

Australia

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## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA





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## THE Seventh-day Adventist CHURCH

WHO ARE WE?

or over 150 years the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been sharing the love of Jesus Christ to the world. The movement began during a time of religious revival in 19th Century North America when Baptist preacher William Miller predicted that Jesus would return on October 22, 1844. Many were convicted by his preaching but were ultimately disappointed when the date came and went with no sign of Jesus. While most of Miller's followers dispersed a small group continued to anticipate Jesus' return as they studied and searched the Bible for answers. It was this small group, which included Ellen and James White and Joseph Bates, that founded the original church that chose the name "Seventh-day Adventist" and organised in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA with 125 Churches and 3,500 members. The name "Seventh-day Adventist" is based on the Church's observance of the 'biblical Sabbath' on Saturday, the seventh day of the week and our passionate belief in the soon return of Jesus to this earth.



There are now over 20 million Seventh-day Adventists worldwide worshipping in over 150,000 congregations across 209 countries. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Christ ministered to the whole person and are passionate advocates for not just spiritual wholeness, but bringing healing to the body and mind as well. The Church operates the largest protestant education system in the world with over 7,500 schools as well as over 100 hospitals, numerous publishing houses and a humanitarian aid organisation known as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

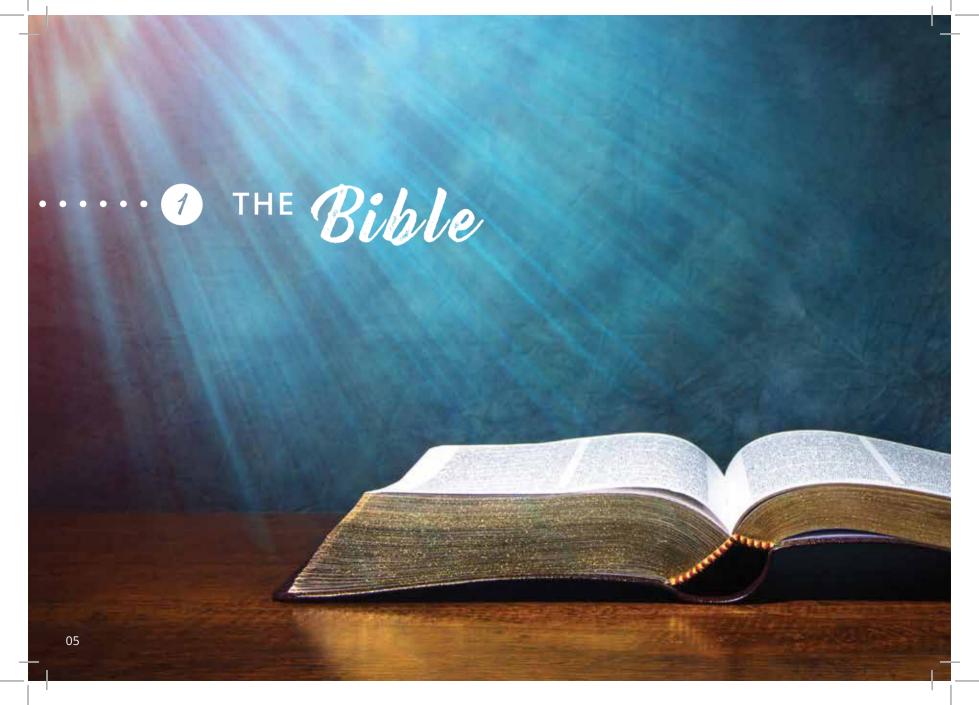
The vision of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia is to be a thriving disciple-making movement. In a world where it often seems that things are out of control and many are struggling, we want to share the good news that Jesus loves each one of us and has a plan for our lives. How do we know we are growing as a disciple?

**Communion** Spending time with God through prayer and Bible Study.

**RelationShips** Connecting in a healthy way with other believers and the community around us.

Intentionally seeking opportunities to share God with others through various ways.

Our commitment to learning and understanding the Bible is expressed through 28 fundamental beliefs. In each teaching, Jesus is the central focus, who in wisdom, grace and infinite love, is restoring a relationship with humanity that will last for eternity.





Throughout history God has shared His truth with men and women in various ways and inspired them to record what they heard, observed and experienced. These writings were collected together into a book known as the Bible or Word of God. For Christians, the Bible is the ultimate source of truth, guidance and authority about God, salvation, faith and living.



Your word is a lamp to guide my feet, and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105 (NLT)



There is one God revealed in the Bible as a unity of three coeternal Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing and ever present. Though aspects of God's nature are beyond comprehension, He has revealed much about His loving character in the Bible.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)



# God THE B Pather

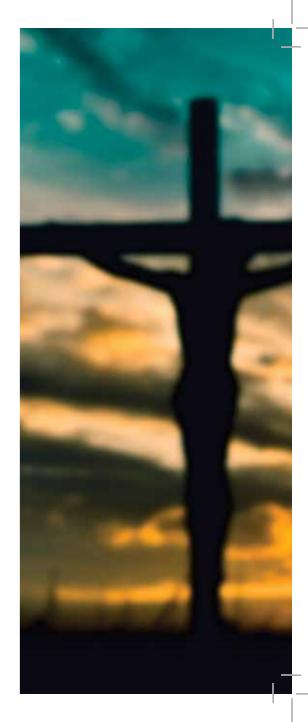
God, the Father, is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is the ultimate expression of love, grace, mercy, patience, holiness, faithfulness and justice. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are shared by the Father.

> See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

Jesus THE Son

God, the eternal Son through whom all things were created, became human in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God displayed His love for us and revealed His plan to save humanity from selfishness, suffering and death. Though forever truly God, Jesus was also truly human, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the love and purity of God. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross in our place for our sins, was raised from the dead, and returned to heaven where He continues to work on our behalf. He will come again in splendour to deliver His people from sin and death and create a new, perfect world.



My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

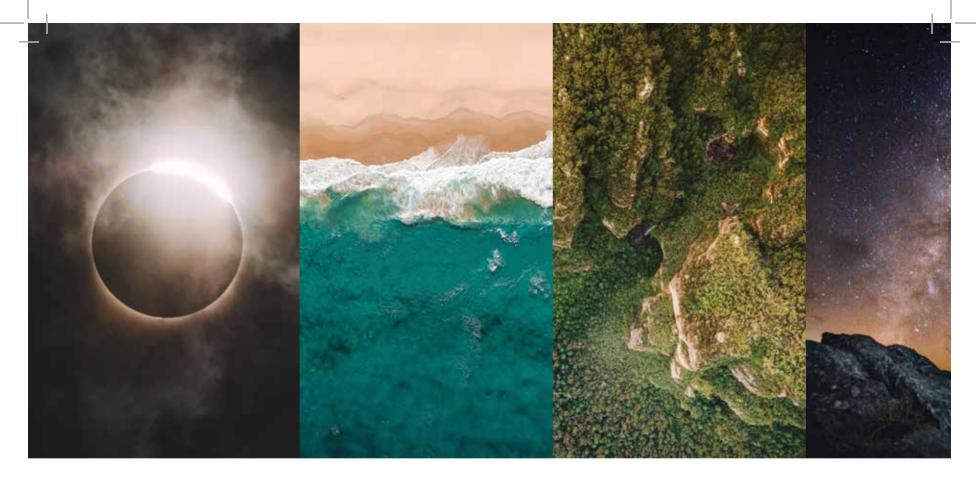
John 15:12-13 (NIV)

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

John 3:8 (NIV)

## THE Holy 5 Spirit

- God, the eternal Spirit, was active with the
- Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and
- redemption. He is as much a person as are the
- Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of the
- Bible. He filled Jesus' life with power. Through the
- conscience, He counsels human beings in the right
- way to live and warns of the dangers of sin and
- selfishness. When we listen to Him, He renews
- and transforms us into the character of God. Sent
- by the Father and the Son to always be with His
- children, He gives spiritual gifts to the church,
- empowers it to share Jesus, and in harmony with the Bible leads it into all truth.
- 4





God is the Creator of all things including this earth and everything in it. He accomplished His perfect creation in just six days, and then rested on the seventh day, the Sabbath. God is love, and it was out of love that we were made. We did not evolve but were created by Him with great care in His image, to experience life with Him, look after this earth and enjoy eternal happiness that comes from living selfless lives.





In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good!... So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was complete.

Genesis 1:1, 31; 2:1 (NLT)



THE Nature OF Humanity

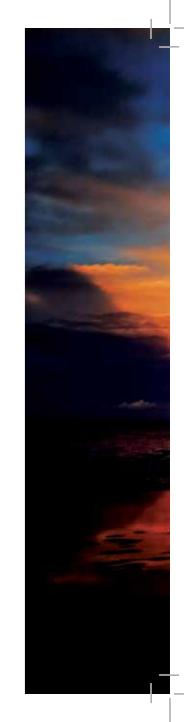
We were all created by God in His image, as individuals with freedom to think and choose. This is about more than how we look. It is about the character we develop in our lives, the creativity we exhibit, the grace and kindness we show to others, and the way we care for our bodies and for the earth. When Adam and Eve, the first humans and our ancestors, disobeyed God, sin, selfishness and death became part of life on earth, inherited and exacerbated by each successive generation. But through Jesus' life, death and resurrection God is working to restore those who are willing to once more reflect His loving character and experience eternal life with Him and each other.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth

Genesis 1:27-28 (International Children's Bible)

# THE Great ..... B Controversy

We all experience conflict—both internally and all around us. Why? We are caught up in the middle of a great conflict between Jesus and Satan. This struggle began in Heaven when, because of his pride, Lucifer, an exalted angel, tried to set himself up as God and led many angels in rebellion. Through deception, Lucifer, also known as Satan, led Adam and Eve to sin and join the rebellion against God's law of love. All the sin, pain and death in the world originates with Satan and his demonic angels, but their time is short. Jesus won the fight by dying on the cross and now offers us a choice to reject rebellion and live for Him.

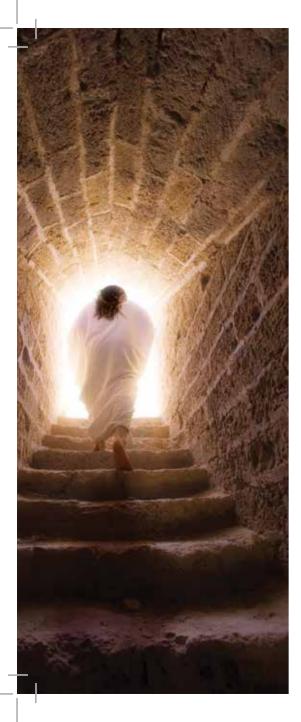




Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

Revelation 12:7-9 (NLT)





# Life, Death AND Resurrection OF JESUS

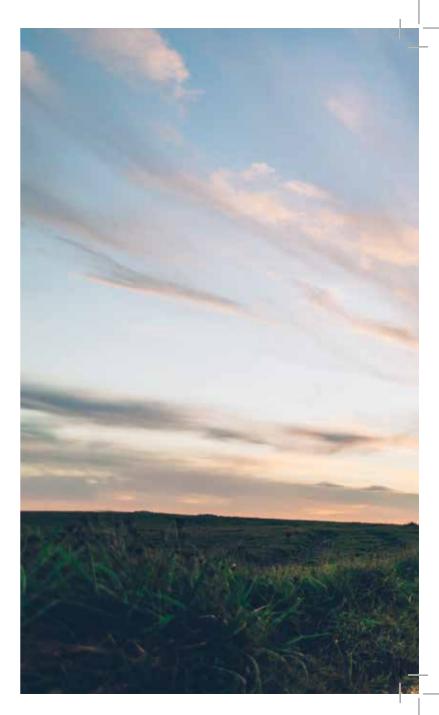
Jesus lived a perfect life while on earth, was killed by selfish people, rose from the grave on the third day and returned to Heaven. In dying on the cross, Jesus took the consequences of our sins upon Himself that we might experience the benefits of his perfect life eternal life. Jesus' resurrection shows He has power over life and death and gives us faith that He will keep all His promises, including putting an end to sin, sadness and death at His soon return.

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (NLT)

THE Experience OF Salvation

When we behave selfishly there are consequences often leading to pain and suffering for others or ourselves. For most of these consequences, there is no human solution and no way for us to make things right or reverse the damage done. As a result, there must be some sort of penalty or payment for our sins, otherwise the world and universe would descend into chaos. Jesus took our place and received our punishment so that we can have eternal life. When we accept Jesus' free gift of salvation, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and minds to guide us to acknowledge and turn away from selfish living.



There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12 (NLT)

Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

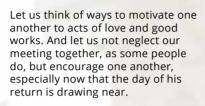




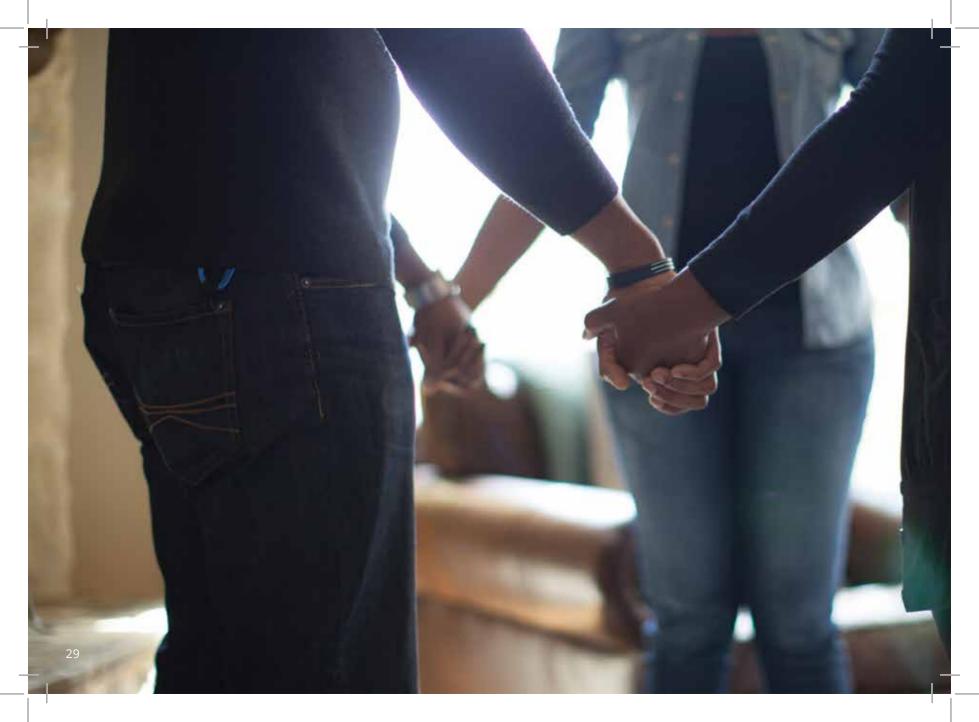
Jesus defeated Satan by dying on the cross so we no longer have to fear Satan and his angels. Instead, we can experience love, joy, peace and all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit as we grow more and more like Jesus each day. The power to change and to grow comes from the Holy Spirit, as we pray, read God's Word, serve others, share our experiences, worship God and connect with our friends and neighbours at church and in our everyday lives.



The church is more than a building—it is Christ's body and He is its Head. It is His bride, made up of all those who choose to serve and follow Him. Those who accept His gift of salvation, He adopts into His family, so He can love, build-up and care for them. The love shown by members of the body draws even more people to Jesus so they can share the good news about salvation



Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)





13 THE Remnant

In the dark and dangerous times just before Jesus returns, a few remaining people will stand tall and true in their love and obedience to Jesus and their witness for Him. The experience of this faithful remnant includes sharing the good news of Jesus' salvation along with the call to worship the true God of Creation. It also comes with a warning that God's judgement is coming; the declaration that Satan and his followers are already defeated; and a reminder that everyone who rejects God and sides with Satan will share his fate.

> And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children all who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus.

Revelation 12:17 (NLT)

Unity IN THE Body of Christ

Being united doesn't mean being the same. God's creation is filled with rich variety. People come in all shapes, heights and sizes. They have different hair, skin and eye colour. They think different thoughts, have different personalities, speak different languages, and come from different places. They also have different talents and gifts. As different as people are, God wants everyone to show love and respect for each other, and to unite together to spread His love and the message of salvation to others. In God's eyes, everyone is equal; no one is excluded.



I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me... May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

John 17:20-23 (NLT)

What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16 (NLT

o Baptism

By being baptized, we show everyone our complete trust in Jesus to save us. Going under the water is a symbol of dying to sin and being washed clean. Coming up is a symbol of being born again to a new life in Jesus. All Jesus' new creations find meaning in discovering God's plan for their lives, growing closer to Him, doing good in the world around them and sharing the message of salvation with others.



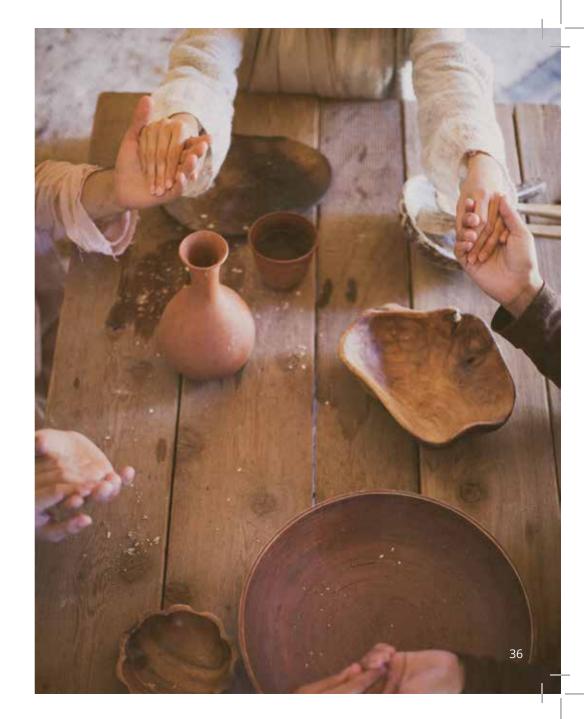


The night before Jesus died, He did something His disciples would never forget. Acting like a servant, He washed their dirty feet. Then He served their meal to them. Jesus wanted all of us to understand putting others first and serving them was an important part of His Kingdom. The water was His promise to wash away the dust of our journey towards Heaven. The grape juice and bread were reminders of His spilled blood and His body, broken on the cross to save us. The church follows Jesus' example by celebrating the Lord's Supper as a reminder of His saving gift.

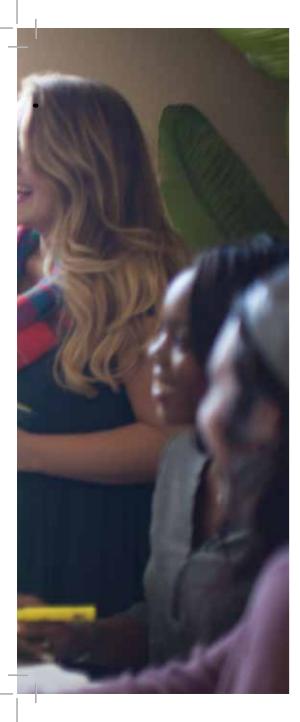


The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)









Jesus gives special gifts to all of His followers so they can serve others. There are many different types of gifts and God gives them to each person according to His will. These gifts include things like faith, healing, prophecy, teaching, administration and self-sacrificing service for others. When all God's people use their gifts together, they have all the abilities and ministries needed to build up God's church, help other people, and share the message of salvation to the whole world.



Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 (NLT)

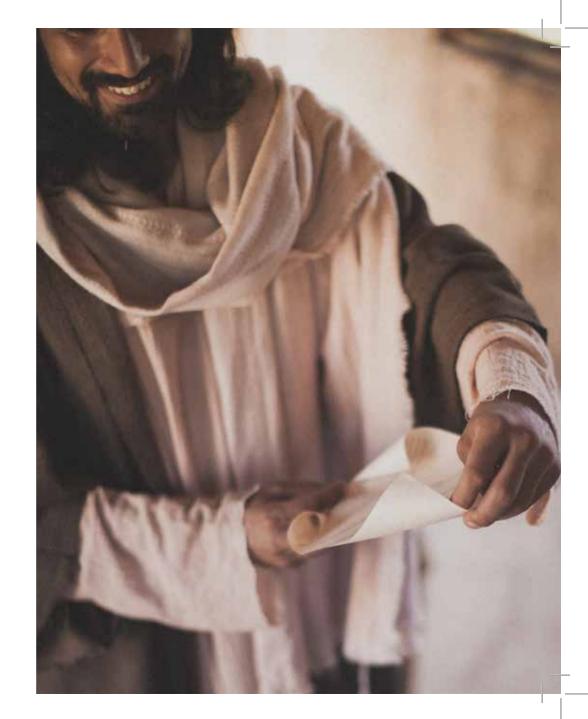
# B Prophecy

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One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. God sent His prophets to warn us of dangers ahead, call us to come back to Him, and to share more about Jesus. We should be careful to follow only true prophets of God. If we do, we can be sure their words will show us the path God would have us take, and will lead us to know, experience and follow Him better. An expression of the gift of prophecy was through the life and work of Ellen G. White who inspired and encouraged the church to fall in love with Jesus and His Word, the Bible.

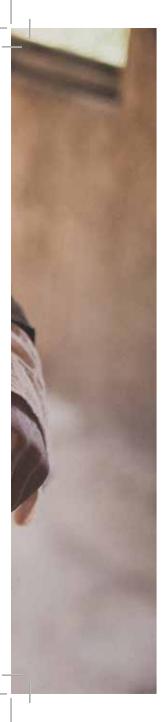
Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7 (NIV)



This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the LORD. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NIV)



Lan God

The laws and principles of God outlined in the Ten Commandments are given to protect and enhance our relationships with God and others. They are like way markers along the path that Jesus left to guide us to Him. They are also like signs warning about dangers ahead. If we follow them we will have the best life imaginable. But when we break them, we could hurt ourselves and other people. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, He forgives us for breaking His laws, and empowers us to follow His will in our lives so we can have better relationships with Him and those around us.

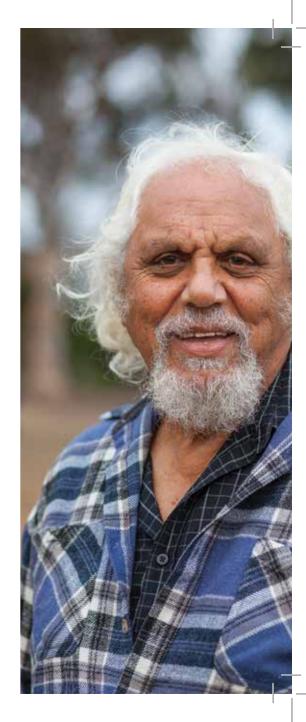


After the six days of Creation, God rested on the seventh day. He made this rest day a special memorial of Creation and invites us to take a break from our ordinary lives to spend time with Him. From sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, we celebrate the Sabbath as a sign of loyalty and allegiance to God, our Creator, Saviour and friend. We honour Him by keeping the Sabbath holy, spending this precious time worshiping Him, enjoying time with friends and family, and doing whatever we can to help others.

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

So, the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Genesis 1:31-2:3 (NLT)







# Stenardship

God is unselfish and shares His possessions with us. He provides all the resources, the materials, the power and the energy and asks us to be partners with Him—His stewards. He trusts us to take care of the wonderful world He made, including all the plants, birds and animals in it. We are also responsible for caring for ourselves and each other, using the talents and gifts He gives us to help others and make the world a better place. God invites us to show our trust and dependence on Him by gifting 10% of our income to be used to share the good news about salvation with others.

Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)

### christian Behaviour

We are all masterpieces of creation, made in God's image and called to be imitators of Jesus in everything we do, think, say, and especially in how we treat others. Our bodies are also temples of His Holy Spirit. We have a duty to keep them clean and healthy, and not do or take anything into our bodies or minds that will harm or pollute them. In this way, we will experience greater peace and happiness as we grow more and more like Jesus each day.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)





Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him... So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. "At last!" the man exclaimed.

Genesis 2:18, 21-23 (NLT)



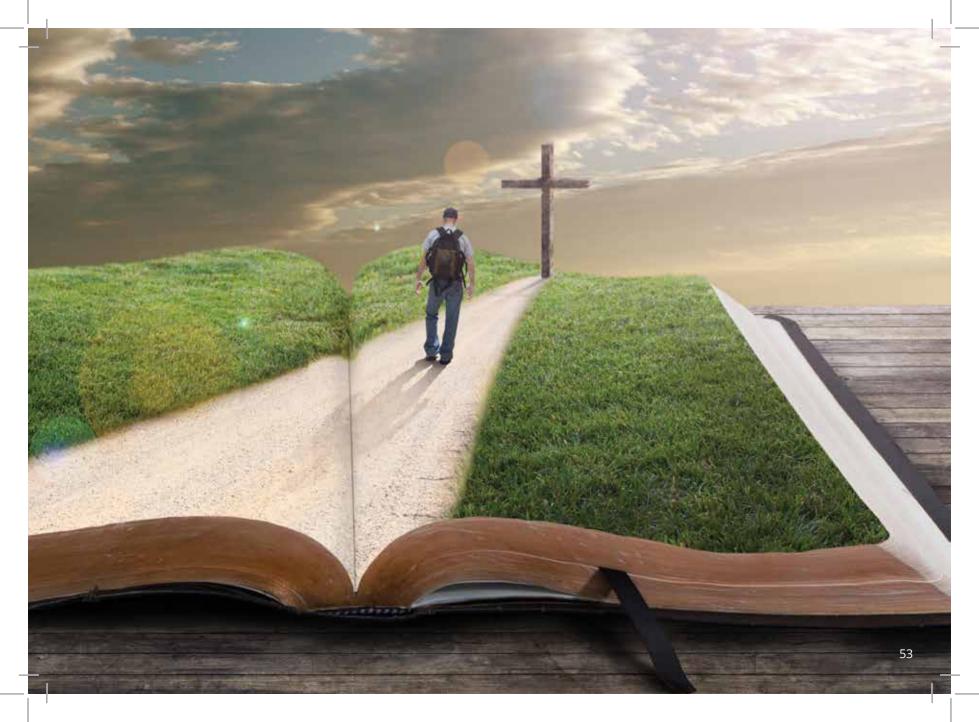
God made marriage in Eden as a special gift between men and women who commit to remain faithful to God and to each other for life. Families are blessed by God as a place where parents and children are nurtured, learn of love and obedience, and grow towards maturity. Through their example Christian parents show how loving and tender Jesus is with all His children.



We need to find a way back to God, and Jesus is THE WAY. The Old Testament Sanctuary is a model showing everything Jesus does to lead us back to God. He is the gate, the water, the bread, the light, the priest and the lamb. Jesus is our substitute, our sacrifice, our mediator and our judge. In other words, Jesus is the WAY, the ONLY way to salvation, the only way HOME.

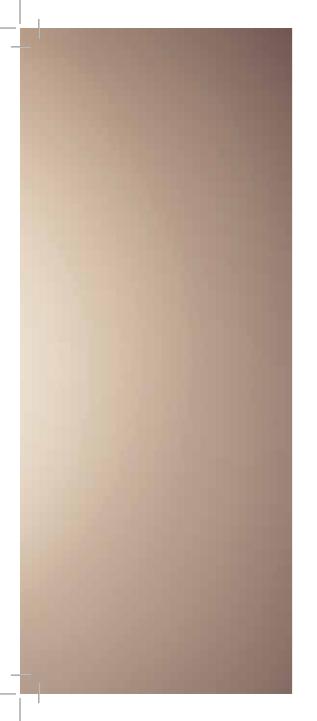
> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. -

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)



Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

John 14:1-3 (NLT)



## JESUS' Second Coming

Jesus has not come back yet because he wants to give everyone as much time as possible to hear the good news about Him and be saved. While we don't know exactly when He will return, He has given us signs that tell us when it's close. The important thing is to not to be afraid during dark and dangerous times, or to get discouraged, bored, or sleepy while we wait for Him. He wants us to spend the waiting time helping others, using the gifts He has given us to serve Him, and telling people about His soon return. We should always be ready to meet Him, no matter how long it takes.



Sin and selfishness leads to death. However, through Jesus we can have eternal life. Though we die in this life, this death is only a temporary unconscious sleep until Jesus returns and raises us to life to live with Him for eternity.



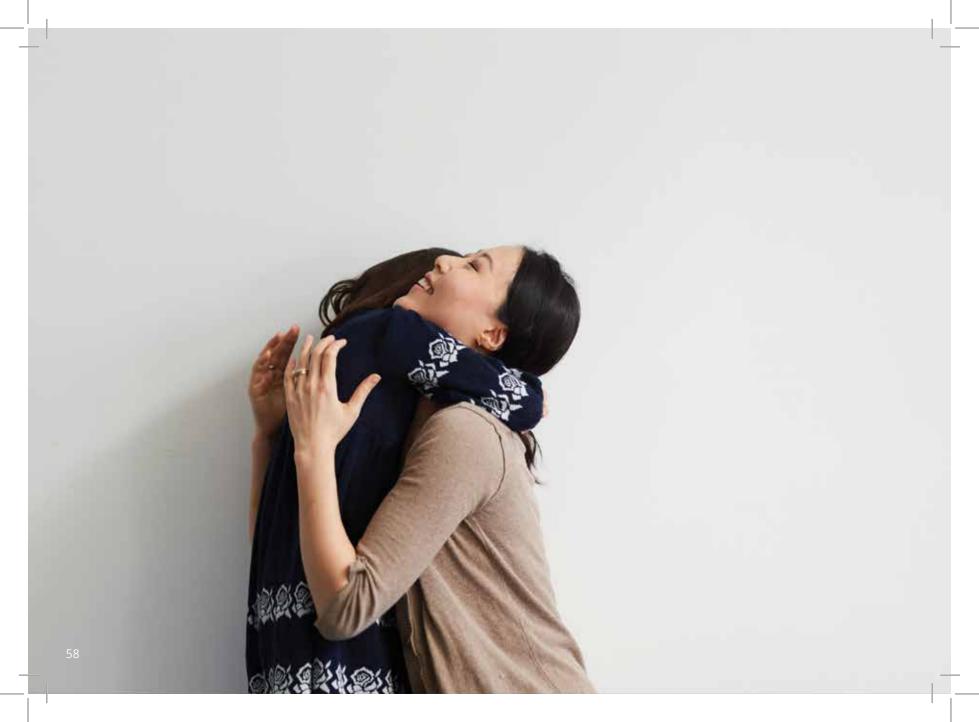
Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-56 (NIV)







### THE Millenium

At His second coming, Jesus will resurrect those who died believing in Him and gather up those believers still living, taking them to Heaven for a time. Those who have rejected Jesus will cease to live and Satan and his angels will remain on an empty, desolate earth for 1,000 years. After this millennium, all those who have ever lived and rejected God's mercy and love and continued to live selfishly will be raised to life. Together with Satan and his angels, they attempt to destroy Jesus and His followers as they come down from Heaven to Earth with the New Jerusalem. The battle will only end when Satan and his followers, together with all the evil and sin in the world, are destroyed forever, and the earth is made new again.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked it so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

Revelation 20:1-3 (NLT)



• • •

THE New Earth

Once sin is gone forever, God will create a brand-new world, lush and green and teeming with life, and a shining city for us to live in, with gates of pearl and streets of gold. There will be no more tears, no more pain, no more suffering and best of all, no one will ever die. Fear will be gone. We will love and be loved.



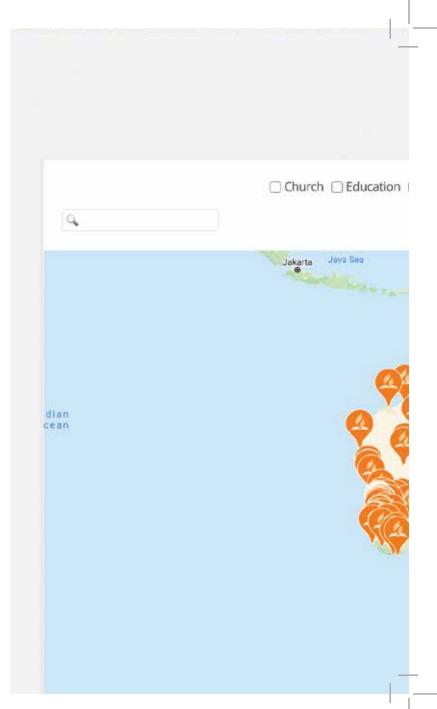
We will eat from the tree of life and drink the water of life. We will get to experience things so wonderful, our thoughts and minds can't even imagine them, and all because Jesus loves us and writes our names in His Book of Life. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:2-4 (NLT)



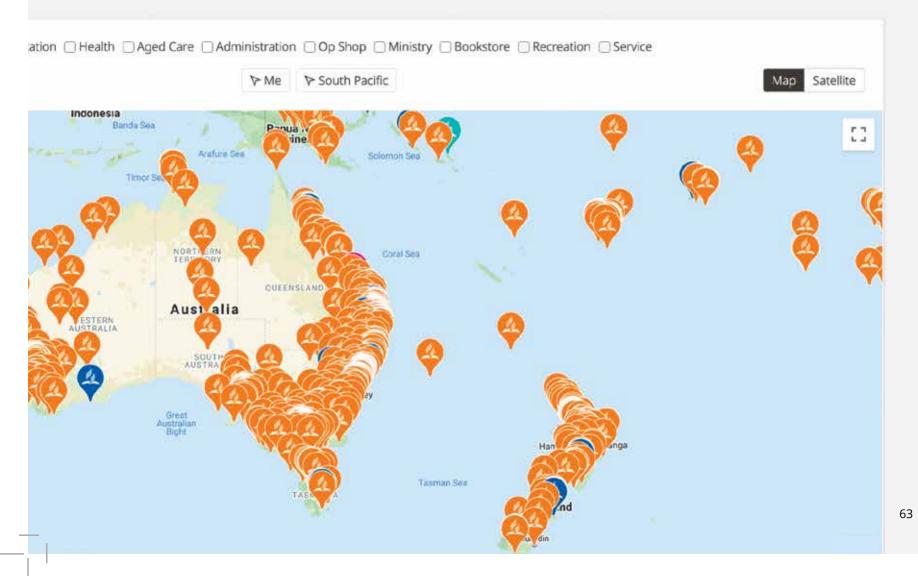
### **Gind** A CHURCH

We'd love to have you experience a Seventh-day Adventist Faith Community for yourself. Go to adventistchurch.com/locations. and discover what church communities and activities are nearby.

adventistchurch.com/locations







#### Truth is Absolute BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING ISN'T

Seventh-day Adventists uphold the Bible as their highest authority and express their understanding of the teachings of the Bible through a statement known as the "28 Fundamental Beliefs". These beliefs express the Church's current understanding of the teachings of the Bible and are open to revision and change as we are led by the Holy Spirit to new insight or a fuller understanding of the Bible's teachings.