



COMPLETE SET *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*

A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Doctrines

Study Guides, Reproducible Masters!

Duplicate as few or as many as you need!

Outstanding resource for preparing people for

baptism, prayer meetings, or study groups!

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General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Preface

Seventh-day Adventist Believe

Since it first appeared in 1988, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe* has gone through six printings, with over 500,000 copies in circulation. Produced under the able and visionary leadership of the late Bob Spangler, secretary of the ministerial association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the book has already become a classic—a tool for Seventh-day Adventists to understand their beliefs, and a witness to non-Seventh-day Adventists to appreciate what we as a church believe and teach. Thousands of non-Adventist clergy around the world have received this book as a gift and have come to know us and our beliefs a little better.

Seventh-day Adventist church members, students in our institutions, pastors, and teachers have found the book an extremely useful volume that points to the Christ-centered nature and the biblical foundation of our fundamental doctrines and teachings. No other single volume has defined the fundamental beliefs so clearly, so simply, and so Christ-centeredly.

However, for some time, many members and pastors have expressed a need for a study guide—to help in personal study of the book, to be used as a group study tool, and to help reinforce the truth, both personally and corporately. As a result, the General Conference Ministerial Association has developed this study guide, and we send this to you with our hope and prayers that it will build your faith, direct you to study earnestly the Word of God, and above all, to build an intimate and growing relationship with our Lord Jesus.

Helpful Hints

To make the most of the study guide, here are some useful hints:

1. Although *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*... uses the New King James Version, the study guide employs the King James Version, for the simple reason most readers would have access only to the authorized version which they can use in completing the simple questions in the guide.
2. Each lesson guide has stories to illustrate a point, a preface to the lesson, some important points regarding the lesson, the lesson in the form of questions or statements (“nuts and bolts”), a few important words introduced in the lessons, differences between words or concepts, a personal checklist, and a closing prayer. Readers are invited to go through all of these features carefully in order to benefit the most from the lessons.
3. Each of the chapters in the book has one study guide. First, study the lesson in the book, looking up the biblical references. The study cannot be complete or satisfying without that open Bible in front of you. Second, turn to the lesson guide. Answer the questions or fill in the blanks, by turning to the biblical references mentioned. In some cases, you may have to use your own words and reflections.
4. If you are using the lesson guides in group studies, you may want to ask the group members to study the lesson in advance and use the guide as a group. Discuss important points as the group goes through the guide.

Appreciation

This study guide would not have been possible were it not for the hard work of several people. We want to give special thanks to Barbara Folkenberg, Eileen and Jay Lantry, John Fowler, and a host of other individuals who worked diligently to complete this project.

James Cress, Ministerial Association Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Silver Spring, Maryland, USA



The Word of God

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart” (Jeremiah 15:16).

A little boy found in a dark closet the family Bible, covered with dust.

“Mama, whose book is this?” he asked.

“That’s God’s book,” she replied.

“Well, Mama,” the little fellow said, “don’t you think we had better give it back to God? We never use it.”

When Stanley started across the continent of Africa in search of Livingstone, he carried with him seventy-three books. As the days and weeks passed, he was obliged to throw away the books one by one until all were gone except his Bible. Stanley treasured the Bible. He read it through three times on that remarkable trip.

Once, a librarian at the University of Edinburgh asked a professor to pick out from the library all the books on his subject that were no longer needed. He replied, “Take away every book over ten years old, except the Bible.” Unlike humanity’s literature, that becomes obsolete after a few years, the Bible has stood the test of relevancy for centuries. It is the one book that lives through the ages. It has stood the test of time.

Preview

Many think the Bible is too difficult to understand and is too boring. The fact is, they never open the Book and thus cheat themselves of joy, comfort, peace, and, possibly, eternal salvation. Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). And Jesus is right. He found the Scriptures helpful in resisting the devil and in knowing His Father’s will. So can you.

Points to Ponder

1. The Bible is the best-selling and most-read book in the world. Why?
It answers the deepest longing of the human heart—to be loved, to belong.
2. Christians believe that the Bible is inspired. Why?
Peoples’ lives are changed through its influence. Its prophecies come true. It has God’s answer to the most vexing human problems. It shows how sinners can be saved.
3. Through the centuries people have been willing to die for this Bible. Why?
Because the Bible reveals God’s love for the human race, and this love is manifest in Jesus. Christians love Jesus and want to show their love and loyalty to Him. They are overjoyed through the certainty of being with Him.

4. Many have no interest in even reading the Bible. Why?

They feel trapped, with so many demands on their time. What time they do have, they want to spend having fun in their own way. Many feel religion would only interfere with their plans. The Bible invites, "O taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). Without that experience, they are the losers.

5. Others study the Bible a great deal. Why?

Like the prophet Jeremiah, they have discovered that the Bible becomes the joy and rejoicing of their hearts (Jeremiah 15:16). The more they study it, the more satisfying and fascinating it becomes, until nothing brings them more pleasure than the hours they spend with the Author of the Word.

If you know your Lord from studying His Word, you can be as wise as the mountain goat. Let me explain: A mountaineer, hiking in dangerous mountains above the timberline, was crossing the snow crust of a glacier. Using his ice axe and ropes, he carefully edged along the steep slope. Suddenly, he noticed what appeared to be a puff of smoke rising from the hanging wall just below him. Past experience indicated that this was the first signal of an avalanche!

At that moment he saw a mountain goat feeding on a nearby ridge. The animal stopped, tensed, and the big humpback quivered under its white fur. It too recognized danger—time to run. Instantly, it bounced to an ice wall, sized it up, and sprinted out of sight. The mountaineer knew that wild goats know their mountains. His only chance of safety was to follow the goat. If there was a way of escape, the goat would know it.

Running to the ice wall, he slammed his axe into the marks the goat had made with his hooves, and heaved his body up the route. Ledges and handgrips he never expected appeared. Struggling, he rolled onto solid rock just as he heard the terrible roar of the avalanche covering the trail he had left a few moments before. The alert wisdom of the goat that knew these high mountains saved both their lives.

As you know your Bible better and better, God will send you messages for every emergency, enabling you to escape Satan's temptations.

Nuts & Bolts

1. What will study of the Bible do for a person?

Timothy 3:15: "From a child thou hast _____ the holy _____, which are able to make thee _____ unto _____ through _____ which is in _____."

2. What consistent reports do Bible writers give as to the real source of their writings?

2 Samuel 23:2: "The _____ of the _____ spake by me, and his _____ was in my _____."

Micah 3:8: "I am full of _____ by the _____ of the _____."

Acts 28:25: "Well spake the _____ by Esaias the _____ unto our fathers."

3. Based on his own experience and study, what did Paul conclude concerning Scripture usage?
 2 Timothy 3:16: “_____ Scripture is given by _____ of _____, and is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____ for _____ in righteousness.”

4. How did God communicate with Bible writers?
 Numbers 12:6: “If there be a prophet among you, I, the Lord, will make _____ known unto him in a _____, and will speak unto him in a _____.”
 1 Samuel 9:15: “The Lord had _____ Samuel in his _____ a day before Saul came.”

5. What examples of prophecy found in Isaiah were fulfilled in the life of Christ?
 Isaiah 53:3: “He is _____ and _____ of men.”
 Isaiah 53:5: “He was wounded for _____ transgressions, he was bruised for _____ iniquities, the chastisement of _____ peace was upon him; and with his stripes _____ are healed.”
 Isaiah 43:8: “For the _____ of my people was he stricken.”
 Isaiah 53:12: “He was numbered with the _____; and he bare the _____ of many, and made _____ for the transgressors.”

6. What three words did Jesus repeatedly say that show He accepted the Bible as the authority?
 Matthew 4:4, 7, 10: “_____.”

7. Which was more important to the Jews of Christ’s day? Tradition—or the authority of Scripture?
 _____ (Mark 7:7-9).

8. How did Jesus describe those who didn’t accept the words of the prophets?
 Luke 24:25: “Then he said unto them, O _____, and slow of _____ to believe _____ that the prophets have spoken.”

9. How is it possible for us to understand and be blessed by a book written over a period of 1,500 years by thirty-nine different authors?

1 Corinthians 2:10: "But God hath _____
them unto us by His _____: for the _____ searches
_____ things, yea, the _____ things of _____." Paul says he
speaks, "not in the _____ which man's _____ teacheth, but which
the _____ teacheth; comparing _____ things with
spiritual" (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Even though the Bible has been written by thirty-nine authors, they were all inspired by the same Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is both the author and revealer of biblical truth, and it continues to speak to us today through the Scriptures.

10. What did Jesus say about the authority of the Bible and its witness to His life and ministry?

John 5:39: "Search the _____; for in them ye think ye have
_____: and they are they which
_____ of _____."

John 5:46: "For had ye believed _____, ye would have
_____ me: for he _____ of me."

Words to Remember

Revere: To regard with awe, to venerate.

Divine inspiration: God-breathed; divine influence exerted upon.

Infallible: Absolutely trustworthy.

Vision: A revelation from God, at times involving the future.

Imbued: Filled deeply with.

The Difference Between

An atheist: One who denies or disbelieves in the existence of God.

An agnostic: One who holds that the existence of God is unknown and unknowable.

A Christian: One who accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour and exemplifies in his/her life the teachings of Christ.

I Truly Believe

The Bible is filled with "exceeding great and precious promises". But do I value and use them?

The shabby old man studied the object in his hand. He started toward the door of the jeweler's shop and then stopped. Fingering the rough-looking stone, he muttered to himself, "Won't hurt to ask. It's been lying around home so long. Might as well find out if it's worth anything."

Screwing up his courage, he stepped forward, hesitated, and finally opened the door. The expert jewel cutter smiled. "May I help you?"

"Yes, my father found this red pebble when he was a boy. My mother put it in my suitcase. Been lying around the house ever since. The kids played with it. The baby cut her teeth on it. A rat dragged it into a hole, but I found it. Things been mighty rough with us—real hard times. Been tempted to see if it had any value, but kinda hated to part with it. Been in the family so long. Think it might be worth cuttin' and polishin'?"

The expert craftsman studied the stone for several minutes. Then he spoke, “Mister, your pebble isn’t just an ordinary rock. It is a pigeon’s-blood ruby.”

The old stone proved to be a flawless, perfect ruby weighing nearly twenty-four carats. It was perfect in color and texture—beautiful, clear, full of red fire, and worth up to \$250,000.

For years the old man and his family had struggled with poverty, gone without, and suffered want. All the time they had on their shelf that which could have changed everything. But they didn’t realize its value.

You too, have a treasure in your home—the Bible, filled with precious words from the God of the Universe. At your fingertips you have valuable promises that can change your life and solve your problems. Don’t be like that old man and let it lie unused when you need it so much.

Think carefully about each of the following statements. If, in your heart, you agree with the concept of each statement, check the box.

I believe that the Bible pictures a loving God who longs to communicate with me, although I often forget about Him and go on doing my own thing.

I believe that holy men of God were inspired with the message of my Bible.

I believe that as I get to know Him better by reading His Word, I will feel less stress and be happier.

I’m going to find time every day to read my Bible so I’ll know Jesus better.

My Prayer

Dear Father,

I thank you for the Bible that reveals Your love and Your will for me. Give me an open heart to understand what to read and a desire to obey You and to tell others of You. Make me responsive to Your Holy Spirit as it impresses my heart with truth. May I hide Your words in my heart and become more and more like Jesus. In His precious name, I pray. Amen.