

Seventh Day Adventists: Responding To Their Erroneous Doctrine

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Foreword by
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Foreword

The Seventh Day Adventists are not a Christian sect, contrary to their claim. They are an extension of an old heresy that the apostles fought vehemently, known as the **heresy of Judaism**. Our teacher Saint Paul pinpoints this heresy in writing, “*So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ*” (Col 2: 16-17).

Saturday was the foreshadowing of Sunday, and the sacrifices of the Old Testament were the foreshadowing of the sacrifice of the Lord Christ on the cross. Our teacher Saint Paul wrote a whole epistle to the Hebrews (**the converted Jews**), to proclaim to them that the Christian glory is much greater than the Jewish glory, be that in terms of sacrifice, Temple, Covenant, Priesthood...etc.

The Seventh Day Adventists believe that the Lord Jesus Christ resembled us in every aspect: in the possibility of doing wrong, in sinning, and even in our ancestral sins. This is sufficient to ultimately destroy the doctrine of redemption, consequently endangering anyone believing in this heresy of eternal damnation.

Therefore I thank H. E. Metropolitan Bishoy for authoring this brief book, which suits the average reader. His Eminence reveals to us the deceitful basis on which this dangerous innovation was built, and the fatal errors that it contains.

Furthermore, His Holiness Pope Shenouda III had warned us frequently in his articles and sermons regarding this heresy. His Holiness is also in the process of publishing a special book to refute this innovation.

We beseech the leaders of this innovation, along with all their followers, to quickly repent before it is too late, and the following verse applies to them: “*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*” (Gal 1:8)

May the Lord make the following pages a blessing to its readers, through the prayers of our beloved shepherd **His Holiness Pope Shenouda III**.

May the grace of the Lord overshadow us all,

H. G. Bishop Moussa

General Bishop

Introduction

Until the present age many Copts still do not know who the Seventh Day Adventists are. The Adventists have a formal registered status in Egypt. The adjective **Adventist** is derived from the noun **Advent meaning ‘coming’**. Their official appellation is **Seventh Day Adventists**.

This sect started in the USA in 1831, and was formally registered there in 1861. They came to Egypt in 1932, as a Christian denomination (**a false claim**), offering help to the needy; and establishing orphanages, schools, and hospitals.

Their limited expansion in Egypt was aided at the time by the innocent knowledge of our Coptic people regarding the doctrines of this group. The Adventists were able to register their organizations, hence their activities achieved a legal status. It might be noticeable that nowadays they have become even more active, **in an extensive financially aided** attempt to convert many of our Coptic Orthodox congregations to their wrongful doctrine, which is similar to the doctrine of the Jewish Sadducees.

The priest named **Helal Doss** led this group; and **Mr. Galal Philip Doss** became one of their most active leaders. Currently, he is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Family Foods Co.**, previously known as **Nutrition Co.** He is also the CEO of **Avon Co.**, for cosmetics.

In the former company are **1000 Christian workers and staff members**; while in the latter, **446 Christian**. The two companies have factories in the *Tenth of Ramadan City*, as well as many subsidiaries, similar to sales outlets. These include subsidiaries for **Avon Co.**, in Alexandria, Aghakhan, Merry Land, Maady, and Garden City.

Mr. Galal Doss conducts daily meetings, for groups of workers in these companies. He gives 35 lectures to each group, most of them attacking the Christian faith and the Orthodox dogma. After the block of lectures has been delivered, he publicly asks, “**who became an Adventist**”? Anyone who was convinced of what he said will then undergo another set of lectures, to fortify their deviated Adventist dogma.

He conducts other meetings in his own house, in the Sheraton Towers, every Saturday. He even assigns special cars to pick up those living far distances, yet want to attend the meeting. Furthermore, he regularly visits and calls people persistently and with enticement. Moreover, he distributes non-Orthodox books and cassette tapes for free. He also utilizes the companies’ funds to facilitate medical treatment fees for those who attend the meetings. Further, he accepts the workers’ children into Adventist language schools.

(It is worth mentioning that the Adventists prevent their students from attending the exams of the Ministry for Education that come on Saturdays. Thus, they cannot pass the Arabic language exam, since it always comes on a

Saturday. This results in problems for those who follow their beliefs in keeping Saturday holy, rather than Sundays, and sticking absolutely to the letter of the Scriptures in keeping the seventh day of the week).

The Adventists also organize many seminars, announcing them in the official newspapers with much propaganda; in order to attract the simple minded. For example, they once invited a foreign lecturer to conduct a lecture entitled, “**How to overcome the habit of smoking**”? Everyone was invited to attend.

It has become pertinent to instruct our people, of all education levels, regarding the dogmatic errors of this cult. The Holy Synod of our Church considers the Adventists a non-Christian cult. Accordingly, **H. H. Pope Shenouda III** published many articles in *El-Keraza* magazine, explaining the doctrines of the Seventh Day Adventists, their dangers, and their errors.

The following is a segment from H. H. Pope Shenouda III writings in *El-Keraza* Magazine dated November 20, 1992 issue:

“The Adventist is a dangerous innovation that has many dangerous errors in common with the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Some of their most famous heresies are:

- 1. They believe that the Lord Christ is Archangel Michael.*
- 2. They believe that the Lord Christ was born with the original sin.*
- 3. They call the Holy Spirit “The vice-head of the Lord’s hosts”.*
- 4. They believe that Saturday, rather than Sunday, is the Lord’s day.*
- 5. They do not believe in the immortality of the spirit.*
- 6. They believe in three Comings of the Lord Christ.*
- 7. They believe in the earthly Kingdom, and that Heaven will not be for humans.*
- 8. They believe that the wicked will vanish, and not suffer.*
- 9. They do not believe in Priesthood, intercession, or in many other Church Sacraments.*
- 10. They have other innovations that we will discuss later, God willing.”*

H. H. Pope Shenouda III explained all these issues in the aforementioned article, and in other articles in the same magazine. Further, His Holiness delivered some lectures about this issue to the students of the Theological College, in Cairo and Alexandria. They are available on cassette tapes from the administration of *El-Keraza*, in the printing house of Anba Ruweis, Cairo.

We shall begin with a historical account of the heresy of the Seventh day Adventists, and its founder **William Miller**. Secondly, we shall talk about the so-called Adventist prophetess and messenger **Ellen White**, her life story, her alleged

revelations, and her writings. Finally, leading to a brief talk regarding some dogmatic errors of the Adventists. We will refute them until we publish a comprehensive book about the, “*The Seventh Day Adventists*”.

At the end of this book, we included the decision of the Holy Synod of our Church regarding this cult. Also included, is a report of the Patriarchs and heads of the Oriental Orthodox Churches, in the Middle East, regarding this same issue.

I would like to thank **H. H. Pope Shenouda III; and members of the Holy Synod of our Church; H. G. Bishop Moussa**, General Bishop for Youth; members of Synod’s Committee for Faith, Education, and Legislation; **H. G. Bishop Rophael**, General Bishop; **H. G. Bishop Yacobos** of Zakazik; **Rev. Father Bakhom Abdel-Malak, and Rev. Father Benjamin Guirguis**, priests of the Diocese of Zakazik; and **Father Missael Zekry** of Saint Mary’s Church in Matarya; for their enthusiasm in hindering the Adventists’ activities. I also thank those working in the Youth Bishopric for their diligence in publishing and distributing the Arabic edition of this research.

September 24, 2000 AD

Commemoration of Saint Aghathon the stylite, and Commemoration of monastic revival in the Monastery of Saint Demiana by H. H. Pope Shenouda III in 1978 AD

H. E. Metropolitan Bishoy

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First: A History of the Seventh Day Adventist Innovation:

1. William Miller:

The founder of this heresy, William Miller, was born in Massachusetts (USA) on February 15, 1782. He isolated himself for the study of the Bible for two years, from 1816 to 1818. He emerged from this study claiming that the end of the world will occur in the year 1843. This study was based on the prophecies of Daniel the prophet (Dan 8:14, 9:24-27)

He considered the weeks mentioned in chapter 9 of the Book of Daniel to be weeks of years, (**as many commentators believe**). Therefore, seven days are actually seven years, according to their belief. This makes the period between issuing the order for rebuilding Jerusalem in the year 457 BC, until these mentioned events, 490 years.

It is common knowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified in 33 AD. Daniel wrote, "*For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed*" (Dan 8:14). Miller considered this period to be 2300 years, so he subtracted 490 years from 2300 years and arrived at 1810 years. He, then, added 33 years, (the age of our Lord Jesus Christ at His crucifixion). The result of this calculation was 1843. So, he considered this year to be the time of the Lord Christ's coming. He was so convinced of this idea and started discussing it with those around him. In 1831, at the encouragement of one of his friends he publicly stated his beliefs. This began the formation of the Seventh Day Adventists' sect.

When he began publicizing his beliefs, many people desired to listen to his point of view. Thus, he became a full-time Baptist preacher in all the USA.

In the period between 1840-1842, he went to Portland, Oregon to preach. Among those listening to him was the family of Robert Gould Harmon, Ellen White's father, who joined the sect.

Miller continued spreading his ideas, until the year 1843 had passed, and the Second Coming had not occurred.

2. Samuel Snow:

In August of 1844 one of the followers of William Miller, Samuel Snow, through more accurate calculations, arrived at the conclusion that the Lord Christ will come on the seventh Jewish month, on the great Day of Atonement; specifically October 22, 1844.

His followers sold all their possessions, resigned their jobs, dressed in white, and went up on mountains singing hymns, awaiting to receive the Lord Christ. When the Second Coming of the Lord Christ did not occur at that date, William Miller's movement experienced a great disappointment; they called that day 'The Great

Disappointment Day'. As a result, many of Miller's Adventist followers abandoned the sect, leaving only a fragment of the original population.¹

- ❖ In 1845, at the age of 17, **Ellen White claimed that the Lord had shown her in a dream that He will come in the near future.** Since her claim did not manifest, **another leader of the sect, named Hirman Edson, found an outlet. He claimed that on the October 22, 1844 the Lord Christ moved from the Heavenly Holy to the Holy of Holies; and through this move, He started the final probation of sinners.** This is where the strange doctrine concerning the final probation took roots.

3. Joseph Bates and the Sabbath

In the period between 1840-1850 AD Joseph Bates introduced and convinced the sect of keeping the Jewish Sabbath. Bates belonged originally to the Seventh Day Baptists; some of this group's members do not believe in keeping Sunday, but keep Saturday. The Seventh Day Baptists were prior to the Seventh Day Adventists in adopting the doctrine of keeping the Sabbath. Bates joined the Adventists, bringing with him some traditions from the Seventh Day Baptists.

4. Ellen White

Ellen White played a great role in the history of the Seventh Day Adventists' cult. Ellen Gould Harmon was born on November 26, 1827, into a Methodist family. Her family joined the Adventist movement due to the teachings of William Miller in Portland, U.S.A.

One day in school, a stone hit Ellen on the left forehead. The blow nearly killed her and undoubtedly left her badly brain damaged, unable to continue her formal schooling.

Ellen White, the wife of James White, claimed that she had a dream stressing that Christians must keep the Jewish Sabbath as Saturday. In that dream, she claimed that the fourth Commandment shone more brightly than the Ten Commandments written on the two tablets. The Commandment said, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy*" (Ex 20:8).

William Miller's group considered Mrs. White a messenger from God, prophetess, and a visionary. Accordingly, they considered all her visions as divine messages to their sect.

Mrs. White died in 1915 at the age of 87, never having seen the alleged day of the Second Coming of the Lord Christ that she had long predicted. Regardless, she is very highly esteemed by the Seventh Day Adventists. She even replaced the dreams

¹ Antony A. Hoekema, *Seventh Day Adventism*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Comp. Grand Rapids, Michigan, reprinted 1990.

with some alleged visits by angels at three o'clock in the morning, telling her what to write.

Eyewitness comments on Ellen White's visions

In the book, *“Prophet of the End”*, published by the Adventists, they describe how she was like during visions. Mrs. Martha Amadon, who attended these visions on several occasions says, *“As one who has frequently observed her in vision, knowing the company of people usually present, all deeply observant and believers in her exercises, I have often wondered why a more vivid description of the scenes which have transpired had not been given.*

*In vision her eyes were open. There was no breath, but there were graceful movements of the shoulders, arms and hands expressive of what she saw. It was impossible for anyone else to move her hands or arms. She often uttered words singly, and sometimes sentences which expressed to those about her the nature of the view she was having, either of heaven or of earth.”*²

5. George Butler

An eyewitness to Mrs. White's visions on several occasions in 1874, George Butler was a member of this cult. He says, *“For nearly thirty years past these visions have been given with greater or less frequency, and have been witnessed by many, oftentimes by unbelievers as well as those believing them. They generally, but not always, occur in the midst of earnest seasons of religious interest while the spirit of God is specially present..”*³

In his description he also said, *“The time Mrs. White is in this condition has varied from fifteen minutes to one hundred and eighty (three hours). During this time the heart and pulse continue to beat, the eyes are always wide open, and seem to be gazing at some far-distant object, and are never fixed on any person or thing in the room. They are always directed upward... The brightest light may be suddenly brought near her eyes, or feints made as if to thrust something into the eye, and there is never the slightest wink or change in expression on that account... While she is in vision her breathing entirely ceases. No breath ever escapes her nostrils or lips when in this condition.”*⁴

Further, he says, *“Often she loses her strength temporarily and reclines or sits; but at other times she stands up. She moves her arms gracefully”*⁵.

Her husband James White comments on her visions saying, *“On coming out of vision, whether in the daytime or a well-lighted room at night, all is total darkness [for her]. Her power to distinguish even the most brilliant objects, held within a few inches of the eyes, returns but gradually... She has probably had, during the past twenty-three years, between one and two hundred visions. These have been*

²Harvestime Books, *Prophet of the End*, Altamont, USA, 1988, p. 36

³ *ibid.* p. 38

⁴ *ibid.* p. 38

⁵ *ibid.* p. 39

given under almost every variety of circumstances, yet maintaining a wonderful similarity.”-James White, Life Incidents, page 272, 1868.⁶.

Dr. Bordeaux wanted to confirm the authenticity of these visions, so he visited Ellen White when she claimed to have been in a state of observing a vision; this took place in Buck’s Bridge, New York 1857. He says, “*June 28, 1857, I saw sister Ellen G. White in vision for the first time. I was an unbeliever in the visions; but one circumstance among others that I might mention convinced me that her visions were of God. To satisfy my mind as to whether she breathed or not [while in vision]. I first put my hand on her chest sufficiently long to know that there was no more heavings of the lungs than there would have been had she been a corpse. I then took my hand and placed it over her mouth, pinching her nostrils between my thumb and forefinger, so that it was impossible for her to exhale or inhale air, even if she had desired to do so. I held her thus with my hand about ten minutes, long enough for her to suffocate under ordinary circumstances; she was not in the least affected by this ordeal. Since witnessing this wonderful phenomenon, I have not once been inclined to doubt the divine origin of her visions*”. –Statement by D.T. Bourdeau, Battle Creek, Michigan, dated February 4, 1891⁷.

Writings of Ellen White

Some of her most influential writings that were translated into Arabic are, “**The Great Controversy**”, “**The Desire of Ages**”, “**Patriarchs and Prophets**”, “**The Ministry of Healing**”, “**Living the life of the Lifegiver**”, and “**Acts of the Apostles**”.

This person, who could not complete her education, wrote these large volumes. This is Satan’s gift to his followers. Furthermore, in her writings, one finds interpretations of a brilliant intellect that would never emerge from a non- educated person with a brain injury. Her words are those of a person with great knowledge, who wants to destroy the correct faith. She also has some attractive, yet deceiving, interpretations of the Holy Bible. How could she have such a great ability?

In most cases, Mrs. White used to affirm in her visions what the group had already discussed and decided as doctrine. Her writings however contained many mistakes, theological errors, and faults about well-established scientific facts that a rational person would never accept.

For example, in her book *Spiritual Gifts*, she claimed that the main reason for destroying the world with the Great Flood was the interbreeding or “amalgamation” (intermarriage), and reproduction, between humans and animals. Further, she said that the intermingled species that resulted from this reproduction were not the creation of God, and thus were not taken into Noah’s Ark: because they are hybrids of humans and animals. **It has been scientifically proven that humans and animals cannot intermarry and reproduce.**

⁶ ibid. p. 41-42

⁷ibid. p.44

- ❖ **Wallace Slattery**, in his book, “*Seventh Day Adventists - False Prophets?*” asks, “*Ellen White’s numerous educational errors caused many problems for the Adventists. Would she then be a prophet?*” This is the reaction of a former member of the Adventists. He later broke up with the group and wrote his book which was published in 1941, and also reprinted in 1990.

Following is a quotation cited from Ellen White’s book “*Spiritual Gifts*”⁸:
“*But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God and caused confusion everywhere. God purposed to destroy that powerful long-lived race that had corrupted, their ways before Him*”.

We also quote: “*Every species of animal which God created were preserved in the ark. The confused species which God did not create, which were the result of amalgamation were destroyed by the flood. Since the flood, there has been amalgamation of man and beast as may be seen in the almost endless varieties of species of animals and in certain races of men*”.

Here are also some excerpts from her book *The Great Controversy*⁹, as a simple example of Ellen White’s writings.

- ❖ **On page 38-39 she writes:** “*The advancing centuries witnessed a constant increase of error in the doctrines put forth from Rome. Even before the establishment of the papacy the teachings of heathen philosophers had received attention and exerted an influence in the church. Many who professed conversion still clung to the tenets of their pagan philosophy, and not only continued its study themselves, but urged it upon others as a means of extending their influence among the heathen. Serious errors were thus introduced into the Christian faith. Prominent among these was the belief in man’s natural immortality and his consciousness in death. This doctrine laid the foundation upon which Rome established the invocation of saints and the adoration of the Virgin Mary. From this sprang also the heresy of eternal torment for the finally impenitent, which was early incorporated into the papal faith.*”

She then continued, “*The Scriptural ordinance of the Lord’s Supper had been supplanted by the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass. Papal priests pretended, by their senseless mummery, to convert the simple bread and wine into the actual “body and blood of Christ”... With blasphemous presumption, they openly claimed the power of creating God, the Creator of all things.*”.

⁸ Ellen White, *Spiritual Gifts* (Battle Creek Mich.: James White 1858), 3:64, 75.

⁹ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, Remnant Publications, USA, 1997

Second: Some Adventist Dogmatic Errors

First Error:

The spirit dies with the body

Adventists believe that the spirit dies by the death of the body, and that the human spirit is not immortal, rather it is like that of a beast or an animal. Despite what the Lord Christ has said, ***“I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”*** (Mat 22:32). The Lord gave this reply to the Sadducees, when they asked Him about a woman who was married to seven brothers. They asked, ***“Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her. Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living”*** (Mat 22:23-33).

Further they misuse the verse mentioned in the Book of Ecclesiastics, ***“For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity”*** (Ecc 3:19). The author certainly did not mean that the human spirit is similar to that of the animal, since in the preceding verses he writes, ***“I said in my heart, Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals”*** (Ecc 3:18).

The Lord tests man by the event of death, which occurs to both man and animals, to see whether or not man would believe in eternal life. Moreover, concerning the death of man he says, ***“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it”***(Ecc 12:7). However in the third chapter he writes, ***“Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?”***(Ecc 3:21). The question, ***“who knows”***, shows that He is testing humans...

The Holy Bible contains many verses that indicate how dear the human spirit is to God. A few examples are, ***“The Lord...who forms the spirit of man within him”*** (Zec 12:1). Also, ***“But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding”*** (Job 32:8), and, ***“The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life”***(Job 33:4). In the Book of Isaiah it is written, ***“Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it”***(Is 42:5).

The Adventists also believe that there is no eternal judgement for the evildoers, resurrection of their bodies, nor return of their spirits; rather, God will raise up only the righteous and revive their bodies and spirits through a

special grace. This claim is despite the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ talked much regarding the resurrection of the righteous to eternal life (See Matthew 25), and the condemnation of the evildoers to eternal Hell prepared for Satan and his hosts, ***“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels”***(Mat 25:41).

They even apply this same belief to the Humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. They believe that His spirit and body were revived once more through a special divine grace. With this claim, they clash with the verse said by Saint Peter the Apostle, ***“...being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison”***(1 Pet 3:18,19). They think lightly of the Resurrection, and seem to have vague concepts regarding the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Resurrection from the dead.

Second Error:

Jesus Christ is Archangel Michael

Those who believe that Jesus Christ is Archangel Michael either consider that the Lord Jesus Christ is Archangel Michael, and not the only begotten Son of God, or that Archangel Michael does not exist, but was one of the apparitions of the Lord Christ! Both cases are wrong and are rejected by the Holy Bible.

If we discussed their belief that the Lord Christ is Archangel Michael as based on the Epistle of our teacher Jude the Apostle who wrote, ***“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you!”***(Jude 9). How can the Lord Jesus Christ be the one speaking, and at the same time say to the devil, ***“The Lord rebuke you”***? Christ is the Lord that rebukes the devil; He is the ‘Lord of Lords’. ***“And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ”***(Lk 4:41). However, Archangel Michael can say the statement, ***“The Lord rebuke you.”*** Besides, the passage says, ***“Dared not bring against him a reviling accusation”***. Is it logical to say that the Lord Christ ***“dared not”***? It is impossible for such a statement to be said in a rivalry between the Lord Christ and the devil.

Third Error:

Jesus Christ inherited the possibility of sinning

They believe that Jesus Christ inherited the natural tendency for sin, and that the possibility of submitting to sin was in Him, yet He resisted and did not sin. On the other hand, we believe, according to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, that the Lord Christ took a human nature and resembled us in all aspects, except sin, since the fetus formed in the Virgin’s womb is through the work of the Holy Spirit. This was the angel’s proclamation, ***“For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit”***(Mat 1:20). It is impossible for the Holy Spirit to form someone containing sin

or having the possibility of sinning. Similarly, it is impossible for the Word of God Himself, who united with this Humanity, or this human nature that He took from the Virgin Mary, to unite to a nature that has the possibility of sin.

If there was a possibility of Him submitting to sin, the act of redemption would have been in danger!! In such a case, the Savior would have had a choice to either sin or not sin. This means redemption may or may not have been achieved! This would completely destroy to the doctrine of redemption in Christianity. Honestly, what they say is considered a blasphemy against the Lord Christ.

In the book, “*Seventh Day Adventist Believe*”, they say, “*When Christ took the human nature that bore the consequences of sin, He became subject to the infirmities and weaknesses that all experience*”¹⁰. They also say, “*Temptation and the possibility of sinning were real to Christ. If He could not sin He would have been neither human nor our example*”¹¹.

This is the same belief that Nestorius had adopted. Thus there are similarities between Nestorianism and the Adventists regarding this issue. Nestorians say, “*He was a sinless man, though the possibility of sin was open to him as he was a perfect man*”¹².

Fourth Error:

The Jewish Sabbath is the Lord’s Day

The Adventists claim that the Jewish Sabbath is the Lord’s day that should be kept by all believers of the Lord Christ. Thus, in their opinion, all other Christian denominations violate the most important commandment in the Holy Bible: keeping the Sabbath. They believe that the fourth commandment in the first Tablet shone with a special light, (as **Ellen White had seen in her vision**), and that Satan’s sin was not keeping the Sabbath or honoring it. Consequently, they claim that Satan’s attempts are all to cause man to breach the commandment of keeping the Sabbath, and that anyone who violates this commandment is one of Satan’s followers.

This is a form of reverting from Christianity to Judaism. The Seventh Day Adventists are similar to the Jewish Sadducees in believing that the Lord’s day is Saturday, and also in rejecting the resurrection. Saint Paul the Apostle said, “***So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ***” (Col 2:16,17). He did not agree that anyone judge this issue of keeping the Sabbath, because the Church considered the Lord’s day of the Old Testament (**the Sabbath**) a

¹⁰ Seventh Day Adventists Believe: a Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Doctrines- Seventh Day Adventists, General Conference Ministerial Association- U.S.A by the Review and Herald Publishing Association Hagerstown, Maryland, P.47.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² “***Was Nestorius a Nestorian***” by Mar Aprem G. Mookan Metropolitan of Trichur of the Assyrian Church of the East in India presented in the 59th Ecumenical Symposium of the Pro Oriente, Vienna, June 18, 1990, published as an Annex in the book of the First Syriac Consultation organized by Pro Oriente in Vienna June 1994 p.222.

symbol of the Lord's rest. But when did the Lord have rest? He had rest through His Resurrection and after renewing mankind.

Consequently, we notice in the Book of Acts that the Church was assembled on Sunday, the beginning of the week. The Scripture says, "***Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them***"(Act 20:7). Concerning the Adventists' literal view of the Sabbath, in relation to collecting alms in the Church; Saint Paul the Apostle says, "***Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come***"(1 Cor 16:1,2).

Therefore, breaking of bread used to take place in the beginning of the week, as was the case with almsgiving. The Church in the apostolic era began worshipping on Sunday, in memorandum of Lord Christ Resurrection from the dead. We say joyfully, "***This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it***" (Ps 118:24).

Fifth Error:

Our Lord Christ's Second Coming is in the year 1843 AD

The leaders of this heresy claimed that the Lord Christ will come, in His Second Coming, in the year 1843 AD. When this prophecy was not fulfilled, they postponed the date to October 22, 1844 AD. When again it did not occur, they said that the Lord purified the heavenly holy place on that date, and called themselves Adventists: those of the Second Coming doctrine.

Sixth Error:

They attack the doctrine of saints' intercessions

They vigorously attack the doctrine of saints' intercessions, considering it a type of witchcraft, and calling of spirits, since they believe that spirits of the saints die with their bodies. (Refer to the quotation cited from "The Great Controversy", p. 10).

Seventh Error:

They attack the doctrine of the Eucharist

They also viciously attack the doctrine of the Eucharist and call this Sacrament the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass. (Refer to the quotation cited from "The Great Controversy", p. 10).

Eighth Error:

They think that Ellen White was a prophetess and a messenger

They think that Ellen White was a prophetess and a messenger who had visions, dreams and heavenly revelations. They consider what she had allegedly seen as revelation from God to the “Seventh Day Adventists”. (This is their formal registered title in the USA in 1861 AD).

They think she was a prophetess who was granted heavenly revelations and spiritual inspirations from the Holy Spirit; and that she was a messenger that should be added to the twelve disciples of the Lord Christ. They believe that all what she had prophesied and written sublimates to the level of the holy Scriptures and divine Books; they call her “**Prophet of the End**” (the title of one of the books published about Ellen White; refer to pp.7-9).

Third: The Coptic Church's Opinion of the Adventists

1. Decision of the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church

Regarding the Adventists, the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church, headed by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, had officially declared in its session on Saturday June 17, 1989 that both *Jehovah's Witnesses* and *Seventh Day Adventists* are **non-Christian** cults. We do not consider them Christians; nor do we acknowledge their translations of the Holy Bible. The Holy Synod had warned against attending their meetings, or receiving them into the homes of Coptic Orthodox Christians as the case is with the rest of heretics and innovators.¹³

2. Declaration of the Patriarchs

In the *Common Declaration* of the second meeting held between the heads of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in the Middle East, at the Monastery of Mar-Ephrem the Syrian in Maarat Sydnaya, Syria, February 10-12, 1999, and signed by the three Patriarchs, H.H. Pope Shenouda III, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the Great Sea of St Mark; Patriarch Ignatius Zakka Iwas I, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East; and Catholicos Aram I, Catholicos of the Armenians for the House of Cilicia, under the topic *Theological Dialogue* the following was mentioned under the title of *Dialogue with the Adventists*;

“We received a proposal from the Seventh Day Adventists to start a theological Dialogue. We did not consider it appropriate to respond positively to this invitation, because first, the faith held by the Seventh Day Adventists does not correspond to the teachings of the Apostolic Church, and second, because of their active involvement in proselytism”.

¹³ *Decisions of the Holy Synod during the Papacy of H.H. Pope Shenouda III (117)*, forwarded by H.H. the Pope, and published by the Secretarial Committee of the Holy Synod, first edition 1996, p. 58.

3. The *Simplifying Faith Lecture Series* audio tapes:

In response to the demand and encouragement of the *Pastoral Care & Service Sub-Committee* of the Holy Synod, a series of cassette tapes under the category, "*Simplifying Faith Lecture Series*" has been distributed at production cost or less. The first tape is titled, "The Trinity, the Incarnation, and Redemption". The second is titled, "Fulfillment of Prophecies". The third tape is titled, "The Status of the Holy Bible and the Impossibility Distorting its Words". The fourth is titled, "The Sacrament of Baptism".

We settled on devoting the fifth tape of the series to confronting the vicious attack of the Seventh Day Adventists on our apostolic doctrines; accusing them of being pagan and Satanic doctrines. We can wait no longer, but are obliged to respond to them in a simplistic style that suits all educational levels (including those who are not highly educated).

God willing, we hope to produce the sixth tape of this series that would have more information about the Seventh Day Adventists; as well as that of Jehovah's Witnesses, which was conceived in the womb of the Adventists' sect in the USA in 1876. To the Adventists' errors, Jehovah's Witnesses added the complete denial of the divinity of Christ, and rejected the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. They also consider governments as being from Satan, and saluting the nation's flag as a type of pagan worship. Furthermore, they prohibit blood transfusion, believe in angel-human intermarriage, changed the Holy Bible's translation, and many more innovations and strange beliefs.

Finally:

We strongly advise the Church's children to be very careful of this deceiving cult, and of its non-Christian teachings. Let them fulfill the commandment written by Saint Paul the Apostle, "*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed (excommunicated)*" (Gal 1:8).