1. **The Second Coming:**
   * **The blessed hope.**
     + Since Jesus promised to return (John 14:1-3), this has been the hope of all believers to this day (Titus 2:13).
     + What makes the Second Coming of Jesus such an eagerly awaited event?
       1. Signals the end of illness, suffering and death
       2. It means the end of poverty, injustice and oppression
       3. End fights, conflicts and wars
       4. Open the doors to a world of peace, happiness and eternal communion with God
   * **How will Jesus come?**
     + During the 19th century, Protestants distorted the doctrine of the 2nd Coming by teaching that Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom of a thousand years of peace (premillennialism), or that there would be a period of a thousand years of peace before the 2nd Coming (postmillennialism).
     + However, the reformers taught that the millennium would be preceded by the 2nd Coming, and that this would be:
       1. *Literally.* Revelation 22:20
       2. *Visible.* Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:27
       3. *Audible.* 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52
       4. *Glorious.* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55
2. **William Miller:**
   * **How to interpret the Bible.**
     + Based on the words of Isaiah (Is. 28:9-10), William Miller decided to make the Bible his own interpreter.
     + Starting from Genesis, he studied every biblical passage. If its meaning was not clear, he looked for the solution in some other biblical passage.
     + When he came to the prophetic passages, he discovered that the same principle could be applied there as well:
       1. Beasts represent kingdoms (Dan. 7:17, 23)
       2. The winds represent destruction (Jer. 49:36)
       3. Water represents multitudes (Rev. 17:15)
       4. Women represent churches (Ez. 23:4; 2Co. 11:2)
       5. Days are literal years (Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6)
   * **The prophetic time.**
     + Considering that, in Miller's time, the Earth was thought to be the sanctuary, he deduced that the prophecy about its purification (Dan. 8:14) indicated the time of the Second Coming of Jesus.
     + He noted that Gabriel had explained to Daniel all the details of the vision (Dan. 8:20-25), except for the 2,300 days (Dan. 8:26-27).
     + Years later Gabriel was sent again to explain this point to Daniel (Dan. 9:21-23). He explained that there was a certain or “cut off” period, and that it would begin with “the going out of the order to restore and build Jerusalem” (Dan. 9:24-25). If Miller found this order, he would find the beginning of the 2,300 days/years.
   * **The prophecy of the 2,300 days.**
     + In the seventh year of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, an order was issued for Ezra to go to Jerusalem and have sufficient political autonomy to complete the restoration of the city (Ezra 7:7, 11-14, 20-21, 24- 25). It was the year 457 BC
     + As the 70-week prophecy indicates, it took Jerusalem 49 years to be completely rebuilt, and 434 more years passed until the arrival of the Messiah (Dan. 9:25). This calculation places the baptism of Jesus in the year 27 AD, and the end of the 70 weeks in the year 34 AD.
     + Putting the pieces of the prophetic calendar together, Miller concluded that the Second Coming of Jesus would occur sometime in the year 1843 (which he set at 1844).

