

**Great Controversy Series**  
**American Reformer & The Advent of Christ**  
**Chapter 18 - An American Reformer**  
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

**Progression of light**

From the deep darkness of papal oppression during the 1260 years period from 538 to 1798 AD God raised up the protestant reformation to restore God's law and testimonies. During the protestant reformation God's light of truth got progressively brighter and brighter. As the years progressed from Wycliffe, Huss, Zwingli, to Martin Luther, Lefevre, Tyndale to the religious freedom established in the United State without papal oppression the TRUTH shined brighter and brighter from one reformer to another.

[Show map and picture]

**Light to the World Holy Bible**

Around the beginning of the 1800's the LIGHT, the Holy Bible was greatly distributed with the establishment of Bible societies and improved mass printing methods.

**The Advent Message**

The testimonies of the soon coming of Jesus was held in obscurity for centuries, but as the greatest event known to man was getting closer, God established the United States of America to get an urgent message to the world, "Jesus is coming again! Are you ready?"

**What is God's promise to light the world with His truth?**

Isaiah 60:1-3

- 1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
- 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
- 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

**What are two warning signs of the coming of Jesus that were prophetically revealed in Revelation 6:12-13 and fulfilled to "wake-up" the world about the soon coming of Jesus Christ?**

**Revelation 6:12-13**

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

**1) Great Earthquake – Fulfilled (Lisbon Earthquake November 1, 1755)**

**2) Sun Darkened and Moon become as blood – Fulfilled (Dark Day - May 19, 1780)**

The third sign, the falling of the stars of heaven happen during the time God raised an American reformer to blow the trumpet about the second coming of Jesus Christ, a key testimony of Jesus Christ. Let's learn more.

**Who is the American reformer that God used to sound the alarm of the second coming of Jesus Christ in the 1800's?**

**William Miller**

**(February 15, 1782 – December 20, 1849)**

Born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on February 15, 1782

Father was a veteran of the American Revolution and his mother taught Miller about Jesus and the Word.

Hardworking farmer who had a love for reading and studying.

As a young man he became a deist by working with other deist for about 12 years.

Deism is the belief that God has created the universe but remains apart from it and permits his creation to administer itself through natural laws. Its believes in the existence of a God on the evidence of reason and nature only, with rejection of supernatural revelation (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/deism>)

Served in the army and a government worker with honor.

Served in the War of 1812, and while in service he saw evidences that there was a God, after all, who intervenes in human affairs.

At 34 years of age, felt the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and was wholly converted to Jesus Christ

The Holy Bible was his main focus of study like many reformers before him. He learned that the Bible not only proves the existence of God, but reveals a personal and loving Jesus who cares about all of His creation.

“The Bible now became my chief study, and I can truly say, I searched it with great delight. I found the half was never told me. I wondered why I had not seen its beauty and glory before, and marveled that I could have ever rejected it. I found everything revealed that my heart could desire, and a remedy for every disease of the soul. I lost all taste for other reading, and applied my heart to get wisdom from God.” - GC 319

### **Unified Bible**

To prove the unity of the Bible Miller systematically studied verse by verse comparing scriptures using the aid of the margins in the Bible and a Bible concordance. He found no contradictions in the Bible. It proved itself unified from Genesis to Revelation. (Show example in a study Bible-Strong’s Concordance)

By comparing scripture with scripture, Miller allowed the Bible to interpret itself especially when it came to the study of the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

### **2 Peter 1:20**

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

### **Modern Bible Tools**

Modern times - we are blessed in an age of technology using a Bible computer / phone application like “E-Sword” or “Mysword”. Our study can go even much deeper and faster. (Show example: margins (TSK), search, Greek, Hebrew, etc.) Also Ellen White books computer and phone application.

## No 1000 years of earthly peace

A temporary 1000 years (millennial) of earthly peace before the coming of the Jesus and the execution of His judgment was a very popular view by main stream churches in Miller's time.

Miller studied that the Bible did not support 1000 years of peace before the coming of Jesus. The millennial doctrine is a "wait and see before I believe it" doctrine.

Instead of 1000 years of peace before the coming of Jesus the Bible teaches....

### **2 Timothy 3:1, 13**

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

No world wide conversion!

In the 1800s many protestant churches were sleep and comfortable with this false 1000 years of peace teaching. There was no urgency about the coming of Jesus.

## Personal coming of Jesus

Miller discovered the Biblical teaching of the personal coming of Jesus and that God's faithful will not receive the physical kingdom of God until the second coming of Jesus Christ.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

### **Matthew 25:34**

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

## Bible Prophecy Fulfilled Timelines

Miller concerning the timelines of the Bible... (prediction with timelines fulfilled)

"Another kind of evidence that vitally affected my mind," he says, "was the chronology of the Scriptures. . . . I found that predicted events, which had been fulfilled in the past, often occurred within a given time. The one hundred and twenty years to the flood (Genesis 6:3); the seven days that were to precede it, with forty days of predicted rain (Genesis 7:4); the four hundred years of the sojourn of Abraham's seed (Genesis 15:13); the three days of the butler's and baker's dreams (Genesis 40:12-20); the seven years of Pharaoh's (Genesis 41:28-54); the forty years in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34); the three and a half years of famine (1 Kings 17:1) [see Luke 4:25;] . . . the seventy years' captivity (Jeremiah 25:11); Nebuchadnezzar's seven times (Daniel 4:13-16); and the seven weeks, threescore and two weeks, and the one week, making seventy weeks, determined upon the Jews (Daniel 9:24-27),--**the events limited by these times were all once only a matter of prophecy, and were fulfilled in accordance with the predictions.**" GC 323

## Urgent message of the Advent of Jesus

As Miller studied the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation he was convicted about the urgent message of the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus says...

**Revelation 22:7, 12, 20**

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

**Miller discovered the urgent message of the soon coming of the Jesus Christ through the prophetic timelines of Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 9**

**2300 year prophecy: Cleansing of the Sanctuary**

In Daniel 7 and 8 it predicts the fifth empire from Babylon depicted as a little horn that will rule for 1260 years.

Timeline

**Daniel 8:14**

14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

**Day for a Year Principle**

Miller understood the day for a year prophecy when it is within the context of symbolism. When the prophecies are symbolic such as beast, little horns etc, the day for a year principle applies when it comes to Bible prophetic timelines.

**Numbers 14:34**

34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

**Ezekiel 4:5**

5 For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

At the time Miller did not understand the relationship and meaning of earthly and heavenly sanctuaries as it relates to the day of atonement, also known as the day of judgment.

Miller believed like many ministers of his day that the “cleansing of the sanctuary” was the cleansing of the earth by the fire from Jesus. Miller concluded that this was going to happen at the second coming of Christ.

Miller studied that Daniel did not understand the timeline given in Daniel 8:14 at the end of chapter 8, but was given understanding of the timelines in Daniel 9.

**Daniel 8:27**

27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

**Daniel 9:22-23**

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Interpretation of the Daniel 8:14 starts in Daniel 9:24

### **What was first message revealed to the children of Israel within the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8:14?**

#### **Daniel 9:24**

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

70 weeks x 7 days per week = 490 days (490 years)

In other words 490 years are determined upon Israel. God gives Israel a 490 year probation to turn from sin within the 2300 year prophecy.

Prophetic timeline rules: Every prophetic timeline begins with an official decree, announcement, or event. It also has a start and an ending.

Remember at this time of the this prophecy Jerusalem was destroyed Babylon, many from Judah was taken captive to Babylon.

It was prophesied by Jeremiah that Judah would be in captivity in Babylon for seventy years (specific time line)

#### **Jeremiah 25:11**

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Daniel knew that the seventy year timeline about Judah's Babylonian captivity would soon come to an end.

#### **Daniel 9:2**

2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

### **When did the 490 years probation of Israel begin, which would also be the same start date of the beginning of the 2300 year prophecy of Daniel 8:14 (cleansing of the sanctuary)?**

#### **Daniel 9:25**

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Start date: An official decree to restore and build Jerusalem.

Artaxerxes king of Persia in the fall of 457 BC issued an official decree to Jerusalem that was recorded in Ezra 6:14 and Ezra 7

**Ezra 6:14**

14 And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

**Ezra 7:11-13, 25**

11 Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel.

12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.

13 I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.

25 And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.

The autumn season of 457 BC starts the 2300 year timeline clock.

490 AD – 457 BC = (no zero year from BC to AD) 34 AD

**What event happened in 34 AD that confirms Israel official and final rejection of Jesus. Refused to make an end to sin?** The stoning of Stephen.

**What other events on the 2300 year timeline confirms 457 BC start date is correct?**

1) “Anointing” of Jesus, the Messiah the prince

**Daniel 9:25**

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem **unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:** the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

First add up the time: A score = 20 weeks x 3 = 60; 60 weeks + 7 weeks + 2 weeks = 69 weeks

69 weeks x 7 days = 483 days (483 years)

457 BC start date add 483 years ( no zero year) 27 AD

483 – 457 = (no zero year) 27 AD

Who is the Messiah the Prince?

Isaiah 9:6

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

Messiah = Anointed or anointed one

Jesus says,

**Luke 4:18-19**

18 **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach** the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**When did the official “anointing” service and announcement of the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ on this earth to the world?**

Autumn 27 AD at the baptism of Jesus Christ. He was anointed by the Holy Ghost and God the Father, the King of king officially announced the beginning of the ministry of Christ...

**Matthew 3:16-17**

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Show timeline

**Jesus also officially announced that He was the fulfillment of Daniel 9:25, the Messiah the Prince.**

Mark 1:15

15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled**, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

**What else confirms and locks in 457 BC?**

Daniel 9:26-27

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

One week = 7 days (7 years) between 27 AD and 34 AD. What happened in the midst of the seven years?

Jesus was crucified in 31 AD as prophesied!

If the 457 BC start date is confirmed, when is the “cleansing of the sanctuary”?

2300 – 457 BC = 1843 (no zero year) add 1 = 1844

“Miller and his associates at first believed that the 2300 days would terminate in the spring of 1844, whereas the prophecy points to the autumn of that year. The misapprehension of this point brought disappointment and perplexity to those who had fixed upon the earlier date as the time of the Lord's coming. But this did not in the least affect the strength of the argument showing that the 2300 days terminated in the year 1844, and that the great event represented by the cleansing of the sanctuary must then take place.” {GC 328.3}

Miller had devoted two years to the study of the Bible, when, in 1818, he reached the solemn conviction that in about twenty-five years Christ would appear for the redemption of His people.

Miller did not publicly preach this until 1831, 50 years of age, farmer with large family.

Baptist preacher

He only went to places invited. Invited by many different protestant denominations about second advent of Jesus.

Many people accepted the message of the second coming of Jesus

Miller and his associates thought Jesus was coming in the spring of 1844 but later adjusted to October 22, 1844, official date of the day of atonement, "cleansing of the sanctuary." But they still understood it as the coming of Jesus.

### **What event added more fervor to Miller's 1844 message?**

The third event of **Revelation 6:12-13 – stars falling from the heavens**

"In 1833, two years after Miller began to present in public the evidences of Christ's soon coming, the last of the signs appeared which were promised by the Saviour as tokens of His second advent. Said Jesus: "The stars shall fall from heaven." Matthew 24:29. And John in the Revelation declared, as he beheld in vision the scenes that should herald the day of God: "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." Revelation 6:13. This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment in the great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833." GC 333

"the whole firmament, over all the United States, being then, for hours, in fiery commotion! No celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with such intense admiration by one class in the community, or with so much dread and alarm by another." "Its sublimity and awful beauty still linger in many minds. . . . Never did rain fall much thicker than the meteors fell toward the earth; east, west, north, and south, it was the same. In a word, the whole heavens seemed in motion. . . ." GC 333

The fulfillment of the falling of the stars created even greater zeal and urgency to the message of the second advent of Jesus Christ!

Even though there were many who accepted the 1844 message, there was also great opposition and ridicule by ministers and others.

"The opposition manifested by church members toward his message emboldened the baser classes to go to greater lengths; and enemies plotted to take his life as he should leave the place of meeting. But holy angels were in the throng, and one of these, in the form of a man, took the arm of this servant of the Lord and led him in safety from the angry mob. His work was not yet done, and Satan and his emissaries were disappointed in their purpose." GC 337

Later it was revealed that Miller got the October 22, 1844 date right but the wrong event. Jesus went from the Holy to the Most High place in 1844 to begin the investigative judgment in heaven.



Regardless, Miller's 1844 awoken the message of urgency of the second coming of Jesus Christ like never before.

**Many ministers in Miller's day like many today believe that the study of the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation is a mystery and cannot be understood. What does the book of Revelation say about this?**

**Revelation 1:1-3**

- 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:
- 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.
- 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

The message of the second coming of Jesus is more urgent today! The Bible has been extremely accurate to the fast fulfilling signs of Jesus Christ.

The increase of worldwide sodomy, homosexuality as the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. But what is more alarming is how much it has become accepted and promoted in the corp Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ever since the document Homosexuality written Andrews University in October 2015, the flood gates of the promotion and acceptance has greatly increased!

A habitation of devils!

Latest news of the increased Sodomy of the LGBTQ in the SDA corp church!

Glendale City (SDA) Church celebrates Gay Pride month at the church June 27, 2017

See slides.....

Appeal – WAKE UP!

