

Mistake in the 70-Week Prophecy Led to the Correct Ending of the 2300 Days



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The First Angel's Message

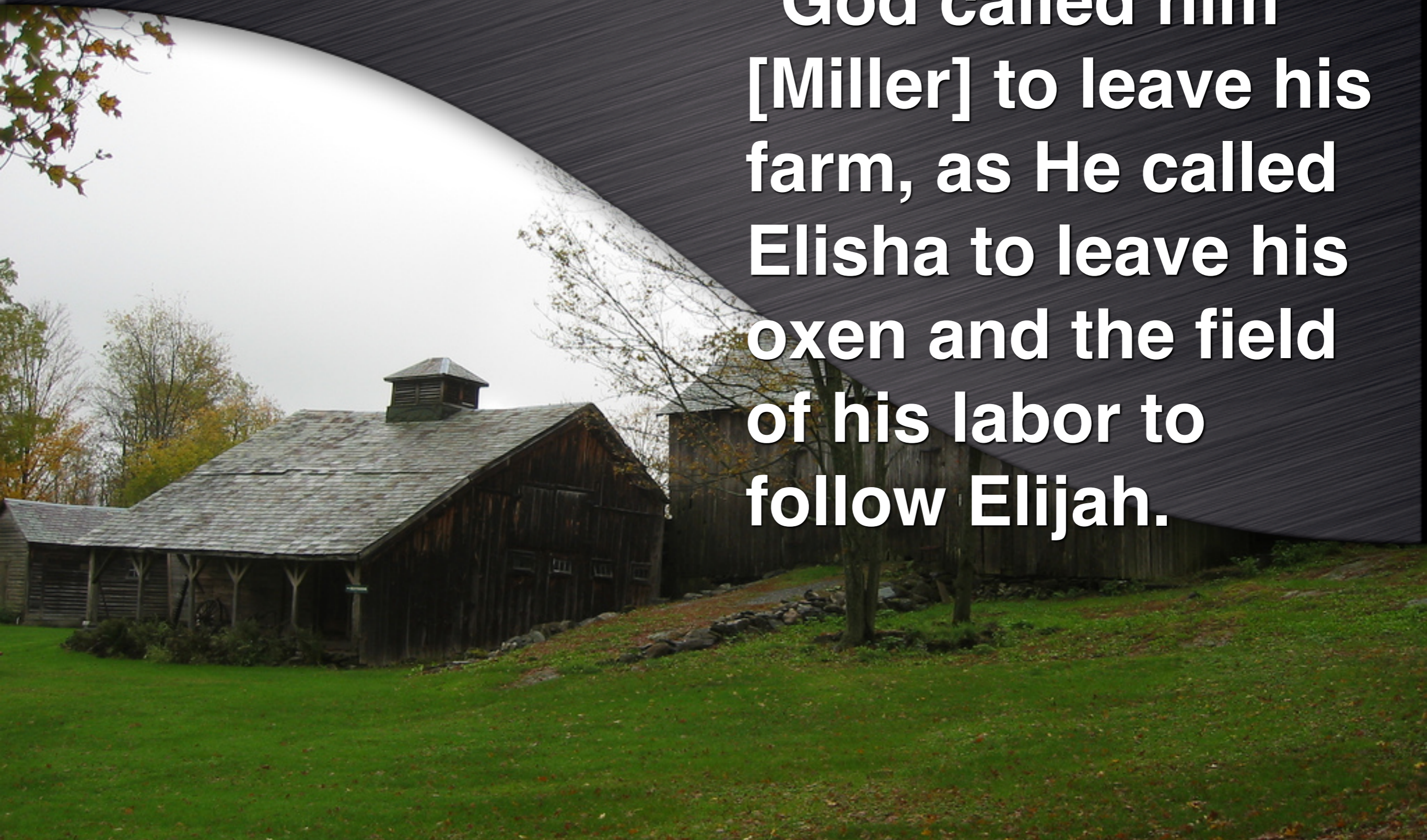


**William Miller's
Views on the
2300 Years**



Miller's Role in Salvation History

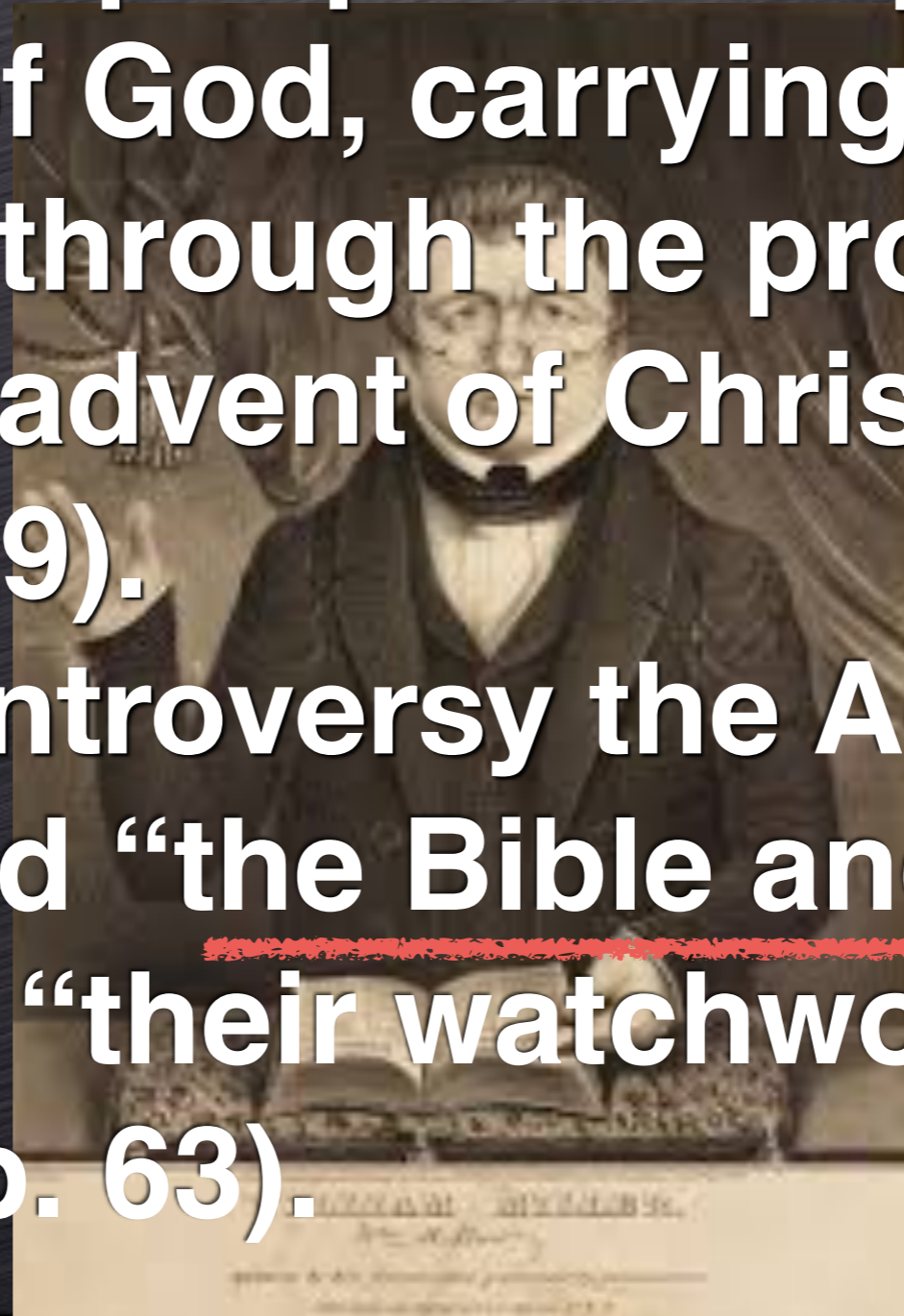
“God called him [Miller] to leave his farm, as He called Elisha to leave his oxen and the field of his labor to follow Elijah.



Miller's Role in Salvation History

“With trembling, William Miller began to unfold to the people the mysteries of the kingdom of God, carrying his hearers down through the prophecies to the second advent of Christ” (*Early Writings*, p. 229).

During this controversy the Adventist preachers used “the Bible and the Bible only” as “their watchword” (*Great Controversy*, p. 63).



Miller's Role in Salvation History

“As John the Baptist heralded the first advent of Jesus and prepared the way for His coming, so William Miller and those who joined with him proclaimed the second advent of the Son of God”
(Early Writings, pp. 230, 231).

Conclusion

Miller was called to lead the movement that prepares the world for Christ's 2nd advent.



William Miller's Religious Experience

Miller's Experience with Jesus and His Word



“When brought almost to despair, God by His Holy Spirit opened my eyes. I saw Jesus as a friend, and my only help, and the Word of God as the perfect rule of duty” (*The Midnight Cry*, Nov. 17, 1842, p,1)

Spirit of Prophecy

Endorsement of Miller's Rules of Bible Interpretation

“Those who are engaged in proclaiming the third angel’s message are searching the Scriptures upon the same plan that father Miller adopted” (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, Nov 25, 1884).

Miller's View of Daniel 8



1843

Result: God justified (KJV, margin)

Who is the little horn?

Rome (pagan and papal)

What is the sanctuary?

The church and/or earth

**What is the cleansing of
the sanctuary?**

Event: The cleansing of
the earth and/or church

**When does this judgment
take place?**

At the end of the 2300
years "about 1843"

The Calculation of the 2300 Years

Daniel 9 is key to understanding the time of Daniel 8

“– The **70 weeks are the key to date the 2300 days**

Both periods have the same beginning

The dating of the 70 weeks (Dan 9:24-27)

– **70 weeks are 490 years**

Basis of the calculation: The year-day principle

– When did the 490 years begin?

Dan 9:25 mentioned that it began with the decree to build and restore Jerusalem. It was Artaxerxes' decree issued in his 7th year (spring of 457 BC)

– When did the 490 years end?

Christ died 490 years after the spring of 457 BC which is in the spring of AD 33 (490 – 457= 33)

The Common Dating of the 490 Years

James Ferguson
(1710-1776)



457 BC
Spring

7th year of Artaxerxes

AD 33
Spring

Death of Christ

Evidence for the Crucifixion in AD 33

Generally accepted date based on a scientific method

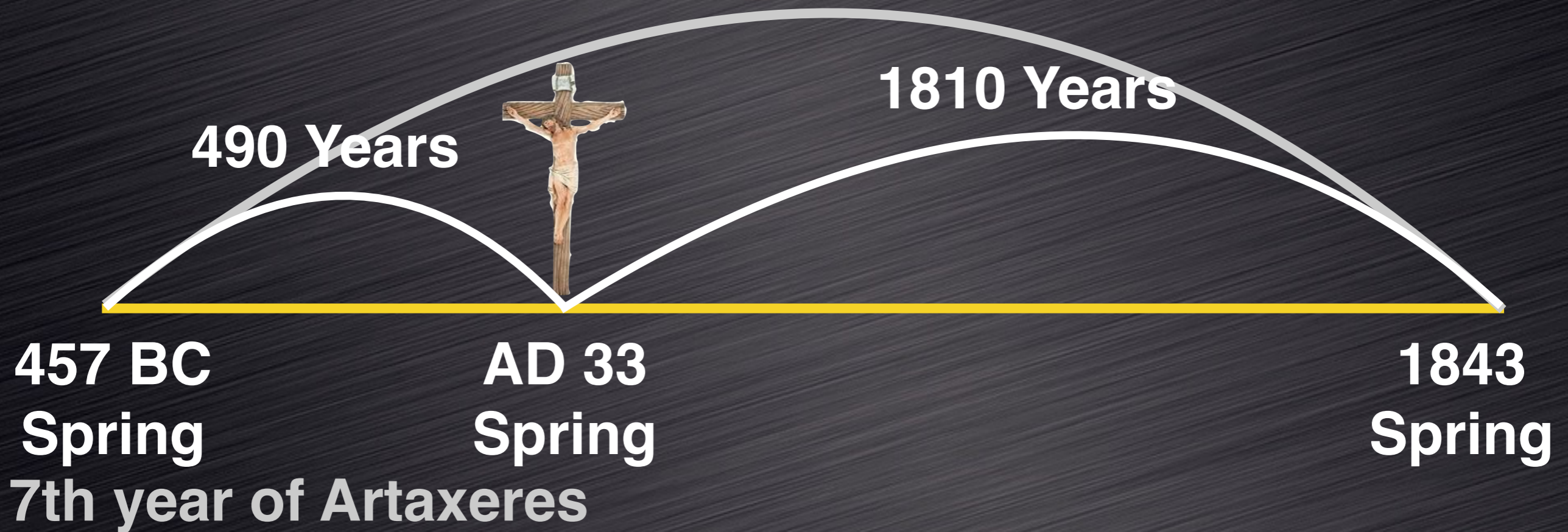
- Introduced in 13th century by Roger Bacon
- Confirmed by the Scottish astronomer James Ferguson

What was the scientific method?

- Astronomical calculations were used to find the year when Christ died
 - How is the beginning of the Jewish year calculated?
 - 1st day of the new moon nearest the spring equinox
 - When is the date of the Passover?
 - The 14th day of the 1st month of the Jewish year
 - What is the correct year of the crucifixion?
 - When the 14th day of the 1st Jewish month falls on Friday

Miller's Calculations of the 2300 Years

2300 Years



Calculation Methods:

1. Based on decree of Artaxerxes

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2300 \\
 -457 \\
 \hline
 1843
 \end{array}$$

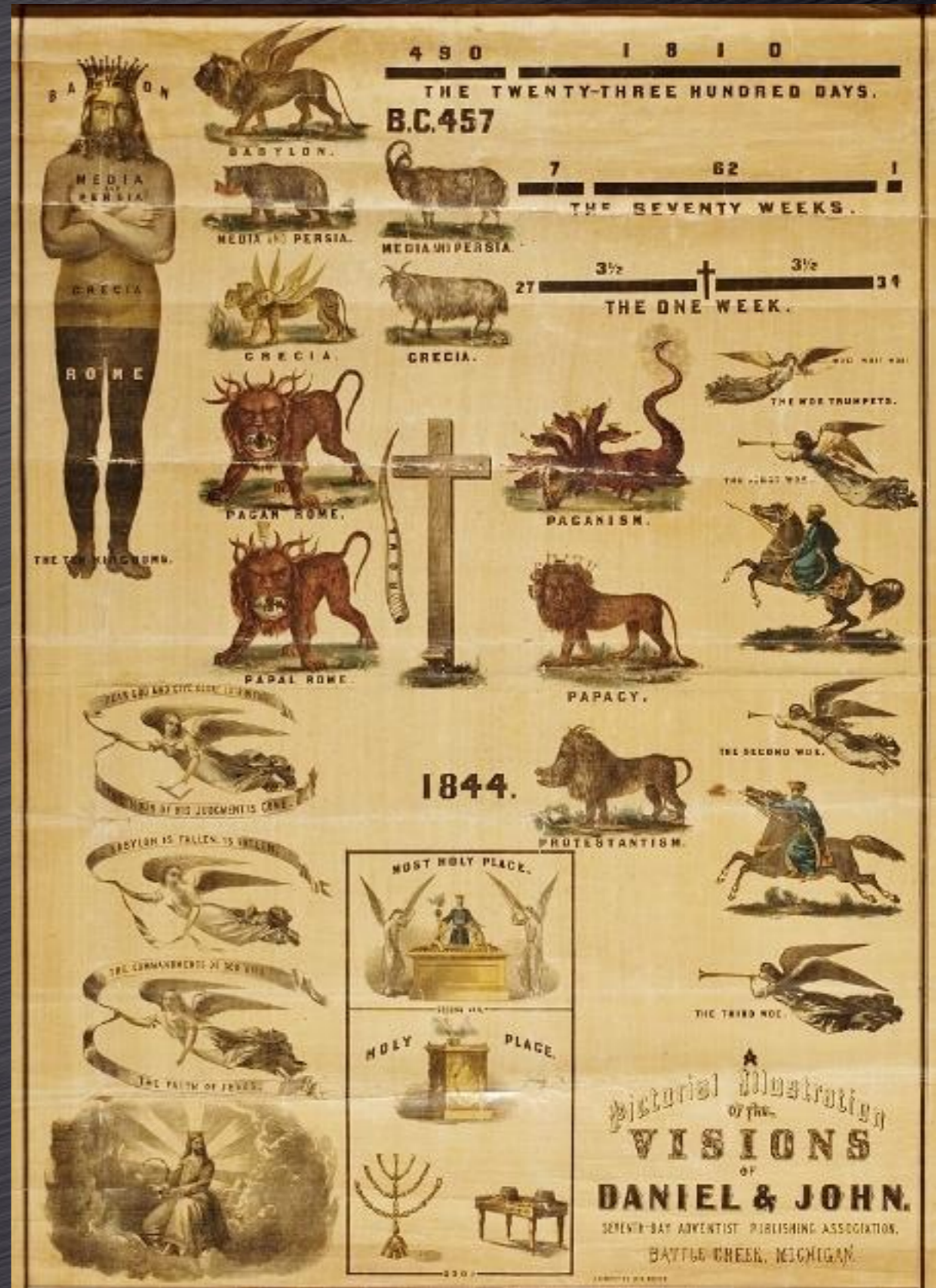
2. Based on Christ's death

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2300 \\
 -490 \\
 \hline
 1810
 \end{array}
 +33=1843$$

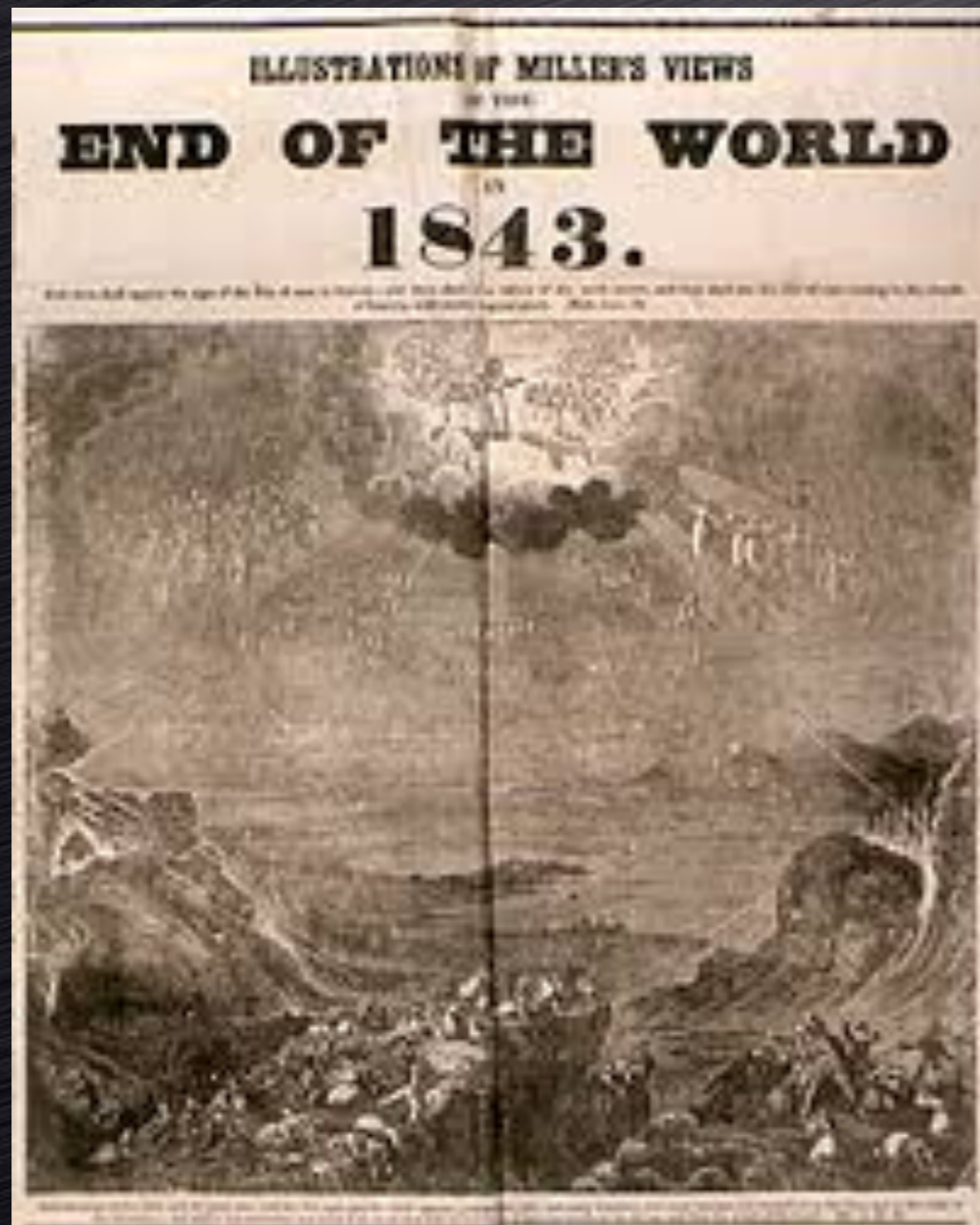
“Go and Tell It To the World”



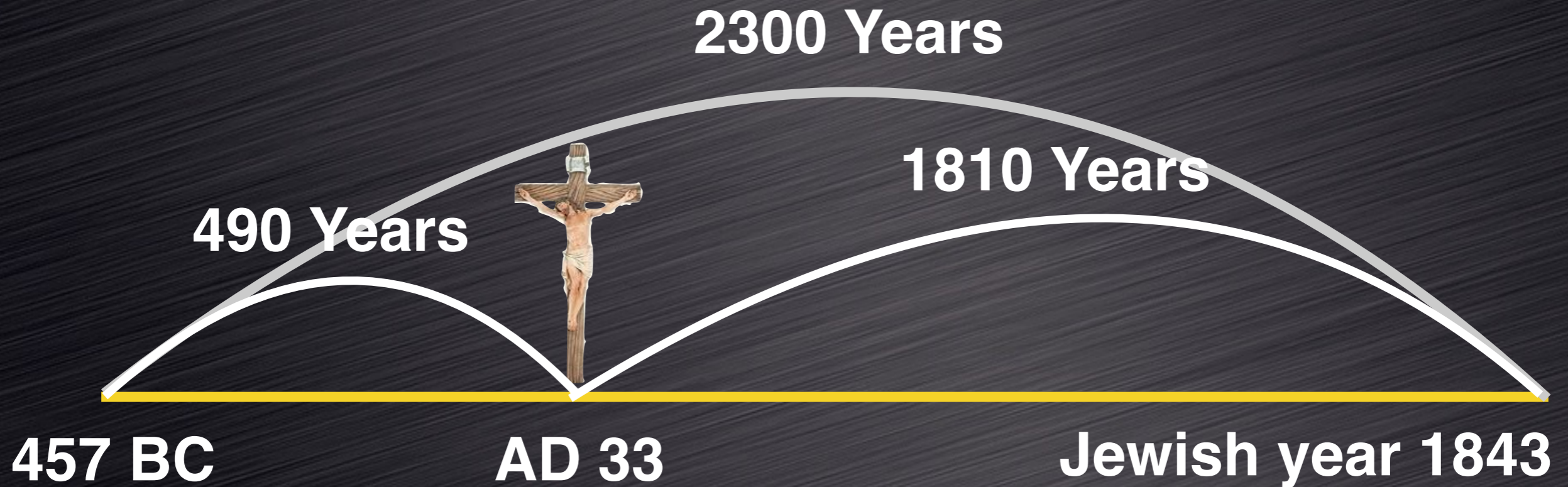
The Famous "1843 Chart"



Millerite Missionary Papers



Specific Dating of the End of the 2300 Years



Focus: The antitypes of the Lord's festivals in Lev 23:

Passover
Wave Sheaf
Pentecost
Day of Atonement

Calculations During the "Year 1843"

Associated with AD 33

The Jewish Year 1843



Focus on the Spring

Fulfillments of the antitypes
of the Lord's Spring feasts

- Passover (Crucifixion)
- Wave Sheaf (Resurrection)
- Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

Focus on the Autumn

Fulfillments of the antitypes
of the Lord's Spring feasts

- Day of Atonement (Judgment)
- Feast of Tabernacles (Harvest)

Wm Miller's 7th Month

Dates: 1810 years after AD 33

First Disappointment Spring of 1844

Major causes

Error in the dating of the end of the 2300 years

– Central was the popular view that Christ was crucified in the spring of AD 33

Incorrect view of meaning of the cleansing of the sanctuary

– The widespread understanding that earth was the sanctuary

– The cleansing of the sanctuary was the cleansing of the earth by fire



The Significance of the 1843–1844 Timesettings



New Insights Into Prophetic Time

- 1. Adoption of the correct chronology of history**
- 2. Rejection of the year AD 33 for Christ's death**
- 3. Acceptance of the year AD 31 for the crucifixion.**
- 4. New perspectives of Christ's sanctuary ministry—**
 - J. Litch on Dan 9:24—anointing of the Most Holy**
 - Christ's ascension marks His fulfillment of the antitype of the anointing of the earthly sanctuary. It marks the anointing of the heavenly sanctuary, inaugurating His ministry.**
 - Wm. Miller on Lev 23 and the Day of Atonement**
 - As the antitypes of the Lord's spring feasts were fulfilled at His first advent, so the autumn feasts are to be fulfilled at His second advent.**

The Correct Chronology of History

Principles of Chronology About BC and AD Dates

How many years are there from 2 BC to 4 AD?

Timeline of History



From 2 BC to 4 AD there are not 6 years but 5 full years

Notice, there is no “0” year!

How many years are there between 457 BC and 1843 AD?

There are not 2300 years but 2299 full years.

Add 1 extra year to have 2300 full years. Result: 1844

Shift in the End of the Prophetic Periods

Before the full year concept

2300 Years

490 Years



1810 Years

457 BC

AD 33

1843

After adopting the full year concept

2300 Years

490 Years



1810 Years

457 BC

AD 34

1844

Problem: How valid is the AD 33 date?

Investigation into the AD 33 Date

What is the basis of the calculation of AD 33?

-The Jews in Christ's time used the current Jewish calendar (Rabbinical calendar)

Is this calendar based on the Bible?

-No. It is based on astronomical observations—it calculates the new year by the new moon nearest the vernal equinox

Why does it not use biblical reckoning?

-It was designed by the Rabbis so Jews throughout the world could celebrate the religious feasts at the same day

-The biblical new year is determined by agricultural conditions in Palestine. This is not suitable as a means of calculating feastsdays for Jews world-wide.

Calendars and Christ's Death

Was there a calendar based upon biblical principles?

If so, is this calendar based on the Bible?

– Yes, the Jewish **Karaite calendar**

What was the biblical basis of this calendar?

Agricultural observations

The year began with the new moon nearest the earliest harvest (barley) in Judea, for Passover could only be celebrated when there was a harvest (Lev 23:10, 11)

If the priest observed that there was no harvest possible in the 1st month, the year would begin one month later

Can it determine Passover Friday with exactness?

No. There are no agricultural records from that time

Conclusion: No calendar can determine Passover Friday 1800 years ago with absolute certainty

Evidence of the Crucifixion in AD 31

Lk 23:44: “And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour”

Did Luke observe a supernatural darkness?

– Yes. The darkness was “all over the earth”

What was the position of the moon?

– The Jews began the year with the new moon

– Passover was in the middle of the 1st month (Lev 23:5) which was full moon. There was no eclipse (*Desire of Ages*, pp. 753-54)

Were there eye witnesses of this unique darkness?

Dionysius, the Areopagite, and Apollopphanes, the sophist

– Place: Heliopolis, Egypt

Pagan Witnesses of the Darkness

**Description of the darkness
by two philosophers**

**– They saw “the darkness
commence at the eastern
limb of the sun, and proceed
to the western, till the whole
was eclipsed; and then
regrade backwards, from the
western to the eastern, till his
light was fully restored”**



Dionysius Areopagite

Pagan Witnesses of the Darkness

Response to the darkness

– **Apollophanes**: “These, O good Dionysius, are the vicissitudes of divine events!”

– **Dionysius**: “Either the Deity suffers, or He sympathizes with the Sufferer!”

Source: Dionysius, Paul’s convert (Acts 17:34), in a letter to Polycarp as cited in Wm. Hales, *New Analysis of Chronology...*, III, 1830.



Dionysius Areopagite

Historical Evidence for the Crucifixion in AD 31

Council of Caesarea, AD 196/198

Alexandrian Chronicle

Maximus Monachus

Nicephorus Constantinus

Cedrenus

Eusebius, *History of the Church*

Epiphanius

**Aurelius Cassiodorius Senator, Roman Consul
about AD 514**

Source: Wm. Hales, *New Analysis of Chronology...*, I, 1830

**Significance
of the
New Dating
of the
Death of Christ**



Impact of the Cross on the 70 Weeks

Now Christ's crucifixion falls in the middle of the 70th week (Dan 9:27)

The 70 weeks (490 years)

AD 31
(Spring)

The 69 weeks (483 years)

70th week
7 years

457 BC
(Autumn)

AD 27
(Autumn)

AD 34
(Autumn)

Baptism of Jesus

Stoning of Stephen



Significance of AD 31 for Daniel 9

New Insight into the 70 Weeks Prophecy

The **center of time prophecy**: The **crucifixion**
Christ's crucifixion moved to the middle of the
70th week in the spring of AD 31

Its impact on the 70 weeks

- The end of the 490 years became the autumn of AD 34
- The start of the 490 years became the autumn of 457 BC when the **decree was promulgated and executed** by Ezra

Impact of the Cross on the 2300 Days

New Light on the Doctrine of Christ
The Date of Christ's Crucifixion



Promulgation and execution of the decree

Cleansing of the sanctuary of Dan 8:14 on the 10th day of the 7th month when the antitype of the Day of Atonement would be fulfilled

Time: October 22, 1844, Karaite reckoning

Significance of AD 31 for Daniel 8

New Insight Into the 2300 Year Prophecy

The cleansing of the sanctuary at the end of the 2300 years moved to the autumn of 1844—the season of the Day of Atonement

The effect of this shift

The cleansing of the sanctuary became associated with the antitype of the Day of Atonement on the 10th day of the 7th month of the Jewish year

Result: The prophetic foundation of the SDA Church came into place

The Rise of the 7th Month Movement

–The effect of Snow’s message on Adventists

“Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, none have been more free from human imperfection ... than was that of the autumn of 1844”

(Great Controversy, p. 401)



New Light on the Doctrine of Christ (1)



New Light on the Doctrine of Christ (1)

A further unsealing of Daniel during 1843-1844

– Millerite experience led to further light into the fullness of Christ that was necessary in preparation for the 2nd advent

1. The cross became central in time prophecy

– It led to a fuller understanding of Daniel 9

- Christ's crucifixion is in the spring of AD 31
- Christ's crucifixion is in the middle of the 70th week
- The 490 years ended in the autumn of AD 34

– It led to a new understanding of Daniel 8

- The 2300 years ended in the autumn of 1844

– Result: The prophetic foundations of the SDA Church

New Light on the Doctrine of Christ (2)

2. Impact of new light on Christ's ministry—His fulfillment of the antitypes of the OT sanctuary services and feasts

A clearer understanding of Daniel 9

Type: The earthly sanctuary was anointed by Moses at the beginning of its services. Christ's crucifixion is in the middle of the 70th week

Antitype: The heavenly sanctuary (qodesh qodashim Dan 9:24) was anointed by Christ at the beginning of His ministry after His ascension— It led to a new understanding of Daniel 8

A new understanding of Daniel 8

Type: Day of Atonement was a time of judgment and cleansing the sanctuary on the 10th day of the 7th month

Antitype: The antitypical Day of Atonement was related to the final judgment and cleansing at the end of the 2300 years on the 10th day of the 7th month—Oct. 22, 1844

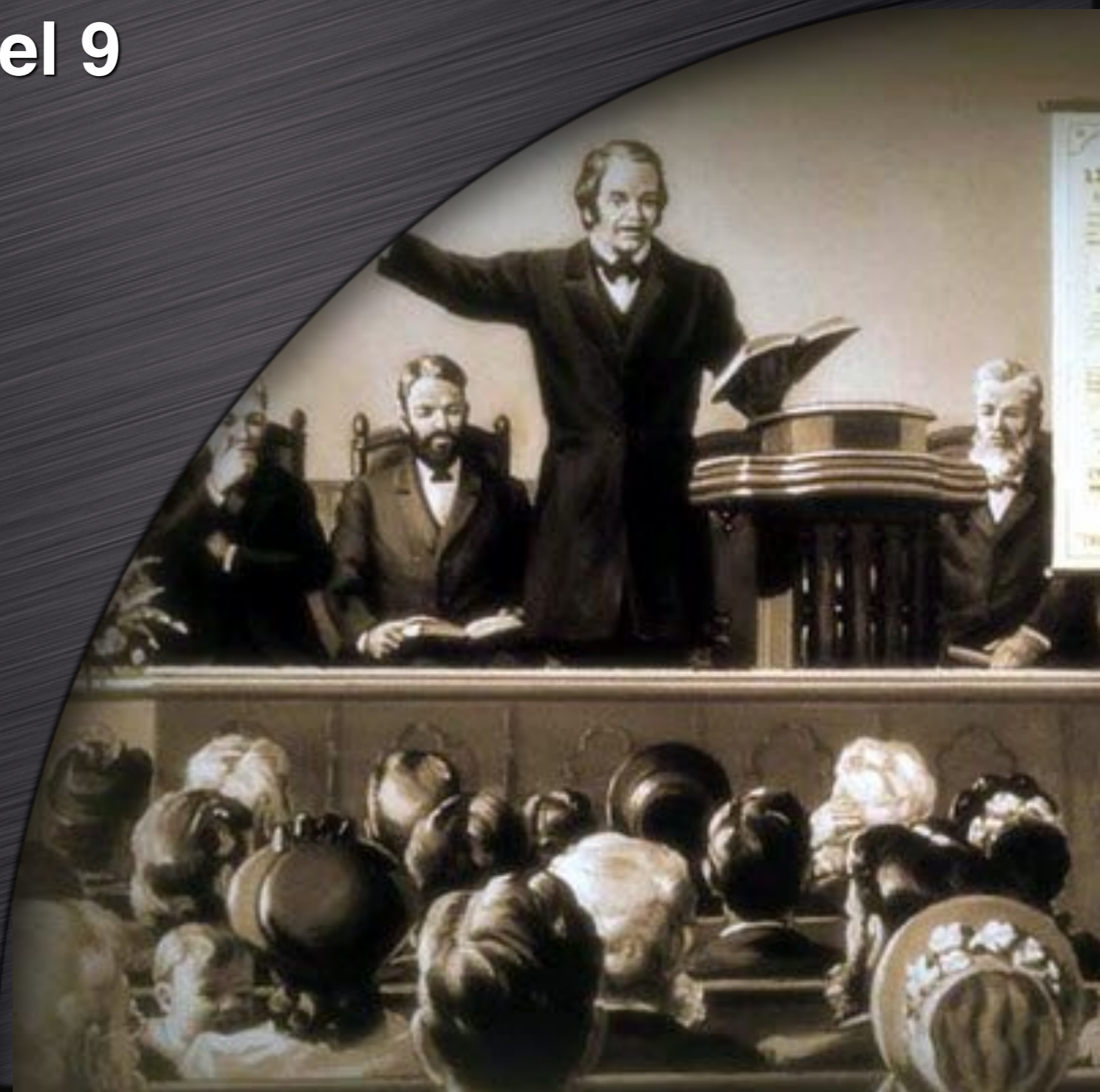
The Millerite Legacy of Truth

The rediscovery of the correct view of Daniel 9

– The correct chronology and meaning of the 70 weeks

The unsealing of Daniel 8

– The correct chronology of the 2300 days



The Cross of Christ is at the Foundation of the SDA Church



The Foundation of the SDA Faith

The task of a minister

– “Ministers should present the sure word of prophecy as the foundation of the faith of Seventh-day Adventists”
(*Evangelism*, p. 196)

