



**Title:** A comparative study of the Christology of Jehovah's witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists

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**Date completed:** May 1973

**Granting Institution:** Philippines Union College (PUC)

**Description:** Unpublished Thesis (MA): 185 pages

**Abstract:**

Jehovah's Witnesses' Christology

Jesus had a glorious existence long before He was born in Bethlehem. He was the only One directly created by Jehovah God. All other things come into existence through Him as God's Chief Agent. Although Divine, Jesus Christ is not equal with the Father. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus Christ was sent by the Father into the world "in the fullness of time." The birth of Jesus was a miracle of God. Jehovah, by His Holy Spirit, or active force, transferred the life of His Son Jesus from heaven to the womb of the Virgin Mary.

It was only after His baptism that he became the Christ or Messiah. He was anointed with God's Holy Spirit and went about preaching, teaching and healing for three and one half years. He was thirty-three and a half years old at the time of His death. He suffered a vicarious death.

By God's irresistible power, Jesus was resurrected from the dead; in order to be able to do His Father's will for Him in Heaven. He was resurrected from the dead as an immortal person never more to return to corruption. Jesus Christ ascended to heaven on the twenty-fifth



day of the Jewish lunar month Iyar 33 A.D. He ascended not with the fleshly body He had sacrificed, but with the value the perfect human life he had sacrificed.

Jesus' blood was spilled in death and His human life was poured out in willing sacrifice. The merit of sacrifice is the basis of His heavenly intercessory work for sinners.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe Jesus Christ will come again as a glorious spirit person. Only the faithful Witnesses will promptly recognize His return which is as secret as the coming of the thief in the night.

### Seventh-day Adventists' Christology

Seventh-day Adventists believe that Jesus Christ is very God, being of the same nature and essence as the Eternal Father. In Christ is life original, unborrowed and underived.

They teach that man's Salvation calls for the incarnation, humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The power of the Saviour's Godhead according to them was hidden during His earthly sojourn and He voluntarily subjected Himself to the Father. He was a God-man on earth.

His ministry lasted for three and one half years during which he revealed the Father's love through preaching, teaching and healing. Jesus Christ's death was vicarious. His humanity died on the cross. Divinity did not die. Complete atonement was made on the cross. The resurrection of Jesus is a proof that He is Divine. He came out of the tomb in response to His Father's call by the life that was in Himself. He came out of the tomb with a glorious, immortal body.

He ascended to heaven as a conqueror of death and the grave, a Saviour mighty to save all who would come to Him in faith. When Jesus ascended to heaven He as consecrated as man's High Priest. He is the only mediator between God and man. Christ is both priest and sacrifice.



## Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies

The Second Advent of Jesus Christ will take place right after the close of His Heavenly intercessory work. To Seventh-day Adventists, that time will be the end of the world and the beginning of eternal life for Christ's faithful children. He comes the second time visibly, personally, literally and audibly. They do not teach the exact time of His coming, but they believe that He is coming soon.

He will bring His faithful children to heaven where they will reign with Him a thousand years. After the millennium Christ and His people descend to earth in the New Jerusalem. The earth, purified by the fire from God, becomes the eternal home of the saved where Christ reigns over them as their King and Protector throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.