



# Seventh-day Adventism

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Who Are Seventh-  
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# Who Are Seventh-day Adventists?

Seventh-day Adventists, also known as “SDAs”, are a denomination of Protestant Christianity. They are distinguished based on their strong belief in the return of Christ, “The Second Coming”. The SDA Church has become a significant group throughout the world, with churches in over 200 countries and over 14 million members (Encyclopedia Britannica).



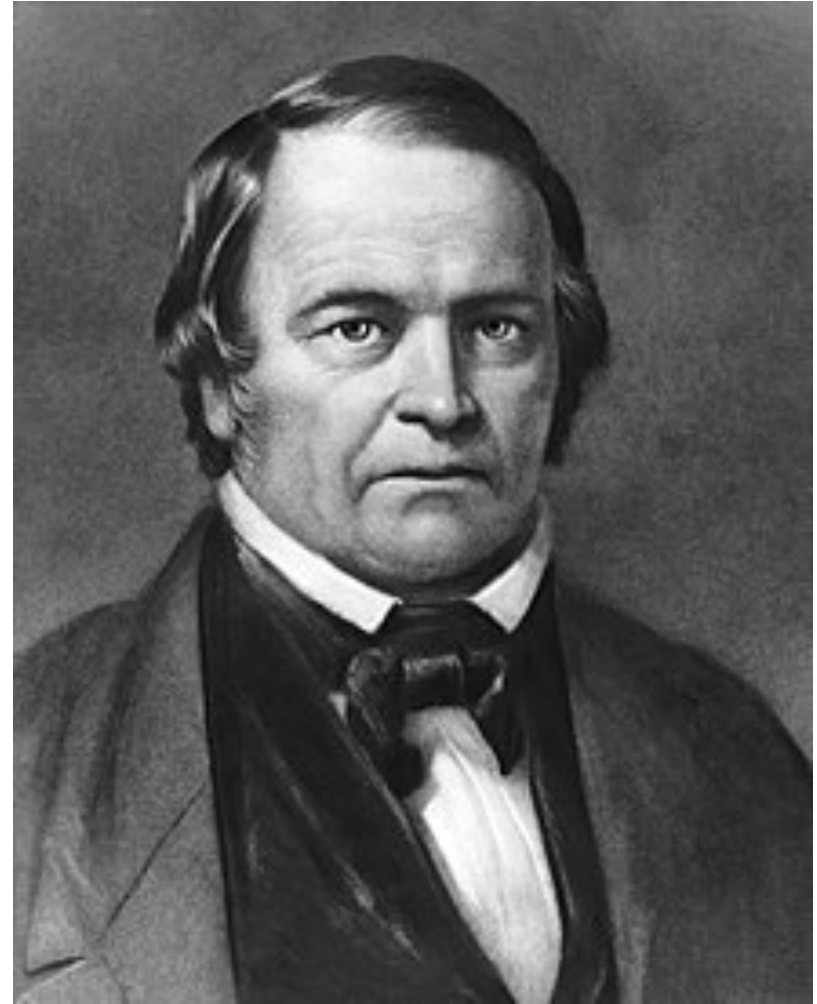


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# Historical Background

# William Miller

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, in the midst of the religious revival in America during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, William Miller (pictured to the right), a Baptist, created the Millerite movement based on his beliefs proclaimed through preaching. He took a liking to the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation. Based on his studies of these prophetic books and other books in the Bible, Miller predicted that Christ would return. He was wrong and became discouraged and left the movement.



# October 22, 1844: "The Great Disappointment"

One of Miller's followers, Samuel Snow, "then suggested that the Second Coming would occur on October 22, 1844" (Encyclopedia Britannica). Christ did not return on that date either. That day is known as "The Great Disappointment". One year later, people who still believed in Miller's idea created the Mutual Conference of Adventists. From here they formed the Evangelical Adventists.



# The Evangelical Adventists

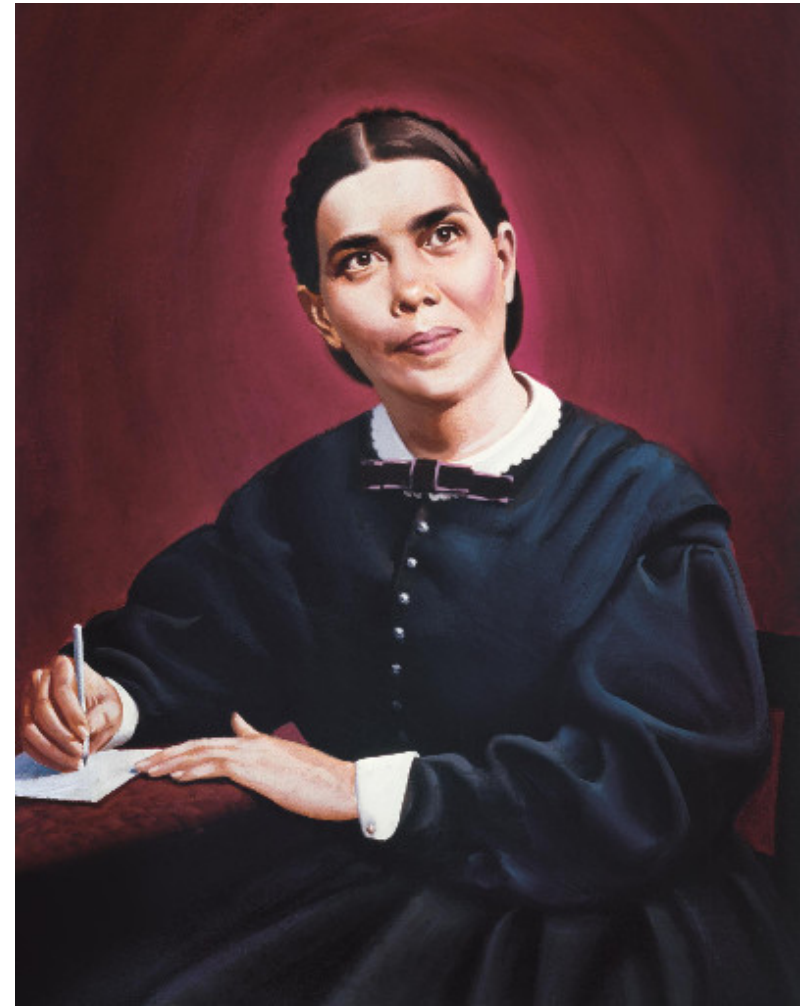
The Evangelical Adventists became the foundation of all modern Adventist churches. Among them were James White, his wife Ellen (top right), and Joseph Bates (bottom right). Their belief was that Miller had found the correct date but had interpreted the events wrongly. Their belief was that God had started the “cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary” (Encyclopedia Britannica), essentially that God started an inspection of every name in the Book of Life and when He was finished, Christ would return. They also decided that worship on the seventh day (Saturday) is the correct day of worship.





# Ellen G. White

The Seventh-day Adventists believe that Ellen White had the gift of prophecy (Encyclopedia Britannica). Many of her lectures and writings formed the future practices and beliefs of the SDA church. “Both books remind church historians that Seventh-day Adventism deserves its due as one of America’s original religions,” (Butler 149) wrote Butler, when mentioning some of White’s writings.





# Loma Linda University Medical Center

Ellen White is largely responsible for the start of the wide range of healthcare done by Adventists. You may know of Loma Linda University Medical Center. This medical center was White's Vision (Ciccarelli). Her vision is expressed today in this quote: "Seventh-day Adventist health care in the United States routinely offers clinical services that utilize the full range of present-day, family-building, medical technologies." (Carr 214).





# 28 Fundamental Beliefs

# 28 Fundamental Beliefs

SDAs contribute the Bible to being their only source for their beliefs. Adventists have 28 fundamental beliefs that are categorized into 6 sections. These categories, as stated by the official Adventist website, are the doctrines of God, humanity, salvation, the church, the Christian life and last day events (Adventist.org).



# The First 5 Beliefs: Doctrines of God

The first 5 beliefs of the 28 are the doctrines of God, according to the official Adventist website. They go in this order:

- **Holy Scriptures:** The Bible shows God's part in human history, our role in His plan, and fact to protect and guide us from lies and deception.
- **Trinity:** There is only one God and he is a unity of three coeternal Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- **Father:** God the Father is the root of all life and love. He gave us His Son to save us to show us His character.
- **Son:** Jesus turned into a human to save us. He is getting Heaven ready for us and will come back to take us there.
- **Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit inspires us and guides our understanding. The Holy Spirit transforms us and touches our hearts.

# The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Beliefs: Doctrines of Humanity

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> beliefs of the 28 are the doctrines of humanity, according to the official Adventist website. They go in this order:

- **Creation:** God made the world creatively and with extra care. He made humans to take care of and to take pleasure in the earth.
- **Nature of Humanity:** Made in God's image but then fractured by sin, it took a faultless Savior to restore us. The Holy Spirit repairs God's image in us so that God can operate through us.



# The 8<sup>th</sup> Through 11<sup>th</sup> Beliefs: Doctrines of Salvation

The 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> beliefs of the 28 are the doctrines of salvation, according to the official Adventist website. They go in this order:

- **The Great Controversy:** Satan claimed that God is unfair and dishonest. God gave us the freedom to pick, and history shows the results—and the awesome power of God's love and his plan to save us.
- **The Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ:** God sent his Son (Jesus) to live as a human but be perfect and then dies from the death our sins condign. When we accept the sacrifice Jesus made, we inherit eternal life.
- **The Experience of Salvation:** The Holy Spirit shows us our great need for Jesus and recreates us when we accept God's salvation and grace.
- **Growing In Christ:** Salvation reconstructs how we see the world. The Spirit lives in us.

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Through 18<sup>th</sup> Beliefs: Doctrines of The Church

The 12<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> beliefs of the 28 are the doctrines of the church, according to the official Adventist website. They go in this order:

- **The Church:** The church is God's Earthly family. They look to Jesus as their Redeemer and leader. The calling of the church is to spread the great news of salvation to everyone.
- **The Remnant and Its Mission:** When the world is coming to an end, God beckons his people back to the core truths. The remnant declares Jesus's imminent return, features God as Creator, the judgment in Heaven, and the danger of compromised spirituality.
- **Unity In The Body of Christ:** The church is a body with numerous members of many different backgrounds. We are unified in Christ.

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Through 18<sup>th</sup> Beliefs: Doctrines of The Church (Cont.)

- **Baptism:** Baptism represents and proclaims our newfound faith in Christ and our assurance in His forgiveness.
- **The Lord's Supper (A.K.A.: Communion):** Communion represents our acceptance of the blood and body of Jesus, who died to save us. We also wash each other's feet in remembrance of Jesus' example of service and humility.
- **Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:** The Holy Spirit empowers all of us with talents and skills to use them for God's glory and the spreading of His Word.
- **The Gift of Prophecy:** In the final days, similar to biblical times, the Spirit blessed God's people with the profound gift of prophecy. One person who demonstrated this was Ellen G. White.

# The 19<sup>th</sup> Through 23<sup>rd</sup> Beliefs: Doctrines of The Christian Life

The 19<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> beliefs of the 28 are the doctrines of the Christian life, according to the official Adventist website. They go in this order:

- **The Law of God:** The Ten Commandments show us God's plan and love for us. Its rules instruct us how to correspond with God and others.
- **The Sabbath:** The Sabbath is one of God's gifts to us. It's a time of restoration and rest with God and others.
- **Stewardship:** God trusts us with authority for our world, ourselves, our material resources, and our fellow humans.
- **Christian Behavior:** God beckons us to live in the glorious light of His grace. Through the Holy Spirit, we honor God in our bodies, minds, and spirits.
- **Marriage and The Family:** Males and females were created in God's image and are designed to live in relationships. Marriage is God's paradigm for living in harmony and a big part in children being able to grow up in security and love.

# The 24<sup>th</sup> Through 28<sup>th</sup> Beliefs: Doctrines of Last Day Events

The 24<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> beliefs of the 28 are the doctrines of the last day events, according to the official Adventist website. They go in this order:

- **Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary:** Jesus's ultimate sacrifice gives us strength to approach God, knowing our sins have been forgiven. Now Jesus is going through our lives before coming back, so that there's no concern that His judgments are created in love.
- **The Second Coming of Christ:** We anticipate Jesus's return. When He returns, both the dead in Christ and the alive in Christ will go with Him to Heaven. We don't know exactly when He will return.
- **Death and Resurrection:** Death is like sleeping—unconscious. Jesus's conquering of death means the saved will be resurrected and living forever.
- **The Millennium and the End of Sin:** Satan and his people are stuck on Earth by themselves while the saved reconnect with God. After a millennium (1000 years) God will resurrect the lost for final judgment before destroying the sinners and sin.
- **The New Earth:** God will recreate the Earth and live with us forever. We will reach our true potential while living in the joy and love that God created us in.





# Current Issues

# Current Issues in the SDA Church

## ***Women's Ordination***

According to my interview with Pastor Jon Ciccarelli, some of the conferences believe that women should be able to be ordained based on the conference's demographics. Currently, the worldwide vote does not support women's ordination. Part of the reason is because countries, where the cultural belief is that women are not intended to be leaders, are larger countries so their votes outweigh the votes of other regions who disagree. However, other conferences believe that not letting women be ordained is discrimination (Ciccarelli). As stated by *Spectrum Magazine*, "The mission of the church is universal, while the ministry of the church is local." This is in response to the Compliance document that the General Conference released. This document stated that churches who do not comply with the world church obligations will receive consequences. Many conferences are rebelling against this, including the North American Division, and more specially the Pacific Union Conference. For example, the Southeastern California Conference has a woman president, Sandra Roberts (pictured right) whom the General Conference does not recognize (Ciccarelli).



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# Image Works Cited



# Images Work Cited

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Ellen White Photo: <https://whiteestate.org/about/egwbio/>

Great Disappointment Photo: <https://temperancacrista.wordpress.com/2016/12/06/why-didnt-jesus-return-on-october-22-1844/>

James and Ellen White Photo: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day\\_Adventist\\_Church\\_Pioneers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church_Pioneers)

Joseph Bates Photo: [https://www.aplib.org/?page\\_id=104](https://www.aplib.org/?page_id=104)

Loma Linda University Medical Center Photo: <https://lluh.org/health-professionals/gme/resident-fellow/internal-medicine-residency/affiliated-hospitals>

Sandra Roberts Photo: <https://seccpresident.adventistfaith.org>

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

William Miller Photo: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Miller\\_\(preacher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Miller_(preacher))