and sanctification
 - During this time of development, many SDAs came from other religious backgrounds and brought some peculiar beliefs with them including: (1) Pelagianism (i.e.- rejects the sinful nature of man); and (2) Arianism (i.e.- rejects the deity of Jesus Christ)
 - Notable speakers included Uriah Smith, G.I. Butler, E.J. Waggoner, and A.T. Jones; Ellen White did not participate directly in the debates, but was the most prominent influence
 - At the end of the Conference, Sabbath observance was confirmed and Arianism rejected
27. By 1901, membership increased to 75,000 with two colleges, a medical school, 12 academies, 27 hospitals, and 13 publishing houses under their administration
28. Membership and academic enrollment growth over the next 100 years is as follows:

- **1945**= 380,000 members worldwide
- **1960**= 1,245,000 members worldwide with 290,000 students enrolled in church schools
- **2000**= 11,687,000 members worldwide with 1,065,000 students enrolled in church schools
- **2008**= 15,920,000 members worldwide with 1,539,000 students enrolled in church schools

2) Present

1. In addition to SDAs, there are two other Adventist denominations: the Advent Christian Church and the Church of God General Conference; a comparison is given below

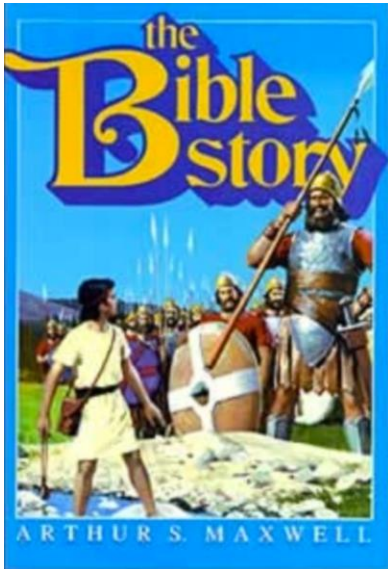
	Advent Christian Church	Church Of God General Conference	Seventh-Day Adventist
Size	100,000 members	8,000 members	17,000,000 members (as of June 2011)
Polity	Congregational	Congregational	Congregational
Core Beliefs	Soul-sleep Annihilation of wicked A-Millennial	Soul-sleep Annihilation of wicked Pre-Millennial Baptismal regeneration Denies the deity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit	Soul-sleep Annihilation of wicked Pre-Millennial Salvation by grace and works Gift of prophecy Strict dietary laws
Ordinances	Baptism by immersion Lord's Supper	Baptism by immersion Lord's Supper	Baptism by immersion Foot washing Lord's Supper
Day Of Worship	Sunday	Sunday	Saturday (the Sabbath)

2. As of June 2011, there were approximately 71,000 SDA churches and 17,000,000 members
3. As of December 2010, there were approximately 5,800 SDA primary schools and 1,800 secondary schools and colleges, with a total student enrollment approaching 1,500,000

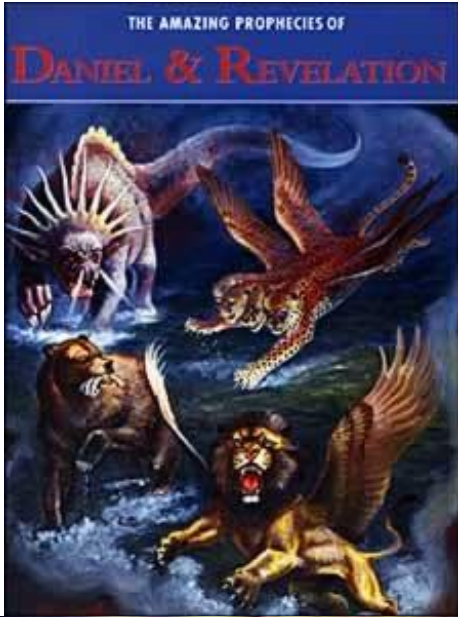
4. As of December 2010, there were 173 SDA hospitals and sanitariums, 132 nursing homes and retirement centers, 36 orphanages and children's homes, and approximately 200 clinics
5. SDAs also have over 50 publishing houses and 6,000,000 students across the world taking their correspondence study programs
6. SDAs have run an aggressive campaign in recent years to change their public image from that of a Christian cult to that of an evangelical Christian denomination
7. They have changed their beliefs regarding the doctrines of final authority, the deity of Christ, and salvation, as originally established by Mary Ellen White, to comply with fundamental Christian doctrine in order to gain acceptance from mainline Christianity
8. They have toned down the rhetoric of being the one true church and that "churches" that worship on Sunday are apostate and have taken the mark of the beast
9. They have capitalized on the public's curiosity of prophecy and put together impressive charts, illustrations, and multi-media presentations of end-time events that are shown in SDA churches and auditoriums all over the world
10. The presentations double as SDA marketing and proselyting tools
11. The effectiveness of their publicity campaign is evident by the fact that their literature (e.g. Arthur S. Maxwell's *The Bible Story*) is used by Christians in mainline denominations and their teachers (unlike Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons) have been given airtime on Christian owned media (e.g.- Trinity Broadcasting Network)

12. The SDA publicity “machine” includes “The Voice Of Prophecy” radio broadcast, the “Faith For Today” and “The Most Amazing Prophecies” television broadcasts, and the Adventist News Network

13. SDA World headquarters has been located in Silver Spring, MD since 1989



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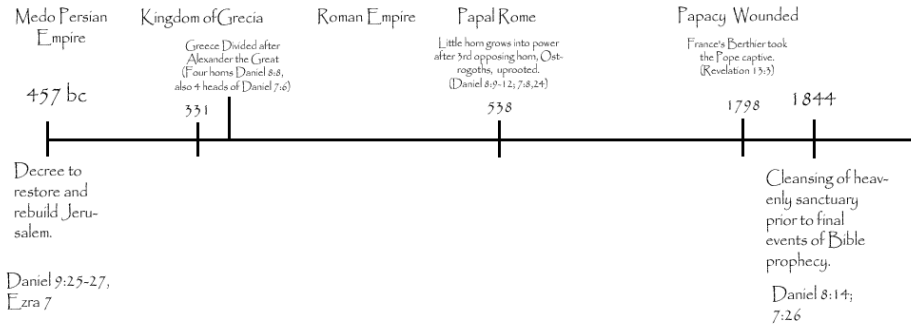
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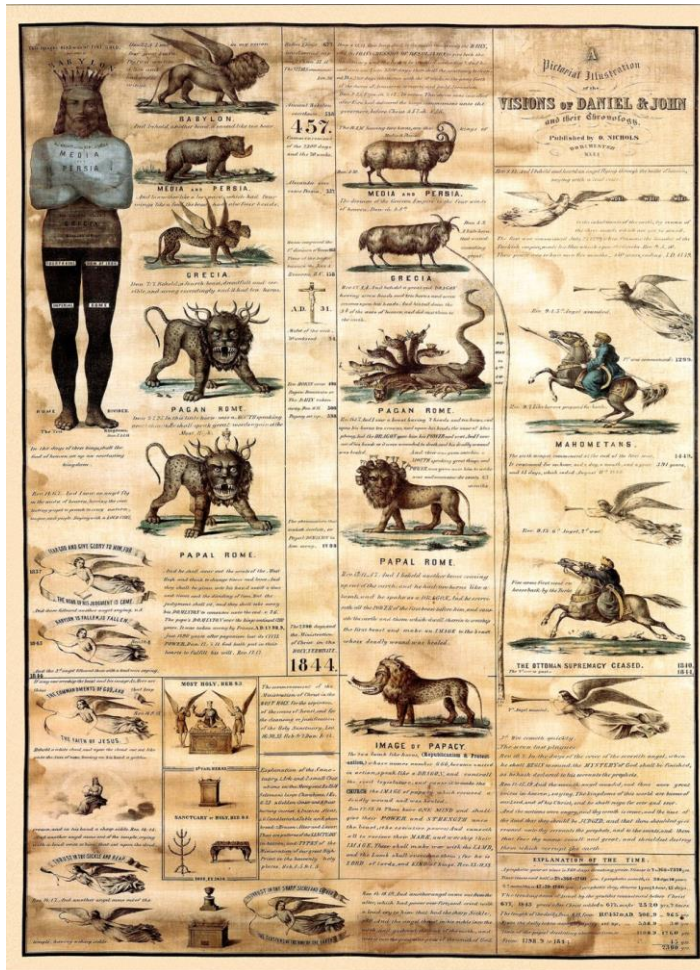
"Unto two thousand and three hundred days;
then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."



"We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2

"...Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come..." Revelation 14:7

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12



II) BELIEFS

- Official SDA beliefs are reflected in the *28 Fundamental Beliefs* (e.g.- www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental); 27 were originally adopted by the General Conference in 1980, while one (“Growing In Christ”) was added in 2005
- Many of the 28 beliefs contradict historical sources, particularly Ellen White
- SDAs contend that the doctrinal changes are not confusing or contradictory, but justified based on the spirit of prophecy and the Holy Spirit leading the Church to a fuller understanding of Bible truth at any given time (i.e.- their doctrine is always “subject to change”)

“Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference session when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of God's Holy Word” (Qualifying statement at the end of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs, www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental).

- While most SDA beliefs may appear fundamental, it is imperative to note that they still have not publicly renounced the false teachings of Ellen White but still embrace her as a prophet of God, leaving all to question what SDAs TRULY believe
- In spite of all their doctrinal wavering through the years, SDAs have retained four false beliefs from the very beginning: (1) soul-sleep; (2) the annihilation of the wicked; (3) salvation by faith and works; and (4) mandatory Christian Sabbath observance

FINAL AUTHORITY

1) Assertion

1. The Bible, constituted by the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by inspiration of God and is the sole authority of all matters of faith and practice

“The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12.)” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental).

"Seventh-day Adventists believe that all Scripture, both Old and New Testament, from Genesis to Revelation was 'given by inspiration of God' (2 Tim 3:16), and constitutes the very word of God- the truth that 'liveth and abideth for ever' (1 Pet 1:23). We recognize the Bible as the ultimate and final authority on what is truth" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.26).

"Seventh-day Adventists hold the Protestant position that the Bible and the Bible only is the sole rule of faith and practice for Christians...We believe in the authority, veracity, reliability, and truth of the Holy Scriptures. The same union of the divine and the human that is manifested in Christ, exists in the Bible. Its truths, revealed, are 'given by inspiration of God' (2 Tim 3:16), yet are couched in the words of men" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.27-28).

2. Ellen White was a prophetess and inspired of God, her writings are considered an equal authority to the Bible

"I believe in the Testimonies. Mrs. White's writings are the only inspired Bible Commentary. They constitute the most serious challenge to Christian living that has come to the Church since John's Patmos Revelation..." (*Facts And Com Meets About The Spirit Of Prophecy*, E.E. Cleveland, p. 14).

"Seventh-day Adventists hold that Ellen G. White performed the work of a true prophet during the seventy years of her public ministry. As Samuel was a prophet, as Jeremiah was a prophet, as John the Baptist, so we believe that Mrs. White was a prophet to the church of Christ today." (*The Advent Review & Herald*, 10/4/1928).

"Ellen G. White was inspired in the same sense as were the Bible prophets" (*The Advent Review & Herald*, 9/4/80 edition, p. 15).

"If you lessen the confidence of God's people in the Testimonies He has sent them, you are rebelling against God ...In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own views. They are what God had opened to me in vision-the precious ray of light shining from the throne" (*Testimonies*, Ellen White, Vol. 5, p. 66-67).

"In ancient times God spake to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the Testimonies of His Spirit...The Lord has seen fit to give me a view of the need and errors of His people" (*Testimonies*, Ellen White, Vol. 5, p. 661).

"We believe the revelation and inspiration of both the Bible and Ellen White's writings to be of equal quality. The superintendence of the Holy Spirit was just as careful and thorough in one case as in the other" (*Ministry* magazine, Oct. 1981).

"The Bible and the writings of Ellen White are inerrant..." (*Sabbath School Quarterly*, teacher's edition, February 11, 1978, p.112).

2) Answer

1. SDAs do not believe we have a divinely preserved Bible today because they have published their own translation, *The Clear Word Bible*, which (like the Jehovah's Witnesses *New World Translation*) deliberately alters the text to conform to their false doctrines
2. Ellen White was a false prophet because there is no divine revelation outside the Bible or spiritual authority not completely subject to the Bible (Psa 19:7; 1 Cor 13:9-10; 2 Pet 1:19-21)
 - Like every other cult founder, Ellen White professed to receive direct revelation from God
 - She received approximately 2,000 dreams and visions over a 70-year period (1844-1915)
 - A total of 100,000 handwritten pages detailing these dreams and visions were published into over 40 books
 - Ellen White was proven to be a false prophet when she said people who were living in 1856 would be translated at the Second Coming of Jesus (*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p.131-132), and that the United States would be "**humbled into the dust**" by England during the Civil War (*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p.259).
 - In a letter written to her son that was later published in *The Retirement Years*, Ellen White recalls an experience she had following the death of her husband James that amounts to necromancy (i.e.- "communication with the dead"), an act strictly forbidden by the word of God (Deu 18:10-12)

She begins the letter by stating she was seeking God about her future following the death of her husband: “A few days since I was pleading with the Lord for light in regard to my duty”.

She states she had a dream where her recently deceased husband, James, appears beside her as she sits in a carriage. He looked “very pale, but calm and composed”. She stated to him: “I saw you die; I saw you buried. Has the Lord pitied me and let you come back...?”

After some small talk about church matters and health, James foretells Ellen’s future: “Now, Ellen, calls will be made as they have been, desiring you to attend important meetings...”. James tells her to avoid going to the meetings and retire to write instead. He tells her to, “make this your first business”.

Ellen makes an agreement to stay in touch with the apparition of her dead husband: “Well, said I, James you are always to stay with me now and we will work together”.

This was the first of such ongoing communications. Ellen White recounted that she took the whole matter as being from the Lord: “I feel no duty to go back to Battle Creek...I have no duty to stand in General Conference. The Lord forbids me. That is enough.”

JESUS CHRIST

1) Assertion

1. Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh

“God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

"Jesus Christ is very God, and He has existed with the Father from all eternity" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.22).

"Christ, the Word of God, became incarnate through the miraculous conception and the virgin birth; and He lived an absolutely sinless life here on earth...In His human nature He maintained the purity of His divine character...He was unsullied with corruption, a stranger to sin...He was a mighty petitioner, not possessing the passions of our human, fallen natures, but compassed with like infirmities, tempted in all points like as we are...He was perfect, and undefiled by sin, He was without spot and blemish" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.22, 658-660).

2. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin but still had the sinful Adamic nature

“He (Jesus Christ) was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental).

“In his humanity Christ partook of our sinful, fallen nature. If not, then He was not ‘made like unto His brethren,’ was not ‘in all points tempted like as we are,’ did not overcome as we have to overcome, and is not, therefore, the complete and perfect Saviour man needs and must have to be saved.” (*Bible Readings For The Home Circle*, 1915 edition, p.115).

“On His human side, Christ inherited just what every child of Adam inherits- a sinful nature. On the divine side, from His very conception He was begotten and born of the Spirit. And all this was done to place mankind on vantage-ground, and to demonstrate that in the same way everyone who is ‘born of the Spirit’ may gain like victories over sin in his own sinful flesh. Thus each one is to overcome as Christ overcame (Rev 3:21). Without this birth there can be no victory over temptation,

and no salvation from sin, John 3:3-7” (*Bible Readings For The Home Circle*, 1915 edition, p.115).

3. Jesus Christ is not God Almighty but Michael the archangel

“The man Christ Jesus was not the Lord God Almighty” (Ellen White, ms 150, *SDA Commentary V*, p.1129)

“He (Jesus) was revealed to them as the Angel of Jehovah, the Captain of the Lord’s Host, Michael the Archangel” (*Patriarchs And Prophets*, Ellen White, p.761).

“When Christ descends, He as Michael the Archangel will give a shout...” (1 The 4:16, *Clear Word Bible*)

“In contrast to these ungodly men is the Lord Jesus Christ, also called Michael, the archangel in charge of the entire angelic host. When he was challenged by Satan about His intentions to resurrect Moses, He didn’t come against Satan with a blistering attack nor did he belittle him. He simply said, ‘God rejects your claim to his body.’” (Jude 9, *Clear Word Bible*,

God’s Son Michael and the loyal angels fought against the dragon...” (Rev 12:7, *Clear Word Bible*)

2) Answer

1. Agree

2. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23) and without our sinful nature; for if he had the sinful Adamic nature he could not live a sinless life and be the propitiation for our sins (Isa 53:10-11; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)

- The UNBORN humanity of Jesus Christ is called HOLY (Luke 1:35)

- Jesus Christ was in the LIKENESS of sinful flesh but did not have sinful flesh because he did NOT have a sinful nature (Rom 8:3; Heb 7:26)
 - Jesus Christ NEVER knew sin in deed (1 Pet 2:22) or in nature (2 Cor 5:21)
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the angel of the Lord but is not Michael the archangel
- The term THE ANGEL OF THE LORD refers to Christ in his pre-existent state as an APPEARANCE of the Lord in angelic (spirit being) form, it DOES NOT mean he was an angel in the sense of a CREATED spiritual being
 - The angel of the Lord that spoke to Hagar (Gen 16:7,9-11) was THE LORD (Gen 16:13)
 - The angel of the Lord that called out to Abraham (Gen 22:15) was THE LORD (Gen 22:16)
 - The angel of the Lord that appeared and spoke to Moses in the burning bush (Exo 3:2) was THE LORD and GOD (Exo 3:4)
 - The Lord will come WITH THE VOICE of the archangel (Michael) (1 The 4:16), not AS the archangel
 - In Daniel 10, Daniel is visited by an angelic being whose description (v.5-6), actions (v.10) and words (v.12,19) are exactly the same as those attributed to Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:13-17, and this angelic being distinguishes himself from Michael in v.21

SALVATION

1) Assertion

1. Salvation is by grace through faith without works of the law

“Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

"Salvation through Christ is by grace alone, and through faith in His blood...Entrance upon the new life in Christ is by regeneration, or the new birth...Man is justified by faith...Every person in order to obtain salvation must experience the new birth. This comprises an entire transformation of life and character by the recreative power of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Matt 18:3; Acts 2:37-39)" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.12, 22-23).

"The law of ten commandments points out sin, the penalty of which is death. The law cannot save the transgressor from sin, nor impart power to keep him from sinning...one is justified, not by obedience to the law, but by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. By accepting Christ, man is reconciled to God, justified by His blood for the sins that are past, and saved from the power of sin by His indwelling life" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.13).

"Nothing we can ever do will merit the favor of God. Salvation is of grace. It is grace that 'bringeth salvation' (Titus 2:11). It is 'through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved' (Acts 15:11). We are not saved by 'works' (Rom 4:6; Eph 2:8; 2 Tim 1:9), even though they be *good works*" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.108-109).

“In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and

daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16; Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5; Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10)” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental).

2. The shed blood of Christ is sufficient for our redemption

"Seventh-day Adventists do *not* believe that Christ made but partial or incomplete sacrificial atonement on the cross...Most decidedly the all-sufficient atoning sacrifice of Jesus our Lord was *offered and completed* on the cross of Calvary. This was done for all man-kind, for 'he is the propitiation...for the sins of the whole world' (1 John 2:2). This sacrificial work will actually benefit human hearts *only* as we surrender our lives to God and experience the miracle of the new birth. In this experience Jesus our High Priest, applies to us the benefits of His atoning sacrifice. Our sins are forgiven, we become the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, and the peace of God dwells in our hearts" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.349-350).

3. Salvation is by grace through faith and works, including baptism

"Christ says to every man in this world what He said to the rich young ruler: 'If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments,' Matthew 19:17. In other words, the standard for admission into heaven is a character built according to the ten specifications, or commandments, of God's law" (*Saved By Grace*, Charles T. Everson, p.45-46).

"It is not the work of the gospel to weaken the claims of God's holy law, but to bring men up to where they can keep its precepts" (*Prophetic Guidance Correspondence Course*, Lesson 10, p.36).

"Do you want to be a Christian?...The steps to Christ are few and plain and easy to understand...Believe; that's the first step toward becoming a Christian...the second step is repentance...repentance is simply being sorry for our sins and putting them away...the next step ...is confession...The next step is baptism...Fifth, obedience through Christ in us...So we have clearly outlined the steps that we need to take in order to become a Christian: to believe in God, to repent of and to confess our sins, to be baptized, and to obey all the commandments of the Lord" (*Prophetic Guidance Correspondence Course*, Lesson 10, p.36).

“Through baptism we are truly born again in Jesus.” (*What Adventists Believe*, www.adventist.org/beliefs).

"Before Christ comes a second time to take us to His Father's house in heaven above, we must allow Him to conquer sin in our lives. Because in this life we have chosen to accept these lovely graces of Christ as our own, the sudden transformation at Jesus' appearing will seal our characters...only those who live the Jesus-life can be freed from sin. Jesus counseled the rich man who was seeking eternal life, If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments...It is Jesus who delivers us from sin but not in sin. We must accept him and through his power in us be separated from the impure, the unholy, the defiling, all disobedience to the commandments” (*New Life Guides*, #10).

“To whom will God impart immortality? To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality (Rom. 2:7). What shall be their reward? Eternal life (Rom. 2:7). Upon what conditions may men obtain this blessing? Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12)...Will a man's final destiny be in accordance with the life he has lived? Whatsoever a man soweth, that

shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7)" (C.B. Haynes, *When A Man Dies*, pp. 46-47).

4. Christians can lose their salvation

"It seems to us abundantly clear that the acceptance of Christ at conversion does not seal a person's destiny. His life record after conversion is also important. A man may go back on his repentance, or by careless inattention let slip the very life he has espoused" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.420).

5. Individual salvation is determined by Christ as part of "the investigative judgment"

- SDAs believe that on October 22, 1844 (the date of the "Great Disappointment"), Jesus Christ moved from the "holy place" in heaven to the "most holy place" in order to investigate the lives of those professing salvation, both dead and living, to determine if they are worthy of everlasting life (Dan 8:13-14; Heb 8:2; 9:12,24)

"The time of the cleansing of the sanctuary, synchronizing with the period of the proclamation of the message of Revelation 14, is a time of investigative judgment; first, with reference to the dead, and second, with reference to the living. This investigative judgment determines who of the myriads sleeping in the dust of the earth are worthy of a part in the first resurrection, and who of its living multitudes are worthy of translation (1 Peter 4:17-18; Dan 7:9,19; Rev 14:6-7; Luke 20:35)" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.15).

"Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man- to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits...in the great day of final atonement and

investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work...The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment...The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God...every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God...The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross" (*The Great Controversy*, Ellen White, p.422-423).

“There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement...The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting Kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the Kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent” (*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, 15th edition, p.15-16).

6. Satan will ultimately bare the penalty for all the sins of the saved because he is the “scapegoat”

“In the typical service the high priest, having made the atonement for Israel, came forth and blessed the congregation. So Christ, at the close of His work as mediator, will appear, "without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28), to bless His waiting people with eternal life. As the priest, in removing the sins from the sanctuary, confessed them upon the head of the scapegoat, so Christ will place all these sins upon Satan, the originator and instigator of sin. The scapegoat, bearing the sins of Israel, was sent away "unto a land not inhabited" (Leviticus 16:22); so Satan, bearing the guilt of all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit, will be for a thousand years confined to the earth, which will then be desolate, without inhabitant, and he will at last suffer the full penalty of sin in the fires that shall destroy all the wicked. Thus the great plan of redemption will reach its accomplishment in the final eradication of sin and the deliverance of all who have been willing to renounce evil” (*The Great Controversy*, Ellen White, p.485-486).

2) Answer

1. Agree
2. Agree
3. Salvation is by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior, apart from any works (Rom 3:24,28; 4:5; 5:1,8; 10:13; Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8-9; Tit 3:5)
4. True born-again Christians cannot lose their salvation
 - The born again Christian HATH (present tense) everlasting life (John 3:36; 5:24; 6:47; 1 John 5:12-13)
 - We are graven upon the palms of the Lord's hands (Isa 49:16) and no man can pluck us out (John 10:27-29)
 - We are kept by the power of God through faith (not works) (2 Tim 1:12; 1 Pet 1:5; 4:19; Jude 24)

- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption (Eph 1:14; 4:30) and he bears witness with our spirit that we ARE (present tense) the children of God (Rom 8:16)
5. The teaching of investigative judgment is false doctrine
- The high priestly ministry of Christ is one of INTERCESSION FOR the saints (Rom 8:27,34; Heb 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1) not INVESTIGATION OF the saints
 - Christ's entrance into the holy of holies in heaven was anti-typical of the Day of Atonement when the high priest presented the blood sacrifice to God as an atonement for the sins of the people (Heb 9:12) cf. (Lev 16:14)
 - The redemptive work of Christ is finished, as depicted by his own words (John 19:30) and the fact that, as a minister of the sanctuary, he is SEATED at the right hand of God (Heb 10:10-12)
 - Christ's sacrifice on the cross is all-sufficient for the eternal salvation of men (Heb 10:14); the only "investigation" of the saints will take place at the judgment seat of Christ and it is an investigation of their service or works AS saints, to determine their eternal REWARD not their eternal DESTINY (1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 5:10)
6. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the "scapegoat" (Lev 16:10,22); it is utterly blasphemous to attribute this to Satan!
- The two goats in Leviticus 16 typify the dual aspect of the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ; the same is depicted in the two birds used in the ceremonial cleansing of the leper (Lev 14:7,53) (i.e.- one was sacrificed while the other was released)
 - The goat offered as a sin offering typifies Christ bearing our sin and paying the penalty, namely death (1 Cor 15:3; Gal 1:4)
 - The scapegoat typifies Christ bearing our sin and taking it away, never to be seen again (Psa 103:12; Mic 7:19; John 1:29; Heb 10:17)

MAN

1) Assertion

1. Man is a dichotomous being, composed of a body and a spirit; the body and the soul are the same (Job 33:22; Eze 18:4,20)

"We as Adventists believe that, in general, the Scriptures teach that the SOUL of man represents the WHOLE man, and not a particular part independent of the other component parts of man's nature; and further that THE SOUL CANNOT EXIST APART FROM THE BODY, for man is a unit" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.511,515).

2. When a man dies, he is buried and lies in the grave in an unconscious state until the resurrection (i.e.- "soul-sleep") (Job 14:10-12; Psa 146:3-4; Ecc 9:5)

"The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people" (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

"We as Adventists have reached the definite conclusion that man rests in the tomb until the resurrection morning" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.520).

"So when a man dies he does not live somewhere else. He is not in heaven, not in hell, not in purgatory. He is not alive at all, anywhere, in any condition whatsoever. He is dead. And to be dead does not mean to be alive. To be dead does not mean to go to heaven; it does not mean to go to hell; it does not mean to go to purgatory. Indeed it does not mean to go anywhere at all. It means simply an end of life...Death is the cessation of life, an absence of life, the exact opposite of life. So in death there is no life. The man does not live; the body does not live; the

soul does not live; the spirit does not live; the mind does not live. Intelligence ends, consciousness ends, memory ends, knowledge ends, thought ends. All that comprised the man ends" (*When A Man Dies*, p.20)

"And how utterly revolting is the belief that as soon as the breath leaves the body the soul of the impenitent is consigned to the flames of hell!...the doctrine of natural immortality first borrowed from pagan philosophy, and in the darkness of the great apostasy incorporated into the Christian faith, has supplanted the truth" (*The Great Controversy*, Ellen White, p.478,483).

2) Answer

1. Man is a tri-partite being of which the soul is a distinct, immaterial, and eternal part, equating to self-consciousness

Genesis 2:7	1 Thessalonians 5:23	Hebrews 4:12
“formed man of the dust of the ground”	“body”	“joints and marrow”
“a living soul”	“soul”	“soul”
“the breath of life”	“spirit”	“spirit”

- The word SOUL has different meanings in the Bible. It can refer to “that which breathes” (Jos 10:39-40; 11:11), (physical) “life” (1 Sam 23:15; 24:11; 26:21,24; Job 33:22; Rev 16:3), the entire physical being (Gen 2:7; Eze 18:4,13), or a distinct and immaterial part of man (1 The 5:23; Heb 4:12) that equates to the self-consciousness. The meaning applicable for a particular verse will be determined by the scriptural context.
- If the body and the soul are the same, then why did Jesus say that men can kill the BODY but cannot kill the SOUL (Matt 10:28)?

2. The soul departs the body at death and remains conscious

- If upon death, ALL men lie unconscious in the grave, what was Paul referring to when he said Christians can be ABSENT FROM THE BODY and PRESENT WITH THE LORD (2 Cor 5:8)?
- What benefit is there to be present with the Lord in the grave if we are unconscious and completely unaware of it?
- Why was Paul WILLING to rather be in this state than to be living on the earth?
- Death is the separation of the spirit (Jam 2:26) and the soul (Gen 35:18) from the body
- The dead body is buried in the grave but the soul and spirit remain conscious in heaven or hell (Ecc 12:7; Luke 16:22-30; 23:43,46,53; Rev 6:9-11)
- The state of the dead and the tripartite being of man is clearly depicted in the death of Jesus Christ (Luke 23:43,46,53)

The BODY of Jesus	The SOUL of Jesus	The SPIRIT of Jesus
In the sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea (v.53) Note: the body of Jesus is referred to as IT rather than HIM because HE was not in his body in the grave	In paradise with the penitent thief (in the heart of the earth not the grave) (v.43)	In heaven with the Father (v.46)

HELL

1) Assertion

1. Hell is the grave

“To make it simple, biblically speaking, *Hades means the grave*. This is easy to prove from 1 Corinthians 15:55, which in the King James Version states, ‘O death, where is thy sting? *O grave*, where is thy victory?’ (1 Corinthians 15:55, KJV, italics added) If you look in any Strong’s Concordance, you’ll discover that the original Greek word here translated “grave” is “Hades.” By looking at the context, it’s obvious

that “Hades” means “the grave” because it is *God’s saints* who rise out of “Hades” when Jesus Christ returns...Additional proof that “Hades” means “the grave” is the fact that “Hades” was the place Jesus Christ’s body rested in immediately after His death. In Acts 2:31, the King James Version declares, ‘His [Christ’s] soul was not left *in hell* [Hades] neither [did] his flesh see corruption.’ (Acts 2:31, KJV, italics added)” (www.thetruthaboutHell.org).

2. The lost will not suffer eternal torment in the lake of fire but will be annihilated (Exo 33:5; Num 16:21; Deu 4:24,26; 5:25; Job 31:3; Pro 13:13; Isa 34:2; Eze 22:31; 28:16; Matt 10:28; 2 The 2:8; 2 Pet 2:12; Rev 11:18)

"In the expression 'eternal punishment,' just as in 'eternal redemption' and 'eternal judgment,' the Bible is referring to all eternity- not as of process, but as of *result*. It is not an endless process of punishment, but an effectual punishment, which will be final and forever" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.540).

"We reject the doctrine of eternal torment for the following major reasons: (1) Because everlasting life is a gift of God (Rom 6:23). The wicked do not possess this- they 'shall not see life' (John 3:36); 'no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him' (1 John 3:15). (2) Because eternal torment would perpetuate and immortalize sin, suffering, and woe, and contradict, we believe, divine revelation, which envisions the time when these things shall be no more (Rev 21:4). (3) Because it seems to us to provide a plague spot in the universe of God throughout eternity, and would seem to indicate that it is impossible for God Himself ever to abolish it. (4) Because in our thinking, it would detract from the attribute of love as seen in the character of God, and postulates the concept of wrath which is never appeased. (5) Because the Scriptures teach that the atoning work of Christ is to 'put away sin' (Heb 9:26)- first from the individual, and ultimately from the universe" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.543).

"The theory of eternal torment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abomination of Babylon...But those who have not, through repentance and faith, secured pardon, must receive the penalty of transgression...covered with infamy, they sink into hopeless, eternal oblivion...There will then be no lost souls to blaspheme God as they writhe in never-ending torment; no wretched beings in hell will mingle their shrieks with the songs of the saved" (*The Great Controversy*, Ellen White, p.470,477).

"...sinners will not live forever. The plain doctrine of the Bible is that the devil and all his works will be destroyed, utterly destroyed" (*When A Man Dies*, p.58).

2) Answer

1. Hell is not the grave

- The Hebrew word SHEOL and the Greek word HADES both mean, "the place of the dead"; therefore, they can be translated as either GRAVE or HELL depending on whether the context refers to the BODY or the SOUL
- The Hebrew word SHEOL appears 65x and is translated HELL 31x, GRAVE 31x, and PIT 3x; the Greek word HADES appears 11x and is translated HELL 10x and GRAVE 1x
- If hell is the same as the grave, then why did Jesus make a distinction between the body and soul and equate the destruction of the soul with casting into hell (Matt 10:28; Luke 12:4-5)
- If hell is the grave then why did Jesus say that hell is a place of fire (Matt 5:22; 18:9; Mark 9:47) and damnation (Matt 23:33) and a place that has gates (Matt 16:18)?
- If hell is the grave, then how can the rich man of Luke 16:22-31, LIFT UP HIS EYES (v.23), SEE (v.23), CRY (v.24), SPEAK (v.24), FEEL TORTURE (v.24), REMEMBER (v.25), ATTEMPT TO

PASS FROM PLACE TO PLACE (v.26), BEG (v.27), and HEAR (v.27,29-30)?

- If hell is the grave, how could the SOULS of Revelation 6:9-11 also be UNDER THE ALTAR (v.9), CRY WITH A LOUD VOICE (v.10), and WEAR WHITE ROBES?
2. The lake of fire is a place of eternal torment and the lost will be conscious of their suffering
- The word ANNIHILATION as defined by SDAs ("to bring to oblivion and nothingness") is alien to scripture and a violation to the first law of thermodynamics, which states that matter can neither be created nor destroyed; it only changes form (e.g.- when water is put over a fire it is not annihilated but changes form to steam)
 - The words CONSUME and DESTROY never mean ANNIHILATION in the Bible; they mean "to separate the parts of a thing; to ruin the form or condition of a thing so that it cannot be used as intended; to demolish; to pull down; to kill" (e.g.- a drinking glass that falls on the floor and breaks is DESTROYED, in that it is no longer in a condition suitable for use in drinking but it is not annihilated)
 - The SOUL is DESTROYED in the sense that it is in a ruined condition (lost and separated from God); and cannot be used for the purpose for which it was intended (to dwell with God and worship, love, and serve him forever)
 - If DESTRUCTION means ANNIHILATION how is something destroyed TWICE (Jer 17:18)?
 - When the enemies of Jesus sought to DESTROY him were they seeking to ANNIHILATE him (Matt 2:13; 12:14; 27:20)?
 - The word DESTROY first appears in Gen 6:7 and it does not mean to ANNIHILATE because Noah and his family survived
 - The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire at the end of Armageddon (Rev 19:20) yet when Satan is cast into it at the

end of the Millennium 1,000 years later, they are still there and not “annihilated” (Rev 20:10)

- Since everlasting PUNISHMENT is contrasted with LIFE eternal (Matt 25:46), the wicked will EXPERIENCE punishment as the righteous will EXPERIENCE life

Death is a SEPARATION (a condition as well as a result). Physical death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body (Gen 35:18; Jam 2:26) and will endure until God rejoins them through resurrection (1 The 4:14-16). The second death is separation from God (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:14-15) and will endure forever since the only way to rejoin God and the sinner is through regeneration (Eph 2:1,5) before physical death. The only way this condition will not last forever is if God were to become a sinner or cease to exist himself.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

1) Assertion

1. Since the Sabbath was ordained and given in Eden, and observed by all the patriarchs, it should be observed today as an expression of love to our Creator (Gen 2:3; Exo 20:8; John 14:15)

“The beneficent Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Luke

4:16; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Matt. 12:1-12; Ex. 31:13-17; Eze. 20:12, 20; Deut. 5:12-15; Heb. 4:1-11; Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32)" (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

"We believe that the Sabbath was instituted in Eden before sin entered, that it was honored of God, set apart by divine appointment, and given to mankind as a perpetual memorial of a finished creation. It was based upon the fact that God Himself had rested from His work of creation, had blessed His Sabbath, or rest day, and had sanctified it, or set it apart for man (Gen 2:1-3; Mark 2:27)" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.149).

"...we regard the observance of the Sabbath as a test of our loyalty to Christ as Creator and Redeemer...Seventh-day Adventists do not rely upon our Sabbath-keeping as a means of salvation or of winning merit before God. We are saved by grace alone. Hence our Sabbath observance, as our loyalty to every other command of God, is an expression of our love for our Creator and Redeemer" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.153).

"God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial...the keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God...The Sabbath was kept by Adam in his innocence in holy Eden; by Adam, fallen yet repentant, when he was driven from his happy estate. It was kept by all the patriarchs, from Abel to righteous Noah, to Abraham, to Jacob" (*The Great Controversy*, Ellen White, p.386,398).

2. Sabbath observance distinguishes the true saints from the false

- SDAs believe that observance of the first day of the week is equivalent to receiving the mark of the beast

"We believe that the restoration of the Sabbath is indicated in the Bible prophecy of Revelation 14:9-12...when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.153,183).

"Adventist interpreters understand this mark to be not a literal brand but some sign of allegiance that identifies the bearer as loyal to the power represented by the Beast. The controversy at that time will center on the law of God, and particularly on the fourth command...Hence, the observance of Sunday will constitute such a sign" (*News From Jesus-Pt.2*, Adult Sabbath School Lessons, Third Quarter, 1974, p.28).

"...this dispensing with one of the precepts of the Decalogue and substituting in its place a day God never commanded, is claimed by this power as the mark of its authority to bind the consciences of men. However appalling the revelation, this establishment of the first day of the week as a day of worship in spite of God's clear word that the seventh day is His Sabbath- this, by overwhelming evidence and unashamed admission, is the mark so soon to be imposed!" (*Planet in Rebellion*, p.386).

2) Answer

1. Although God sanctified the seventh day (Gen 2:3), there is NO scripture to support that ALL the patriarchs observed a seventh-day rest, and that Christians are required to observe it today
- The Bible does not mention any Sabbath observance by Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, or Joseph

- The Sabbath was not even revealed to man until after the Exodus (Exo 16:23), and wasn't codified as law until it was given to Israel on Mount Sinai (Exo 20:8-11; Neh 9:13-14)
- The Sabbath is a SIGN between God and the nation of ISRAEL (Exo 31:13,17; Eze 20:12,20; John 4:48; 1 Cor 1:22) not the Church
- Sabbath observance is not listed in the list of commandments given by Paul (Rom 13:9) nor anywhere in the New Testament following the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The only day specifically mentioned as being observed by the church as a day of assembly and worship is the FIRST day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2) in remembrance of the day of Christ's resurrection (Matt 28:1)
- We are not to judge one another in respect to sabbath days (Col 2:16)
- The SDA's *Clear Word Bible* changes many verses to conform to their teaching on Sabbath observance

	KJV	Clear Word Bible
Exo 5:5	And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now <i>are</i> many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.	You've created enough problems by making them rest every week on your Sabbath .
Exo 16:5	And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare <i>that</i> which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.	On the sixth day they should gather twice as much as on the other days so as to have enough for the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, the day I set aside for worship and rest.
Exo 31:13	Speak thou also unto the children of Israel , saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep : for it <i>is</i> a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that <i>ye</i> may know that I <i>am</i> the LORD that doth sanctify you.	Say to the people , "Most importantly, remember to keep the Sabbath holy because it is a very special day for me, and it's a day of rest for you. It's a sign between you and me for all time to show that you are the people whom I have chosen and set apart.
Lev 23:3	Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day <i>is</i> the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work <i>therein</i> : it <i>is</i> the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.	...There has always been the weekly Sabbath .
Acts 20:7	And upon the first day of the week , when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them,	After sundown on Saturday night , the believers got together for a fellowship meal and to say good-bye to Paul. That

	ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.	evening he spoke to them until midnight, after which he hoped to get a few hours sleep before leaving early Sunday morning .
Col 2:16	Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days :	Don't let anyone control you life by giving you a set of ceremonial rules about what to eat, what to drink and what monthly festivals or special Sabbaths to keep.
Heb 4:4	For he spake in a certain place of the seventh <i>day</i> on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.	That's why at creation He gave man the seventh-day Sabbath , not only as a reminder of creation week, but also as a symbol of spiritual rest. According to the Scriptures, God Himself rested on the seventh day and enjoyed this special time with man.
Rev 1:10	I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day , and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,	On Sabbath morning when I had gone to the rocky island shore to meditate and worship

2. The mark of the Beast is not worshipping on Sunday, it is just as literal a mark as the seal of God upon the foreheads of the 144,000 (Rev 14:1,11)

THE CHURCH

1) Assertion

1. The SDA Church is the one true church, depicted in the book of Revelation as the remnant faithful to God (Rev 12:17; 14:12)

"...we believe that Revelation 12:17 points to us as a people of prophecy, it is in no spirit of pride that we thus apply the scripture. To us it is the logical conclusion of our system of prophetic interpretation" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.191).

“Baptismal vow- Candidates for baptism or those being received into fellowship by profession of faith shall affirm their acceptance of the

doctrinal beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the presence of the church or other properly appointed body. The minister or elder should address the following questions to the candidate(s)...Do you accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy?" (*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, 15th Edition*, Review And Herald Publishing Association, p.30-31).

2) Answer

1. The one true church is composed of all those who have exercised faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior (1 Cor 12:13,27; Eph 1:22-23)
 - The "remnant" in Rev 12:17 is of the SEED OF THE WOMAN, which is ISRAEL (Rev 12:1; Gen 37:9-10)
 - God says that those who think they are Jews and are not are IGNORANT and CONCEITED (Rom 11:25), BLASPEHMERS (Rev 2:10), and of THE SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN (Rev 2:10)
 - The "saints" in Rev 14:12 are the Tribulation saints (Rev 7:14) not the Seventh-day Adventist Church

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1) Assertion

1. Ellen White possessed the spirit of prophecy

“One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White . As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10)” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

"We do not regard the writings of Ellen G. White as an addition to the sacred canon of Scripture...We hold that all other writings and teachings, from whatever source, are to be judged by, and are subject to, the Bible...We have never considered Ellen G. White to be in the same category as the writers of the canon of Scripture...It is in the category of messengers [other than the Biblical writers] that we consider Ellen G. White to be. Among Seventh-day Adventists she was recognized as one who possessed the gift of the spirit of prophecy, though she herself never assumed the title of prophetess...Seventh-day Adventists regard her writings as containing INSPIRED counsel concerning personal religion and the conduct of our denominational work" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.89-92).

2. The gift of predictive prophecy is still available today

"While Seventh-day Adventists recognize the Scripture canon closed nearly two thousand years ago and that there have been no additions to this compilation of sacred books, yet we believe that the spirit of God, who inspired the Divine Word known to us as the Bible, has pledged to reveal Himself to the Church and through the different gifts of the Spirit...It is not our understanding that these gifts of the Spirit take the place of the Word of God, nor does their acceptance make unnecessary the Scripture of truth...The Spirit of prophecy is intimately related to the gift of prophecy, the one being the Spirit which indited the prophecy, the other the evidence of the gift bestowed" (*Questions on Doctrine*, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, p.93-96).

2) Answer

1. See: Answer #2 under **FINAL AUTHORITY**

2. The gift of prophecy in the sense of FORETELLING prophetic events ceased with the completion of the canon of scripture (1 Cor 13:9-10);

the gift of prophecy today consists of FORTHTELLING prophetic events as they are stated in scripture (1 Cor 14:3)

- Every Christian has the spirit of prophecy (Rev 19:10) because we have the indwelling Holy Spirit and the word of God
- Every time a Christian proclaims what the word of God says about the future, he is proclaiming prophecy (e.g.- the Christian KNOWS where he is going when he dies)

THE MILLENNIUM

1) Assertion

1. The Millennium is the 1,000 year reign of Christ in heaven

“The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

2. The earth will be utterly desolate during the Millennium

“During this time (the Millennium) the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate...” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

3. The earth will not have any human population during the Millennium but will be occupied by Satan and his angels

“During this time (the Millennium)...the earth will be...without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, www.adventist.org.beliefs/fundamental).

2) Answer

1. The Millennium is the 1,000 year reign of Christ ON THE EARTH from Jerusalem (Jer 23:5-6; Zec 14:9,16; Rev 5:10; 20:6; 11:15)
2. The earth will be a veritable paradise during the Millennium (Isa 4:2; 35:1-2,6-7; 51:3; Eze 36:35; 47:7) with an extremely small proportion of desolate places (Eze 47:11; Joel 3:19)
3. The earth will heavily populated with human beings during the Millennium as longevity is restored (Isa 2:3-4; 11:9; 65:20,22; Zec 8:3-5), while Satan and all of his angels are confined to the bottomless pit (Zec 13:2; Rev 20:2-3)

CONCLUSION

Seventh-day Adventists (SDAs) have done a great job improving their public image, to the point that most fundamental Christians no longer categorize them as a cult. The requirements of a cult are two-fold: (1) a founder that professes direct divine revelation outside the Bible; and (2) a denial of the doctrine of Christ, specifically his deity and/or his complete redemptive work. SDAs certainly meet the first requirement and there are contradictory sources on the second. SDAs teach many false doctrines. Some are relatively peculiar (e.g.- investigative judgment; Sabbath observance), some they share with cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses (e.g.- soul-sleep; annihilation of the wicked), and some they share with Charismatics (e.g.- Arminian view of salvation; the gift of predictive prophecy). Their position on the doctrine of salvation has changed through the years, but is still unclear. The doctrine of investigative judgment and many SDA sources support a false doctrine of salvation by faith AND works, in spite of what they profess otherwise. They are similar to the Roman Catholic Church in that they hold many fundamental beliefs but also hold many false doctrines, some quite serious. In dealing with SDAs (and all Adventists), it is important not to assume what they believe about salvation. Ask them, "what good things have you done, or are you doing

in order to ensure you go to heaven for all eternity”? If their answer is ANYTHING but a complete denial of all self-works and a total trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ (i.e.- his death, burial, and resurrection) for their salvation, they ARE NOT saved.