

"Thy Kingdom Come"

Building the Kingdom as Jesus did

"These are they which follow the
Lamb wherever He goes."

Revelation 14:4

Condition of the World

At First Advent

- Strife for riches and worldly honor
- Devotion to the world
- All agencies for depraving souls were active
- Suffering and misery
- Demon possession
- Sin had become a science

The Desire of Ages, p. 37, 44

The Great Controversy, p. 377

At Second Advent

- Pride and formalism
- Absorbed in worldliness and pleasure seeking
- Freedom and comfort
- Ambitious desire for wealth and luxury
- Absorbing devotion to money-making
- Eager rush for popularity and power

The Great Controversy, p. 309

The Type of Kingdom Expected by the People

At First Advent

- Dominion over the hated Romans
- Riches
- Splendor
- Mansions of plenty
- Days of ease
- Rich and costly robes
- Honored before the nations
- Exalted as the head of a universal kingdom.

At Second Advent

- The spiritual reign of Christ
- A temporal millennium before the end of the world
- the terrors of the day of God were far off
- The world's conversion
- Confidence and security (peace and prosperity)
- No need for preparation

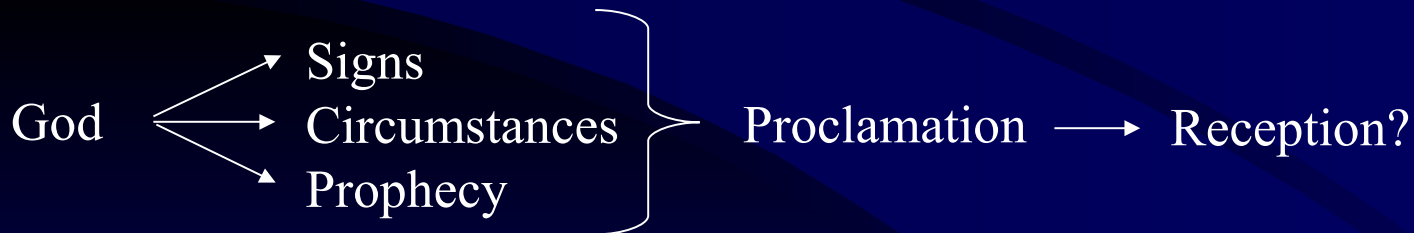
Reception of the Announcement

First Advent



"All the people should have been watching and waiting..."
The Great Controversy, p. 313

Second Advent



"A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times..."
The Great Controversy, p. 315

A Warning

"Unless the church will follow on in His opening providence, accepting every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear.

"This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of His people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from heaven, and, like the Jews of old, knew not the time of their visitation."

The Great Controversy, p. 316

Principles of the Kingdom

Sermon on the Mount

- Beatitudes (true heartwork)
The Desire of Ages, p. 299
- The Purpose of the Church
The Desire of Ages, p. 305
- Magnifying the Law
The Desire of Ages, p. 307
- Practical Duties
The Desire of Ages, p. 312

Fourth Angel's Message

- Bondage to Freedom
- Lighten the Earth with Glory
- Sabbath Rest
- Reforms

Establishing the Kingdom

First Advent Work

- Die to save others from eternal death
- Reveal God's Character
- Show that Law can be kept
- To form a Holy Seed

Second Advent Work

- "Die" so the harvest can be gathered
- Show God's Character
- Show that the Law can be kept
- To gather the Holy Seed from all nations

Results of Proclaiming the Kingdom

At First Advent

- Multitudes were amazed
- The people were silenced
- Feeling of fear
- Looked at one another doubtfully.
- Who would be saved?

The Desire of Ages, p. 305

At Second Advent

- Thousands have never heard words like these
- In amazement
- They hear the testimony that Babylon is the church
- Eager inquiry, Are these things so?

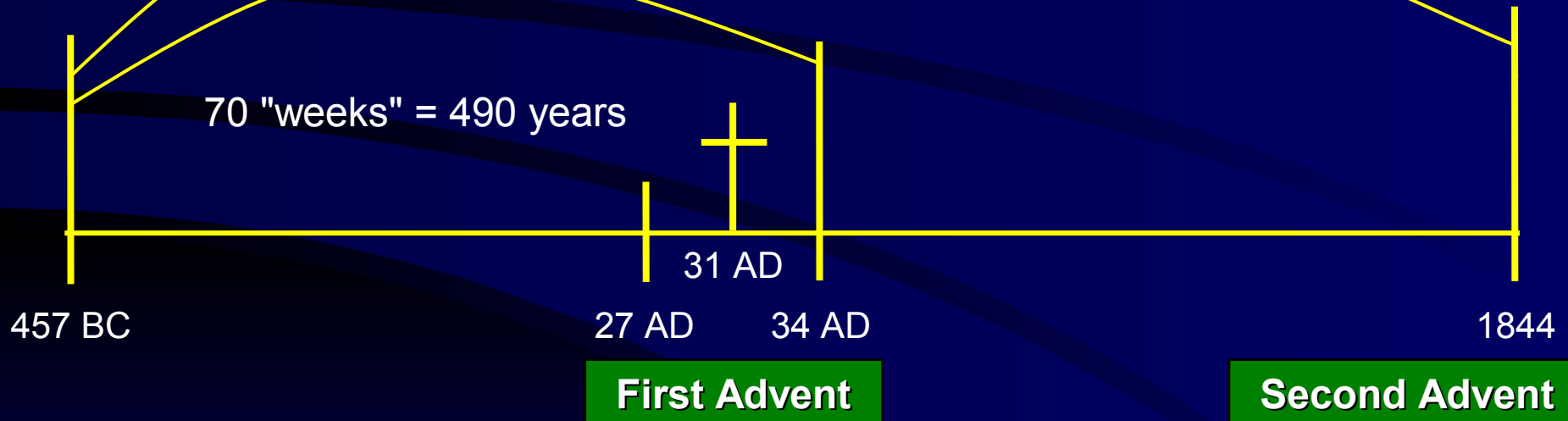
The Great Controversy, p. 606

The 2300 Day Prophecy

Joining the First and Second Advent Together

2300 "days" = 2300 years

70 "weeks" = 490 years



"Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Daniel 8:14

The 2300 Day Prophecy

Time Calculation, part 1

2300

-457

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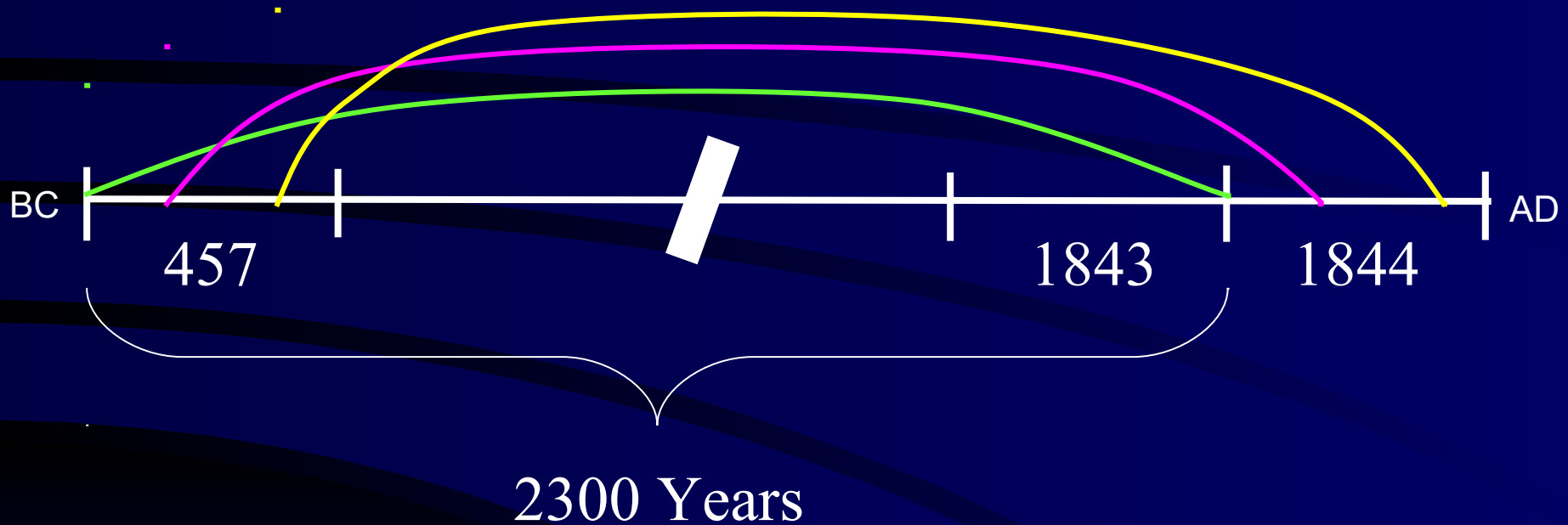
1843



Why **1843**, and not **1844**?

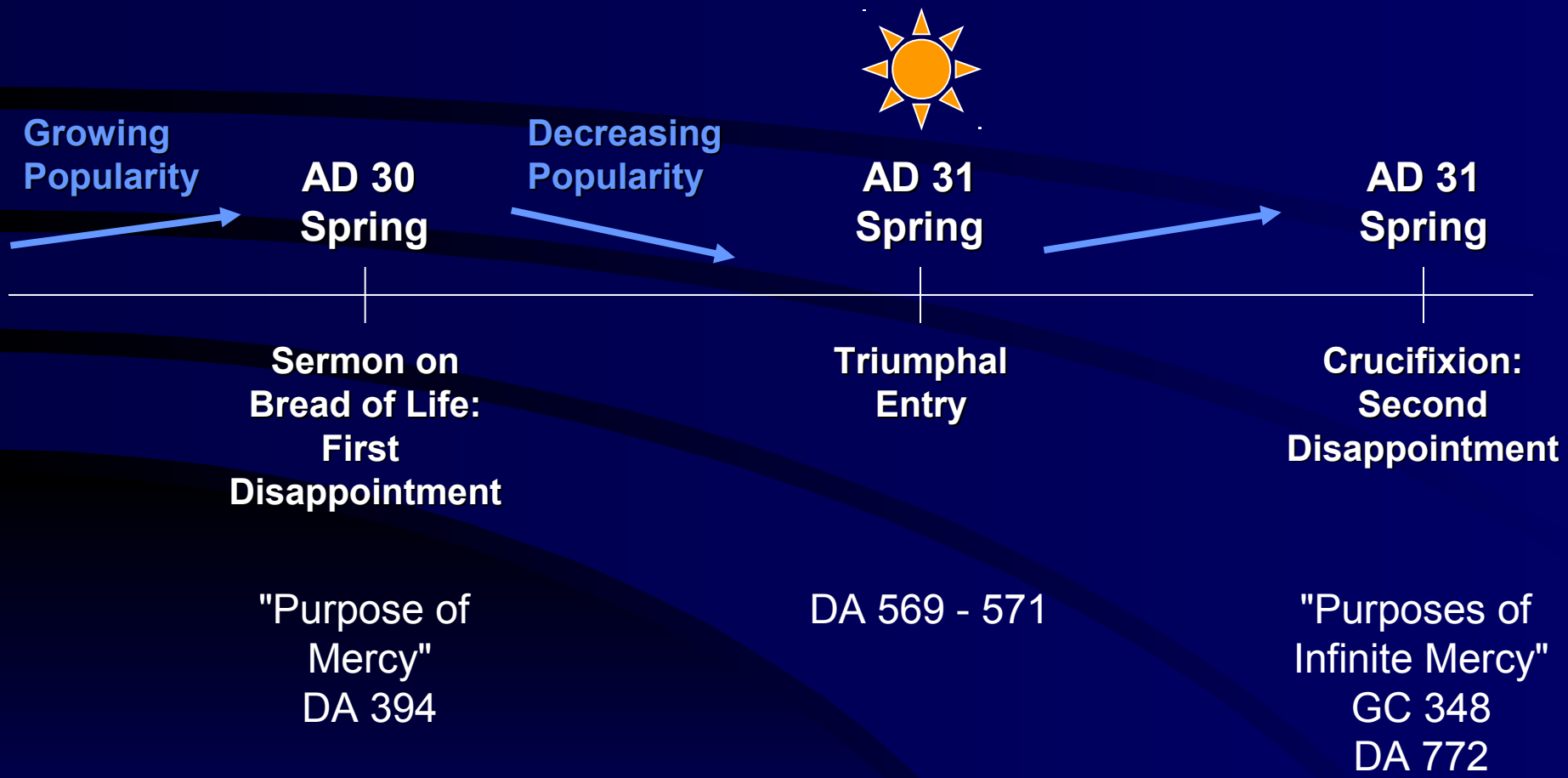
The 2300 Day Prophecy

Time Calculation, part 2



- Strict calculation
- Miller's calculation (Jewish year)
- Midnight Cry calculation

First Advent - Two Disappointments



Second Advent - Two Disappointments

Going forth
to meet the
Bridegroom

Bridegroom
tarries -
Sleep and
slumber



Spring

Summer

Autumn

First
Disappointment

The Bridegroom
Comes!

October 22 -
Second
Disappointment

"Purposes of
Love"
GC 354

1844

The Only Safe Course

"Their only safe course was to:

1. Cherish the light which they had already received of God,
2. Hold fast to His promises, and continue to search the Scriptures, and
3. Patiently wait and watch to receive further light."

The Great Controversy, p. 408

"Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement—days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earthborn children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God. . . . Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being...." *Conflict and Courage*, p. 213

"The way of the world is to begin with pomp and boasting. God's way is to make the day of small things the beginning of the glorious triumph of truth and righteousness. Sometimes He trains His workers by bringing to them disappointment and apparent failure. It is His purpose that they shall learn to master difficulties." *Conflict and Courage*, p. 258

When the Christian churches first learned that Paul was to visit Rome, they looked forward to a signal triumph of the gospel in that city. Paul had borne the truth to many lands; he had proclaimed it in great cities. Might not this champion of the faith succeed in winning souls to Christ even in the metropolis of the world? But their hopes were crushed by the tidings that Paul had gone to Rome as a prisoner. They had confidently hoped to see the gospel, once established at this great center, extend rapidly to all nations and become a prevailing power in the earth. How great their disappointment! Human expectations had failed, but not the purpose of God. *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 463

Disappointment or Blessing?

What did God
give to His people
after the
Disappointment?

- Sanctuary and Judgment
- God's Character
- The Law of God (Sabbath)
- Reforms
- Melchizedek Priesthood
- Mystery of God
- Spirit of Prophecy
- Gospel Order
- etc...

"A religious experience is gained only through conflict, through disappointment, through severe discipline of self, through earnest prayer. The steps to heaven must be taken one at a time, and every advance step gives strength for the next."

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 100

Light through Darkness



Following in the Steps of Rome

Romanists

Bible can't be understood.

Protestants

Prophecies can't be understood.

"As the arguments from the prophetic periods were found to be impregnable, opposers endeavored to discourage investigation of the subject by teaching that the prophecies were sealed. Thus Protestants followed in the steps of Romanists. While the papal church withholds the Bible from the people, Protestant churches claimed that an important part of the Sacred Word--and that the part which brings to view truths specially applicable to our time--could not be understood." *The Great Controversy*, p. 340

"...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved...for this cause God shall send them strong delusion [ie. Futurism], that they should believe a lie." *2 Thessalonians 2:10,11*

False Prophecy

“The doctrine of the world's conversion and the spiritual reign of Christ was not held by the apostolic church. It was not generally accepted by Christians until about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Like every other error, its results were evil.

“It taught men to look far in the future for the coming of the Lord and prevented them from giving heed to the signs heralding His approach. It induced a feeling of confidence and security that was not well founded and led many to neglect the preparation necessary in order to meet their Lord.”

The Great Controversy, p. 321

Development of Prophetic Interpretation

Early Church:
Adventism

Reformation:
Papacy is Antichrist

Miller:
Adventism

God's Truth

King of South

King of North

Porphyry:
Preterism
No such thing
as future
prophecy.
Prophecy is just
describing
history in the
past.

Augustine:
Post-millennialism
Christ comes after
the millenium.
The church rules
for 1000 years.

Alcazar:
Preterism
Antichrist
was in the
past.

Ribera:
Futurism
Antichrist
is far in
the future.

Deism:
God is not
personally
involved.
Society will
become better
and better.

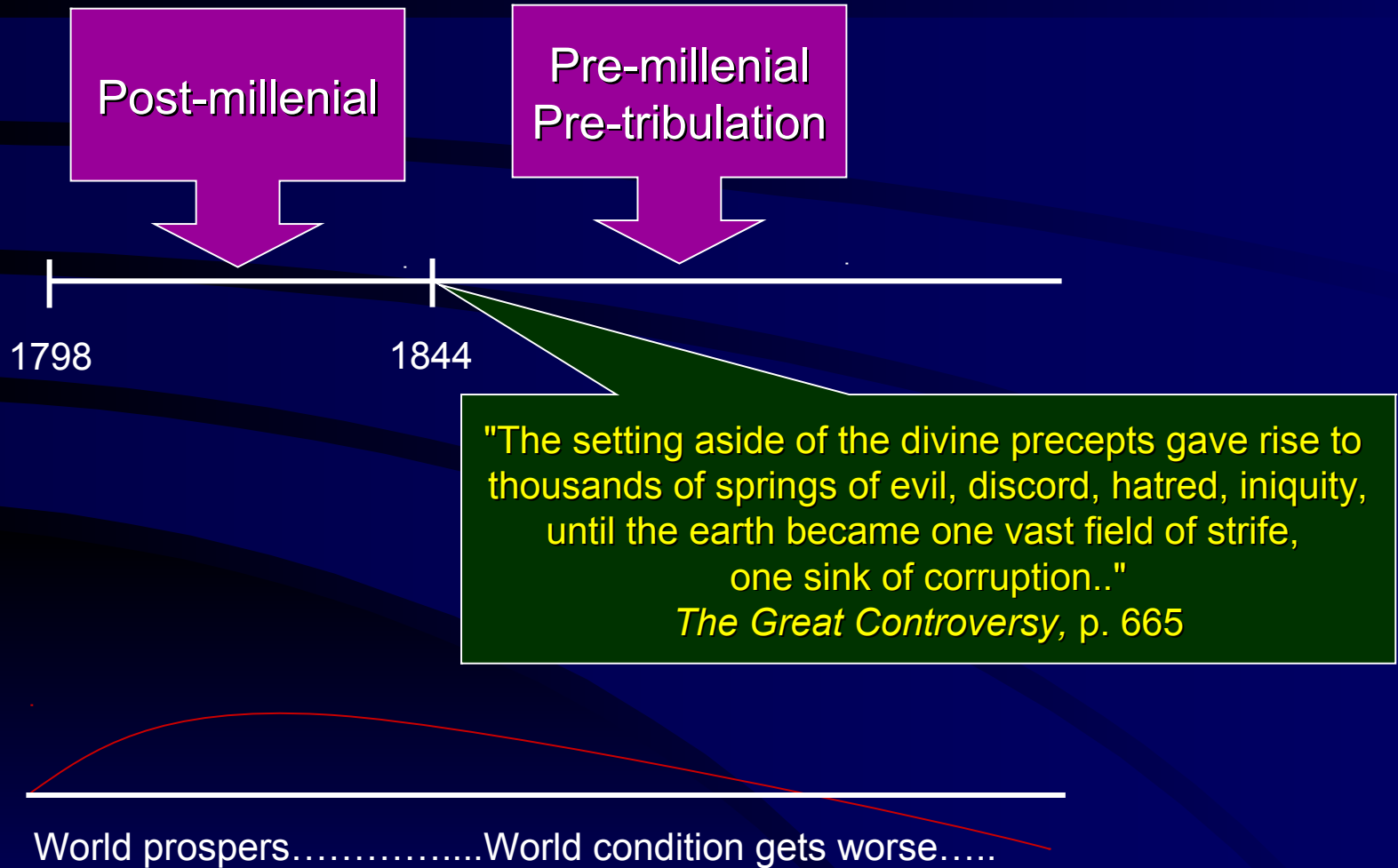
**Protestant
Futurism**

Jesuit Counter-Reformation

"Spiritualizers"

Popular Prophetic Interpretation

Driven by Feelings



Different Ways of Proclaiming the Second Advent

"Christ is coming again!"

Fear

(self-condemnation)

- "Christ comes to destroy the wicked."
- An outward change

Finishing the Work

(healthy self-distrust)

- Presentation of God's character.

Presumption

(self-confidence)

- "Christ comes to save the righteous."
- He will save us in our sins

What Is A True Adventist?

One who looks for, *and hastens*
the return of Jesus Christ

"...what manner of persons ought ye to be
in all holy conversation and godliness,
looking for and hasting unto
the coming of the day of God,"
2 Peter 3:11,12

Two Kingdoms of God

The Kingdom of Grace

- Definition
Hebrews 4:15-16
- Was instituted after the fall of man
Genesis 3:15
- Is confirmed reality after the cross
John 19:30
- Is fully revealed at Christ's second advent
1 John 3:2

The Kingdom of Glory

- Definition
Matthew 25:31, 32
- Will be instituted at the second advent of Christ
Revelation 11:15
- Is visible reality on earth after the 1000 years
Revelation 20-21
- Is fully revealed at the end of the 1000 years
Revelation 20:14

True and False Kingdoms

Spiritual Kingdom

- For spiritually minded people
 - *Romans 8:5*
- Definition of spiritually minded
 - *Galatians 5:22-23*
- Desire to serve others
 - *Matthew 18:4*
- Christ is glorified
 - *1 Corinthians 1:31*

Carnal Kingdom

- For carnally minded people
 - *Romans 8:5*
- Definition of carnally minded
 - *Galatians 5:19-21*
- Desire to be the greatest
 - *Matthew 18:1*
- Self is glorified
 - *2 Peter 2:10; James 3:14-16*

The Relationship of the Kingdoms

The Kingdom of Grace

The Kingdom of Glory

} Both are spiritual
kingdoms

The Carnal Kingdom

→ A carnal kingdom of
“grace”

The Desire of Ages, p. 762

A carnal kingdom of
“glory”

Who Is a True Adventist?

Those building a
carnal kingdom today



Look for a carnal
kingdom in glory

Those building a
spiritual kingdom today



Look for a spiritual
kingdom in glory

Before honor comes humility.

The Desire of Ages, 436.3

Two Interpretations

Spiritual

- A holy character to praise God
- Health so that God's power to forgive sins is revealed
- Great intellect so that we can understand God's ways
- Skill and prosperity so that God's work can be finished
- National greatness is greatness of character for the salvation of others

Carnal

- A holy character to receive praise
- Health so that the superiority of our ways can be revealed
- Great intellect so that we can be superior to others
- Skill and prosperity so that we can stand above others
- National greatness is greatness of power so that we can enforce our way on others

“All hearts thrilled with the proud hope that Israel was soon to be honored before the nations as the chosen of the Lord, and Jerusalem exalted as the head of a universal kingdom.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 5

Still a Danger for Us

The disciples were not aware of the two comings of Christ and they were disappointed because He did not come in glory.

How can it be that we are in danger of falling into disappointment like the disciples, when we know He comes in glory this time?

Adventist in Name

Builds a carnal kingdom

Only hears the truth

Mt 7:26, DA 309

Sees no light through darkness

The Desire of Ages, p. 301

Shuns disappointments

Independent, disrespectful

Wars against truth

The Desire of Ages, p. 306

Covers up and closes himself

"Rule them with a rod of iron "

Revelation 19:15

A member for personal advantage

Desires to build his own world

"Mountains, fall on us"

Luke 23:30

Adventist in Nature

Builds the spiritual kingdom

2 Thessalonians 1:10; DA 331

Also practices the truth

Matthew 7:24

Sees light through darkness

The Great Controversy, 349; 406

Presses the battle to the gate

Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, 441

Humble and teachable

The Desire of Ages, 250

Wars against sin

The Desire of Ages, 306

Upright & honest-hearted

The Great Controversy, 317

...But to minister

Matthew 20:28

A member for finishing the work

Desires God's character

"Amen - come, Lord Jesus"

Revelation 22:20

Prophecy Regarding Time

Prophecy Regarding Time

"I saw that some were getting a false excitement, arising from preaching time, that the third angel's message can stand on its own foundation, and that it needs not time to strengthen it, and that it will go with mighty power, and do its work, and will be cut short in righteousness."

Selected Messages vol. 1, p. 188

The Disciples after the Resurrection of Christ

- Acts 1:4-6 – They still connected a carnal kingdom with the promises of Christ
- Acts 1:7 – Jesus told them that it was not for them to know times and seasons which the Father has put in His own authority
- Acts 1:8 – They would understand more, when the Holy Spirit was given to them
- Acts 1:8 – Their work was to be witnesses for Christ

An Explanation of Acts 1:7

- Times = *chronos* = the prophetic time in which it will happen
- Seasons = *kairos* = The precise manner in which it will happen

What understanding did they get at Pentecost?

- They saw the kingdom of God in a new light. They saw that it was a spiritual kingdom
- They soon saw that the message was for the whole world and not Israel merely
- They did not know when the latter rain would come
- They did not know when probationary time would end
- They did not know when Christ would come again

What should we understand today?

- We understand the 1260 year prophecy covering the Middle Ages
- We understand the character of the man of sin
- We understand the character of Antichrist
- We understand that Judgment commenced at the end of 2300 years
- We wait for the Latter Rain, but do not understand when and exactly how it starts

What is the Message of Acts 1:7,8 for us?

- We are not to know times and seasons of future events
- Revelation 10:6 – There is no more “prophetic time” after 1844 (see 7BC 971.7)
- We are not ready to receive that knowledge (John 16:12)
- We know enough to carry out the Lord’s commission
- We will be guided by the foretold signs and by the Holy Spirit when the time comes (Matt. 24:32-33; John 16:13)

The Message from the Spirit of Prophecy

- Danger of undue religious excitement
- Improve the present opportunities
- We are in continual danger of getting above the simplicity of the gospel into a state of spiritual ecstasy
- We shall not set the time either of outpouring of the Holy Spirit or the coming of Christ
- The message does not need to be strengthened by excitement
- We must have our lamps trimmed and burning
- The time of the end of probation is not revealed
- Watch and pray

Has Time-Setting Always Been Wrong?

- Jonah also preached a definite time (Jonah 3:4)
- The message of Oct 22, 1844 was from God (Christian Experience and Teachings, p. 54)
- It pointed to the definite time when the Judgment commenced in heaven
- The disappointment was designed by God for the purification of God's people

Conclusion

- We will not get a message on time any more
- The message has strength (the power of the gospel)
- We will receive more knowledge as the fulfillment of events is taking place (or shortly before)
- We know the character of the kingdom, if we are spiritually minded
- In the last days we will experience disappointment, because of the magnitude of the time of trouble which cannot be foreseen by any message