

Words of Truth

Exposing The Seventh-day Adventists (Part 1)

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As we approach our study of the Seventh-day Adventists [we shall refer to them as the SDA] I must warn you to prepare yourself for more of the same - BLATANT ERROR! This denomination, like all others, promotes false doctrine through human logic and twisting the Scriptures (cf. Colossians 2:8, II Timothy 2:14-18, and II Peter 3:16-18).

The word "Adventist" means: "A member of any of various Christian sects emphasizing belief in the imminent second coming of Christ" (New Oxford American Dictionary). By this identity, this group may seem innocent to the ignorant, for all Bible students realize that Christ will return a second time (Matthew 16:27, Matthew 24:35-25:46, Acts 1:11, I Corinthians 15:1-58, II Corinthians 5:1-11, Philippians 3:20, I Thessalonians 4:13-5:9, II Thessalonians 1:7-9, and II Peter 3:8-14). However, we will find that this group of people are not God's people. They are far from innocent. Their doctrines are false and their beginning is of man (Colossians 2:17-23). Let's begin with how the SDA came into existence.

Where Did the Seventh-day Adventists Come From?

The Seventh-day Adventists explain their history like this:

"In fulfillment of the divine plan, the Advent Movement began its prophetic journey **toward the kingdom** in the year 1844. Few in number, often with unhappy memories of having been cast out of their churches **because they had accepted the Advent doctrine**, the **Movement's pioneers walked uncertainly at first**. They were sure of the doctrines they held, **but unsure as to the form of organization**, if any, that they should adopt. Indeed, most of them so sharply remembered how strong, well-organized church bodies had used that strength to oppose the Advent truth, that they instinctively feared any centralized order and government. Nevertheless, **certain pioneer leaders saw with increasing clarity that some kind of government was imperative if good order was to prevail and the Movement grow strong**. Their conviction was **greatly strengthened by messages coming from the pen of Ellen G. White**.

The result was that in 1860 a church name, Seventh-day Adventist, was chosen and a legal body created to hold church property. This was followed, in 1861, by **the organization of our first conference, Michigan**. This involved the organizing of local churches, **with the members signing a church covenant**, and the organizing of the various churches into one united body to constitute what is now called a local conference. Action was also taken to give **identifying papers to the ministers, thus protecting the churches against impostors** who might seek to prey upon them.

In 1863 the General Conference was organized, thus gathering into one organization a number of local conferences which had been created by that time. **This set the Advent Movement on a coordinated, organized course**" (http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/church_manual/index.html).

Exposing Their Foundation!

What does it mean to begin a journey “toward the kingdom” as the SDA said above? Before we prove the kingdom exists already, let’s just be sure we are accurately representing their views, though the quote above seems clear enough. Do they really believe the kingdom has not come? Notice: “The Seventh-day Adventist Church wishes to stand for the uncoercive harmony of **God's coming kingdom**” (http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/main_stat52.html). Now that we’re clear on the fact that they believe the kingdom is coming instead of having already come, let’s see what the Bible says. Here are the Scriptures PROVING the kingdom already exists: *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son... Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear... I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Colossians 1:12-13, Hebrews 12:28, and Revelation 1:9).

Next, the SDA is a “movement” as they stated in the quote above. They decided to become an organized movement too. Problem is, there is no movement the Bible speaks of and there is already an organization that Jesus began to carry out His work. Jesus built His church (Matthew 16:13-18). This is the one and only church that exists with God’s authority (Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:4-6, Ephesians 5:22-25, and Colossians 1:18-20). It is no wonder they walked in uncertainty at first (cf. Ephesians 4:14 and James 4:8). Truth is, they walked with questions back then. Now, they run with error (Isaiah 59:7).

Then we notice that men influenced the SDA beginnings. Then we find a woman, named Ellen G. White, greatly strengthened the movement by her teachings. First, if it is of man it is not of God (Mark 7:1-9 and Galatians 1:6-12; cf. Acts 5:34-40). Secondly, men or women did not build the real church in the 1800’s (Ephesians 2:19-22). Finally, a woman has absolutely no authority to be teaching in such an influential, authoritative manner, as did Ellen G. White (I Timothy 2:11-12). What men or women thought or saw should not have led them to start a denomination or to do anything at all aside from what the Scriptures teach (Leviticus 10:1-2, Proverbs 14:12, Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 21:2, Jeremiah 10:23, Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 4:4, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 17:5, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 6:46, Luke 11:28, John 6:26-27, John 6:63, John 8:31-32, Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 3:15-17, I Peter 4:11, II Peter 1:3, and Revelation 22:14).

Where is the authority for “conferences”, “church covenants”, or “indentifying papers”? Again, they erred in both going beyond and falling short of God’s will (Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32, II Samuel 6:6-7, II Samuel 7:1-7, Proverbs 30:5-6, and Revelation 22:18-19).

Conclusion

Since 1863 the SDA has had a general conference. The SDA world headquarters is in Silver Spring, MD (http://www.adventist.org/world_headquarters/index.html.en). Unlike Christians, the SDA is governed by a church manual, which is ordered by votes of the General Conference when it is in session (http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/church_manual/index.html). The Bible is not the guide of the SDA. Next week we shall continue exposing the SDA by comparing their words to the Scriptures. We’ll see in our next article that their focus is not on spiritual matters.