

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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.

1. The Holy Scriptures

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 Timothy 3:16, 17; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 30:5,6; Isaiah 8:20; John 10:35; 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12.).

1. THE SCRIPTURES

1. By what name are the sacred writings of the Bible commonly known?

“Jesus said unto them, Did you never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?” Matthew 21: 42.

2. What other title is given this revelation of God to man?

“And He answered and said unto them, My mother and My brethren are these which hear the Word of God, and do it.” Luke 8: 21.

3. How were the Scriptures given?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Tim. 3: 16.

4. By whom were the men directed who thus spoke for God?

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1: 21.

5. What specific instance is mentioned by Peter?

'Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spoke before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus!' Acts 1: 16.

6. How does David express this same truth?

“When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” Gal. 4: 4, 5.

“The Spirit Of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was in my tongue.” 2 Sam. 23:2

7. Who, therefore, did the speaking through these men?

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.” Hebrews 1: 1.

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8. For what purpose were the Scriptures written?

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15: 4.

9. For what is all Scripture profitable?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim. 3: 16.

10. What was God's design in thus giving the Scriptures?

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Verse 17.

11. What estimate did Job place upon the words of God?

“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” Job 23: 12.

12. Upon what evidence did Jesus base His Messiahship?

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24: 27.

13. What three general divisions did Jesus recognize as including all the writings of the Old Testament?

“And He said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me.” Verse 44.

14. What does God's character preclude Him from doing?

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.” Titus 1: 2.

15. What is God called in the Scriptures?

“He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.” Deuteronomy 32: 4.

16. What, therefore, must be the character of His Word?

“Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.” John 17: 17.

17. What test should therefore be applied to every professed teacher of truth?

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8: 20.

18. What does God design that His Word shall be to us in this world of darkness, sin, and death?

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path!” Psalm 119: 105.

19. To what extent has God magnified His Word?

“Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy name.” Psalm 138: 2.

Note-God did this by backing His promises with an oath based on Himself Hebrews 6:13,14. By this He pledged and placed at stake His name, or character, for the fulfilment of His word.

20. In what is the true poetry of life to be found?

“Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.” Psalm 119: 54.

21. How long will the Word of God endure?

“The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isaiah 40: 8.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” Matthew 24:35.

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2. STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did Christ say to the Jews concerning the study of the Scriptures?

“Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.” John 5: 39.

2. For what were the Bereans commended?

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Acts 17: 11.

Note-“If God's Word were studied as it should be,” says a modern Bible student, “men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times. But there is little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through, and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite in view, and no positive instruction gained.”

3. By what comparison is it indicated that some portions of God's Word are more difficult to understand than others?

“For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat!” Hebrews 5: 12.

4. In what way is this comparison further explained?

“For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the Word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Verses 13,14.

5. What writings are specifically mentioned as containing some things difficult to understand?

“And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3: 15, 16.

Note - Some scriptures are too plain to be misunderstood, while the meaning of others cannot so readily be discerned. To obtain a comprehensive knowledge of any Bible truth, scripture must be compared with scripture, and there should be “careful research and prayerful reflection.” But all such study will be richly rewarded.

6. Who alone comprehends the things of God?

“For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man ' but the Spirit of God.” 1 Corinthians 2: 11.

7. How thoroughly does the Spirit search out the hidden treasures of truth?

“But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God!” Verse 10.

8. What is one purpose for which the Holy Spirit was sent?

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14: 26.

9. Why cannot the natural man receive the things of the Spirit?

“But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2: 14.

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10. For what spiritual enlightenment should everyone pray?

“Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.” Psalm 119: 18.

11. For what spiritual gift did the Apostle Paul pray?

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” Ephesians 1: 17.

12. Upon what conditions is an understanding of divine things promised ?

“Yea, if thou cries after knowledge, and lifts up thy voice for understanding; if thou seeks her as silver, and searches for her as for hid treasures; then shall thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God Prov. 2: 3-5.

13. What great blessing did Christ confer upon His disciples after His resurrection?

“Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures.” Luke 24: 45.

14. What beings of a higher order than man desire to study the truths revealed in the gospel of Christ?

“Which things the angels desire to look into.” 1 Peter 1: 12.

15. What is promised to him who wills to do God's will?

“If any man will [willeth to, R.V.] to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself!” John 7: 17.

16. How did Christ reprove those who, though familiar with the letter of the Scriptures, failed to understand them?

“Jesus answered and said unto them, You do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.” Matthew 22: 29.

17. What are the Scriptures able to do for one who believes them?

“And that from a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus!” 2 Tim. 3:15.

18. When asked by the rich young man the conditions of eternal life, to what did Jesus direct his attention?

“He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?” Luke 10: 26.

19. Whom did Jesus pronounce blessed?

“But He said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it.” Luke 11: 28.

20. What did Christ say concerning the Book of Daniel?

“When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (who reads, let him understand).” Matthew 24: 15.

21. What other book of the Bible is especially commended for our study?

“Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy [the Book of Revelation], and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Revelation 1: 3.

“How Readest Thou?”

IT is one thing to read the Bible through, Another thing to read to learn and do. Some read it with design to learn to read, But to the subject pay but little heed. Some read it as their duty once a week, But no instruction from the Bible seek; While others read it with but little care, With no regard to how they read, nor where. Some read to bring themselves into repute, By showing others how they can dispute; While others read because their neighbors do, To see how long 'twill take to read it through. Some read it for the wonders that are there-How David killed a lion and a bear; While others read it with uncommon care, Hoping to find some contradictions there. Some read as if it did not speak to them, But to the people at

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Jerusalem. One reads with father's specs upon his head, And sees the thing just as his father said. Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed, Hence understand but little that they read; For every passage in the Book they bend To make it suit that all-important end. Some people read, as I have often thought, To teach the Book instead of being taught; And some there are who read it out of spite. I fear there are but few who read it right. But read it prayerfully, and you will see, Although men contradict, God's words agree; For what the early Bible prophets wrote, We find that Christ and His apostles quote. So trust no creed that trembles to recall What has been penned by one and verified by all.

3. CHRIST IN ALL THE BIBLE

1. Of whom did Christ say the Scriptures testify?

"Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5: 39.

Note - 'Search the Old Testament Scriptures: for they are they that testify of Christ. To find Him in them is the true and legitimate end of their study. To be able to interpret them as He interpreted them is the best result of all Biblical learning.' -Dean Alford.

2. Of whom did Moses and the prophets write?

'Philip finds Nathanael, and says unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.' John 1: 45.

Note-In her translation of the Old Testament Scriptures, Helen Spurrell expressed the following wish for all who should read her translation: "May very many exclaim, as the translator has often done when studying numerous passages in the original, I have found the Messiah!"

3. From whose words did Christ say the disciples ought to have learned of His death and resurrection?

"O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?" Luke 24: 25, 26.

4. How did Christ make it clear to them that the Scriptures testify of Him?

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Verse 27.

5. What did He say a little later to the eleven?

"These are the words which I spoke unto YOU, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me!" Verse 44.

6. Where in the Bible do we find the first promise of Redeemer?

"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, . . . I will Put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel!" Genesis 3: 14, 15~

7. In what words was this promise renewed to Abraham?

"In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed!" Genesis 22: 18. See also Genesis 26: 4; 28: 14.

8. To whom did this promised seed refer?

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He said not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Gal. 3: 16.

9. Whom did God promise to send with Israel to guide them into the promised land?

"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared!" Ex. 23: 20.

10. Who was the Rock that went with them?

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“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed [went with, margin] them: and that Rock was Christ!’ 1 Corinthians 10: 4.

11. In what prophecy are Christ's life, suffering, and death touchingly foretold?

In the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah.

12. Where is the price of Christ's betrayal foretold?

“So they weighed for My price thirty pieces of silver.” Zech. 11: 12. See Matthew 26: 15.

13. Where in the Psalms are Christ's dying words recorded?

“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me’ Psalm 22: 1. See Matthew 27: 46. “Into Thy hand I commit My spirit.” Psalm 31: 5. See Luke 23: 46.

14. How is Christ's resurrection foretold in the Psalms?

“I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.” Psalm 2: 7. See Acts 13: 33.

15. Where again in the Psalms is His resurrection foretold?

“For Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption!’ Psalm 16: 10. See Acts 2: 25-31.

16. In what words does Daniel foretell Christ's receiving His kingdom?

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” Dan. 7: 13, 14. See also Luke 1: 32, 33; 19: 11, 12; Revelation 11: 15.

17. How is Christ's second coming described in the Psalms?

“Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for He cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity.” Psalm 98: 8, 9. “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” Psalm 50: 3-5.

18. What is Christ to one renewed after God's image?

“Christ is all, and in all!’ Colossians 3: 11.

2. The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 29:29; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 14:6,7.)

THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD

Bible Teacher 1/03/1906

“There are Three Living Persons in the heavenly TRIO”

Special Testimonies to SDA's

“There are Three Living Persons of the heavenly TRIO. In the name of these Three Powers--the Father, the