

Overview of Seventh-Day Adventists

Key Person, Date, Location

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was primarily organized by James White (1821–1881), Ellen White (1827–1915), and Joseph Bates (1792–1872). It was officially incorporated in 1863 in Michigan. Today, its headquarters are located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Key Writings

Adventists affirm the Bible, including their paraphrased edition *The Clear Word*. Over 600 published titles by Ellen White—such as *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*—are considered authoritative. Additional resources include the *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, the *SDA Bible Commentary*, *Adventist Review*, and numerous other magazines.

Who Is God?

God is comprised of a unity of three co-eternal persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are one in motive and purpose, but not in substance. God the Father is generally understood to possess a physical body. Both Trinitarianism and anti-Trinitarianism are present within the church today.

Who Is Jesus?

According to Ellen White, God the Father exalted Jesus to be his Son, which provoked Lucifer's jealousy and led to a war in heaven. Jesus is viewed as our example, proving that humans can live sinlessly. His sacrifice on the cross did not complete the atonement; since 1844, he has been applying his blood in heaven in an ongoing "investigative judgment," after which he will return. Jesus is also identified as Michael the Archangel. Most early Adventist founders denied Jesus' full deity.

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Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Originally thought to be a force or power from God, the Holy Spirit is now understood by most Adventists to be the third person of the Godhead.

How to Be Saved

Salvation is by grace through faith, but it must be maintained by commandment-keeping and repentance. Observance of the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) is considered the sign of the seal of God, while Sunday worship is viewed as the mark of the beast. Satan is seen as the scapegoat who will be punished in the lake of fire for the sins of the saved.

What Happens After Death?

Humans are believed to have no immaterial spirit. At death, the body returns to the ground and the breath returns to God. Nothing remains except in God's memory. At judgment, the lake of fire will annihilate the wicked.

Other Facts, Beliefs, or Practices

The SDA Church considers itself to be God's one, special remnant church. It observes Old Testament dietary laws regarding clean and unclean meats. The Adventist "health message" includes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine, and advocates veganism. Traditionalist Adventists believe wearing jewelry is sinful. Evangelistic efforts include "Revelation Seminars" and UHealth outreach programs.