

The Great Controversy — Study Guide

(Formally published as Thought Questions and Notes on GREAT CONTROVERSY
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References

References at the end of questions refer to page and paragraph in “Great Controversy.” Thus “19:2” gives reference to paragraph 2 on page 19. Each paragraph is considered a unit and is assigned to the page on which it begins, though it may run over to the following page. Because of a difference in the paging of two current editions—due to the larger number of illustrations in one edition — two sets of references are given. The second reference, in brackets, is to the 1926 and 1927 special and subscription editions. The reader may identify the edition he is using by noting the date of the last copyright registration, which is found on the back of the title page.

Chapter 18 — An American Reformer

1. What traits of character and what circumstances in life qualified William Miller to become a great spiritual leader? 317:1, 2 [363:1, 2]
2. Note: Deism, with its belief in God as the great Cause of the universe, in the duty of men to honor Him by lives of virtue, and in the doctrine of rewards or punishment, denied the Bible as a divine revelation. It held that human reason alone was sufficient to establish religion and to enforce morality. As its inconsistencies became apparent, the movement was short-lived, and its adherents either returned to historic Christianity, or became avowed atheists.
3. Through what steps was Miller led by logical reasoning, to accept Christ as his Saviour and to an ardent love for the Scriptures? What challenge led him to an intensive study of the Bible? 318:2-319:3 [364:2-365:2]
4. What methods of Bible study contributed to the enlightenment of his mind? What neglected books did he study, and with what conclusions? 320:1, 2 [366:1, 2]
5. When did the doctrine of the temporal millennium find entrance into Christian teaching, and with what evil results? What truths regarding the events connected with the second coming of Christ did Miller rediscover? 321:1-323:1 [367:1-369:1]
6. Note: Daniel Whitby (1638-1726), a noted theologian of England, and who wrote many works of a controversial nature, was the first to set forth the view that the Millennium was “not a reign of persons raised from the dead, but of the church flourishing gloriously for a thousand years after the conversion of the Jews,”- “Paraphrase and Commentary of the New Testament,” 1703, Vol. II, 7th ed., p. 687.
7. How was Miller led to look for prophecies that might indicate the times relating to the last days? What prophecy especially seemed to him to reveal the time for the Second Advent? 323:2-324:3 [369:2-370:2]

8. Note: As an aid to fixing in mind the exposition of the 2300 days, it will be helpful for the reader to construct, for his own use, a chronological chart, based upon 326:1-329:2 [371:3-375:2]
9. How many years elapsed between the beginning of Miller's Bible study, and his first public declaration of faith? Into what divisions is this period divided? 329:2-330:2 [376:2-379:2]
10. With what handicaps did he begin his public work, as to age, experience, and self-confidence? How did he secure his appointments? How did the churches at this time relate themselves to his work and teaching? How was he supported financially? 331:2-332:2 [380:2-381:3]
11. The fulfillment of what two prophecies during the time of Miller's preaching gave a remarkable impetus to the Advent movement? 333:1-335:1 [382:1-384:4]
12. How was the work opposed by popular ministers, by the ungodly, and later by the church leaders? What reasonable appeal did Miller make to the churches? 335:3-337:2; 340:2 [385:2-387:2; 390:2]
13. What points of comparison are made between the days of Noah and the last days? 337:3-339:1 [387:3-388:3]
14. What is indicated in the experience of a professed Christian when he does not long for Christ's appearance? 339:2-340:1 [338:4-389:2]
15. Why does Satan endeavor to keep men from studying the book of Revelation, and how successful has he been? 341:2-342:1 [391:1-4]

Chapter 19 — Light Through Darkness

1. What striking illustration is given of the truth that men whom God uses as His instruments to do a special work, often have but a limited conception of His purposes? 344:2, 3 [394:2, 3]
2. Aside from the natural limitations of the human mind, what condition has frequently led to a failure, even by God's servants, to comprehend His messages? 345:1 [395:1]
3. Note the following parallels in the experience of the disciples and those who, prior to 1844, preached the message of the Second Advent:
- (1.) similarity in message;
 - (2.) based upon two portions of same prophetic period;
 - (3.) minds blinded by long established errors;
 - (4.) though correct in time, misapprehension of nature of event;
 - (5.) fulfilled the will of God;
 - (6.) disappointment;
 - (7.) overruled for good;
 - (8.) through prayer and study, led into the light and understanding. 345:1 - 352:3 [395:1-403:3]

4. In what ways did the Advent message and the disappointment test and purify the church? 353:1-354:2 [404:1-405:1]

Chapter 20 — A Great Religious Awakening

1. Analyze the first angel's message of Revelation 14:6, 7, showing the exalted character of the work, the rapidity and the world-wide extent of the movement, and the time when it is due. 355:1-356:2 [407:1-408:3]

2. How does the rise of the Advent movement resemble that of the great reformation in a manner that suggests the divine origin of both? 357:1 [409:1]

3. What converted Jew traveled as a pioneer herald of the Advent message in many countries of Europe, Africa and Asia? What steps marked his progress from Judaism to Protestantism? 357:2-358:1 [409:2-410:2]

4. What views regarding the events connected with Christ's coming was he led to adopt, and how did his computation compare with that of William Miller? How did he meet those who quoted Matthew 24:36, as indicating that the time for the Second Advent could not be known? 359:1-3 [411:1-3]

5. How many years were spent by Wolff in his travels? What recognition was given him by John Quincy Adams? In what countries and among what peoples did he labor? Among what peoples did he find a belief in the second coming of Christ? 360:2-361:1 [412:2-414:1]

6. How early was the message preached in England? In what respect did the movement there differ from that in the United States? How was it influenced by that movement? 362:2 [414:3]

7. Identify and trace the influence of Lacunza, Bengel, Gaussen. Is the plan to reach parents through children, worthy of consideration today? 363:1-366:1 [415:1-418:1]

8. When men failed or were not permitted to preach, what agency did God use (1.) in the temple courts of Jerusalem, in the days of Christ (2.) in the Scandinavian countries? to herald the Advent message 366:2-367:2 [418:2-419:3]

9. What was the relative strength of the ministerial and the laymen's work in the powerful Advent proclamation in America? 368:2 [420:2]

10. May we read, not merely as history, but as a promised future experience, the solemn effects of that message? 369:1-3; cf. 611:1-612:2 [421:1-422:2; cf. 690:1-691:3]

11. The misuse of what words of Christ was and still is used to contradict another plain statement? What is Paul's testimony on this matter? 370:1-372:1 [423:1-424:2]

12. Why was the rejection of the message a willful rejection of divine light, when, as we now know, Miller and his associates were mistaken? What unworthy motive had led

many to accept the message? How were such affected by the disappointment? 373:3-374:2 [427:1-3]

Chapter 21 — A Warning Rejected

1. What was Miller's attitude toward the establishment of a new religious denomination? How did the proclamation of the advent message affect the growth of the churches? 375:1, 2 [429:1, 2]

2. What changed conditions led to the separation of many Adventists from their former churches? 376:1 [430:1]

3. How would the spirituality of the churches logically be affected by the dismissal or withdrawal of such members as loved Christ's appearing? What contemporary testimony corroborates "a sudden and marked" declension in spiritual life? 376:2-377:2 [430:2-451:2]

4. What tragic results follow the deliberate rejection of Bible truth? How is this principle illustrated in the Jewish people in Christ's day, and since? 377:3-378:2 [431:3-432:2]

5. What was the design of the first angel's message, and what blessed results were experienced by those who accepted it? 379:1-3 [433:1-3]

6. What were the reasons that led to a general prejudice against and unbelief in the advent message? What did its rejection involve? 380:1, 2 [434:1, 2]

7. How is the term "Babylon" as used in the book of Revelation, shown to be a Symbol of an unfaithful church? and what Scriptures identify this church with Rome? 381:1-382:3 [434:3-436:2]

8. Who are the "daughters," and what facts show that they are the ones especially referred to in the second angel's message? 382:3-385:1 [436:3-439:1]

9. How do the present standards of the popular churches compare with the ideals of their founders? 385:2-388:1 [439:2-442:3]

10. What is symbolized by the "wine"? How may the Bible be as effectively prohibited by subtlety as by edict? 388:2-389:1 [443:1-3]

11. What is the relation of the announcement of the fall of Babylon in Revelation 14:8 and in chapter 18:4, 5? Do the conditions as they have developed during the half century since this was written confirm the forecast then made? 389:2, 3 [444:1, 2]

12. As we near the climax of the modern apostasy, what hopeful view is given to encourage missionary activity? 390:2, 3 [445:1, 2]