

Songs Tell a Story

- Uriah Smith admonishes in “O Brother, Be Faithful” soon Jesus will come, For whom we have waited so long. Unfaithful to Him who hath shown Such deep, such un-bounded and infinite love—Who died to redeem us His own.”
- Last verse “O brother, be faithful! The promise is sure”

The Blacks in Slavery Sang Hymns

- The black men and women sing their songs of hope in the coming of the Lord
- “Don’t You See My Jesus Coming” (#454) “Don’t you see my Jesus coming, See Him come in yonder cloud? With ten thousand angels around Him, How they do my Jesus crowd! Don’t you see the saints ascending, Hear them shouting thro’ the air, Jesus smiling, trumpets sounding, How His glory they shall share”



William Miller



Go Tell it to the World

- September 11, 1814 a small American force had just demolished a large British force at the Battle of Plattsburg on the shores of Lake Champlain during the War of 1812.
- Captain William Miller realizes that God had intervened. The small American force could not win without God's intervention.
- Turns from Deism to a Bible believing Christian

Self Taught

- Miller studied the Bible from cover comparing scripture with scripture “without human aid save Cruden’s Concordance”
- “An one momentous day he found the text that marked him for life, Daniel 8:14
- He figured the end would be in 1843 just 25 years away
- Studied for 13 more years for fear “lest by some possibility I should be in error, and the means of misleading any.

Conviction and the Call of God

- Miller told God “I told the Lord that I was not used to public speaking”
- By August 1831 it became unbearable
“Go and tell it to the world!” !
“Go and tell it to the World!”
- “O God, Thou knowest that I cannot preach; thou knowest that I cannot go. I can’t; I can’t”
- All the excuses he could muster failed to silence the voice that so clamorously demanded, “Go tell it to the world!”

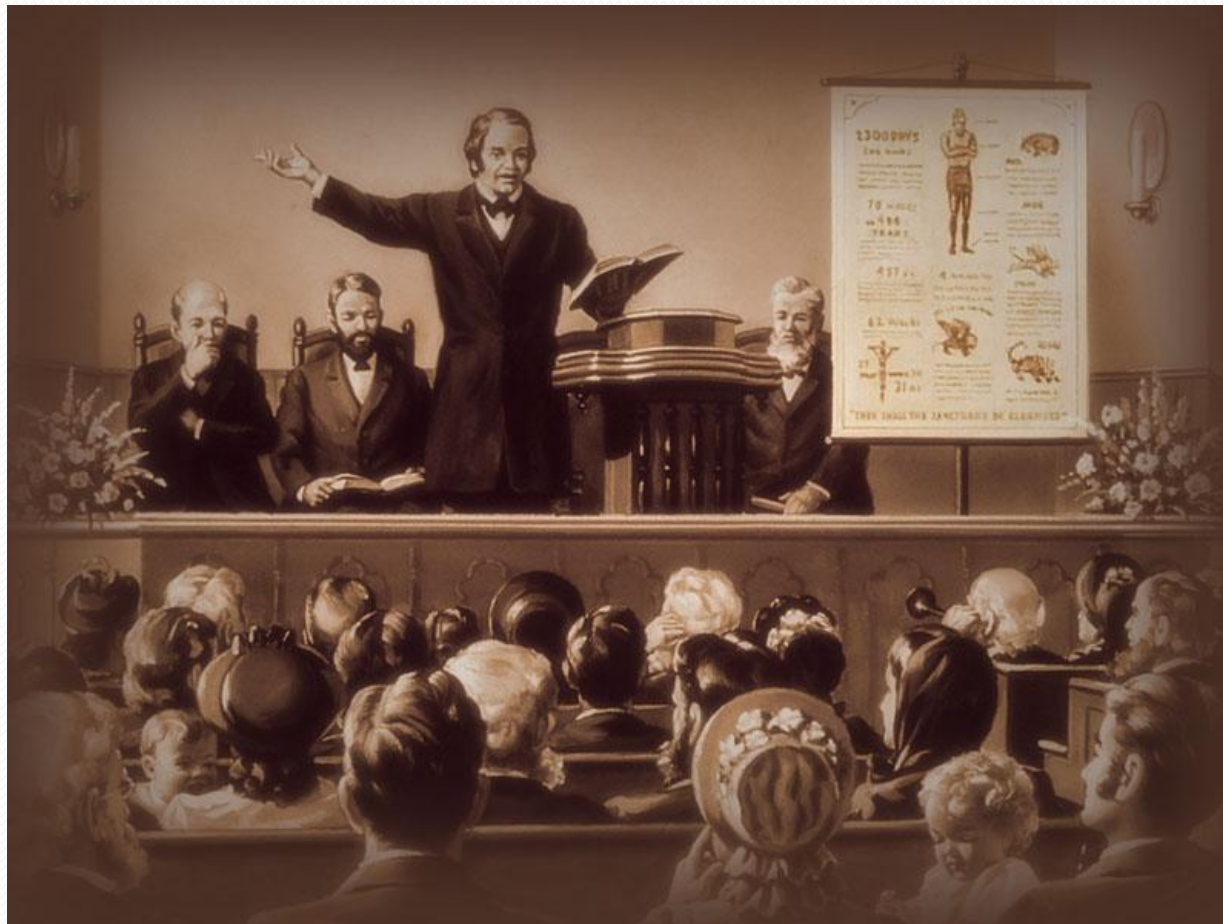
Miller Writes of the Experience

- “My distress became so great, I entered into a solemn covenant with God, that if He would open the way, I would go and perform my duty to the world. What do you mean by opening the way? Seemed to come to me. Why, said I, if I should have an invitation to speak publicly in any place, I will go and tell them what I find in the Bible about the Lord’s coming.”

Burden is Gone

- Instantly all my burden was gone; for I had never had such an invitation; my trials were not known, and I had but little expectation of being invited to any field of labor.”
- God’s answer came quickly from Dresden 16 miles away by a young man who was approaching Miller’s home.

Farmer to Preacher for God



- “As soon as I commenced speaking, all my diffidence and embarrassment were gone, and I felt impressed only with the greatness of the subject, which, by the providence of God, I was enabled to present.”
- He was invited to preach all week
- Miller’s preaching was scripture based. He did not go beyond where he felt scripture had led him.
- No fire and brimstone, just plain truth
- Miller turned his mind and all his thoughts to searching the one Book which all Christendom has declared is the true source of knowledge and revelation, the Bible.

Still as Death

- Millerites as they were known—Studied and prayed
- While Miller was explaining the assurance of Christ's soon return with power from the scriptures, Elder Green asked himself "Am I ready".
- Joshua Himes said "it was as still as death"
- The churches were filled whenever Miller preached
- For Camp Meetings a huge tent designed to hold 4000 people with a center pole 55 feet high was moved from place to place.

The First Disappointment

- Miller predicted Christ return sometime between March 21, 1843-March 21, 1844
- April 18, 1844, passed
- Miller admitted in writing, “I confess my error, and acknowledge my disappointment, yet I still believe that the day of the Lord is near, even at the door.”
- Samuel Snow presented his own interpretation, that became known as the “Seventh-month Message” or the “true midnight cry”
- He set the date as October 22, 1844

The Great Disappointment

- October 22, 1844, was fast approaching
- Steam presses ran day and night until October 19,
- The big tent (4,000) was rolled up for the last time
- The Millerites headed home or met in small groups
- “Within the movement the believers waited with joyous longing, like that of teen-ager Ellen Harmon, who wrote later, “This was the happiest year of my life. My heart was full of glad expectation.” (1T 54)
- October 22 came and went and Jesus did not come.

Letter to Himes

- “Although I have been twice disappointed, I am not yet cast down or discouraged. God has been with me in spirit, and has comforted me. I have now much more evidence that I do believe in God’s Word ; and although surrounded with enemies and scoffers, yet my mind is perfectly calm, and my hope in the coming of Christ is as strong as ever. I have done only what after years of sober consideration I felt to be my solemn duty to do. If I have erred, it has been on the side of charity, the love of my fellow men, and my conviction of duty to God.”

William Miller's theme

- Today, today, today
- Miller dies December 20, 1849
- In one of his last letters he writes: “I cannot refrain from writing a word or two, although I cannot see. All is well. The Bridegroom (Christ) is coming; no mistake . . . The King must come. Lift up your head, be of good cheer, be not faithless but believing. We shall soon see Him for whom we have looked and waited”

October 22—Henry Emmons

- “I waited all Tuesday (October 22) and dear Jesus did not come. I waited all the forenoon of Wednesday, and was well in body as I ever was, but after 12 o’clock I began to feel faint, and before dark I needed someone to help me up to my chamber, as my natural strength was leaving me very fast, and I lay prostrate for 2 days without any pain—sick with disappointment.”
- Revelation 10:9, 10

Prophecy is Sure

- 166 years have passed
- Habakkuk 2:1-4
- Ezekiel 12:26-28
- Matthew 25:1-13

Lamps the Word of God



Oil the Holy Spirit




5 Foolish and 5 Wise



Two Classes of Those Waiting

- Wise: “The wise virgins of the parable represent those Christians who understand, appreciate, and avail themselves of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.” They fill their minds with the Word of God and have a close relationship with Him.”
- Foolish “Those who have not yielded themselves to the working of the Holy Spirit.” “They had moved from impulse. Their fears had been excited by the solemn message, but they had depended upon the faith of their brethren, satisfied with flickering light of good emotions, without a thorough understanding of the truth or genuine work of grace in the heart”

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- Without scriptural knowledge, we have no light to offer and without the Holy Spirit our lights will go out.
 - We need to watch and wait “daily, daily, daily” as did the pioneers
 - We need to be prepared for further delay, but the signs of wars, unrest, earthquakes, lawlessness, etc. indicate that Christ’s coming is near.

While We Wait “Prepare”

- Turn to 1 Thessalonians 5
 - Rejoice always
 - Pray without ceasing
 - Comfort each other
 - Edify one another
 - Be at peace with each other
 - Encourage the fainthearted
 - Uphold the weak
 - Give thanks
 - Be patient with all

1 Thessalonians 5:23

- “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Christ is Coming



Are You Ready Day by Day?

