

7TH DAY ADVENTIST BAPTISMAL VOWS COMPARED FOR THE YEARS - 1874 - 1932 - 2000

THE BIBLE

1874 [1] Do you accept *all the Bible* as the inspired word of God, and do you take it as your only rule of faith? Is it your purpose to ever walk according to its teachings? 2 Tim. 3:16, 17 Acts 20:32.

1932/4 [4] Do you accept the Bible as the inspired word of God, and will you study faithfully its teachings and by the grace of God practice them in your life?

2000 [5] Do you believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian? Do you covenant to spend time regularly in prayer and Bible study?

SALVATION AND CONVERSION

1874 [2] Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour for *salvation from sin*, for *a real change of heart*, and will you *permit Him by the Holy Spirit to live in you* daily? John 1:12,13; Gal. 2:20.

1932/4 [2] Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the eternal Son of God, as the Saviour and Redeemer of mankind? Have you fully accepted Him as your personal Saviour, and the salvation He offers through grace?

2000 [2] Do you accept the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for your sins and believe that by God's grace through faith in His shed blood you are saved from sin and its penalty?

[3] Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour believing that God, in Christ, has forgiven your sins and given you a new heart, and do you renounce the sinful ways of the world?

[4] Do you accept by faith the righteousness of Christ, your Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, and accept His promise of transforming grace and power to live a loving, Christ-centered life in your home and before the world?

REPENTANCE

1874 [3] *Have you repented of*, and confessed all known sin to God, and do you believe that He, for Christ's sake has forgiven you, and as far as possible have you tried to make matters right with your fellow men? 1 John 1:9; Matt.5:23-26; Eze.33:15.

1932/4 [3] Do you believe in the Holy Spirit and in His work in leading to repentance and obedience to all God's requirements?

[5] Do you believe in conversion as an experience spoken of by Christ as the new birth?

[6] Have you confessed your sins to God, as far as they have been made known to you; and have you on your part, as far as in you lies, tried to make wrongs right with your fellow men?

[7] Do you claim by faith in Christ that God for Christ's sake has forgiven your past sins, and that He is yours and you are His?

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS AND THE SABBATH

1874 [4] *Is it your purpose*, by the grace of God, to live a true Christian life, by surrendering all soul, body, spirit to God, *to do His will in all things* and keep the commandments of God ? Rom. 12:1; Col. 3:17; Revelation.14:12.

[7] Is it your purpose to keep the seventh day of the week *from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset* as the Lord's holy day according to the fourth commandment? Luke 23:56; Ex. 20:8-11.

1932/4 [10] Recognizing obedience as the fruit of faithful love, do you believe that all ten of the commandments as spoken by the Lord are still binding, and by God's grace will you keep those commandments, the fourth with the rest, observing as sacred the seventh-day Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday ?

2000 [6] Do you accept the Ten Commandments as a transcript of the character of God and a revelation of His will ? Is it your purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ to keep this law, including the fourth commandment, which requires the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord and the memorial of Creation?

SOUL WINNING

1874 [5] Will you seek to maintain a true spiritual experience by the daily study of God's Word and prayer, and *will you endeavor by your consistent life and personal effort to win souls to Christ* ?

1932/4 [14].Do you believe that the closing gospel message is now going to the world and will be finished in this generation; and will you use your means, as God impresses you, your time, and your talents, that others may be blessed with the light of truth that has brought blessing and light to you ?

2000 [7] Do you look forward to the soon coming of Jesus and the blessed hope when "this mortal shall . . . put on immortality"? As you prepare to meet the Lord, will you witness to His loving salvation by using your talents in personal soul-winning endeavor to help others to be ready for His glorious appearing ?

THE THREE ANGEL'S MESSAGES

1874 [6] Do you believe and accept the great truths of the Word of God concerning the personal, visible, literal, imminent return of Christ (Acts 1:9-11); immortality only through Christ (2 Tim. 1:10); the unconscious state of the dead (Eccl. 9:5, 6); the destruction of the wicked (Mal. 4:1-3); *and the other kindred truths that comprise the special message of Revelation 14:6-12* ?

1932/4 [8] So far as you have studied and investigated the doctrines as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, do you believe in and accept them ?

[9] Do you believe in the second coming of Jesus, which is taught in the Scriptures as the blessed hope, and that this event is soon to take place, and that you should prepare for His coming by being purified from sin and evil ?

[12].Do you believe that man by nature is mortal, and that immortality and eternal life come only through the gospel and are bestowed as the free gift of God through Christ at His second coming?

[13].Do you believe that we are living in the time of the investigative judgment, which began in 1844, and that Christ, as our High Priest, is closing His ministry in the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary in preparation for His coming ?

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- 1874 [8]** Will you practice the Bible plan *for the support of God's work* by rendering unto Him first the tithe, or one tenth of all your increase (Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8-10); and then offerings as you may be able, according to His prospering hand? Deut. 16:17; Luke 6:38.
- 1932/4 [11]** Do you recognize the fact that God claims one-tenth of all our substance as His for the support of His work in advancing the gospel of Christ; and will you faithfully render to Him His own tithe and offerings in the support of the worldwide work of the church ?
- 2000 [9]** Do you believe in church organization ? Is it your purpose to worship God and to support the church through your tithes and offerings and by your personal effort and influence?
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THE LAWS OF HEALTH

- 1874 [9]** Is it your purpose to obey the command to eat and drink to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31) by abstaining from all intoxicating liquors (Pro. 23:29-32), tobacco in all its forms (1 Cor. 3:16, 17) swine's flesh (Isa. 66:15, 17), *narcotics, tea, coffee*, and other harmful things?
- 1932/4 [16]** Do you understand the principles of Christian temperance as taught by the Seventh-day Adventists, and will you carry out those principles in your life, abstaining from the use of intoxicating liquors, tobacco in all its forms, swine's flesh, and all other unclean foods and habit-forming drugs?
[1946 Baptismal Vows adds abstaining from narcotics, tea, coffee, and other harmful things]
- 2000 [10]** Do you believe that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; and will you honor God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful; abstaining from all unclean foods; from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages; the use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption; and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs ?
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DRESS AND ATTIRE

- 1874 [10]** Are you willing to follow the Bible rule of modesty and simplicity of dress, refraining from the wearing of *earrings, necklaces, bracelets, beads, rings*, etc., and from any lack of dress that is out of keeping with the Bible rule of modesty? 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Peter 3:3, 4; Ex. 33:5, 6; Gen. 35:2-4.
- 1932/4 [17]** In matters of dress will you follow the Bible rule of plainness and simplicity, abstaining from the wearing of gold as ornaments and costly array, observing the principles of modesty and Christian dignity ?
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THE LORD'S SUPPER AND THE ORDINANCE OF HUMILITY

- 1874 [11]** Do you believe in and have you accepted the ordinance of humility (John 13:1-17), and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper? 1 Cor. 11:23-33.
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WORLDLINESS

- 1874 [12]** Is it your purpose to come out from the world and be separate in obedience to God's command in 2 Cor. 6:17, by refraining from following *the sinful practices of the world*, such as dancing, card-playing, theatre-going, novel reading, etc. and by shunning all questionable worldly amusements?
1 John 2:15; James 1:27; 4:4.
- 1932/4 [20]** Do you, by going forward in baptism, thus declare that from henceforth you will have no part in such soul-destroying amusements as card playing, theater going, dancing, and all other entertainments and amusements which tend to deaden and destroy the spiritual life and perceptions ?

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

1874 [13] Will you seek to build up the interests of the church by giving *the Sabbath School* your hearty and practical support and attending, as far as possible, all services of the church ? And will you endeavor by God's help to *do your part* in the work of the church ? Luke 4:16; Roman 12:4-8.

1932/4 [15] Will you seek to build up the interests of the church by attendance at its meetings and ordinances, and by adding your influence to extend its work while the church, on their part, exercise their watch care over you ?

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY - ELLEN G. WHITE

1874 [14] Do you recognize that the remnant church has the Spirit of Prophecy, and that this has been manifested *to this church through the writings of Ellen G. White*? Rev. 12:17; 19:10.

1932/4 [18] Do you believe the Bible doctrine of "spiritual gifts" in the church, and do you believe in the gift of the Spirit of prophecy which has been manifested in the remnant church through the ministry and writings of Mrs. E. G. White ?

2000 [8] Do you accept the biblical teaching of spiritual gifts and believe that the gift of prophecy is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church?

BAPTISM

1874 [15] Do you believe in baptism by immersion only, and *are you ready to follow your Lord and Master* in this sacred rite? Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-5.

1932/4 [19] Do you believe in baptism by immersion, and is it your desire, by going forward in this ordinance, to manifest your faith in the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

2000 [12] Do you accept the New Testament teaching of baptism by immersion and desire to be so baptized as a public expression of faith in Christ and His forgiveness of your sins?

ADDITIONAL VOWS AFTER 1874

1932/4 [1] Do you believe in the existence of God as a personal being, who is our heavenly Father?

1932/4 [21]. Will you submit to the decisions of the body of the church in matters of church discipline?

2000 [1] Do you believe there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons?

2000 [11] Do you know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Do you purpose, by the grace of God, to fulfill His will by ordering your life in harmony with these principles?

2000 [13] Do you accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship? Do you desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church ?