

Looking back over  
this quarter, what  
have you learned  
about one particular  
advent...



By taking this there are many things that I have learned about Seventh Day Adventism that I was not aware of before. Many of the things that Adventists believe are different from what I was brought up to believe in and still do as a practicing Muslim. However, I thought there were still some surprising similarities which have made me wonder if all religions are more alike than I had thought they were before. In fact, it was a little difficult for me to think about what to write on this paper, because I had a hard time thinking of things that were extremely different. Because of that, this class has certainly made me think about things in different ways, even if it did not really make me believe the same things that the Seventh Day Adventists do.

One of the biggest and most obvious differences is the fact that those in the Adventist religion believe in the idea that Jesus Christ is the savior of humanity. Obviously, this is not a belief in Islam. Much like other Christian denominations, the Seventh Day Adventists believe that if you accept Christ as your savior, then you will be free from sin and able to go into heaven. By contrast, Islamic people believe that only Allah can free you from sin, and that you must genuinely repent and atone for your sins first. That means that in Islam each person is in charge of clearing himself from sin, and that it cannot be done by simply accepting a particular prophet as your

I think there are some interesting things to say about both the Islamic and the Seventh Day Adventist beliefs about sin. For one thing, as a Muslim I am not sure that it is a very good idea to tell every single human being that they can be cleaned of sin simply by believing that the son of God has been punished for the sins that you commit. I think that it is much more helpful to society and to the world if, instead, every individual person has to properly

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and fully repent for the sins that they have committed before Allah (or God). That way, each person really thinks about what they have done that's wrong, and will truly feel sorry about it, so they are less likely to sin again. In Seventh Day Adventism, I would worry that people might not really repent from the sins they have committed, and this might mean that they would do the same thing again.

On the other hand, the Seventh Day Adventist belief in Christ is like that of other Christian churches. They believe that while he is the son of God, he is also God himself. In this case, then, there is not much difference in having Christ clean you of your sin and in having Allah do it. As long as the person is sincere in his wanting to be clean of sin in both cases, there should not be a problem. Things like this are why I think there are similarities between these two apparently different religions, my own Islam and the Seventh Day Adventism that I learned about in this class during this quarter.

I would be interested in seeing which of the two cases I talked about above is true for most Seventh Day Adventists in the future. That is, do they think that saying "I accept Christ as the savior" is enough to clean somebody of sin, or do they think that there should be more personal feeling behind it? I think there are more useful values in the second option than in the first one. Still, it is a very interesting thing to think about.