



SAVED TO SERVE

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1 EVANGELICAL VS 3 SDAs.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THESE STATEMENTS?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will give Biblical responses to statements made by one evangelical to three Seventh-day Adventists. The topics are the Sabbath, the Scapegoat, Ellen White & the Spirit of Prophecy, and biblical dietary practices. Although not an exhaustive study on any of the previously mentioned points, this lesson will challenge us to prove what we believe from scripture.

Current Event: 1 Evangelical Christian vs. 3 Seventh Day Adventists | The Bridge

[YouTube.com/watch?v=MWod2Vzy2kk&t=2479s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWod2Vzy2kk&t=2479s)

Statement 1: Jesus is our ultimate rest & Saturday worship is not salvific.

2. At the end of which event did God institute His day of rest? For whom was this day of rest made? Genesis 1:1 with Genesis 2:2-3; Mark 2:27

3. Many Christians call Sunday "the day of rest." Others say that the fourth commandment gives us the principle of resting one day a week but you can pick any day to rest. Which day of the week does God call His day of rest? Exodus 31:16-17; Genesis 2:2-3

4. In Revelation 1:10, John says that he was "in the spirit on the Lord's day." Some people believe he was referring to Sunday. Which day does God call "the Lord's day?" Isaiah 58:13, 14; Mark 2:27, 28

5. Does God command us to keep the seventh-day Sabbath? Has God's law changed? Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 5:17-19; Psalm 111:7, 8; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8

6. Some Christians quote Matthew 11:28-30 to argue that Jesus is their rest and keeping the literal seventh-day Sabbath as holy is not necessary today. While it is true that as we draw closer to Jesus He provides us with mental, spiritual, and emotional rest, what does Hebrews 4:4, 8-11 teach us?

7. Did Sunday become the Sabbath when Jesus resurrected from the dead? Mark 16:1-2, 9; Matthew 24:15-16, 20

8. Does the New Testament teach seventh-day Sabbath observance? Were the apostles Sabbath-keepers or did they worship on Sunday after Jesus' resurrection? Acts 13:14, 27, 42, 44; Acts 15:21; Acts 16:13; Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4

9. Regarding the Sabbath, the Pharisees were legalists but Jesus was not. Yet, Jesus fully kept the Sabbath and we are still commanded to keep it today. In Mark 2:23-28, the Jews accused Jesus and His disciples of Sabbath breaking. Let's see if Jesus really broke the Sabbath.
 - a) In Mark 2:25-26, Jesus used the account of David eating the shew bread to justify His disciples plucking ears of corn on the Sabbath. What principle was Jesus trying to teach us about Sabbath observance from these two verses? Focus on verse 25 and 27. **Answer:** David ate the shew bread to satisfy his need, his hunger. The Sabbath was not made to be a burden to men or to make them slaves to it; it was made to aid man and address his needs (physical, spiritual, & mental). Furthermore, the disciples were not harvesting the corn which would have been work; they simply plucked and ate what was sufficient to satisfy their hunger.

10. In Mark 3, we see a clearer example of the principle Jesus was trying to teach the Jews who misunderstood Sabbath observance. What principle was Jesus trying to teach the Jews about Sabbath observance when He healed the withered man's hand? Mark 3:1-5
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11. Matthew 15 is a nail in a sure place to explain why the Jews always considered Jesus to be a commandment breaker and Sabbath breaker (although He perfectly kept the law). What did the Jews put above the commandments which caused them to violate the commandments? Matthew 15:1-6, 9
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12. Is observing the seventh-day Sabbath a salvific issue? **Answer:** Yes! The Bible is clear that we are saved by faith through grace and not of our works, but it also teaches us that we will be judged by God's law and our works (Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14). Our works demonstrate to God our faith in Him. Furthermore, the final crisis before the Second Coming of Jesus is the Mark of the Beast and its over worship (Revelation 14:9-10). Revelation 12:17 reveals that the remnant who overcome this crisis keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. So, which commandment specifically deals with worship and is the one God says to "remember"? It is the fourth commandment regarding the keeping of the weekly Sabbath. Finally, the redeemed will be keeping the Sabbath in heaven according to Isaiah 66:22-23, so this proves that God cares about the seventh-day Sabbath and it is connected to our salvation.

Statement 2: Referring to Ellen G. White & her works as the spirit of prophecy creates an inordinate admiration for her and her biblical interpretations.

13. To respond to this statement, it is important to note that Adventists believe Ellen White is a true, inspired prophet of God. Therefore, we must define the term "spirit of prophecy" and prove that God will have a leading prophet in the last days. Besides keeping the commandments of God, what is another major characteristic of the remnant church? Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10
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14. What is the the spirit of prophecy? (Also known as: The Testimony of Jesus) Read Revelation 1:1-2 and 2 Peter 1:19-21. **Answer:** It is a gift from God where He reveals to His people things which will come to pass (prophecy) through the Holy Spirit & angels. The message which is revealed provides evidence that God's Word is true, and points people to Jesus.
15. Is prophecy included among the spiritual gifts given to the church? How does Paul describe prophecy in 1 Corinthians 14:1? 1 Corinthians 12:28, 31; 1 Corinthians 14:1
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16. How will God communicate prophecy to His people, and will there be prophets in the last days? Amos 3:7; Acts 2:16-18
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17. **Note:** Throughout Bible history, God has always had a leading prophet to guide His people with their counsel, prayers, and rebuke (i.e. Moses, Samuel, Elijah, John the Baptist). For example, while Moses was the leading prophet who communicated with God and shared God's messages with the Israelites, Miriam was simultaneously called a prophetess (Exodus 15:20). There were hundreds of prophets in Elijah's day, but he was the leading prophet who rebuked Ahab & Jezebel. Likewise, in these last days, God also has a leading prophet whose counsel guides His remnant movement: Ellen G. White. Others will receive the gift of prophecy (Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28, 29) but there will only be one leading prophet.
18. What are the physical tests of a true prophet?
- a) Numbers 12:6 - **The prophet will have visions.**
 - b) Numbers 24:16 - **The prophet will have their eyes open in vision.**
 - c) Daniel 10:8 - **The prophet will lose their strength while in vision.**
 - d) Daniel 10:15 - **The prophet will become dumb while in vision.**
 - e) Daniel 10:17 - **The prophet will have no breath while in vision.**
 - f) Daniel 10:18 - **The prophet will be strengthened by an angel.**
 - g) 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 - **The prophet will be unconscious of their surroundings while in vision.**
- *Visions happen in the presence of witnesses who bear a first-hand testimony of the event (Daniel 10:7; Acts 9:7, 8).**
19. Let us look at the characteristics of a true prophet.
- a) 1 John 4:2, 3 - **They will acknowledge that Jesus Christ came in the flesh.**
 - b) Deuteronomy 18:21, 22; Jeremiah 28:9 - **What they predict will come to pass.**

- c) Ezekiel 3:17-19 - **They give rebuke to the church.**
- d) Matthew 7:15-18, 20 - **The “fruit” of their life must correspond with the Bible.**
- e) Isaiah 8:20 - **They must point back to God’s Word and speak in accordance with it.**
- f) Acts 15:1-2, 27-29 - **Prophets help settle doctrinal disputes.**

20. **Note:** As you prayerfully and sincerely compare the points in this lesson with the ministry of Ellen G. White, you will conclude that she does fulfill the the Biblical requirements of a true prophet and that she is God’s leading prophet of these last days. Her writings also fall under the umbrella of “the Spirit of Prophecy”. However, she and her writings are not above any other prophets - they all had the same gift of prophecy given to them by God and are subject one to another (1 Corinthians 14:29, 32).
21. To further confirm that Ellen White was a true prophet, answer the following question. Were there other prophets who wrote books that were relevant for their time but are not a part of the 66 canonical books of the Bible? (P.S. These are called the lost books of the Bible) 1 Chronicles 29:29; Numbers 21:13-14; 2 Chronicles 12:15; 2 Chronicles 9:29; 2 Chronicles 33:19; Joshua 10:13

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- a) Would you reject their ministry and consider them false prophets because their books are not among the 66 books of the Bible?

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22. Here is an example of a Biblical prophet giving behind the scenes information of a particular time period. What did Jude write about Enoch in Jude 1:14?

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23. Is it recorded anywhere else in Genesis or the New Testament that Enoch said those words? **Answer:** No! Jude was under inspiration of God while giving this “behind the scenes” prophetic insight into what Enoch prophesied in his day. This proves that prophets do add prophetic context and behind the scenes information under the inspiration of God.

Statement 3: Satan is not the scapegoat typified in Leviticus 16.

24. The scapegoat is connected with the sanctuary service on the day of atonement. On the day of atonement, how many goats were presented in the sanctuary, and how were they classified? Leviticus 16:8

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25. **Note:** Already in this study, we have learned that one goat was for the Lord and the other was the scapegoat. Since one goat was for the Lord, how then could the other goat (the scapegoat) represent Jesus according to popular christian teaching? In the marginal reference of your study bible, what does the word “scapegoat” mean in Leviticus 16:8? Also see 5799 in the Hebrew of the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance. **Answer:** It means azazel or goat of departure.

26. In Leviticus 16:10, 21, the live goat had sins placed on him and was led out of the camp into the wilderness. Who was cast out or departed from the presence of God because of sin? Ezekiel 28:14, 16. Also see Isaiah 14:12-17 (Note: A cherub is an angel that stands in the presence of God - Exodus 25:20, 22)

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- a) What did Lucifer defile through his sin according to Ezekiel 28:18?

(Note: This has sanctuary language written all over it. So, because of Lucifer’s sin, he had to depart just as the scapegoat had to depart).

27. Remember that “azazel” means “goat of departure”. When Jesus comes again, what will he separate? Matthew 25:31-32

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28. What will Jesus say to the goats which represent the wicked? Matthew 25:41

Azazel, in Jewish legends, a demon or evil spirit to whom, in the ancient rite of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), a scapegoat was sent bearing the sins of the Jewish people. Two male goats were chosen for the ritual, one designated by lots “for the Lord,” the other “for Azazel” (Leviticus 16:8). <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Azazel>

29. In what condition was the scapegoat presented before the Lord on the day of atonement? Leviticus 16:10

a) What happened to the goat upon which the Lord's lot fell (the Lord's goat)? Leviticus 16:9

30. Who does the book of Hebrews say was offered or sacrificed to bear our sins? Hebrews 9:26, 28 (See also Hebrews 9:6-7, 22)

31. In which compartment of the earthly sanctuary was the blood of the Lord's goat sprinkled? Leviticus 16:15; Exodus 26:33

a) Whose blood did this goat (the Lord's goat) represent? Hebrews 10:19

32. **Note:** If the scapegoat represented Jesus, it would have to DIE to make an atonement for the sins of the people. Jesus made an atonement for us through his death. See Romans 5:10-11.

33. Isaiah 53 is also used to support the false claim that the scapegoat represents Jesus because the scapegoat bore the sins of the congregation to the wilderness. The following point disproves that theory. What was the end result of Jesus bearing our sins so that we could live? Isaiah 53:4, 7 (focus on verse 7)

34. Fill in the blank. Leviticus 16:10 says, "But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make an atonement _____ him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness."

35. **Note:** The above points show a clear distinction between the scapegoat and the other animals used in the sanctuary services. Whenever an atonement was made for the people, it had to be sacrificed and die. Read Leviticus 4:20, 26, 31, 35.

36. What happened after the high priest finished reconciling the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary? Leviticus 16:20-21

37. Just as the high priest had to finish the atonement and leave the sanctuary before placing the sins upon the scapegoat, which event in the last days will signal the banishing of Satan to the wilderness? Revelation 20:1-6 **Answer:** The Second Coming of Jesus and the first resurrection. They take place just before Satan is confined to the earth for 1,000 years.

38. Read Leviticus 16:21-22. The verses tell us that the wilderness is a land that is not inhabited. What does the wilderness represent where Satan will be bound at the Second Coming of Christ? Isaiah 14:12, 17; Jeremiah 4:23-27; Revelation 20:3 compared with 2 Thessalonians 2:8

Statement 4: SDA dietary measures encourage legalism and performance-driven behaviors from their members.

39. Write down the scenes in the Bible where diet was linked to a person's obedience to God and salvation. Genesis 2:16-17 and Genesis 3:1-6; Genesis 25:29-34 and Hebrews 12:15-17; Numbers 11:4-6, 31-35; Matthew 4:1-4

40. Read Revelation 14:6, 7 and notice that it brings to view the everlasting gospel. We are told to fear God and give glory to Him. What is one meaning of giving glory to God? 1 Corinthians 10:31

41. What was the original diet given to mankind at Creation? Genesis 1:29; Genesis 3:18

42. When was the flesh of animals introduced into man's diet? Genesis 8:1, 2; Genesis 9:3

43. **Note:** Notice that God reminded Noah about the herb of the field as He gave Noah permission to eat the flesh of animals. It was a temporary diet given to man until the herbs should grow back on the earth.

44. Did God give permission to eat every kind of animal or did He classify them into groups? Leviticus 11:46, 47 (Read all of Leviticus 11 to identify the clean and unclean animals).

45. Even though God allowed meat to be eaten by mankind, which diet did He confirm as being superior? Daniel 1:5, 8, 10-15

46. Does God permit the eating of unclean animals in Acts 10:11-16? What was that vision about? Acts 10:1-7, 25-28

Answer: No, the vision does not condone eating flesh foods. The vision from God told Peter not to call men (Gentiles, non-Jews) unclean and unworthy to receive the gospel because the Jews had a preconceived idea that only Jews were "clean" and could receive salvation.

47. What will be the condition of the earth and animals as a result of sin? Should we then be eating flesh foods & dairy products in these last days? Hosea 4:1-3; Jeremiah 12:1-4; Isaiah 24:1-6

48. **Note:** It was God who gave the dietary laws in the Bible and as we prepare for heaven where there will be no death or flesh eating, God expects us to prepare for that reality here on earth. Meditate on 3 John 2; Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 65:25.
