

THE BIBLE

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the holy scriptures of God, a message from Him for the human race. Because of sin, God cannot be with us in person. If we were in His presence and looked at His face, we would die. He gave the Bible to people so that they could get to know Him without seeing Him.

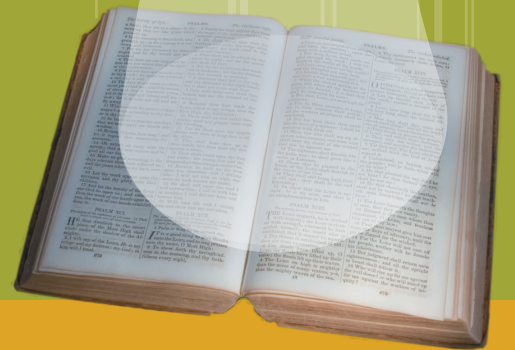
Names:

- The Holy Bible
- The Word of God
- The Holy Scriptures
- The Book of Books
- The Oracles of God

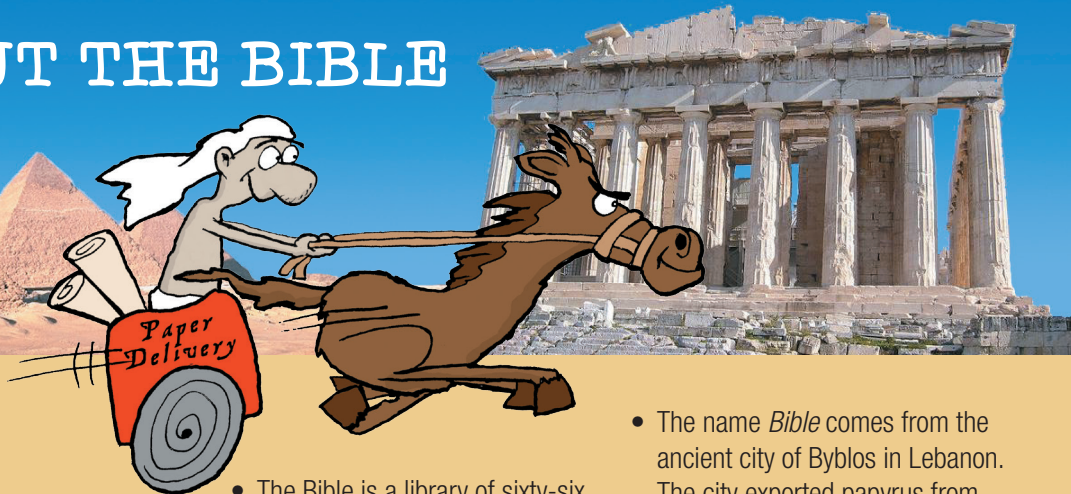
The Bible is:

- God's holy book
- A written picture of God
- The absolute truth about God
- The story of the rescue of human beings
- The only book with authority above all other books
- God's instructions to be obeyed by all people

Old Testament
+ New Testament
= The Bible



ABOUT THE BIBLE



• *Testament* means an agreement or contract between two people or groups. The Old and New Testaments are an agreement between God and people that He can and will save them from eternal death if they will accept Him as their God.

• The Bible is a library of sixty-six books. The Bible books were written over a period of about 1,500 years, from roughly 1450 BC to AD 90. The first author was Moses, and the last author was Jesus' disciple John. About forty different authors wrote the books of the Bible.

• The name *Bible* comes from the ancient city of Byblos in Lebanon. The city exported papyrus from Egypt to Greece. In Greek, the word Byblos became the name for paper in business and trade. Later the word came to mean "book." The plural word *Biblia* means books and ended up as the name for the collection of books we call the Bible.



The Bible is NOT

- A science textbook
- A guide to politics
- A joke book
- An ordinary book
- A book you can ignore

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. Billions of copies have been sold or given away free.

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S TRUTH

King David said, "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal" (Psalm 119:160).

The stories in the Bible really happened. Jesus accepted them as true. He said that Adam and Eve were the first people (Matthew 19:2-4); He told the Pharisees to remember Jonah in the big fish (Matthew 12:38-41); and He spoke about Noah and the Flood as a historical fact (Matthew 24:37-39).

Jesus Himself was written about by many people who saw Him in person. His life, death, and resurrection are undeniable historical facts.



HOW IT WAS WRITTEN

God did not write the Bible Himself. He did not dictate the exact words that His prophets and followers should say. Instead, He guided the thoughts and ideas of the men who wrote the books.

VISIONS AND DREAMS. Some Bible writers saw a vision or had a dream. For example, "The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel" (Amos 1:1). Seeing a vision is like having a dream when you're awake. Daniel heard God speak in a dream while he was asleep, after he asked to know the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

INSPIRED THOUGHTS. The Holy Spirit put thoughts into the minds of some writers. Samuel heard the Spirit tell him something "in his ear" (1 Samuel 9:15). King David said, "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me" (2 Samuel 23:2). Nehemiah said, "By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets" (Nehemiah 9:30). The prophets used their own words to write down the message from the Holy Spirit. The disciple John wrote the prophecies of Revelation when he was "in the Spirit" (Revelation 1:10).

THE BIBLE EXPLAINS

THE PROBLEM: sin

THE ENEMY: Satan

OUR RESCUER: Jesus

OUR MESSED-UP HOME: planet earth

OUR FUTURE, PERFECT HOME: the new earth

The Bible is the whole truth and nothing but the truth.



WHAT THE BIBLE IS FOR

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:15-16).



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Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 2

ONE GOD: Three Persons

IS GOD REALLY THERE?



How do you know God is there? Here is some evidence:

- Something or Someone made the world. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
- Even in a sin-filled, evil world, we see awesome things designed by God. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).
- The world is built with design, pattern, and order. An Intelligent Mind created it. "The living God . . . made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them" (Acts 14:15).
- We can think about what is true, good, beautiful, and loving, which comes from Someone who is good, true, beautiful, and loving. "Love comes from God. . . . God is love" (1 John 5:7, 16).
- People have a built-in sense of right and wrong—a conscience. "[Non-Christians] who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law" (Romans 2:14).
- "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God' " (Psalm 14:1).



THE GODHEAD'S CHARACTERISTICS

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are like this:

- **Immortal** – never born, have always existed, will never die. "From everlasting to everlasting you are God" (Psalm 90:2).



- **Infinite** – have no limits. " 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty' " (Revelation 1:8).
- **All powerful** – can do anything. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).
- **All knowing** – know everything happening in the universe. "The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).
- **In charge of everything** – rule the universe. "To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it" (Deuteronomy 10:14).
- **Always present** – are everywhere all the time. " 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:24).
- **Never change** – all three are perfect. " 'I the LORD do not change' " (Malachi 3:6).
- **Source of life** – can put life into anything they choose. "The LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7).

WE CAN KNOW GOD

We can't understand everything about God because we're not smart enough. But we can know who the Three Persons are.

God said, "Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26).

Who is "us"? The three Persons of God.

God is the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit



You can find out who God is:

- **Learn from the Bible** "Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).
- **Look at nature** "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (Romans 1:20).
- **Listen to the Holy Spirit** "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things" (John 14:26).

WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are:

Holy	Righteous	Just	Merciful	Kind	Gracious	Truthful	Pure	Loving
Psalm 99:9	Ezra 9:15	Revelation 22:12	Isaiah 55:7	Jeremiah 31:3	Titus 2:11	1 John 5:20	Habakkuk 1:13	1 John 4:8

HOW DO WE KNOW FOR SURE?

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, all three members of the Godhead were there:

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased' " (Matthew 3:16–17).

Jesus gave instructions to the disciples about baptizing new believers:

" 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' " (Matthew 28:19).

The Bible preacher named Paul often finished his letters this way:

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (1 Corinthians 13:14).



WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

God the Father gave us Jesus to save us from sin and eternal death:

"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

Jesus promised the help of the Father and the Holy Spirit for His disciples:

" 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth' " (John 14:16–17).

Jude wrote down what all three Beings in the Godhead will do for us:

"Dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life" (Jude 1:20, 21).

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GOD the Father

God the Father is one of the three Beings in the Godhead (see FUN-da-MENTAL #2).

FATHER OF EVERYONE

God the Father is in charge of the universe. He is the only true God.

- “For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live” (1 Corinthians 8:6).
- “There is . . . one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4, 6).
- “[Jesus said,] My Father . . . is greater than all” (John 10:29).

GOD THE FATHER deserves to be worshiped

As the one true God, the Father can and must be worshiped by His created beings. “The true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks” (John 4:23).

WHAT GOD THE FATHER IS LIKE

Do you look like your dad? We all look like our heavenly Dad. At Creation, God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness” (Genesis 1:26). When we look at each other, we see a little bit of what God the Father is like.

We don’t have a photo or painting of God the Father. No sinful human being has ever seen His face. If we were to look at Him as we are now, with our sinful nature, we would die. “You have never heard his voice nor seen his form” (John 5:37).

Is anyone perfect? The Son of God said, “Your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

Our Father in heaven is a loving Parent, “the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3). He cares about you even more than your parents do! “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18).

Even the Holy Spirit calls Him Dad. “God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Galatians 4:6).



WHAT GOD THE FATHER DOES

God the Father creates all things and puts life into them. “The Father has life in himself” (John 5:26). He shared the work of this world’s creation with Jesus, the Son of God.

Everything and everyone alive came from God the Father.

- “Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us?” (Malachi 2:10).
- “You, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand” (Isaiah 64:48).

God the Father is working for our good ALL the time. The Son of God said, “My Father is always at his work to this very day” (John 5:17).

What is the Father’s work, anyway? He keeps the universe going. “Look at the birds of the air . . . your heavenly Father feeds them” (Matthew 6:26). God provides for every person’s needs. “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8).

God the Father sees everything that is happening. Nothing escapes His attention. “Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:6). “Abba, Father,” [the Son] said, “everything is possible for you” (Mark 14:36).



GOD THE FATHER HAS A SON

“God [is] the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Colossians 1:3).

The Father introduced His Son this way: “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

He loves His Son with perfect love. “The Father loves the Son and shows him all he does” (John 5:20).

The Father gave up His Son to fix the sin problem in this world. “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

How much does the Father love you? “My Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life” (John 6:40).

What we know of God the Father comes from us knowing the Son, who said, “If you really know me, you will know my Father as well” (John 14:7).

God the Father was the One who brought the Son back to life after He died on the cross. “Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father” (Romans 6:4).

The Father sent the Holy Spirit to be with all of us after the Son left this world and returned to heaven. “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things” (John 14:26).

WE PRAY TO THE FATHER

He hears our prayers and answers them. His Son told us to “pray to your Father, who is unseen” (Matthew 6:6). We pray, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (Matthew 6:9).

He forgives the sin of people who repent and confess. “Your Father in heaven forgive[s] you your sins” (Mark 11:25).

OUR ETERNAL REWARDS COME FROM THE FATHER

We do not have to die forever. “The Father raises the dead and gives them life” (John 5:21).

The Father loves to reward the people who believe in Him and His Son. “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” (Matthew 25:4). “Your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

SHOULD WE FEAR GOD?

The Bible says, “Fear the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 6:13) many, many times. What does that mean? The fear of the LORD God is respect for Him and recognition that He is in charge of us and that He is perfect and right. “Fear the LORD” does not mean we should have panicky terror and sweaty palms.

No one should be afraid of God unless they are rebelling against Him. “Your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).



Is He Your Father?

Since you know Jesus, then yes! Jesus said, “No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” (Matthew 11:27).

We keep on learning about our Father in heaven. “The glorious Father [gives] you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better” (Ephesians 1:17).

Where Is The Father?

Jesus called the temple in Jerusalem “my Father’s house,” but the Father lives in heaven: “You have one Father, and he is in heaven” (Matthew 23:9). Our “Father’s house has many rooms” (John 14:2).



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GOD the Son



ISN'T THAT JESUS?

God the Son is one of the three Beings in the Godhead (see Fun-da-Mental #2). We know Him as *Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world*.

Jesus is better known to us than God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Why? Because Jesus came to earth and became a human being. Lots of people saw Him in person and knew Him as a Friend.

Jesus is God. He's not 50 percent God or 99.99 percent God. He is 100 percent God (John 1:1).

Jesus said about Himself: "Before Abraham was born, I AM" (John 8:58, NASB). Calling Himself "I AM" means that He never had a beginning. Sounds impossible, but it's true!

Jesus is close to His Father. He said to the Father, "You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

In what ways is Jesus God?

No one created God the Son. "His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2).

The Son of God knows everything! "In [Him] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

He never changes from what He was before. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Jesus has a special name—Immanuel. It means "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14).

Life comes from Jesus the Son. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

Jesus is equal with God the Father. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3).

THE SON'S PAST JOBS

Creating the world

Jesus helped with Creation. "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible" (Colossians 1:16).

Running the world

Without Jesus, the world couldn't keep going. "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17).

Encouraging people

God the Son sometimes took the form of an angel and visited people. For example, He came to Joshua as the commander of God's army (Joshua 5:13–15). He visited Abraham with two angels (Genesis 18:1–15). This has probably happened many times in our earth's history.



THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN THE WORLD

God the Son was born on this planet around 4 BC. He was born to be the sacrifice that is required to get rid of sin. That's why He's called the Lamb of God. He was offered like a lamb on the altar.

He came here to:

- be a human being like us
- show us what God the Father is like
- die for our sin so it doesn't kill us
- be resurrected by His Father and return to heaven.



JUST LIKE YOU AND ME

Jesus felt everything you feel. He was hungry, thirsty, happy, tired, and angry. He felt joy and pain. He laughed and cried (John 11:35).



You get tempted to sin every day. Jesus did too! He was "tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Why didn't Jesus use His divine powers while He lived on earth? It was a big temptation, but He chose not to. Instead, He lived the way we do, in surrender to God the Father.

THE WORK OF JESUS

Prophet

Not only did Jesus give life-changing messages such as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) but He also predicted the future (Matthew 24).

Priest

As the One who offered Himself as the sacrifice for sin, Jesus was also a high priest, who did the work of presenting the sacrifice to get rid of sin. Now He lives in heaven and, every day, presents Himself as the offering to get rid of our sins.

King

When Jesus floated up in the air and went back to live in heaven, God the Father made Him the king of a new kingdom that will stay around forever. "Of the Son He says, 'YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER' " (Hebrews 1:8, NASB).

Actually, Jesus has two kingdoms:

Kingdom of Grace	Kingdom of Glory
We live in the Kingdom of Grace now.	A kingdom that begins at Jesus' second coming.
It was created after Adam and Eve sinned.	The Judgment has already happened by then.
It's not a place. It is who we are.	Sinners are destroyed, and saints go into the Kingdom of Glory.
All of us are still alive and kicking while we're sinners, waiting for Jesus to come back again.	God the Father has already made Jesus the king of this perfect, sinless, awesome kingdom.
The Kingdom of Grace was fully put in place when Jesus died on the cross.	The Kingdom of Glory lasts forever.



God the Son is our Rescuer. His death and resurrection make it possible for us to be sons and daughters of God, happy forever.

TWO PEOPLE IN ONE

When Jesus was on earth, He was a man but also God. You can be a girl and be a volleyball player. You can be a boy and be a movie maker. Jesus had the same deal. He was God and human at the same time.

After He was born as a baby, nothing was missing from Jesus as God except that His human body took away His ability to be everywhere at once.



GOD the Holy Spirit

THE ONE YOU CAN'T SEE

The Holy Spirit is a mystery. What do we know about Him?

The apostle Paul called Him “the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30). Jesus told us to baptize people in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So the Holy Spirit is God.

Isn't the Holy Spirit invisible to us? Yes! Jesus said He is like the wind. You know the wind is there and see the trees shaking. You can't see it, but it's real. The Holy Spirit has no body and doesn't need one.

The Holy Spirit is a person. Jesus' disciples knew this. The apostle Peter told Ananias, when he tried to cheat on his offerings, that he had not lied to a human being but “to the Holy Spirit” (Acts 5:3). And then Ananias fell over dead.

The Holy Spirit has special jobs to do.

- He tries to get people to listen and obey (Genesis 6:3).
- He teaches (Luke 12:12).
- He convinces people of what is true (John 16:8).
- He directs the church in what it should do (Acts 13:2).
- He helps (Romans 8:26) and inspires (2 Peter 1:21) people.

The Holy Spirit is everywhere and can go anywhere—yes, even through platinum and diamonds. No one can hide from Him (Psalm 137:7–10).



WHAT HAS HE BEEN DOING?

The Holy Spirit has been one of the three Beings in the Godhead forever

At Creation, the Spirit of God floated above the water and then started speaking. He made the land, the trees, and the animals to appear (Genesis 1:2). Hey, Jesus was at Creation too! All three members of the Godhead created the world.

After sin came into the world, one of the Holy Spirit's jobs was to deliver messages, using people as messengers. That's how we got the books of the Bible. The writers “spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (1 Peter 1:21).

The Holy Spirit helped certain men to do special things:

- Balaam spoke blessings on the Israelites (Numbers 24:2)
- Bezalel made art for the tabernacle (Exodus 31:3)
- Gideon called an army together (Judges 6:34)
- King Saul prophesied about God (1 Samuel 10:6)
- And many others.

Israel is blessed!

Why did I say that?

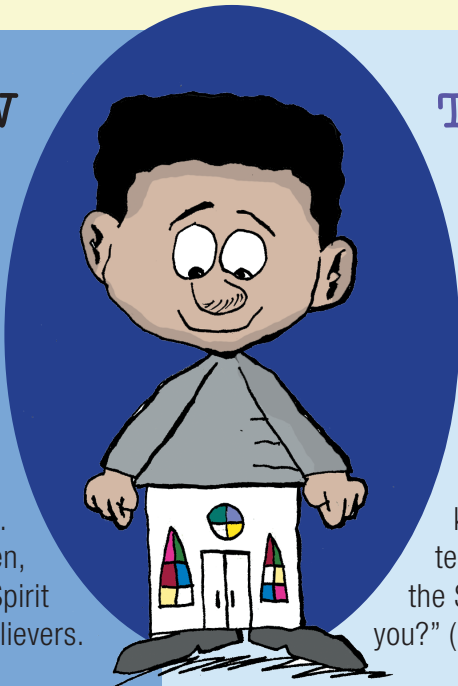


More recently, He caused Jesus to be born as a baby (Luke 1:35), visited Jesus at His baptism (Matthew 3:16), led Jesus through His ministry (Luke 4:1), and brought Jesus back to life after His crucifixion (Romans 8:11).

Jesus followed the directions of the Holy Spirit in His work on earth. Right at the beginning, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, . . . was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Luke 4:1). He listened every moment for the Spirit's instructions.

NOW IT'S ALL DIFFERENT

The Holy Spirit was working in the world before Jesus' death, but until then, the “the Holy Spirit was not yet given [to everyone], because Jesus was not yet glorified [resurrected]” (John 7:39). After Jesus went back to heaven, He was able to send the Holy Spirit to live in all believers.



THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HOME

Believe it or not, when you accept Jesus as your Savior, you are the home of the Holy Spirit. “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16).

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When Jesus was about to take off from earth, He told His disciples, “I am sending forth the promise [the Holy Spirit] of My Father upon you.” (Luke 24:49).

Fifty days after Jesus' death, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples with “a sound from heaven, like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:2-4). That's how the Christian church got started.

Ever since then, every person who accepted the death of Jesus to save them from sin and death has been cleaned up “through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).



WHAT HE DOES FOR YOU

- The first thing the Holy Spirit does is to convince you about Jesus. “No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).
- Then He helps you know how much trouble you're in, and how to fix it (John 16:8–11).
- After you're baptized in water, you are also baptized in the Holy Spirit

(John 3:5). That makes a brand- new you, filled with the love and commandments of God.

- God's truth is the only truth, and “when the [Holy] Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13).
- The Holy Spirit can do many jobs all at once, including helper, counselor, comforter, intercessor, and advocate. “Intercessor” means the Holy Spirit defends you when you're in trouble.



THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Matthew 12:32 has some harsh words for those who speak against the Holy Spirit. Most pastors believe this happens when a person decides they want nothing to do with God. If you're concerned that you may have committed this sin, then you haven't!



BIG THINGS A-COMING

This is epic. Near the end of this world's history, a time will come when the Holy Spirit's presence is stronger and more intense.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

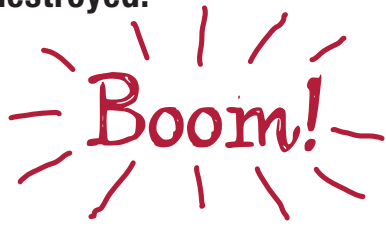
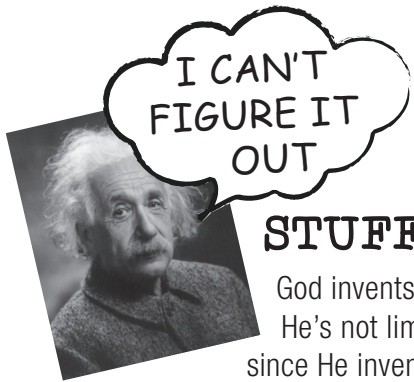
Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy” (Acts 2:17, 18).

How long will the Holy Spirit be with us on earth? Jesus promised, “I am with you always [through the Holy Spirit], even to the end of the age [the Second Coming]” (Matthew 28:20).

Creation

A MOMENT OF SCIENCE

The law of conservation of mass says that matter in the universe cannot be created or destroyed.



STUFF OUT OF NOTHING

God invents and creates everything in the universe. He's not limited by the law of conservation of mass, since He invented it. God speaks a command, and matter comes into existence. Boom! (Hebrews 11:3, paraphrased)

That's how the universe got here. God created galaxies and stars and planets and black holes and set them in their spots in space.

ARE WE GOOD?

After every day of creating, God looked at what had appeared and said it was good (except for the man and woman, which He called "very good"). If He said it was good, then it was good. He made a lush, green, warm, fertile, pure, bright, exciting world for us.

BATTERIES INCLUDED

God designed every creature from the chemical elements He had invented, and all of them were organisms with excellent function and great looks. But how did they come alive? God breathed life into every single one of them. From the "dust" He made bodies and then He added life and made them living beings.

THE HEAVENS

Clearly, God did not create heaven (His home) when He made the earth. Why does the Bible say He created the heavens and the earth? And what about all those stars that are billions of light years away? Genesis 1 and 2 are probably describing our solar system only, which has to be placed exactly as it is so that life can exist on earth.



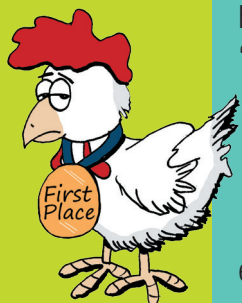
WE ARE IN CHARGE

The Godhead created the man and the woman in their image. That means we are not God but we are His children and resemble Him in many ways.

God gave Adam and Eve (and therefore all people) His blessing and said: "Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth" (Genesis 1:28, CEV).

THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

Ever ask this question? Did the egg hatch the first chicken? Or did the chicken lay the first egg? "[God] made every kind of bird" (Genesis 1:21). Answer: the chicken came first. Now you know.



NEW BUILD OR REMODEL?

Some people believe that planet earth may have been here before the Creation week. "The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).

Others believe that God created our entire solar system and planet earth at the same time He created the animals and people. "In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth" (Exodus 20:11).

HOW WE GOT OUR EARTH

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit had a project:

Remodel this dark, watery planet into a home for a new type of being: human beings, a.k.a. peeps.

The Bible tells us that "in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them" (Exodus 20:11, NASB). These were literal 24-hour periods of time.

How do we know it was 24-hour days? Check out the direct comparison in Exodus 20:8-11 between creation days and regular weekdays.

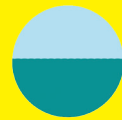
The days went from one evening to the next evening. That's how we get the start of Sabbath at sundown Friday.



Here's how it went down:



DAY 1 God separated light from darkness to make days.



DAY 2 He "divided the waters," making an atmosphere of air and water vapor (a.k.a. the sky) above the waters.



DAY 3 On this day He "gathered" the waters together to make land. He spoke and, bing, the land was covered with vegetation of all kinds.



DAY 4 God arranged the sun, moon, and stars that would control the seasons and days and years.



DAY 5 He filled the air with birds and the water with sea creatures.



DAY 6 A big day: God made land creatures, including His pride and joy, the man and woman.



DAY 7 It is *finito*—a perfect world. Time to rest!

WHY GOD CREATES

You might ask, why did God do this?

- For His glory: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1).
- Show His character: "Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what was made" (Romans 1:20).
- To populate the world: "A man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28).
- Show His love and care: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life" (John 3:16, CEV).



WHAT WE GET FROM CREATION

- God made a beautiful world just for us. It's like someone built a beautiful castle for us and said, "Here, you can have it for free. Enjoy!"
- We all came from Adam and Eve, so we are all brothers and sisters.
- God gave us the responsibility of taking care of this world. That's our job.
- Marriage began at creation with the first couple. It is the foundation of our society.
- Our life is meaningful because God created it.
- All life is sacred because it comes from God.

And that's how we got here.

Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 7

The Nature of People

WE ARE NOT FREAKS

What kind of animal are you? I am a human being, and you probably are too.

Human beings are:

- quite similar to God (*made in His image*)
- a complete person (*body and mind and spirit*)
- a being with an intelligent, conscious mind
- dependent on God for life and breath
- smaller than gorillas



WE'RE ALL COUSINS

Every human being is related to all the others. The human race began with Adam and Eve and has continued on from them. Genesis 5 lists a bunch of fathers and sons that goes from Adam down to Noah. And Luke 3:23–38 lists all the generations from Adam to Jesus. So Adam is our great-great-great-something grandfather.



WE STARTED OUT OK

God made the first human being out of materials (“dust of the ground”), rather than just saying, “Let there be . . . a man.”

He made each person to be an individual—a unique being, one of a kind!

And He made a male and female version of the human being. **How exactly are they both “in the image” of God?** We don’t know yet.

AMAZING INVENTION

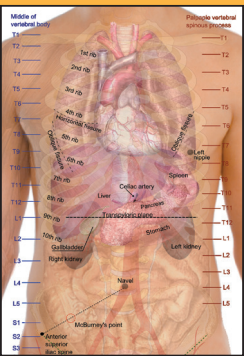
The human being is God’s most impressive creation on earth. He not only made us with flexible bodies encased in skin, filled with precise organs and complicated systems that adjust for changes, but He also gave us a brain, the most sophisticated computer in the world. Every human being comes with one!

God gave us a face to give a sense of identity, and eyes that not only see but also show emotion.

He made us aware of ourselves and our surroundings. We can make observations and judgments. We laugh and cry and write poems and music. We plant gardens and solve math problems; at least, some of us do.

You know that men and women are different. God created them that way on purpose. Men and women were made to need each other.

God created human beings to have their own children. “Be fruitful and multiply,” He said. Have lots of kids!



SPIRIT AND SPIRITS

Some people think that when life goes out of a person at death, the “spirit” leaves the person and goes back to God. After all, doesn’t the Bible talk about body, soul, and spirit?

Yes. When the apostle Paul talks about body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23), he means that (a) the SOUL is the instincts and emotions built into people, the SPIRIT is the intelligence and consciousness that allows God to communicate with them, and the BODY is the physical container that holds it all together.

When a person dies, the spark of life that God put into them goes out of them (see Luke 23:46). They’re dead. That is all. No floating spirit; the dead person is “out of order” until Jesus returns to planet Earth.



AND A JOB TO MATCH

God created the perfect home for His new invention, the man and woman. “The Lord God planted a garden in Eden” (Genesis 2:8).

He gave the new people a job: “[He] took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it” (verse 15). Adam and Eve were not the ranch hands. They were the onsite managers, put in charge!

These are God’s work orders: “You have made [people] to have dominion over [be in charge of] the works of Your hands; You have put all things under [their] feet” (Psalm 8:5). That does not mean we stomp all over everything and pollute the earth. We are careful with God’s resources. Remember the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–29)? At the Second Coming, Jesus will ask us to explain how we took care of His world.

Here are our work hours: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9).

MADE FOR EACH OTHER



Right after Adam came to life, God said, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18). He made Eve as Adam’s life partner and companion. He made them to be parents and grandparents. People were designed to enjoy each other and not be alone.

THE BIGGEST OOPS EVER

Human beings were made to live forever—they were designed to be immortal. And people are not robots. They can choose whether to live forever or disobey God and die.



Adam and Eve would die for only one reason: eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan, the first being to rebel against God, brought sin to the human race by tricking Adam and Eve into distrusting God. They ate the fruit and became mortal—they died.

Every child they had was mortal (will die), because every child had Adam and Eve’s sin in them. That continues to this day. Every human being needs to be rescued from sin and mortality.

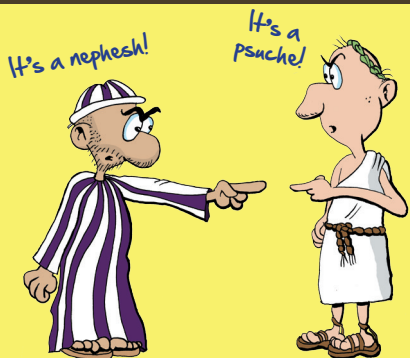
BACK TO THE FUTURE

Jesus became a human being and died without ever sinning. That solved the problem of our mortality, so we can be immortal again. When do we become immortal? “For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” at Jesus’ second coming to earth (1 Corinthians 15:54).

In that single moment, human beings who accept the blood of Jesus to take away their

sins will become like Adam and Eve before they sinned. “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates” (Revelation 22:14).

After that, people will be immortal. Death will never happen again. They will live forever with God in His beautiful city in perfect happiness.



HOW GOD MADE PEOPLE

God put together the first man with the “dust of the earth” and then “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,” which produced “a living being” (Genesis 2:7).

A person becomes a person only when God puts body and life together. He did not place a previously alive “spirit person” into the body!

The Old Testament word for “living being” is *nephesh* (whoa!). This Hebrew word refers to living beings of all kinds, including fish, insects, reptiles, mammals, and birds. God made them living beings by breathing life into them.

The New Testament word for a living being is *psuche*. Just like *nephesh*, this Greek word can mean a human being or any other living creature.

Sometimes the Bible uses these words for the whole person (a man or woman) and sometimes for part of a person (emotions, appetites, the heart, etc.). It does not mean that a person is two separate pieces (a body and a spirit) put together.

The Great Controversy

1 THIS IS WAR

The Bible is a great big war story. It tells how, long ago and far away, a war began in heaven that continues to this day.

THE FIGHT OVER GOD

1. Once upon a time, the universe was peaceful. God lived in heaven with the angels. The beings in all the created worlds were happy, healthy, and busy. There was no sin anywhere.
2. One day, Lucifer, the chief of the angels, looked in the mirror and thought, *I am pretty awesome, and I look fabulous. I should get a promotion. I should be like God* (Ezekiel 28:17). He forgot that God had created him.
3. Lucifer didn't want to be loving and giving like God. He just wanted God's power and glory. The more he thought about it, the more proud and selfish he became (Isaiah 14:13).
4. God gave Lucifer the chance to change his mind and let go of his pride. He would not. Instead, he tempted other angels to distrust God, and one-third of them believed him (Revelation 12:4).

WAR IN HEAVEN

3



Jesus and His two-thirds of the angels fought against the rebellious Lucifer and his one-third of the angels. Lucifer "was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven" (Revelation 12:8). He "was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him" (verse 9).

Lucifer, now named Satan, and his evil angels were banished to our planet. He wanted to be in charge of this world.

Satan took the form of a snake, which was a beautiful creature in Eden, so he could talk to Eve. His true appearance as an evil angel would have scared her.

He persuaded Adam and Eve to distrust God and eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That way, he introduced rebellion against God into our world. It became a world of sin, destruction, and death.

Adam and Eve had given up being earth's managers. Satan took control and became "the prince of this world" (John 12:31).

WHO'S THE BOSS?

4

BATTLEFIELD EARTH



God had a backup plan ready before He ever needed it. Jesus was willing to die and take all of the world's sin on Himself. That way, people would not have to die for their

rebellion (Genesis 3:15). That's how much Jesus loves us, His own people.

Satan set out to keep people from receiving eternal life through Jesus. He uses every evil, selfish tool he can think of—disease, greed, earthquakes, violence, alcohol, slavery, hunger for power, stealing, pornography, apathy—the list seems endless. You might think Satan wants to hurt us and kill us. But he wants to do worse than that! He wants to separate us from God forever.



THE TURNING POINT

7

Jesus came to earth as a human being (John 1:1–3) so He could offer Himself to die for our sins. Satan tried to use his lies and temptations to trick Jesus into sinning, but he failed completely.

Jesus should have been killed by evil foreigners, but instead, He was killed by His own people, the Israelites!

Because He never sinned, Jesus was a perfect human being. Because He was God, He could take the sin of the world on Himself and die for it. Then He could forgive our sin and keep us with Him forever. Satan was defeated.



WHAT KIND OF FIGHTING?

6

Satan is fighting us inside our minds, using his same old lies. He wants to make God look bad—convince us that God is mean, selfish, hurtful, and untrustworthy. Here's the big lie: that's what Satan is like!

One of the first human beings, Cain, believed Satan's lie and killed his brother over the sacrifice he offered. When almost everyone on earth had turned evil, God sent the flood. He started the human race over again with Noah and his family.

God chose Abraham to start a new people, who would share God's loving character and commandments with the sinful world. A few of those special people were faithful through the centuries. But most of them were rebellious.

The big war takes place inside our minds. Who will we believe? God or Satan?

5



THIS WORLD IS A STAGE

8

The angels and other created beings of the universe want to know how the war will end. They saw Jesus die. They've seen the terrible effects of sin. They watch to see what we will choose to do about Jesus and salvation. "We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings" (1 Corinthians 4:9).

IN PLACE OF GOD

One of Satan's cleverest tricks is to make truth and almost-truth look the same. Here are some of his tricks:

- Makes people think the church is more important than Jesus
- Makes people ignore the seventh-day Sabbath
- Makes people think they go to heaven when they die
- Makes people think they have to confess their sin to a human being instead of Jesus
- Makes people think that the wicked will burn in hell forever
- Makes people think they can get to heaven by being good
- Makes people think that being rich means God is blessing them
- Makes people think the law of God went away when Jesus died on the cross
- And many other lies.

9



Before Jesus comes back again, two human powers will allow Satan to direct them. They will act as though they speak for God. They will make these lies the law, and breaking the law will be punishable with prison and death.

10

NOT OVER TILL IT'S OVER

When Jesus died on the cross, the biggest battle was over, and He won! But the war is not over. We are still here, fighting. Why is that?

God will give every person a chance to choose faith in Him and eternal life. He will allow the war to end when everyone has chosen. "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

On the day of Jesus' second coming, He will say, "It is done. . . . Those who are victorious will inherit" eternal life with Him (Revelation 21:6, 7). The war that started in heaven will be over forever.

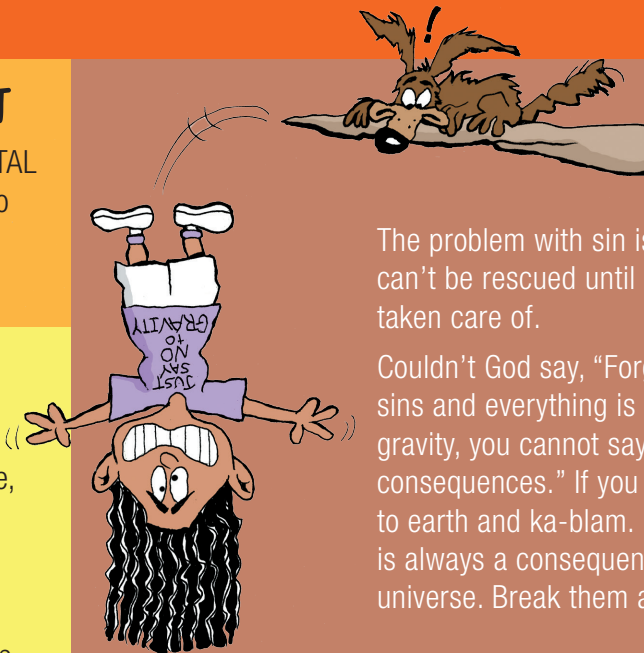


The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

Welcome to
HEAVEN
Perfect
A Nice Place to Live

JESUS' HOMETOWN

Jesus is the Son of God (see FUN-da-MENTAL #4). He lived in heaven, the perfect place to live. It had been His hometown forever and ever, before our world was created.



RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS

The problem with sin is that it is breaking God's law. We can't be rescued until the punishment for sin has been taken care of.

Couldn't God say, "Forget about it; I'll just overlook those sins and everything is fine"? No. If you break the law of gravity, you cannot say, "Forget about it. Let's skip the consequences." If you break the law of gravity, you plummet to earth and ka-blam. If you break any of God's laws, there is always a consequence. The laws are the structure of the universe. Break them and die.

HELP!

Adam and Eve sinned, and the human race had a deadly problem with no way out of it. Doomed!

Satan had a grip on power in this world, and he claimed to control all the people, since they were trapped in sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Without help, we are all hostages in Satan's horrible world and we'll die forever.

But the Godhead (see FUN-da-MENTAL #2) saw the problem before it was a problem. They had made a plan ahead of time.



Jesus could become a human being while still being God. He would live on earth without sinning. He'd die for all the sins of all the people, and that would pay the "wages." It was a perfect but very expensive plan.

STRANGEST MOVE EVER

One day about 3 BC, Jesus said goodbye to His Father in heaven. Father said, "Next time You wake up, You'll be a baby in Mary's arms." And that's what happened in Bethlehem. Jesus became one of us.

SATAN GETS TECHNICAL

Adam and Eve's sin created another problem. God cannot be around sin, because He's completely pure and holy. So He could no longer be around His people. God stayed in close touch, but He couldn't come visit anymore.

Satan thought, Aha, these human beings, they are all mine! Mine, mine, mine! God has no right to them, because they disobeyed Him.

"Not so fast," God said. "I am love, and I will send my Son Jesus to the people as a human being, and He will ask them to follow Me. We have to let the people choose who they want to believe and follow. And Jesus will die for them so that their sins can be forgiven."

"No fair!" Satan said. But God can do that.

Satan had no plan left except to cause as much trouble as possible. And that's what he's been doing.



PARDON ME

After we accept Jesus' payment for our rescue, and we stop sinning, we are pardoned. That means we have no criminal record anymore.

"Let the wicked forsake their ways. . . . Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, . . . for he will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:7, NIV).

THE PRICE OF THE PLAN

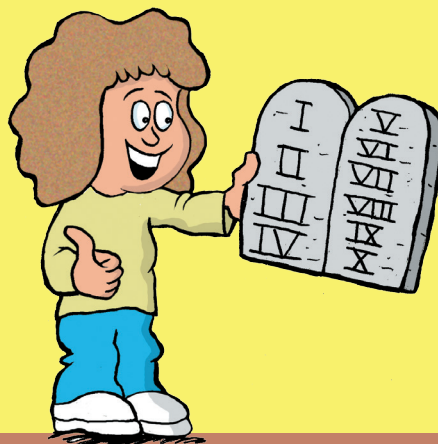
When something gets broken, someone has to pay for the damages. Jesus paid the price of sin. He gave up His perfect eternal existence in heaven to hang out with hopeless lepers and snarky hypocrites on planet Earth and die for them.



The cost was huge. We can't imagine it. Jesus placed Himself in Satan's territory and said to him, "I will live as a human being without sin. You won't be able to accuse Me of anything. And I'll take the sin of all human beings on Myself."

Jesus had to allow Himself to be killed by evil people under the influence of Satan. That was the price.

WHAT ABOUT THE "STOP SINNING" PART?



To be rescued from sin, the only thing you do is to accept the gift of Jesus' death for you. That is all.

After you've been rescued, you obey God's laws. It's the logical thing to do. You don't want to be sinful anymore. You want to obey God.

And don't obey God's laws just as a thank-you. Do it because they're God's rules for life.

Yes, But . . . Is it fair for God to allow Jesus to lay down His life and take our punishment for sin? Doesn't that mean justice is not served?

Fact is, we can never meet the demands of justice. We can't obey all of God's law by ourselves. The only way out is for God to give us a gift.

So that's what God did. He gave us Jesus, Who willingly left heaven to live on earth.

SECRET SERVICE

God gave us even more under His plan:

- He knew we could not stop sinning by our own effort.
- We allow the Spirit to work in us.
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us the power to stop sinning.
- We give up our urge to do wrong.
- He takes care of the rest.

GRACE

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

The word you're looking for is *grace*. Dictionary says: "A showing of favor, especially by a superior."

The Godhead looked at us, the sad, lost people, and felt good about us. Even though we were in rebellion against Them, They loved us all. The Father

and the Son and the Spirit wanted to rescue every one of us from Satan.

Here's the miracle: God loves us so much that He lets us choose whether to be rescued or not. Because of that, you can see what God's amazing love is like.

IT'S A SURE THING

After His death, Jesus was resurrected! "Unless Christ was raised to life, your faith is useless, and you are still living in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). We know that God's plan worked. We are good to go (to heaven).



HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Text: Tim Lale, Design: Wendy Hunt, Illustrations: Randy Fishell Copyright © 2013 by NAD Children's Ministries. Photos from Wikimedia Commons: sad boy, Jon C, CC-SA 2.0

Salvation: Saved From Death



REMEMBER WHERE YOU CAME FROM

You came from your great-great x 10³⁷ grandparents, Adam and Eve. They were created by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit on the sixth day of creation week (Genesis 1:27). You come straight from them.

At the beginning of our world, Adam and Eve lived by God's law without even thinking about it. They were pure and happy. They talked to God face to face.

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT

"God loved [you and] the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIRV).

THE HELP YOU NEED

You get saved from death this way: Let God rescue you. Don't try to do it yourself.

"Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved" (Romans 10:9, NIRV).

"God is working in you. He wants your plans and your acts to be in keeping with his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

DO-IT-YOURSELF
SALVATION

GUARANTEED TO FAIL!

By Ugata B. Kidding

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and they could no longer be in His presence. Their sin infected every human child, including you.

Sin is rebellion. It is "dirt" inside our minds that makes us impure. We cannot get rid of it.

Sin gave Adam and Eve a death sentence. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). No way around it!

Turns out you have the death sentence too. Aaaarrrgh! And it's not even your fault. But it is your problem.

HOSTAGE SITUATION

It looked as though all of Adam and Eve's children were trapped on this sinful earth. We are Satan's hostages, doomed to die. Satan was the ruler of this world, and God wanted to rescue us. He had a plan—the salvation plan.

JESUS SAVES THE DAY

S.O.S.

"Jesus gave his life for our sins. He set us free

from this evil world. That was what our God and Father wanted" (Galatians 1:4, NIRV).

Anyone who accepts the death of Jesus for themselves is clean again. The "dirt" of sinful impurity is cleaned out of them. That's called "being saved from sin." That is what salvation means.

What about you? Will you accept the death of Jesus to clean you up? Then you will no longer have the death sentence.

WE ARE STILL HERE

Jesus died to take away your sins. Why are you even here? Because you have a job to do.

After Jesus saves you from your sin, "you must go and make [more] disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19, 20, NIRV).

"We are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20).



YOU ALL NEW

Jesus said, "Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48, NIRV). That simply means loving others the way Jesus did.

Now that your death sentence is gone, you are all different. "Our sinful nature no longer controls the way we live. The Holy Spirit now controls the way we live" (Romans 8:4, NIRV).

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIRV).

I JUST SINNED AGAIN!

You might think you will never sin again. Is that what it means to be perfect now? No.

"Suppose we claim we are without sin. Then we are fooling ourselves. . . . But God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:8, 9, NIRV).

We still commit sins after we receive salvation, but we wish we didn't! When we confess those sins and ask forgiveness, we are clean again.



LIVE FREE OR DIE

Jesus gave His life "so you could escape from the evil in the world" (2 Peter 1:4, NIRV). You are free!

The rest of your life, Jesus keeps changing you into the loving, happy person you were always meant to be.

Last thing Jesus said: "You can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end [of the age]" (Matthew 28:20, NIRV).

THIS IS REAL

We can't pretend this isn't happening.

- The devil can still make trouble in this world. He's very angry because Jesus made it possible for us to say no to sin and death.

Some people say

- "I don't have a sin problem"
- "I didn't cause my sin problem"
- "Sin doesn't even exist"
- "God is not there" ("The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God' " [Psalm 14:1, NIV]).
- "I'm not having this conversation."

Pretending that the sin problem isn't there doesn't make it go away! Satan wants you to ignore it. That way, you will choose the death sentence.



TAKE THESE STEPS IF YOU DARE



1. Realize that you have sin in you. It needs to be taken out.
2. Repent – which means turn away from sin. Decide to stop!
3. Confess – admit every sin and admit that you have sin in you.
4. Be forgiven – ask for forgiveness for your sin; God will forgive it.
5. Accept Jesus' death for you – you're free of sin.
6. Stay with God – you're now filled with the Holy Spirit and a new person inside.



Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 11

GROWING WITH JESUS

IT'S OVER BEFORE IT STARTS

When Jesus died on the cross, He stopped the power of evil and death. Whoever believes in Jesus will have a very happy eternal life.

LOVING AND FIGHTING

Jesus won the war against the devil and his evil angels. But they are still around in this world. "Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world" (Ephesians 6:12, NlrV).



No worries, though. You have battles with sin, but "let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power" (Ephesians 5:10, NlrV). "The one who is in you [God's Spirit] is greater than the one who is in the world [the devil]" (1 John 4:4)

HOW JESUS LOVES

Jesus loves with the Golden Rule. He loves us the way He would like to be loved, by being unselfish and not setting conditions. He just loves!



"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us" (1 John 3:16).

So here are the commands God gave us:

- "To believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us" (1 John 3:23).
- "Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1 Thessalonians 5:15, NlrV).
- Everybody is different. Everybody is the same. "Put up with everyone" (1 Thessalonians 5:14, NlrV).

YOU GOTTA TALK

You grow in Jesus by talking to Him. "Never stop praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NlrV).

And your friends, neighbors, and people you meet want to hear about Jesus. Talk to them when the Spirit moves you. He'll give you words to say. Don't worry about it.

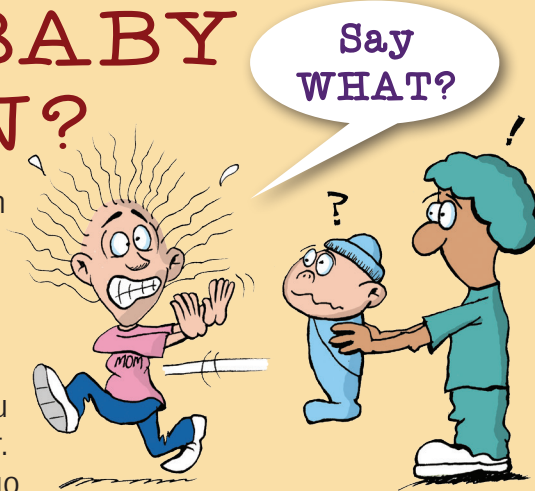
DO I HAVE TO BE A BABY AGAIN?

Jesus said, "No one can see God's kingdom without being born again" (John 3:3, NlrV). Say what?

Remember the day you were born? Me neither. But we don't want to go through that again.

We believe and accept that Jesus died on the cross for people, and then we are free of sin. Our old selfish self died off, and we have been born again! Simple.

"Because of what the Son [Jesus] has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all of our sins have been forgiven" (Colossians 1:14, NlrV).



WORSHIP GOD

We worship God for many reasons. The big one: He is our loving, eternal God! There is no one else like Him.

Church is the best place for worshipping God. The apostle Paul said, "When you come together, every one of you brings something. You bring a hymn or a teaching or a word from God. . . . All of those things must be done to make the church strong" (1 Corinthians 14:26).

Worshipping God helps us love Him more. It keeps us looking at Him instead of all the distractions around us.



WHAT GROWS IS WHAT GOES

We learn God's ways from His guidebook, the Bible. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NlrV).

Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the Lord.

He doesn't follow the advice of evil people.

He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do.

He doesn't join those who make fun of the Lord and his law.

Instead, he takes delight in the law of the Lord.

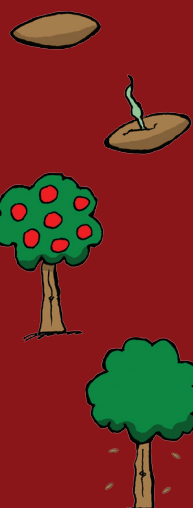
He thinks about his law day and night (Psalm 1:1, 2, NlrV).

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?



YOU MAKE FRUITS

- First you are like a seed. Jesus makes you come alive as a new, fresh, clean person.
- With His life and the Holy Spirit in your body and mind, you start to grow.
- Pretty soon, you do and think good things, which are like fruit on a tree. Sweet stuff!
- Your goodness plants more seeds. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23, NlrV).



HERE'S HOPING

The best result of growing up with Jesus is that you always have hope. Your life is NEVER hopeless.

"God has saved us from deadly dangers. And he will continue to do it. We have put our hope in him" (2 Corinthians 1:10, NlrV).

Grow in Jesus, and never give up!



BONUS

God's angels are close by and watching over you! You can always say, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid. You are with me" (Psalm 23:4).

The Church

Church is a Group

OF PEOPLE WHO



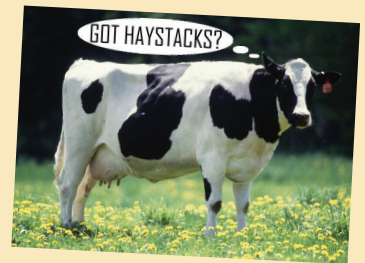
- love Jesus • love each other • worship together • belong to each other • study the Bible and pray together • live in different places all over the world • believe Jesus is the One who will save them from sin and death • spread the word about Jesus and salvation to people who don't know about it yet • organize into groups to work effectively • disagree sometimes • sing praises to God • believe the Bible is God's perfect truth • have potlucks • fight against Satan's lies • live like Jesus • learn new things about God

MEET YOUR RELATIVES

The church is God's family. That means you have a lot of relatives!

- GOD = FATHER**
- JESUS = OLDER BROTHER**
- CHURCH MEMBERS = BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

God wants church members to care for and help each other like a loving family. That can lead to some great potluck dinners! It also means you might have to wash the dishes and take out the trash afterward.



ENEMY SPIES INFILTRATE!

Not everyone in the church is truly following God (Matthew 13:24–30). Satan tries to get his followers into the church to discourage and tempt others. That's why we have to keep focused on following Jesus and His Word, not other people.



TRUE OR FALSE

- *Church is a building.*
False: We call the place where people meet to worship God a church building. But the church is God's people.
- *Church is a program.*
False: We call the program on Sabbath "church." But the church is God's people.
- *Church is one small group of people who are right about everything.*
False: The church is God's people all over the world who accept Jesus to save them from sin.
- *Church is a group of perfect people.*
False: Jesus treats us as if we're sinless when we believe in Him. But no one in the church is free from the effects of sin until the Second Coming (see FUN-da-Mental #25).
- *You join the church by signing up online and paying a yearly membership fee.*
False: When you are baptized, you become a member of the church (God's people) (Acts 2:41–47).
- *Jesus started the church.*
True: After the Israelite nation rejected Jesus as the Savior, Jesus started a group of believers who became known as the church. You and I are in that church.

YOU NEED THE CHURCH . . .

The church represents God to other people. "All nations on earth will be blessed because of you" (Genesis 12:3). The church serves the rest of the world, giving help and hope. One Christian on their own might not make much impact, but together, with God's help, we can do a lot!



. . . AND THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Paul says the church is Jesus' body (1 Corinthians 11). Every part has its own special job to do. Just as you need your nose, your pancreas, and your toenails, Jesus needs every person in His church to use their different gifts and abilities in His work (see FUN-da-Mental #17).

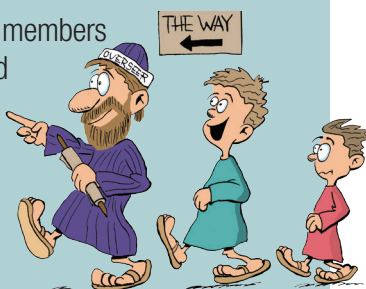
The only job you can't have? The head! Jesus is the brains of the outfit. He calls the shots in the church.

THE NON-FAIRYTALE PRINCESS

Jesus loves His church so much that He died to save it (Ephesians 5:25). When Jesus comes back to earth, He'll take His church to be with Him forever. It's a bit like a wedding! And they'll live happily ever after.

TIME FOR A LITTLE RESPECT

When the Christian church first started, a few trusted church members were chosen as "overseers" (elders) to teach, encourage, and guide the other members (Titus 1:5–7). Some members were "servants" (deacons) who took care of the daily needs of the church (1 Timothy 3:13). Today we also choose people to be leaders in the church, and we should respect them (1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13).



41,000 DIFFERENT CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN THE WORLD

Why so many? Christian denominations such as Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, and Presbyterian have different sets of beliefs. Each group emphasizes certain parts of the Bible and certain ideas about God.

But don't get confused! God still has a true church. "They obey God's commands and hold firmly to what Jesus has said" (Revelation 12:17) (see FUN-da-Mental #13).

41,000 Fact source (for reference only): <http://christianity.about.com/od/denominations/p/christiantoday.htm>
Bible texts from NIRV



MEET REGULARLY WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH TO

- Get encouragement
- Stay faithful
- Give and get help
- Get a feel for heaven
- Worship God with your peeps
- Learn about the Bible
- Serve your community



THE INVISIBLE CHURCH

Some of God's family members never show up at family reunions. These "invisible" church members may have never heard of Jesus, but they follow what they know about God (Romans 2:14, 15). God is bringing these people to join His organized group of believers so "there will be one flock [the church] and one shepherd [Jesus]" (John 10:16).

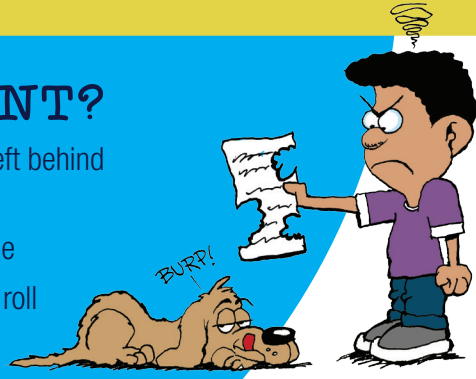
The Remnant and Its Mission

[Bible texts from NIV unless otherwise noted]

WHAT'S A REMNANT?

Remnant: a small part of something that is left behind after the rest has gone away, such as . . .

- Leftovers of your mom's split-pea casserole
- A small piece of carpet left at the end of a roll
- What's left of your homework after your dog ate it
- A small group of God's people who stay loyal to Him when the rest have stopped following Him.

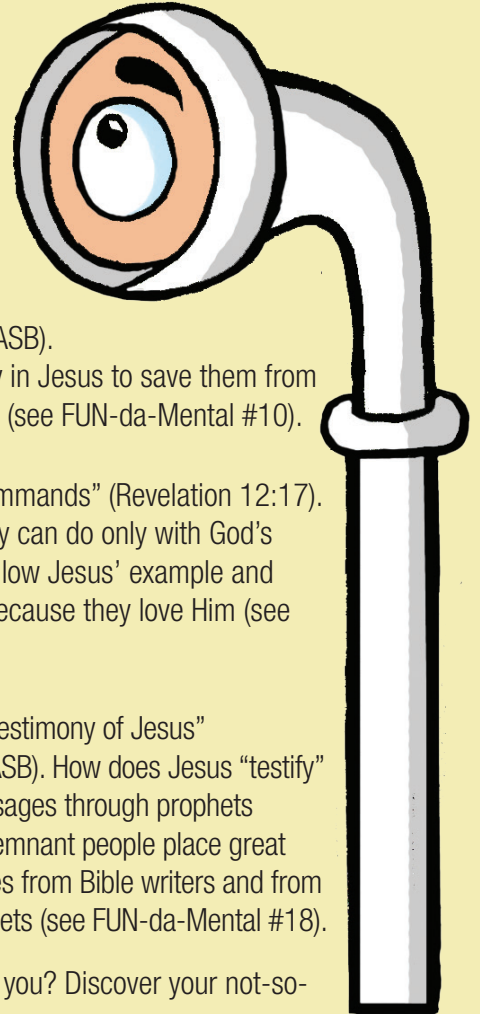


GOD ALWAYS HAS A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

These people (the remnant) are faithful to the Father and Jesus and the Holy Spirit no matter how bad things get.

3 WAYS TO SPOT THE END-TIME REMNANT

- ✓ 1. They "keep . . . their faith in Jesus" (Revelation 14:12, NASB). They trust completely in Jesus to save them from sin and eternal death (see FUN-da-Mental #10).
- ✓ 2. "They obey God's commands" (Revelation 12:17). That's something they can do only with God's help! The remnant follow Jesus' example and obey His teachings because they love Him (see FUN-da-Mental #19).
- ✓ 3. They hold on to "the testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 12:17, NASB). How does Jesus "testify" to us? He sends messages through prophets (Revelation 19:10). Remnant people place great value on the messages from Bible writers and from God's end-time prophets (see FUN-da-Mental #18).



Does this sound like the group for you? Discover your not-so-secret mission.

3 Famous Remnants in History

1. Even though God destroys the sinful world with a flood, Noah and his family are saved in the ark.
2. God punishes the Israelites by letting Babylon take them captive, but later a small group comes back to rebuild Israel.
3. Most Jewish people reject Jesus as the Messiah, but some Jews believe in Jesus and become part of the Christian church.



3 STEPS TO AN END-TIME REMNANT

1. Rebels

Christians started out following Jesus' teachings in the Bible. But over the years, false ideas crept in.

- "Everyone must obey the church leader."
- "Pray to Mary. She will help you."
- "You must confess your sins to a priest."
- "The church can change God's law."

Church leaders grew greedy for power and money. They used their power to persecute and kill anyone who disagreed with them—especially the small remnant that obeyed God.

The Bible predicted that this corrupt church would rule for 1,260 years (Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5–7). It had the greatest power from AD 538 to 1798.



2. Reformers

After nearly 1,000 years of this time period had passed, some Christians began to speak out against the wrong teachings and actions of the church. We call this time "the Reformation." John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and many others pointed people back to the Bible. They said, "Trust only in Jesus as your Savior." Many new churches started as people rediscovered the truth in the Bible.



3. Remnant

- As the 1,260 years ended, some believers realized that prophecies were being fulfilled. Jesus was coming soon!
- People from different churches came together to study the Bible and prepare for Jesus' return.
- They learned what Jesus is doing in the heavenly sanctuary; why we should keep the seventh-day Sabbath; what happens when people die; and how to make veggie hot dogs.

Some of these believers joined to form the Seventh-day Adventist Church—a "remnant" group dedicated to sharing God's awesome truth with the world.



THE 3-PART JOB OF THE END-OF-TIME REMNANT

Just before Jesus comes back to earth, the remnant must share three important messages with the whole world. These are called the "three angels' messages" because in a vision (like a dream), the disciple John saw three angels shouting them out.

MESSAGE 1

It's time for God's judgment! (Revelation 14:6, 7).

Does this sound like bad news? It's actually good news, because when God's judgment is done, He'll rescue His people from this messed-up world.

People need to do something when they hear this message: Worship God. The remnant reminds everyone that God created us and that our lives should honor Him. A key part of worshipping God is honoring His Sabbath, which He set aside to remind us that He's the Creator.

MESSAGE 2

A powerful false religion is trying to make everyone follow its teachings, but the false religion is doomed! (Revelation 14:8).

In Bible times, the city of Babylon opposed God and His people. Sadly, the Bible predicts that at the end of time most Christian churches will become so corrupt that they'll be just as anti-God as Babylon was. They'll work with the government to try to force their human-made beliefs on everyone. But God's truth will win in the end.

MESSAGE 3

Don't follow this false religion, or you'll suffer the penalty of eternal death! (Revelation 14:9-11).

Scary! But this message is scary on purpose. God doesn't want anyone to get confused and "accidentally" worship a human power (controlled by Satan) instead of Him. He warns people that giving in to this false religion is even more dangerous than standing up against its death threats.

The third angel's message is God's giant, flashing, neon warning sign: "This is your last chance. Don't choose false worship and death. Choose Me! Choose life!"

God's faithful few people, the remnant, deliver the three messages until Jesus returns to this earth.

Unity in the Church

UNITY MEANS: WORKING TOGETHER IN HARMONY

The church is like an orchestra. Each instrument has a different sound and plays only part of the notes. But when the musicians play in tune and follow the conductor, they make beautiful music.

As church members we work together to create a symphony of God's love for the rest of the world to hear.



UNITY STOPS HATE

Wars, bullying, discrimination—our world is full of fighting and hatred.

Jesus showed us a better way: "Love each other, just as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

When we love people who are different from us, it's clear that Jesus has changed our hearts. Jesus said, "If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples" (John 13:35). And love is our most powerful witnessing tool!

DISCRIMINATION IS A SIN!

"Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes.

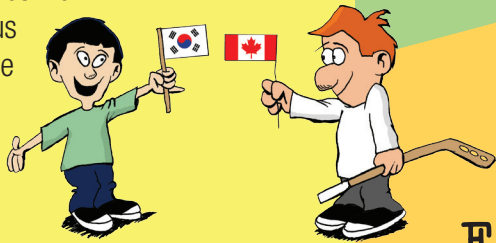
And suppose a poor man in worn-out clothes also comes in. Would you show special attention to the one who is wearing fine clothes? Would you say, 'Here's a good seat for you'? Would you say to the poor person, 'You stand there'? Or 'Sit on the floor by my feet'? If you would, aren't you treating some people better than others? . . . "But you sin if you don't treat everyone the same" (James 2:2-9).



LET'S FACE IT—WE'RE DIFFERENT!

It's easy to spot people who are different from us. Sometimes we put them in a category—us versus them. We categorize people in lots of ways:

- guy/girl
- rich/poor
- old/young
- Cowboys fan/Redskins fan
- Korean/Jamaican/Canadian/Panamanian . . .
- boss/worker
- high-school dropout/college graduate



Most of the time we hang out with people who are just like us. We're tempted to avoid or even dislike people who are different. Just look at the groups in your school cafeteria. Probably each group tells mean jokes about the other groups, right?

Differences divide us. But as Christians we're supposed to be different. We accept everybody without thinking badly of them.

4 FACTS THAT FIGHT PREJUDICE

1. God created each person on earth (Acts 17:26-28).
2. God loves each person on earth (John 3:16).
3. Jesus died for each person on earth (1 John 2:2).
4. God treats all of us equally. He accepts everyone who comes to Him (Acts 10:34, 35).

THREE IN ONE

God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are individuals, but they form one God (see FUN-da-Mental #2). Jesus wants His followers to be loving individuals in one church (John 17:21).

HOW TO BE UNITED

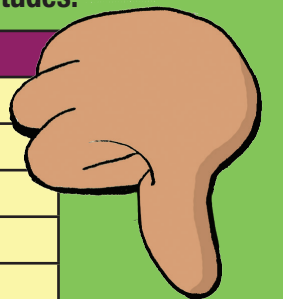
1. Get close to Jesus.

Individual Christians are a bit like spokes on a wheel. Jesus is the hub at the center. The closer we come to Jesus and His truth, the closer we come to each other.

2. Let Jesus change your attitudes.

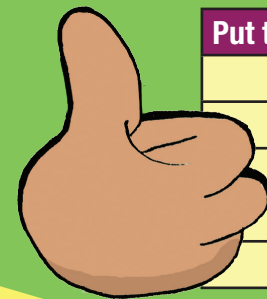
Get rid of these attitudes

pride
selfishness
jealousy
prejudice
hatred



Put these attitudes into action

kindness
forgiveness
patience
humility
love

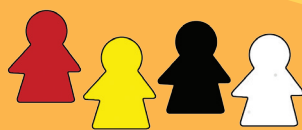
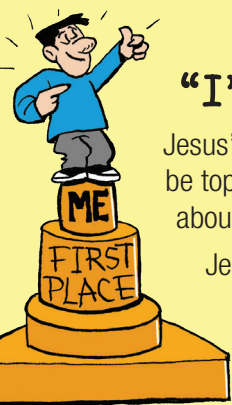


"I'M THE GREATEST!"

Jesus' disciples had a problem: they all wanted to be top dog. It's not surprising that they often argued about who was the best.

Jesus told them that's not the way He operates. "[Jesus] did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others" (Matthew 20:28).

We get along a lot better when we help each other instead of demanding what we want.



INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

If you plan on going to heaven, plan on making friends with all kinds of people! The Bible says that folks "from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Revelation 7:9) will be there.

A NEW IDENTITY

When we believe in Jesus, we become new people with a new way of life. Suddenly our differences are less important than the big things we have in common.

- We love Jesus.
- We obey His Word.
- We look forward to His second coming.

"You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus. . . . There is no Jew or Greek. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female. Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are all one" (Galatians 3:26-28).

Old Identity:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| old | young |
| rich | poor |
| well-educated | uneducated |
| Nigerian | Brazilian |
| boy | girl |

Cross of Jesus

New identity:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| child of God | child of God |
|--------------|--------------|



NO COOKIE-CUTTER CHRISTIANS

Do we have to be exactly alike to be united? Nope.

As church members we have different abilities and interests. We may not like exactly the same clothes, music, or food.

But we have the same goal: "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone" (Mark 16:15). If we stay focused on our goal, we won't get stuck arguing about whose opinions and preferences are best.



Baptism

[Bible texts from NIV unless otherwise noted]

TAKE THE PLUNGE

Baptize means “to dip something into a liquid or plunge it underneath the surface.” Think of cookies in milk or clothes in the washing machine. A big word for this is *immersion*. A smaller word is *dunking*.

When Philip baptized the Ethiopian official, the two men “went down into the water” and “came up out of the water” (Acts 8:38, 39). Sounds like they both got pretty wet!



WHY BE BAPTIZED?

Here’s one good reason: Jesus did it! “John baptized him in the Jordan River” (Mark 1:9).

Jesus didn’t need to wash away His sins—He didn’t have any! But His baptism marked the official start of His work for God.



Something special happened at Jesus’ baptism. “He saw the Holy Spirit coming down on him like a dove. A voice spoke to him from heaven. It said, “You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you” (Mark 1:10, 11).

ATTEND YOUR OWN FUNERAL AND LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT

Baptism is a symbol—an outward way of showing three major things that happen inside us when we choose to follow Jesus.



1. Our old sinful life dies.

Sin is our biggest problem. It causes death (see *FUN-da-Mental #10*). God wants to take sin out of our lives. By being baptized we show our choice to let God “kill” our sinful thoughts, desires, and actions.

2. We bury our sinful life, leaving it behind forever.

If something dies, it’s got to be buried, right? When we go under the water, it’s like burying our sinful past. Our sins are “washed away” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

3. We live again as a brand-new person with Jesus.

Fortunately, the pastor who baptizes you doesn’t keep you under the water forever! Moments later you come back up. You get to start life again as a follower of Jesus, not a slave of sin.

“By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. . . . And like Christ we also can live a new life” (Romans 6:4).

BAD REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

- “All my friends are doing it.”
- “My parents said I have to.”
- “Those baptismal robes look cool!”
- “I’ve always wanted to go swimming during church.”



GOOD REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

- “I love Jesus and want to be part of God’s family.”
- “I want everyone to know I’ve decided to follow Jesus.”
- “I need God’s forgiveness. I want start a new life.”

HOW OLD DO I NEED TO BE?

Old enough to

- recognize the problem of sin in your life
- choose Jesus as your Savior
- understand the importance of your commitment to Jesus
- know God’s basic principles for living as a Christian

People are ready for baptism at different ages. But it’s safe to say your baby brother or sister isn’t old enough!

DO I HAVE TO GET BAPTIZED?

Yes and no. Jesus said, “Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Sounds like baptism is pretty important!

So does getting baptized save you? No—Jesus saves you. But getting baptized is the next logical step to take when you believe in Jesus.

Imagine that your grandparents give you a new car for your sixteenth birthday. “Thanks for the great gift!” you gush. You take the car out for a drive, then leave it at their house and walk home.

Wait . . . wouldn’t you take the car home and drive it every day? It’s yours, right?

Getting baptized is like saying, “Jesus, thanks for Your gift of eternal life. I’m ‘taking You home’ to be part of my life every day from now on.”



Some people will be in heaven even though they were never baptized. A good example is the thief on the cross, who accepted Jesus just before he died. But if you have the chance, you should definitely do it!

“What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:17, NLT).

WHAT ELSE HAPPENS AT BAPTISM?

- You join God’s family, the church (see *FUN-da-Mental #12*).
- The Holy Spirit begins working in your life in a special way (Acts 2:38). He gives you the strength to say no to Satan’s temptations. He also gives you the ability to share God’s good news with other people (see *FUN-da-Mental #17*).



HUGE BAPTISM

Just before He went back to heaven, Jesus told His disciples to baptize people who chose to follow Him (Matthew 28:19). They obeyed in a big way. After Peter’s first evangelistic sermon about 3,000 people were baptized (Acts 2:41)!

WHAT IF I SIN AFTER I’M BAPTIZED?

Baptism doesn’t mean you’ll never mess up again. It just means you’re officially starting life with Jesus. “Get to know him better,” and you’ll keep growing and becoming the person God wants you to be (2 Peter 3:18).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Spiritual Energy Boost

The Lord's Supper is much more than a light snack at church. Often we call it Communion, which means "sharing" or "close friendship."

In this ceremony we strengthen our friendship with Jesus and our fellow Christians by

- washing each other's feet
- sharing bread and grape juice

It's a special time to remember Jesus' death for us (1 Corinthians 11:24, 25).

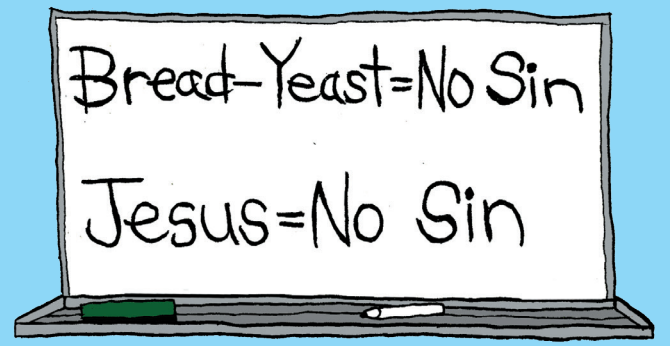


FROM PASSOVER TO LORD'S SUPPER

The Communion service is based on Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples the night before He died. At this meal they were celebrating the Passover, a Jewish holiday that reminded the people of their escape from Egypt.

Look at the similarities between the two meals:

Passover	Lord's Supper
Putting a lamb's blood on the doorposts saved the firstborn son from death.	Jesus, the Lamb of God, died to save us from eternal death.
The Israelites ate unleavened bread because they didn't have time to let it rise.	Jesus used unleavened bread to represent His body.
God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.	God frees us from slavery to sin.
God made promises to His people (a "covenant").	God promises us forgiveness because of Jesus' death (a "new covenant").



JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE

At the Last Supper Jesus broke bread in pieces and gave it to His disciples. He told them, "This is My body. It is given for you" (Luke 22:19). Breaking the bread showed that His body would be cut and injured when He was crucified.

The bread we eat during Communion looks like flat crackers because it's unleavened—it has no yeast in it to make it puff up. Yeast (leaven) can be a symbol of sin (1 Corinthians 5:7, 8).

The bread has no yeast in it, just as Jesus had no sin in Him.



THE ULTIMATE POWER DRINK

Jesus shared a cup of grape juice with His disciples. He said, "This is my blood. . . . It is poured out to forgive the sins of many [people]" (Matthew 26:28).

Jesus bled when He died on the cross. His death made it possible for our sins to be forgiven.

The juice we use at Communion is often called "wine," but it's actually grape juice. It doesn't have alcohol in it. It's pure like Jesus.

JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE



At the Last Supper the disciples were arguing about which one of them was most important (Luke 21:24). Jesus showed them once and for all that they needed a new attitude.

Jesus, their leader, did a job that only servants would do. He washed the disciples' dusty feet. Then He said, "I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15).

Washing someone else's feet might seem embarrassing or pointless—especially when they're not even dirty! But foot washing isn't about getting rid of sock fuzzies. It encourages us to serve others humbly and unselfishly as Jesus did.

That's why this part of the Communion service is often called "the ordinance of humility." (An ordinance is a religious ceremony, in case you were wondering!)

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

The bread and grape juice aren't Jesus' actual body and blood. They're emblems—objects that represent something else.



The Communion service reminds us that we need

Jesus just as much as we need food. Without Him we would die.

We can take Jesus into our lives every day by "eating" His Word, the Bible (John 6:54, 63). That just means reading and thinking about it.

GETTING READY FOR COMMUNION



The Lord's Supper is a time to strengthen our friendship with Jesus and our fellow Christians. We can get ready for it by making things right with God and other people.

- If we've hurt someone, we should ask for their forgiveness.
- If we've done wrong, we should confess to God.

We should always treat the Communion service with respect (1 Corinthians 11:27–29).

ALL CLEAN AGAIN



Foot washing is like a mini-baptism. Even after we give our lives to Jesus, we still commit sins and need God's forgiveness. We need Him to clean us up again (John 13:8–10).

You don't have to be rebaptized every time you yell at your sister or lie to your teacher. But when you let someone wash your feet, you show that you are sorry for your sins and that you want God to forgive you and clean sin out of your life.

SUPPERTIME IN HEAVEN

The Bible says that when we get to heaven, we will share a meal with Jesus. He will serve the food Himself (Luke 12:35–37)!

At the Last Supper Jesus said, "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine [grape juice] from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29, NKJV). He's waiting to celebrate with us.

When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we look forward to spending time with Jesus in heaven—forever!

Bible texts from NIV unless noted.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TRUE OR FALSE

- Everyone in the world has at least one spiritual gift.

False.

Spiritual gifts are abilities that the Holy Spirit gives to people who believe in Jesus (see FUN-da-Mental #5).

- Spiritual gifts help the church accomplish its mission.

True. They're tools to do the jobs that God needs us to do for Him.

- Spiritual gifts are talents, like being able to play the piano or solve tough math problems.

False. All our abilities come from God and should be used for Him, but spiritual gifts are supernatural skills that go beyond our natural talents.

- Some Christians don't have any spiritual gifts.

False. The Holy Spirit "gives them to each person" in the church (1 Corinthians 12:11).

- Some people have more spiritual gifts than others.

True. Like the servants in the parable of the talents, each person receives gifts based on their ability to use them (Matthew 25:15).



IT'S BIGGER THAN CHRISTMAS!

The Holy Spirit has plenty of gifts to go around. Here are a few of the things He enables people to do (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11).

- prophecy (share messages from God)
- teach
- work miracles
- help people in need
- speak in different languages
- give money or belongings
- lead
- encourage
- spread the gospel to people who haven't heard it
- care for the spiritual needs of believers
- give wise advice

We don't get to pick our gifts—the Holy Spirit does that because He knows just what we need.



GOD LOVES VARIETY

The Holy Spirit doesn't give everybody the same gift. That would be boring, not to mention pointless—like a computer keyboard with all "N" keys.

"There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:5).

Since everyone has different gifts, we shouldn't

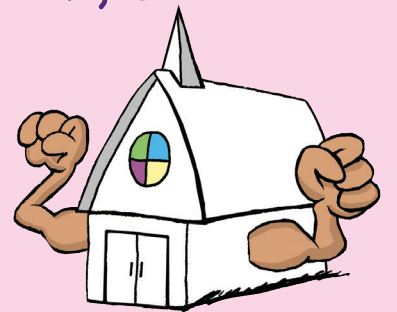
- wish we had someone else's gifts
- act like someone else's gift isn't important
- expect everyone else to do the same things we do for God

That also means we should use the gift (or gifts!) we have. Otherwise something important will be missing from the church, like a computer keyboard with no "N" key.



MANY GIFTS, ONE MISSION

Spiritual gifts strengthen the church, making it bigger and better. When we use our gifts, exciting things happen (Ephesians 4:12-16)!



- New people join the church.
- Church members learn more about Jesus and grow more like Him.
- We become more united in our faith.
- We aren't fooled by false teachings about God.
- We learn how to use our gifts more effectively.
- We love God and others more.



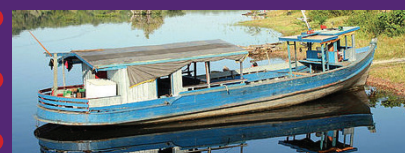
GIFTED PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

We can see different spiritual gifts at work in the early church.

- Paul eagerly spread the gospel far and wide.
- Barnabas encouraged others.
- Dorcas showed compassion by helping the poor.
- Peter miraculously healed people.

These Christians were all very different, but God used each one.

TEAM PLAYERS NEEDED



God wants all of us to work together in the church (see FUN-da-Mental #12). If everyone does their part, using their specific gifts, the church will do a great job of showing God's love to the whole world.

Ministry isn't just for pastors. Everyone in the church has a job to do—even kids! Why be a spectator when you can be part of the team?

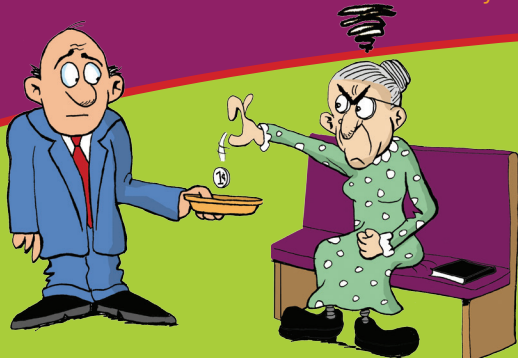
HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

LEARN what the Bible says about spiritual gifts.

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to give you His power.

WORK for God whenever you have a chance! Try different kinds of ministry.

LISTEN to what other church members say about your gifts.



THIS GIFT IS FOR EVERYBODY

Imagine a church full of proud preachers, grumpy givers, and envious encouragers. It just wouldn't attract people to Jesus, would it?

That's why Paul says that LOVE is the most important gift (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Without love the other gifts are useless. Every Christian can have this gift, along with the other fruits of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:22, 23).

Love never wears out or needs to be taken back for a refund. It's a gift you can use forever!

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

GOD'S PROPHETIC NETWORK

WHAT DO THESE BIBLE CHARACTERS HAVE IN COMMON?

Anna • Amos • Hosea • Agabus • Huldah • John the Baptist • Elisha • Deborah



Answer: All of them were prophets.

WHAT'S A PROPHET?

You might think a prophet is someone who predicts the future. But that's only one part of the job.

A prophet is a spokesperson for God. The prophet receives messages from God and communicates them to people.

COULD WE HAVE PROPHETS TODAY?

Definitely! The prophet Joel predicted that the gift of prophecy would make a big comeback at the end of time (that's now). "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will have dreams. Your young men will have visions" (Joel 2:28).

The gift of prophecy is so important that it's one of the signs of God's end-time "remnant" people (see FUN-da-Mental #13).

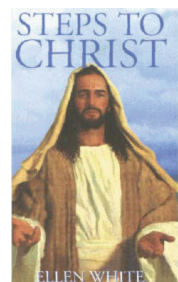
But wait! Jesus also warned that false prophets would fool many people before His second coming (Matthew 24:11). So if someone claims to be a prophet, we should think carefully about what they say and decide if they are a true prophet or not.

"Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21, NLT).

HOW DO ELLEN WHITE'S WRITINGS HELP US?

The messages God gave through Ellen White don't replace the Bible. But they are a huge help to Christians today.

- They help us understand the Bible better.
- They help us apply Bible teachings to our lives. For instance, the Bible doesn't say anything about cigarettes, but Ellen White showed how smoking goes against the Bible's principle of using our bodies to honor God.



- They warn us about the ways Satan will try to trick people at the end of time.
- They encourage us to stay close to Jesus and wait eagerly for His return.

Bible texts from NIRV unless noted (NLT, NIV).
Source for number of books/articles (for reference only):
<http://ellenwhite.org/about/>
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WE NEED PROPHETS

Because of sin, God can't meet with us face to face. But He still wants to talk to us. When He has something important to say, He chooses a prophet to pass along the message.

"[God] the Lord and King never does anything without telling his servants the prophets about it" (Amos 3:7).

Prophecy is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (see FUN-da-Mental #17), so it helps the church grow bigger and stronger.

PROPHETS IN THE BIBLE

Dozens of prophets pop up in the Bible story. What did they do all day? Most prophets did at least one of these jobs:

- Governed God's people or gave advice to the leaders.
- Taught people about God and His laws.
- Urged people to turn away from their sins and obey God.
- Warned people about the bad consequences of not following God.
- Revealed what would happen in the future.
- Encouraged God's people by telling them how much He cares for them.
- Wrote the books of the Bible. (Yep, that one's pretty important.)
- Occasionally messed up and beat their donkeys, disobeyed God's instructions. (News flash: Being chosen as a prophet doesn't mean you'll never sin.)



HOW CAN I IDENTIFY A TRUE PROPHET?

- ✓ **1. Does their message agree with the Bible?** "Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark" (Isaiah 8:20, NLT).
- ✓ **2. If the prophet makes a prediction, does it come true?** "If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken" (Deuteronomy 18:22, NIV).
- ✓ **3. Does the prophet point people to Jesus as the Savior?** A prophet who doesn't believe in Jesus can't be from God (1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:1-3).
- ✓ **4. Does the prophet live a godly life and help others live for God?** "Watch out for false prophets... You can tell what they really are by what they do" (Matthew 7:15, 16).

ELLEN WHITE – A MESSENGER FOR GOD

Ellen White, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, worked as a prophet for 70 years (1844–1915).

Ellen had her first vision when she was **17 years old**.

She experienced more than **2,000 visions** from God.

During her life she wrote more than **40 books** and **5,000 magazine articles**.

God gave her messages to share about all sorts of topics:

- the life of Jesus
- health
- how sin began
- God's love
- clothes
- Jesus' second coming
- what students should learn in school
- how to witness
- guy/girl relationships
- and many more!



THE LAW OF GOD



GOD'S LAW IS GOOD!

- The law shows what God is like—truthful, unselfish, life giving.
- It shows how He wants us to think and act.
- It applies to all people at all times.
- It doesn't change, because God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6).

DO WE HAVE TO FOLLOW ALL THESE RULES?

Two kinds of laws in the Bible applied to the Israelites, but not to us today. (See rocket illustration.)

- 1. Civil laws.** God was Israel's king, and He made the laws for their government. Today our governments aren't ruled directly by God.
- 2. Ceremonial laws.** The sanctuary services (like sacrificing animals and burning incense) helped people understand what Jesus would do as our Savior. After Jesus died, those ceremonies weren't needed anymore (Matthew 27:51).

Even though we don't follow these laws today, we can still learn from them.

FROM BEGINNING TO END

God's law has been around as long as He has. Even before God spoke the Ten Commandments, people knew it was wrong to steal, lie, and worship idols.

Jesus always obeyed God's law (Matthew 5:17). His death showed that God couldn't change His law to save us from the penalty of sin. Jesus had to pay that penalty.

At the end of time, an evil power will try to force people to break God's law (Revelation 13:12–15). But God's faithful people will "obey God's commands" (Revelation 14:12; see FUN-da-Mental #13).

"I DIDN'T DO IT!"

Sin is breaking God's law (1 John 3:4). But we can break God's law without doing anything! His law guides our thoughts and attitudes, not just our actions.

Murder breaks God's law, but so do anger and hate (Matthew 5:21, 22). Stealing is wrong, but so is coveting, which means wanting to take someone's stuff (Exodus 20:15, 17).

GOD'S TOP TEN LIST

God made a big deal about the Ten Commandments. He wanted people to remember them.

- They're the only words God spoke with His own voice to an entire nation.
- He added impressive special effects: smoke, thunder, lightning, trumpet blasts.
- God engraved them with His finger on stone. (Try erasing that!)

The Ten Commandments show us basic principles of right and wrong that never change. They're still very important today.



WAY TO LOVE

"God is love" (1 John 4:8), so He could have given us just one command: LOVE! But God knew we needed more detailed instructions than that, so He added more.

God's principles and rules help us understand how to love God and others. In the Ten Commandments, the first four commandments show how we love God, and the last six show how we love others. God gave many other commands that apply these principles to different situations.

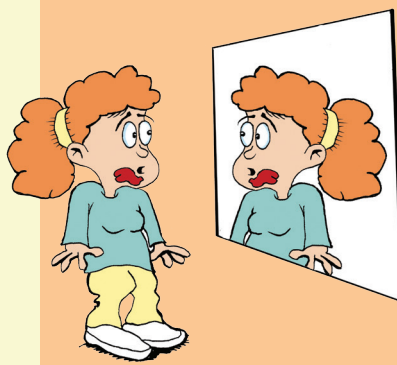


HOPE FOR LAW-BREAKERS

We don't earn the right to go to heaven by keeping God's law. Does that mean His law doesn't matter? No way (Romans 3:28; 31)!

Here's how God's law fits into His plan to save us from sin (see FUN-da-Mental #10).

- 1.** The law shows us what sin is (Romans 7:7).
- 2.** We can't obey the law perfectly (James 2:10). We're doomed to die. It's hopeless!
- 3.** We realize we need Jesus to save us (Galatians 3:24).
- 4.** We accept Jesus as our Savior.
- 5.** Jesus helps us do the impossible—obey Him! We obey God because we love Him (John 14:15; 1 John 3:6).
- 6.** God writes His law in our hearts. He changes us inside so we want to do what's right (Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 8:10).



I SEE IT ALL NOW

If you look in a mirror, you can see that you have spaghetti sauce on your chin. But the mirror can't clean your face. You need water for that.

God's law is like a mirror for us (James 1:23–25). It shows that we have dirt smudges of sin all over us. But the law can't clean it up. We need Jesus for that.

GIVE ME LIBERTY!

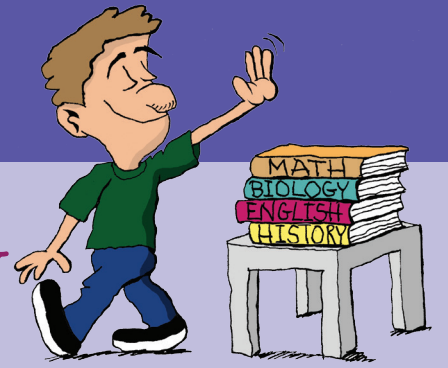
Some people think rules are a pain. They say, "I want to be free to do whatever I want!"

The funny thing is that people who follow God's law actually have more freedom than people who don't. "Everyone who sins is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). But people who obey God's law "walk in freedom" (Psalm 119:45, NLT).

God's law is like a fence around a playground. Inside the fence, you can play and have fun. Outside the fence you might get hit by a car or eaten by a tiger, depending on where you live. Obeying "the perfect law that gives freedom" protects us from the bad consequences of sin and brings us true happiness (James 1:25).



THE SABBATH



SUNDAY 1	MONDAY 2	TUESDAY 3	WEDNESDAY 4	THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SABBATH 7
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IT STARTS WITH CREATION

	THE FIRST SABBATH (Genesis 2:2, 3)	THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT (Exodus 20:8-11)
WHO	God	everybody
WHAT	stop working	stop working
WHEN	the seventh day of Creation week	the seventh day of each week
WHERE	planet Earth	anywhere
WHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> because His work was done because He wanted to set aside this day for a special purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> because God set the example because He is our Creator and deserves our worship

“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all of his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy” (Genesis 2:2, 3).

A WEEKLY BREAK

The Sabbath is supposed to be “a day you can enjoy.” But it’s also “holy”—a day set apart for God. “Do not do just anything you want to on my holy day,” God says. Instead, “find your joy in me” (Isaiah 58:13, 14).

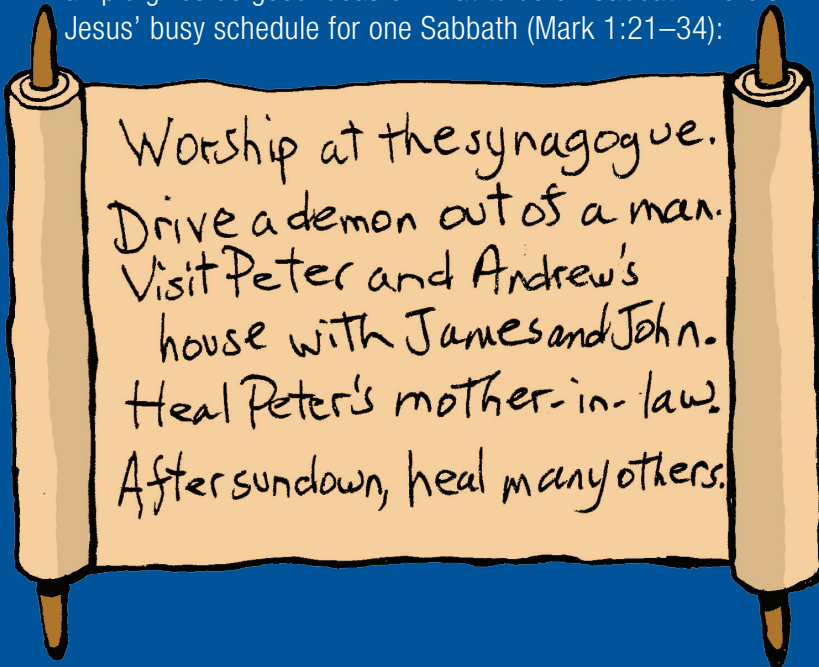
The big thing NOT to do? Work (Exodus 20:10). That means you have an entire day off from homework and chores. Can’t complain about that!



Nehemiah got so upset when people kept working on their farms and shopping during Sabbath that he shut the gates of Jerusalem to keep the salespeople out! (Read about it in Nehemiah 13:15–22.)

WHAT DID JESUS DO?

Jesus is in charge of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), so His example gives us good ideas of what to do on Sabbath. Here’s Jesus’ busy schedule for one Sabbath (Mark 1:21–34):



IT'S A GOOD DAY

God created the Sabbath to help us, not make us miserable. “The Sabbath was made for the good of people” (Mark 2:27, CEV).

Some Jewish leaders got mad when Jesus healed people on the Sabbath. But Jesus told them, “The Law allows us to do good on the Sabbath day” (Matthew 12:12). It’s a day to help others.

BONUS SABBATHS

The Israelites had seven extra sabbaths each year—religious holidays such as the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement.

These yearly sabbaths pointed forward to Jesus and His work. Now that we have the real thing—Jesus—we don’t celebrate these holidays (Colossians 2:16, 17).

A DAY LATE

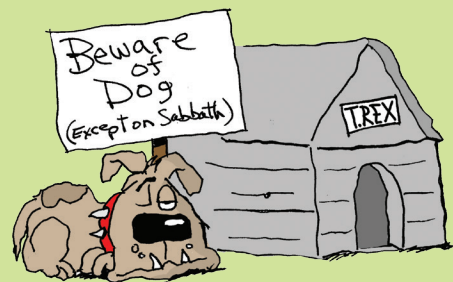
The Bible does not say that God changed His holy Sabbath from day seven to day one. So why do most Christians worship on Sunday?

More than 100 years after Jesus died, some Christians began worshipping on the first day of the week. It seemed like a good way to remember Jesus’ resurrection. Plus it was the popular thing to do, since many pagans worshipped the sun on “Sun”-day.

For years many Christians rested and worshipped on Saturday and then worshipped again on Sunday! But in AD 364, church leaders told people to stop keeping the Sabbath. “You must work on Sabbath and rest on Sunday,” they said.

The church claimed it had the power to change God’s law! The Bible had predicted this shocking rebellion (Daniel 7:25). Unfortunately, most Christians followed along, and many still do.

“He’ll speak against the Most High God. He’ll treat God’s people badly. He will try to change the times and laws that were given by God. God’s people will be handed over to him for three and a half years” (Daniel 7:25).



LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

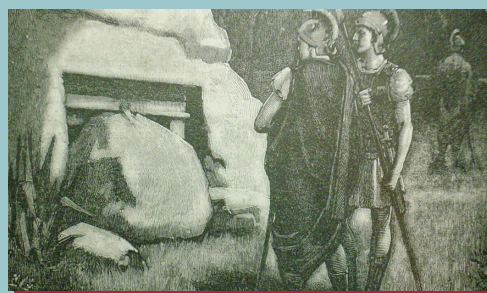
When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, the Sabbath became even more significant. Besides reminding them of Creation, it reminded the people of God’s amazing deliverance. Since God had saved them from slavery, they needed to pass along that kindness to their servants (Deuteronomy 5:14, 15).

We don’t make other people work for us on Sabbath so we can rest. Everyone takes a break together. Even animals get the day off!

NIGHT AND DAY

Just like the days of Creation, which started with “evening,” the Sabbath goes from sunset on Friday night to sunset on Saturday night.

Leviticus 23:32 uses the Day of Atonement as an example: “You must keep your sabbath from the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening.”



SABBATH FUN FACTS

- God reminded the Israelites about the Sabbath more than 2,000 times while they lived in the wilderness! For 40 years He sent manna every day except Sabbath (Exodus 16:22–30).
- Jesus rested in the tomb on Sabbath after finishing His mission on earth (Mark 15:42–46).
- Paul spent countless Sabbaths teaching people about Jesus (Acts 16:13; 17:1, 2).

GOD CALLS THE SHOTS

The Sabbath isn’t based on anything in nature, like the phases of the moon or the time it takes the earth to go around the sun. It’s based on God’s Word, which tells us that God created the world in six days, rested on the seventh day, and told us to rest on that day.

Keeping the Sabbath holy shows that we trust God and obey Him because He knows what’s best for us. We follow His way, not human ideas about worship.

The Sabbath will always be a special day to spend with God. “I will make new heavens and the new earth, which will last forever,” says the Lord. . . . “All people will come to worship me every Sabbath” (Isaiah 66:22, 23, NCV).

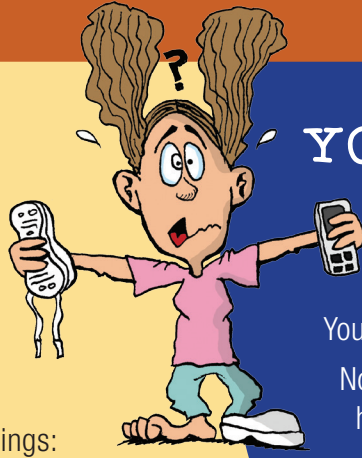
Stewardship

[Bible texts from NIV unless otherwise noted (NIV, NCV)]

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S STUFF

God has generously shared some of His stuff with you. Remember, it's not yours—you're just a "steward," or manager. He asks you to take good care of it for Him (Matthew 25:14–30).

As a steward, you're responsible for five main things:



YOU DON'T OWN A THING

This may surprise you, but you don't actually own your cell phone, your backpack, and your tennis shoes. God owns everything. "The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it" (Psalm 24:1).

You don't even own yourself! God does. "He made us, and we belong to him" (Psalm 100:3).

Not only did God make us, He paid with His life to buy us back after Satan took us as hostages. "You do not belong to yourselves. Christ has paid the price for you" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).



1. the earth

2. your body

3. your time

4. your abilities

5. your money and possessions

You get to enjoy all these gifts while using them wisely for God's purposes.

EARTH NEEDS YOUR HELP

God put Adam and Eve in charge of the whole earth and all the animals (Genesis 1:28). He made a home for them in the Garden of Eden and asked them "to take care of it" (Genesis 2:15).

Taking good care of the earth makes sense because

- we live here
- it's a gift from God
- nature helps us learn about God (Romans 1:20)

We can't fix all the effects of sin on our world, but we can be smart managers in our little corner of it.



THE GREED FIGHTER

No matter how much money and stuff we have, it seems we always want more. That's why Jesus warned, "Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. Life is not measured by how much one owns" (Luke 12:15, NCV).

To help us remember that everything we have is His, God asks us to give a tithe (one tenth) of our earnings back to Him. We also give offerings to show our thanks for all that God has given us.

Of course, smart managers use whatever they have left for good purposes too, not for junk.



BONES, MUSCLES, AND SKIN

Your body can do all sorts of cool things, from digesting food to running a 5K race to giving a hug. You can also use it to get high on drugs, show off the latest fashions, or punch someone in the face.

Smart managers use their bodies in ways that show self-respect, love for God, and love for others (see FUN-da-Mental #22).

"Don't you know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? . . . So use your bodies in a way that honors God" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

WHERE TITHE GOES

We don't return our tithe to God by sending it up into the sky. God doesn't need our money. He asks us to give it to His workers to support their daily needs.

In old Israel, the tithes went to the priests and Levites as payment for their work in the temple (Numbers 18:21). Today we don't have priests, but we do have pastors, evangelists, and others who work for God full time. "Those who preach the good news should receive their living from their work" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

TIME TO SHINE

You may think you're not quite as talented, rich, intelligent, or healthy as someone else, but everyone has the same number of days in a week. Is the time yours? The seventh day is a gift reserved for spending with God, and the other days are His too!

Some people waste their time on worthless things like "foolish talk," "dirty jokes," and "wild living" (Ephesians 5:4, 18). Smart managers use the time to help them and others get closer to God.

"Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times" (Ephesians 5:16, NCV).



OFFERINGS DO A LOT OF GOOD

Spreading the gospel around the world takes more than well-fed pastors. We need



- church buildings
- Sabbath school quarterlies
- medicines
- Web sites
- Pathfinder uniforms

and many other things to do a good job.

Did you know? The money for church programs and buildings comes from offerings, not from tithe (1 Chronicles 29:2-9; Nehemiah 10:32-34). There's no set amount for offerings—we decide what to give based on how much God has blessed us. God loves it when we give with a cheerful attitude (2 Corinthians 9:7).



YOU'VE GOT TALENT

What's your secret ability? Whether it's baking fat-free banana bread, writing poetry, or touching your nose with your tongue, there's gotta be a way to use it for God. Plus, every Christian has spiritual gifts to help them do God's work (see FUN-da-Mental #17).

Some people use their talents to earn popularity and praise. Smart managers use them to make God look good (1 Corinthians 10:31).

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10, NIV).

LIVE TO GIVE

If we don't give our tithes and offerings, we're stealing from God (Malachi 3:8). Not a good idea! Besides, smart managers get so many blessings that they run out of room in their closets (verse 10).

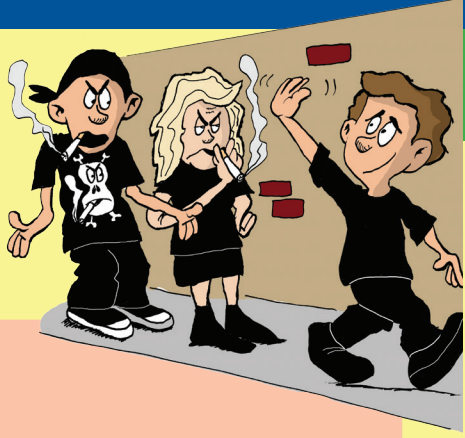
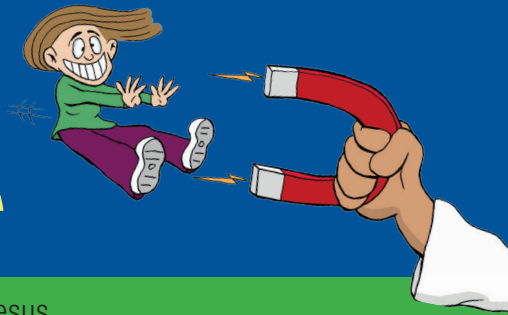
- They become less selfish and more like Jesus.
- They find out how much fun it is to help people.
- They add money to their thief-proof heavenly bank account (Luke 12:33).

Managing God's stuff is a big job, but it has big rewards. You can do it!

Photos from Wikimedia Commons: stray kitten, Krzysztof P. Jasutowicz, CC-SA 2.5; mosh pit, Daniel Lin, CC-SA 2.0; Spanish church, Elvert Barnes, CC-SA 2.0

Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 22

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR



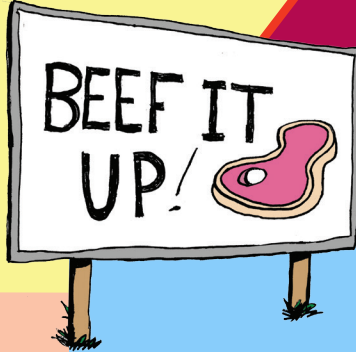
Why bother? When we think and act like Jesus, our example attracts people to Jesus. "They will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

OUT OF THIS WORLD

As Christians we try to "live just as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6). We don't "copy the behavior and customs of this world" (Romans 12:2, NLT) because we're not planning on living here forever! Our friendship with Jesus affects every part of our lives, including

- the food we eat
- what we do in our free time
- how we dress.

Acting differently from people around us can be uncomfortable. "Ungodly people think that it's strange when you no longer join them in what they do" (1 Peter 4:4).



BODY BUILDER

Jesus spent a lot of time healing people (Matthew 4:23). He's concerned about our bodies' health!

Our body is a temple (living place) of the Holy Spirit, so we need to take good care of it (1 Corinthians 6:19). If we're healthy, we can think clearly and make right decisions. We'll also have the energy to help others as Jesus did.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

In the Garden of Eden everyone was a vegetarian, including the animals

(Genesis 1:29, 30)! But that all changed when sin came.

After the Flood, God allowed people to eat meat (Genesis 9:3, 4). But He told us not to eat certain kinds of animals that would not be good for us.

Many of the "unclean" animals are predators (they kill and eat other animals) or scavengers (they eat dead animals). They're more likely to carry diseases or have toxic chemicals in their bodies.

Here are a few examples of "clean" and "unclean" animals (Leviticus 11).

Clean (OK to eat)

- cows
- sheep
- deer
- water creatures with fins and scales (tuna, salmon, trout, etc.)
- chickens
- turkeys
- grasshoppers

Unclean (Don't eat)

- pigs
- rabbits
- cats
- dogs
- water creatures without fins and scales (lobsters, shrimp, catfish, sharks, etc.)
- vultures
- ostriches
- mice
- lizards

Still, lots of research shows that a plant-based diet is the healthiest way to eat.

8 TIPS FOR GOOD HEALTH

Try these eight helpful medicines. You can remember them if you think of the words **N-E-W S-T-A-R-T**.

N = Nutrition. Eat healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and nuts. Potato chips are not a vegetable.

E = Exercise. You were made to move. Step away from that electronic device and do something active. (Hey, you could even mow the lawn.)

W = Water. It's the original energy drink! Guzzle it, wash your hands often, and please take a bath or shower once in a while.

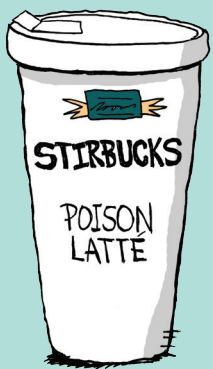
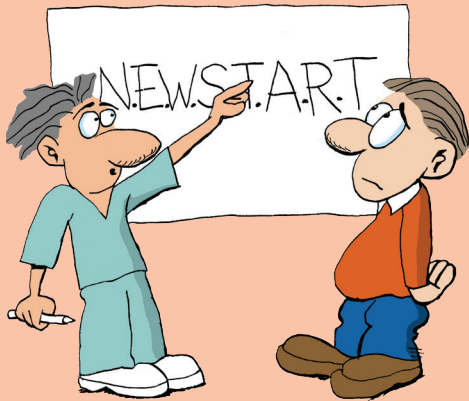
S = Sunlight. Sunshine cheers us up and helps our body to function well. Just don't stay out too long!

T = Temperance. That's a big word for balance. It means, "Avoid harmful things and use the right amount of good things." Smart, huh?

A = Air. You'd die without it! Head outside and take some deep breaths.

R = Rest. Get plenty of sleep, and don't forget to take a weekly break on Sabbath.

T = Trust. Trusting God protects us from worry and stress, which will hurt our bodies and minds (Philippians 4:6, 7).



DON'T TOUCH THIS STUFF

King Solomon warned about the dangers of drinking a drug called alcohol. "Who has trouble? Who has sorrow? . . . Those who spend too much time with wine. . . In the end it bites like a snake" (Proverbs 23:29-32).

Remember, if you don't pick up the snake, you won't get bitten.

Solomon didn't know about tobacco and other harmful drugs, but he'd agree that it's "not wise" to put such dangerous substances into your body (Proverbs 20:1). Even caffeine is bad for you. It messes with your mind.

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

God was the first fashion designer—He made clothes for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). He promises that if we put Him first, we'll have the clothes we need (Matthew 6:33). He didn't promise designer brands, though.

God is more interested in inner beauty than outer beauty (1 Peter 3:3, 4). Spending lots of time and money on our appearance can distract us (and other people) from our real purpose: pointing people to God.

The apostle Paul gives some straightforward advice. He's talking to girls, but boys can learn from it too. He said:

- I would like for women to wear modest and sensible clothes.
- They should not have fancy hairdos
- or wear expensive clothes
- or put on jewelry made of gold or pearls. —1 Timothy 2:9, CEV

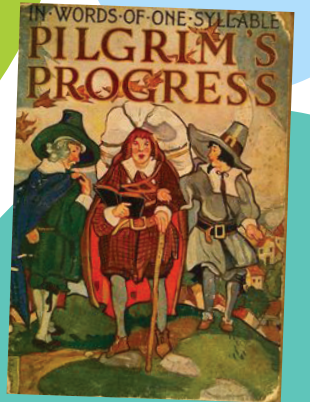
You might want to think, too, about whether the Holy Spirit wants His temple decorated with tattoos and piercings. Just sayin'.

Bible texts from NIV unless noted (NLT, CEV).

BRAIN FOOD

You have lots of options for how you spend your free time. You can

- watch videos
- text your friends
- listen to music
- surf the Internet
- play a video game
- maybe all at once!



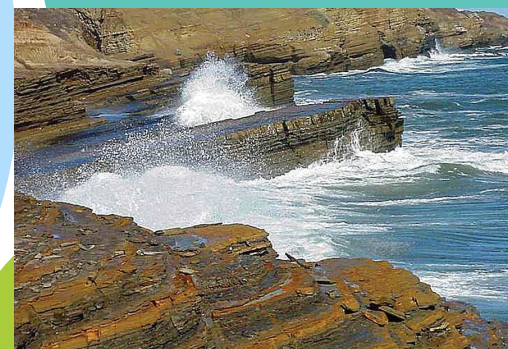
The way we spend our time makes a big impact on how we think. God wants to change us inside so we think and act like Jesus (Romans 12:2). It's hard for Him to do that when we fill our brains with Satan's twisted way of thinking.

David's resolution is a good one: "I won't look at anything that is evil" (Psalm 101:3). Instead, spend time thinking about things that are



- true
- right
- pure
- lovely
- worthy of respect (Philippians 4:8).

Sometimes even positive activities can crowd out time for God. Be a smart manager of the time God gives you (see FUN-da-Mental #21). Keep a good balance between time for yourself, time with others, and time with God.



Text: Rachel Cabose. Design: Tina Ivany. Illustrations: Randy Fishell. Copyright © 2013 by NAD Children's Ministries. Photos from Wikimedia Commons: teens sharing earphones, Svenska Cellulosa Aktibolaget, CC-SA 2.0; hyacinth macaw, Malcolm, CC-SA 2.0; stretched ear lobes, Laura, CC-SA 2.0

Marriage and the Family

Bible texts from NIV unless noted (Message, NCV).

THE LONELINESS BUSTER

Creation week was almost finished. Everything was great—well, almost everything. “God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him’” (Genesis 2:18).

God made Eve for Adam. Ta-da! They made the first love story—and the first marriage. God told the new couple to have children and make their family bigger (Genesis 1:28).

Families are God’s idea. He created them to bring us love and support.



GUYS AND GIRLS

You may have noticed some differences between girls and guys. God made us different on purpose.

“God created human beings in his image. . . . He created them male and female” (Genesis 1:27, NCV).

Guys and girls have some of God’s characteristics in different ways. We need each other. (Yes, really.)



WHAT FAMILIES TEACH US ABOUT God

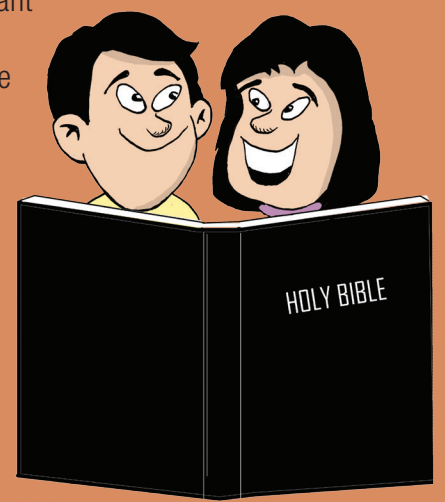
Husbands and wives commit to stay together for life.	God loves us “with a love that lasts forever” (Jeremiah 31:3). He never leaves us.
Husbands love their wives and sacrifice for them.	Jesus loves us and sacrificed Himself for us (Ephesians 5:25-33).
Wives respect their husbands and follow their lead.	We respect Jesus and follow His lead (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33).
Parents love and care for their children.	God cares for us like a loving parent (Matthew 6:31, 32).
Children obey their parents.	We obey God (1 Peter 1:14).



GOD AT THE CENTER

If two people are going to be best friends for life, they need to have common goals and interests. The most important thing for a husband and wife to share is their faith in God.

“Do not be joined to unbelievers. . . . What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?” (2 Corinthians 6:14, 15).



YOU’RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME

A husband and wife share special love and affection with each other. God tells us not to share that kind of love with anyone we’re not married to (Exodus 20:14).

Being faithful to our spouse starts with keeping our thoughts and actions pure even when we’re not married (Ephesians 5:3).

$$1 + 1 = 1$$

In God’s plan for marriage, a math miracle happens. The

husband and wife are still two different people, but they act as one team. “A man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. The two of them will become one” (Genesis 2:24).

God wants a husband and wife to stick as closely together as peanut butter and jelly in a sandwich. You can pull them apart, but it makes a real mess. “God has joined the two together, so no one should separate them” (Matthew 19:6, NCV).

Sometimes marriages break up, but that’s not what God intended from the beginning (Matthew 19:8, 9).



DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO GET MARRIED?

Of course not! Jesus never got married. Paul said that staying single is a good idea for some people because single people can focus on doing God’s work (1 Corinthians 7:7, 32-35).

OUT OF BOUNDS

People try other ways than God’s plan for a man and a woman to be a couple (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26, 27; Ephesians 5:3). It’s not popular to say, but God calls this kind of behavior sinful.

We may disagree with someone’s relationship choices, but we should still treat them with kindness.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The world’s first murder happened because a guy got mad at his brother. On the flipside, some siblings—such as Moses, Aaron, and Miriam—formed powerful ministry teams.

If you have brothers and sisters, keep your team spirit strong. “How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!” (Psalm 133:1, *The Message*).

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Your family may be a total mess. Some family members may be missing from your life. Don’t lose hope. God cares especially for those who don’t have the family they need (Psalm 68:5).

Plus, you have your church family to help you out (see FUN-da-Mental #12). You’ve got millions of brothers and sisters around the world!

THE BIG O WORD

Kids have a big job too. It’s right in the Ten Commandments: “Honor your father and mother” (Exodus 20:12). “Honor” means obeying your parental units by

- treating them with respect
- listening to their advice (Proverbs 1:8)
- doing what they ask you to do.

As a bonus, obedience increases your chances of living a long and happy life, especially if you don’t ride your bike off the roof of the house after your mom told you not to (Ephesian 6:1-3).

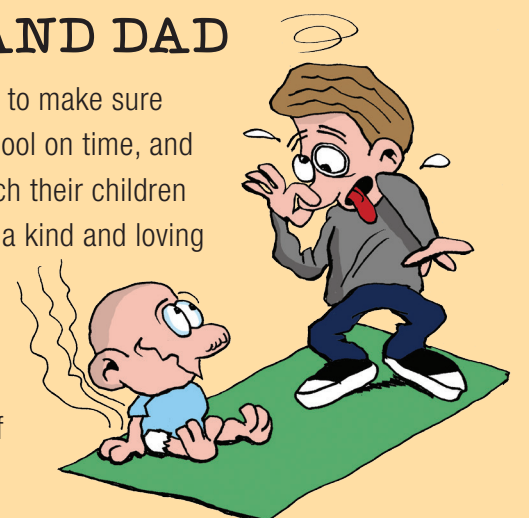
God likes obedience. Paul said, “Children, obey your parents in everything. That pleases the Lord” (Colossians 3:20).



ADVICE FOR MOM AND DAD

Parents have a big responsibility! They have to make sure their children wear clean diapers, get to school on time, and learn how to wash dishes. They need to teach their children about God. And they’re supposed to do it in a kind and loving way, even if the children are whining and arguing.

“Fathers, don’t make your children angry. Instead, train them and teach them the ways of the Lord as you raise them” (Ephesians 6:4).



THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Heavenly Home Base
(heavenly sanctuary)

GOD'S HOME BASE

The heavenly sanctuary is where God lives. It's His throne room, the command center of the universe (Isaiah 6:1-4).

God had the Israelites build a place where He could live on earth with them. The earthly sanctuary was "a copy of the true one" (Hebrews 9:24). The heavenly sanctuary is the real thing.

Other names for the sanctuary

- holy place
- tabernacle (tent)
- temple

Sanctuary Building Instructions



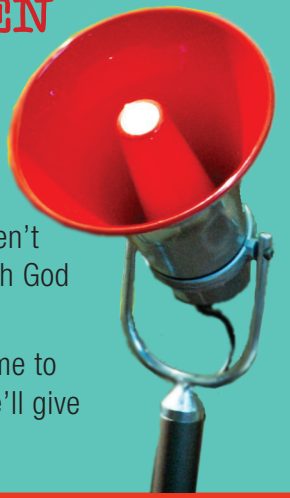
(Should look like this when done)

JESUS' JOB IN HEAVEN

Jesus hasn't spent the past 2,000 years relaxing and hanging out with the angels. He has a full-time job: He's our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).

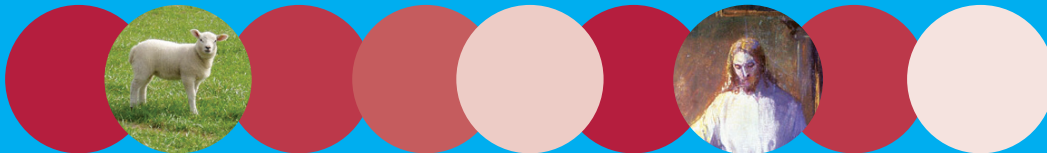
A mediator brings peace between people who aren't getting along. Jesus helps us become friends with God again.

Because Jesus has forgiven our sins, we can come to God in prayer any time we want, knowing that He'll give us the help we need (Hebrews 4:14-16).



A PICTURE OF SALVATION

Everything about the earthly sanctuary helped people understand what Jesus would do for us.



Earthly Sanctuary	Jesus' Work
People sacrificed animals so their sins could be forgiven.	Jesus, the "Lamb of God," died so our sins could be forgiven (John 1:29).
Only priests could go inside the sanctuary.	We can't come to God in our sinful condition. But Jesus represents us in heaven as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:24-26).
Once a year all the sins were removed from the sanctuary.	At the end of time Jesus gets rid of our sins permanently (Hebrews 9:25-28).

SIN HAS GOT TO GO



Even though Jesus' death defeated Satan, we're still dealing with sin. But God is working right now on getting rid of it forever.

In 1844 Jesus started a new part of His work as our High Priest—a job similar to what the high priest did on the Day of Atonement each year. Daniel's prophecies predicted when this work would begin (see timeline).

On the Day of Atonement the high priest offered a special sacrifice to "cleanse" (clean up) the sanctuary and the people from all the sins they had confessed during the year. Then the priest symbolically put all the sins on a goat, which was taken off into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:15-22, 30).

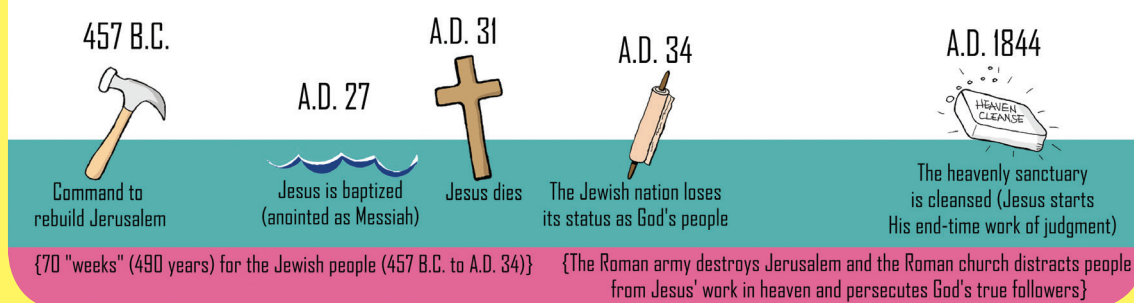
Similarly, at the end of time God will

- show that His people are clean from sin because they trust in Jesus
- remove the record of their sins from the heavenly sanctuary
- send Satan away—he'll be banished to the deserted earth and eventually destroyed (see FUN-da-Mental #27).

TIMELINE TO THE END-TIME

(Daniel 8:9-17; 9:24-27)

2300 "Days" (Years) Prophecy



JUDGMENT DAY IS HERE

God's end-time Day of Atonement is a time of judgment, when God makes a final decision about who will be saved. Daniel saw a dramatic vision of this event.

"Thrones were set in place. The Eternal God took his seat... Thousands and thousands of angels served him. Millions of them stood in front of him. The court was seated. And the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9, 10).

In God's courtroom the angels see that His decisions about who will be saved are fair and right. Jesus presents evidence that His death paid their debt. God proves beyond a doubt that it's time to end Satan's deadly experiment with sin.

COURT IN SESSION

When everyone on earth has chosen whether to follow God or not, the court session will end. All the cases will be decided. Jesus will come to earth to carry out each person's sentence: life or death (Revelation 22:12).

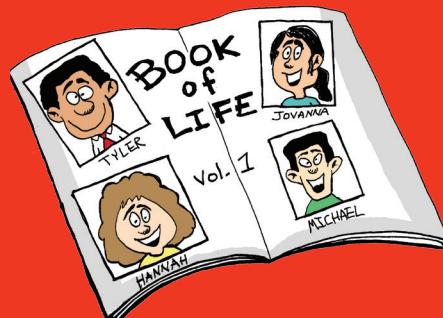
GOD'S BOOKS

God has "books" (heavenly records) that tell what every human has done during their lifetime (Revelation 20:12). His most important record is the Book of Life. That's where He puts the name of every person who chooses Him.

In God's heavenly end-time judgment one of two things will happen:

- Your sins will be erased from God's records because you trusted in Jesus (Isaiah 43:25).
or
- Your name will be erased from the Book of Life because you didn't let Jesus get rid of your sins (Exodus 32:32, 33).

Trusting Jesus is the key to staying safe in His book!



WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG???

Do God, Jesus, and the angels really need 150-plus years for the judgment? Couldn't they have finished a long time ago so Jesus could return?

Quite possibly. But God is being "patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins" (2 Peter 3:9).

Maybe God is waiting for *you* to make that choice for Him!

Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 25

Jesus' Second Coming

Bible texts from NIRV unless noted (NLT).

THIS IS GONNA BE HUGE

Jesus' second coming is more exciting than Christmas, your birthday, and a trip to Disney World all at once! It's the best event of all time, because that's when Jesus rescues us from sin and all the problems it causes.

We know Jesus will come back because He promised it many times in the Bible. "I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am" (John 14:3).



AWESOME DAY/SCARY DAY

When Jesus returns, some people will be happy to see Him, and some won't. Here's what happens to everyone on earth at that time (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 19:21; 20:5).

God's people (<i>alive</i>)	Changed so their bodies won't get old or die	All go up into the air and travel to heaven with Jesus
God's people (<i>dead</i>)	Raised to life with new bodies that won't get old or die	



Evil people (<i>alive</i>)	Die
Evil people (<i>dead</i>)	Stay dead*

* A few people who were responsible for Jesus' death will be resurrected to see Him return (Matthew 26:64; Revelation 1:7).

CAN'T MISS IT

When Jesus returns, everyone on earth will:



See It: "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky. He will come with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

Feel It: "Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, thunder and a powerful earthquake... Every island ran away. The mountains could not be found" (Revelation 16:18-21).



% OF PEOPLE LIVING ON EARTH WHO WILL SEE JESUS

100%

Revelation 1:7

% OF ANGELS WHO WILL RETURN WITH JESUS

100%

Matthew 25:31

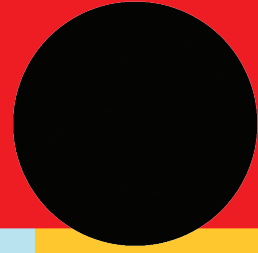
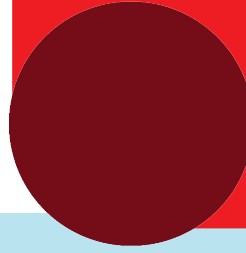


Hear It: "The Lord himself will come down from heaven • with a commanding shout, • with the voice of the archangel, and • with the trumpet call of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, NLT).

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

The Bible mentions strange events in nature before Jesus' return. "There was a powerful earthquake. The sun turned black... The whole moon turned as red as blood. The stars in the sky fell to earth" (Revelation 6:12).

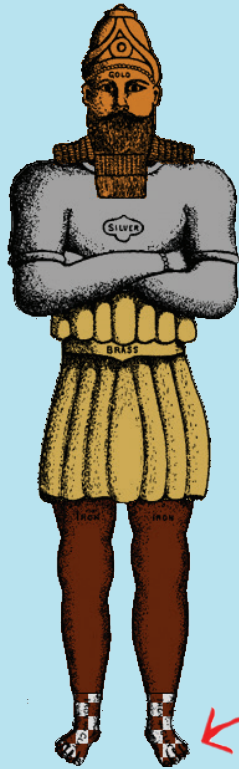
In the late 1700s and early 1800s people in Europe and North America experienced a horrible earthquake, a weird "dark day" followed by a night with a blood-red moon, and an awesome meteor shower. These events prompted many people to study the prophecies about Jesus' second coming.



ARE WE THERE YET?

God hasn't told us exactly when Jesus will return (Matthew 24:36). But He has given us signs so we'll know when to start getting excited. "When you see these things happening, you will know that God's kingdom is near" (Luke 21:31).

- ✓ Daniel's dream of the huge statue shows that we're living in the last section of earth's history before God sets up His kingdom (Daniel 2).
- ✓ All the Bible's time prophecies, such as the 70 weeks, the 1,260 days, and the 2,300 days, are finished (see FUN-da-Mental #13 and #24).



God's end-time remnant people are warning the world to get ready for Jesus to return (see FUN-da-Mental #13).



Wars, famines, diseases, and natural disasters keep destroying people's lives (Matthew 24:6-8). Jesus

said these catastrophes would happen throughout history, so we shouldn't worry too much about them. But these effects of sin on our world are likely to get worse and worse as time goes on.

← YOU ARE HERE

THIS PLACE IS A MESS

By the time Jesus returns, most people will be

- selfish
 - greedy
 - proud
 - cruel
 - ungrateful
 - unforgiving
 - out of control
- (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Like the people before the Flood, they'll be all evil all the time (Genesis 6:5).

Eventually Satan will influence earthly governments to force people to follow his false way of worship (Revelation 13:11-17). It will be a difficult time for those who stay loyal to God.



HOW TO BE READY

Getting ready for Jesus to return doesn't mean packing your suitcase and standing by the front door. We have things to do while we wait.

The first step is to start a friendship with Jesus and choose Him as your Savior (see FUN-da-Mental #10). Then:

- Be alert. Don't get so wrapped up in everyday life that you forget Jesus' plan for the future (Matthew 24:42; Luke 21:34).
- Develop godly character traits—love, faith, self-control (1 Thessalonians 5:4-8).
- Keep doing God's work. Share His good news and help others (Matthew 24:45, 46).
- Pray that God will help you stand strong for Him even when hard times come (Luke 21:36).

HISTORY'S BIGGEST SURPRISE

Despite all the signs, Jesus will return as unexpectedly as "a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Most people won't be ready.

But we don't need to be caught off guard. We just need to be prepared at all times (Matthew 24:44).

COME BACK SOON!

Is there anything we can do to help Jesus return sooner? Yes!

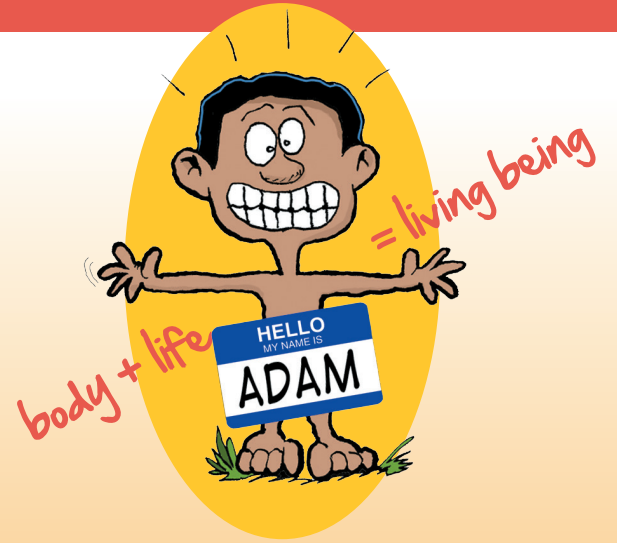


Jesus said that before He returns, "this good news of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world. It will be a witness to all nations" (Matthew 24:14). We all have a part to play in that mission.

LIFE, DEATH, & RESURRECTION

LIVING SOUL

At creation, God made the first human being out of chemical elements—carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen, etc. He breathed life into the man, and the man became alive. “The Lord God formed a man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7). God puts life into a body and starts it going.



Life + sin = death

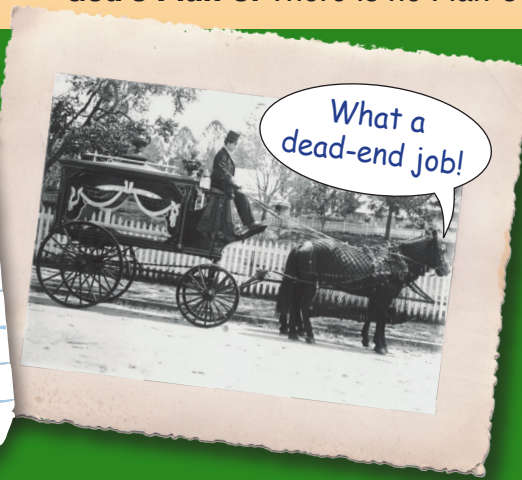
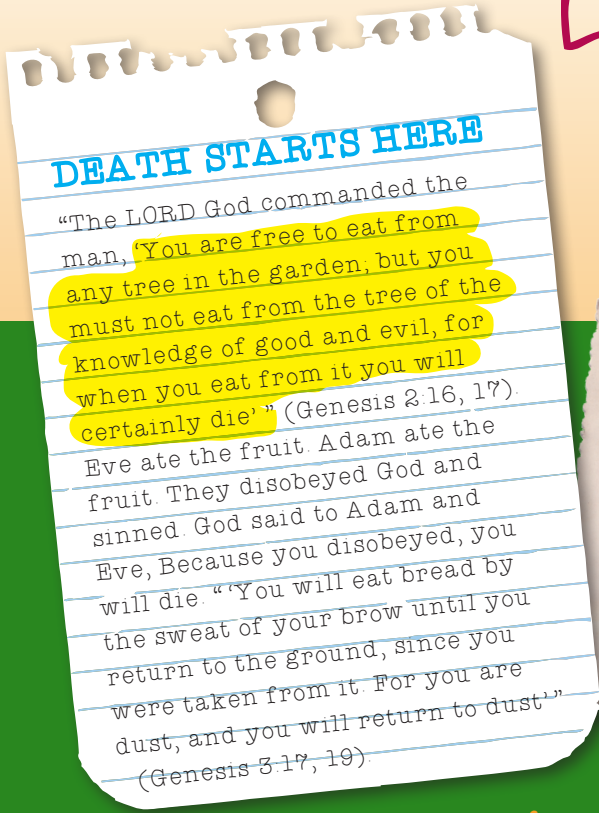
“The payment for sin is death”
(Romans 6:23)

God’s Plan A: No death for people

God’s Plan B: Resurrect people from death

God’s Plan C: There is no Plan C

The chemistry of life? No one knows.



DEATH IS A SLEEP

Death is creation in reverse. Your life stops. You turn back into dirt. It’s a one-way trip to the cemetery.

What happens after a person dies?

Nothing. The Bible says they have gone to sleep.

Where does it say that? In Ecclesiastes 9:5-10 and tons of other places.* Does a “soul” leave your body and float up to heaven (or down to that other place)?

No. When Lazarus died, Jesus said His friend was “sleeping” (John 11:11). Lazarus was still in his tomb when Jesus resurrected him.

*Daniel 12:2; Mark 5:39; Acts 7:60, etc.

Body - life = DEATH

So there is more to the story ...

RESURRECTION

Because Jesus died on the cross, you can believe that He died for you. When you believe that, you know that you will be resurrected and will not die the **SECOND** death.

The FIRST Death

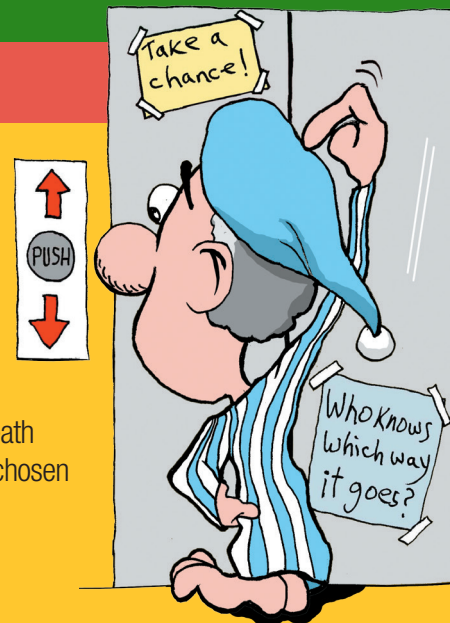
- the death God predicted for Adam and Eve
- a person stops living, goes to sleep, returns to dust
- someday it will probably happen to you and me

The RESURRECTION

- at the second coming of Jesus, God breathes life back into everyone who died believing that Jesus died for their sins
- the FIRST death is over for them
- people who believe in Jesus and are alive at His second coming will never die the FIRST death
- all of the living sinful people die the FIRST death on that day
- the dead sinful people stay dead

The SECOND Death

- after the second coming of Jesus and the Millennium, God resurrects all the sinful people from the first death
 - He pronounces judgment on them; they have chosen to reject eternal life
 - at that time, 100% of sinners die the SECOND death
 - the SECOND death lasts forever
 - it is complete and permanent cremation of a person
 - you do not want this to happen to you



HELL

The Hebrew word for the grave (the place where the dead are buried) is Sheol. The Greek word is Hades, which means “see no more.” It’s what happens to people in the first death.

What is hell? **It is a state of being without God, i.e., dead. Eternal hell is being dead (without God) forever.**

How did people come up with the idea that hell is a fiery place for sinners to be tortured forever? **They put together God’s fire from heaven + the false idea that people have a living soul after they die**

When you put those two ideas together, you need a place for sinners to be burned forever. That place was called hell. But hell is not a place at all.



GHOSTS & SPIRITS

You don’t need to worry about spooky spirits and ghosts.

Are they real? **Yes.**

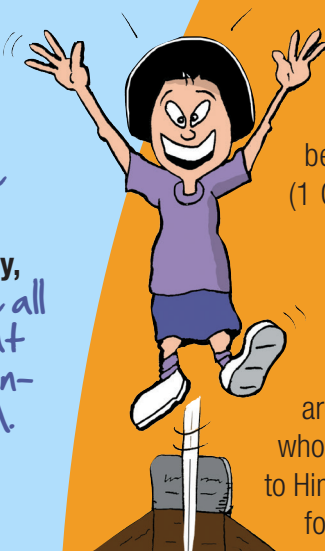
Are they the spirits or souls of dead people? **No! Ghosts and spooky spirits are the devil’s angels—evil spirits. That is all.**

Can we talk to dead people? **No. Dead people are asleep until Jesus comes back to earth.**

Who do mediums and spiritualists talk to? **The devil’s angels—evil spirits. That is all.**

What’s wrong with witchcraft, wizardry, sorcery, Wicca, Harry Potter, and Halloween? **They are all systems of religion or other practices that call up and/or worship the devil and his angels. STAY FAR AWAY FROM THEM.**

“Do not . . . seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them” (Leviticus 19:31).



DEATH IS GONE FOREVER

When all the sinners are destroyed in the lake of fire, death goes into the fire too. “Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death” (Revelation 20:14). “The last enemy to be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Nothing and no one will ever die again.

All sadness, pain, and suffering are gone forever. For everyone who believes in Jesus and is faithful to Him, it’s all about life from then on, forever and ever.

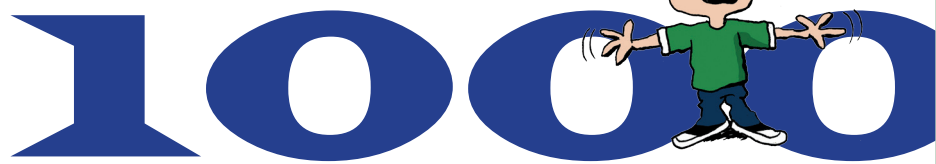
The Millennium & the End of Sin

Bible texts from NIRV unless noted (NIV, NASB).

DID YOU KNOW?

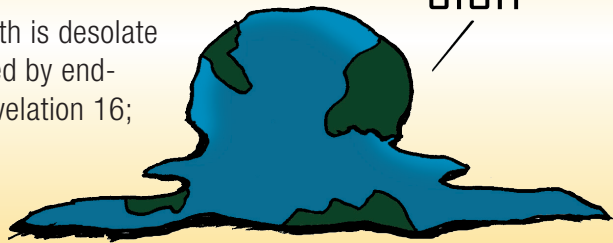
“Millennium” is a big word that means “1,000 years.”

MILLU... MILLNU... MEELIN...



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

- The millennium starts at Jesus’ second coming.
- For 1,000 years God’s people live with Jesus in heaven.
- Meanwhile the earth is desolate and empty, wrecked by end-time disasters (Revelation 16; 19:21). All the evil people are dead.



SATAN GOES TO JAIL



The millennium isn’t a good time for Satan. He’s stuck on earth with nothing to do and no one to tempt. It’s as if he’s chained up and put in prison!

Satan’s giant time-out gives him plenty of time to think about all the misery he’s caused the whole universe.

WELCOME TO THE ROYAL PALACE!



During the millennium God’s people from all over enjoy the “rooms” that Jesus has made

for them in His “Father’s house”—heaven (John 14:2). We rule as princes and princesses with Jesus. We even get to sit with Him on His throne (Revelation 3:21).

We have a big job to do during that time. The millennium is a time of judgment, and we’re the judges.

“Don’t you know that God’s people will judge the world? . . . Don’t you know that we will judge angels?” (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3).



YOU BE THE JUDGE

Why does God need another judgment? Obviously He has already decided who will be saved (see FUN-da-Mental #24).

This is the cool part. God wants to make sure we agree with His decisions. He gives us a chance to look over everyone’s records and find out why some people didn’t make it to heaven.

God wants us to be 100 percent sure that He’s been fair to everybody.

	When It Happens	Who Sees God’s Justice
Judgment #1	Before Jesus comes	Heavenly beings
Judgment #2	During the millennium	God’s people
Judgment #3	After the millennium	Evil people Satan and his angels

SIN NO MORE

At the end of the millennium, sin finally meets its doom (Revelation 20:7–21:2).

1

God and His people return to earth, along with the New Jerusalem.

2

The evil people come back to life.

3

Satan leads them to attack the New Jerusalem.

4

God stops their attack and conducts Judgment #3.

5

Sin and sinners are destroyed.

6

God recreates a perfect new earth (see FUN-da-Mental #28).

SATAN ON THE LOOSE

When Jesus resurrects the evil people, Satan’s prison sentence ends. He’s free to tempt and deceive them again.



Clearly Satan didn’t learn anything from his time-out. The evil people haven’t changed either—they join right in with Satan’s scheme to take over the New Jerusalem.

The attackers surround the city, but they stop in their tracks when they see God sitting on an enormous white throne. It’s time for Judgment #3.

JUDGMENT TIME AGAIN

Judgment #3 is such a big deal that Jesus raises the evil people from the dead just so they can be there.

Every human who has ever lived is present. God’s record books show what each of us has done. We see how God has done everything He could to save each person, but some rejected His love.

Everyone—even Satan and his angels—admits that God was right all along. “Every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow to worship him [Jesus]” (Philippians 2:10).



God doesn’t want sin to ever start again. That’s why He goes to so much trouble to make sure everyone sees His love, patience, and fairness. Sadly, those outside the city still don’t want to love Him back.

THE WAR IS OVER

Now God can safely put an end to the rebellion that Satan started in heaven thousands of years ago (see FUN-da-Mental #8).

Fire from God burns up everything on earth, destroying every trace of sin (2 Peter 3:10). The earth becomes one big “lake of fire”—also known as “hell.” Satan, his angels, and his human followers burn up in this fire as well.

This will be one of God’s saddest days. He says, “When sinful people die, it does not give me any joy. But when they turn away from their sins and live, that makes me very happy” (Ezekiel 33:11).

Eternal death isn’t God’s wish for any of His creatures. But He can’t allow sin to keep messing up the universe.

FOREVER AND EVER AND . . . EVER?

Some verses in the Bible make it sound like Satan and his followers will burn for all eternity.

- They will go “into the fire that burns forever” (Matthew 25:41).
- “They will all suffer day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).
- “The smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever” (Revelation 14:11, NIV).

Other verses help us understand that in the Bible “forever” and “eternal” don’t always mean “never ending.” For instance, Sodom and Gomorrah suffered “the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7, NASB). But those cities aren’t burning today.

The fire of hell “can’t be put out” (Matthew 3:12). But it will go out when there’s nothing left but ashes (Malachi 4:1-3).

THE WAGES OF SIN

The destruction of the rebellious people and angels is called “the second death.”

Their punishment is “eternal” because the results are permanent. Sinners are gone forever, never to live again.

THE NEW EARTH

Bible texts from NIRV unless noted (NIV, NASB).

TRUE OR FALSE

After Jesus comes back here, we'll live forever in heaven with Him.

False. We'll spend 1,000 years in heaven (see *FUN-da-Mental* #27), but we'll spend most of eternity here on earth.

God's people will spend eternal life as spirits floating on clouds.

False. We'll be real people in a very real place, the New Earth. It will be a lot like the world we have now, but perfect.

We won't get bored in the New Earth, even after 4,536,787 years with no TV or Internet.

True! We'll always find new things to do and new places to explore.



BULLY-FREE ZONE

We'll never feel lonely or unloved in the New Earth—not when we're surrounded by kind, caring people plus millions of angels! We'll make new friends from all times and places.

A few people who will be there for sure:

- Enoch, Moses, and Elijah—they're in heaven already! (Genesis 5:24; Matthew 17:3)
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 8:11)



EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER

After the fiery blaze of hell destroys every bit of sin on this earth, God will create "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).

Just as He created a beautiful home for Adam and Eve in the beginning, He'll recreate a perfect home on this planet where His people can live forever (Matthew 5:5).

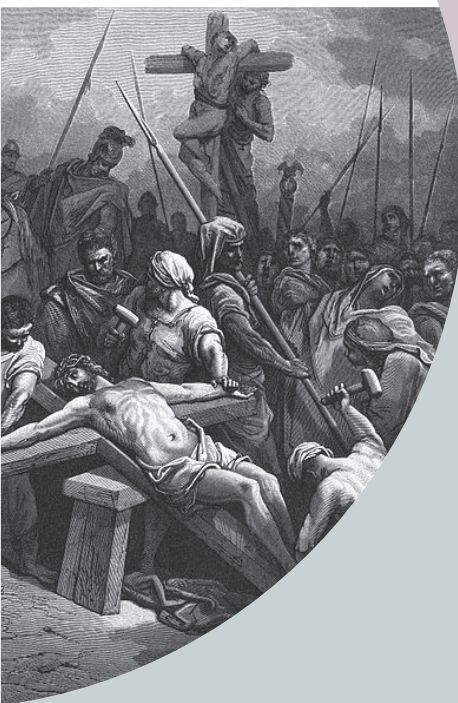
To make it even more amazing, God will move His throne room—His heavenly headquarters—to earth (Revelation 22:3). He's really serious about making His home with us.

GOOD RIDDANCE WHAT'S MISSING?

In the New Earth, "things are no longer the way they used to be" (Revelation 21:4)—and that's great! All the bad stuff will be missing:

- sin
- temptation
- death
- sadness
- pain
- sickness

We'll still have one reminder of sin, though. Jesus will carry the scars from His painful death for our sins (John 20:25-27).



WHAT'S IT LIKE?

What will life be like in the New Earth? The Bible doesn't tell us many details, but we can get hints from what it says about

- life in heaven
- life on earth before sin
- God's promises to Israel that will be fulfilled (somewhat differently) in the New Earth.

THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS

The New Jerusalem, the capital city of the New Earth, will be a beautiful place (Revelation 21:9–22:5).

- The wall and foundations are made of precious gems.
- Each gate is a single huge pearl.
- The buildings and the main street are made of gold that you can see through, like glass.
- God's glory shines so brightly in the city that it never gets dark.
- A crystal-clear river full of "the water of life" flows through the city.
- The tree of life provides fruit every month.

We won't spend all our time in the New Jerusalem, though, because we'll have the whole earth to enjoy.



HIS MAJESTY'S SERVANTS

We won't need heart surgeons or FBI agents in the New Earth, but we'll still have jobs to do.

God's people will serve as officials in His government (Matthew 25:21; Revelation 22:5). We'll keep using our God-given abilities to work for Him in bigger and better ways than we ever did on earth.

Will we each be responsible for a certain part of the earth, as Adam and Eve were? Will we be in charge of a distant galaxy? Who knows? But whatever job God gives us, it will be a lot of fun!

Other careers or hobbies we might have in the New Earth:

- architect
- farmer
- musician
- builder
- gardener

(Isaiah 65:21; Genesis 2:15; Revelation 14:3; 15:2)



IT'S REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN

"He who was sitting on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down. You can trust these words. They are true'" (Revelation 21:5).

BACK TO EDEN

In the New Earth, nature will be perfect, the way it was before Adam and Eve sinned. Animals won't eat each other or harm people (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25).

Our new, perfect bodies will always be healthy and strong (1 Corinthians 15:42, 43). Our brains will probably work a lot better too!

We'll have endless opportunities to learn new things, express our creativity, and try new activities.



HANGING OUT WITH THE KING

The best thing about the New Earth is that God will be there! We'll be able to talk to Him face to face (Revelation 22:4). Spending quality time with our Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, who love us so much, is going to be incredible.

Imagine a Sabbath worship service where literally everyone on earth shows up (Isaiah 66:23)! You might need to arrive early to get a spot near God's throne.

LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD

God wants us to get excited about the great life He has planned for us in heaven and the New Earth (Matthew 5:12). It's way better than anything we could get by following Satan's way now (Hebrews 11:24-26).

The reward God gives us will make any hard times we've gone through on this earth seem totally worthwhile (2 Corinthians 4:17, 18).