



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, CHAPTER 18A—AN AMERICAN REFORMER

1. What is the title of chapter 18 of *The Great Controversy*? _____
2. Who was the man specially chosen by God to proclaim the second advent of Jesus? _____

An Upright, honest-hearted farmer, who had been led to doubt the divine authority of the Scriptures, yet who sincerely desired to know the truth, was the man specially chosen of God to lead out in the proclamation of Christ's second coming. Like many other reformers, William Miller had in early life battled with poverty and had thus learned the great lessons of energy and self-denial. {GC 317.1}
3. What traits of character did Miller possess that led God to choose him? _____

He had a sound physical constitution, and even in childhood gave evidence of more than ordinary intellectual strength. As he grew older, this became more marked. **His mind was active and well developed, and he had a keen thirst for knowledge.** Though he did not enjoy the advantages of a collegiate education, **his love of study and a habit of careful thought and close criticism rendered him a man of sound judgment and comprehensive views.** He possessed an **irreproachable moral character and an enviable reputation, being generally esteemed for integrity, thrift, and benevolence.** By dint of energy and application he early acquired a competence, though his habits of study were still maintained. He filled various civil and military offices with credit, and the avenues to wealth and honor seemed wide open to him. {GC 317.2}
- 4a. In what society was Miller thrown? What did he formally believe? _____

His mother was a woman of sterling piety, and in childhood, he had been subject to religious impressions. **In early manhood, however, he was thrown into the society of deists, whose influence was the stronger from the fact that they were mostly good citizens and men of humane and benevolent disposition.** Living, as they did, in the midst of Christian institutions, their characters had been to some extent molded by their surroundings. For the excellencies which won them respect and confidence they were indebted to the Bible; and yet these good gifts were so perverted as to exert an influence against the word of God. By association with these men, Miller was led to adopt their sentiments. **The current interpretations of Scripture presented difficulties which seemed to him insurmountable; yet his new belief, while setting aside the Bible,** offered nothing better to take its place, and he remained far from satisfied. {GC 318.1}
- 4b. Note: The belief that God has created the universe but remains apart from it and permits his creation to administer itself through natural laws. Deism thus rejects the supernatural aspects of religion, such as belief in revelation in the Bible, and stresses the importance of ethical conduct. In the eighteenth century, numerous important thinkers held deist beliefs. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/deism>
5. What impression did the Holy Spirit make upon Miller's mind that commenced his journey away from deism? _____

He continued to hold these views, however, for about twelve years. **But at the age of thirty-four the Holy Spirit impressed his heart with a sense of his condition as a sinner. He found in his former belief no assurance of happiness beyond the grave.** The future was dark and gloomy. {GC 318.1}
6. How did Miller study the Bible in the quest to prove that it was inspired? _____

Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded as to leave him free from all embarrassment. **When he found anything obscure, it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any reference to the matter under consideration. Every word was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if his view of it harmonized with every collateral passage, it ceased to be a difficulty.** Thus whenever he met with a passage hard to be understood he found an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures. As he studied with earnest prayer for divine enlightenment, that which had before appeared dark to his understanding was made clear. He experienced the truth of the psalmist's words: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130. {GC 320.1}
7. What prophecy seemed most clearly to reveal the time of the second coming of Jesus? _____

The prophecy which seemed most clearly to reveal the time of the second advent was that of Daniel 8:14: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Following his rule of making Scripture its own interpreter, Miller learned that a day in symbolic prophecy represents a year (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6); he saw that the period of 2300 prophetic days, or literal years, would extend far beyond the close of the Jewish dispensation, hence it could not refer to the sanctuary of that dispensation. {GC 324.3}
8. Where did Miller believe the sanctuary was that had to be cleansed? What did he think the cleansing of the sanctuary meant? _____

Miller accepted the generally received view that in the Christian age the earth is the sanctuary, and he therefore understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary foretold in Daniel 8:14 represented the purification of the earth by fire at the second coming of Christ. If, then, the correct starting point could be found for the 2300 days, he concluded that the time of the second advent could be readily ascertained. Thus would be revealed the time of that great consummation, the time when the present state, with "all its pride and power, pomp and vanity, wickedness and oppression, would come to an end;" when the curse would be "removed from off the earth, death be destroyed, reward be given to the servants of God, the prophets and saints, and them who fear His name, and those be destroyed that destroy the earth."--Bliss, page 76. {GC 324.3}

9. Daniel chapter eight is divided into two parts. Daniel 8:1-14 has symbols and prophecies. Daniel 8:15-27 has the interpretations. Since Gabriel interpreted all the symbols in Daniel chapter eight to the prophet Daniel, except for the 2300 days, Gabriel returned to explain the 2300 days prophecy to Daniel. See Daniel 9:21-23.
10. Consider that the 2300 days prophecy represents prophetic time. Therefore, 2300 days are 2300 years.
11. One day represents one year in Bible prophecy. See Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6.
12. Note: The 2300 days are not literal days but prophetic. To confirm, just read the context of Daniel 8. The first symbols that were shown to Daniel in chapter eight of Daniel were the ram and goat. Respectively they represent the Medes and Persians and Greece. See Daniel 8:5-7, 20,21. Then to Daniel was shown the "little horn." The Bible explains the "little horn" to be the Papacy. Then was shown to Daniel the 2300 days. These symbols were given to Daniel in chronological order. Therefore, the 2300 days must take place after the rise and fall of the ram, the goat, the little horn. 2300 literal days is just six years. However, the Medes and Persians ruled the world from 539 to 331 B.C. The nation of Greece ruled the world centuries after the life of the prophet Daniel from 331 to 168 B.C. The Roman Empire ruled from 168 B.C. to A.D. 476. The Papacy ruled from A.D. 538 to A.D. 1798. This confirms that the "2300 days" represent prophetic time (2300 literal years) based on the context.
13. The first thing that Gabriel tells Daniel is that 70 weeks are determined from the 2300 years, and the 70 prophetic weeks pertain to the Jewish people. The word "determined" means to cut off. See The Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance, number 2852.
14. Note: 70 prophetic weeks represent 490 literal years.
15. What was expected of the Jews during the 70 prophetic weeks or 490 years? Daniel 9:24 _____
16. Both the 2300 years and the 490 years have the same starting date, because the 70 prophetic weeks are a part of the 2300 years.
17. Note: The starting date for both prophecies is the commandment to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. See Daniel 9:25.
18. Note: The king that gave the commandment, the decree for the Jews to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem was Artaxerxes.
19. During what year of king Artaxerxes' reign was the decree given? Ezra 7:7-27 _____
20. According to history king Artaxerxes began his reign in 464 B.C.
"In (Nehemiah 2:1) we have another Artaxerxes. We may safely identify him with Artaxerxes Macrocheir or Longimanus, the son of Xerxes, who reigned 464-425 B.C." Smith's Bible Dictionary <http://biblehub.com/topical/a/artaxerxes.htm>
21. Therefore, Artaxerxes' seventh year as king is 457 B.C.
22. Using 457 B.C. as the starting point for the 70 prophetic weeks or 490 literal years, A.D. 34 is the ending date.
23. Note: Daniel 9:24 states that the Jews had 490 years to put an end to sin as a nation and accept Jesus. However, as a nation they rejected and crucified Jesus. The Jewish nation finally rejected Jesus after the cross, when they stoned Stephen. The stoning of Stephen is the primary event that shows that probation closed on the Jews.
24. What did Stephen say to the Jewish leaders and what did Stephen see in heaven while they were stoning him to death? Acts 7:51-56 _____
25. Note: Jesus sat at the right hand of the Father after His ascension. See Acts 2:32-34; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 10:12.
26. Note: Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father means that He is interceding for His people. See Romans 8:34.
27. However, when Jesus was seen by Stephen "standing at the right hand" the context tells us that probation closed on the Jewish people.
28. The following scriptures confirm that Jesus standing up or rising up represents judgment and the close of probation. See Luke 13:24-28; James 5:9 and Ezekiel 9:3-6 (the phrase "gone up" means to the Lord rose up or stood up.)
29. Note: Stephen was stoned to death in the year A.D. 34
"On Dec. 26, the universal Church commemorates the death of St. Stephen in 34 A.D., the first man to give his life in witness to the faith. He is sometimes referred to as the 'protomartyr.'" <http://www.catholicnews herald.com/faith/190-news/faith/faith-dec/142-st-stephen-the-first-martyr-remembered-dec-26>
30. Therefore, A.D. 34 is the completion of the 70 prophetic weeks or 490 literal years.
31. Since we have the correct starting date for the 2300 years, the sanctuary would begin to be cleansed, the investigative judgment would begin at the ending of the period.
32. Note: The Bible says that there would be 69 prophetic weeks or 483 literal years, from 457 B.C., then the Messiah would come.
33. Note: The word Messiah means "the anointed one." See The Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance, number 4899.
34. Note: Jesus is the Messiah; He was anointed by God at His baptism. See John 1:29-36, 40 and 41; John 4:24-26; Acts 10:36-38.
- 35a. Note: Using 457 B.C. as the starting point, go 483 years in the future; you will arrive at A.D. 27. This is the date of Jesus' baptism.
- 35b. Note: Sixty-nine prophetic weeks or 483 literal years from 457 B.C. brings us to A.D. 27, Jesus' baptism. Daniel 9:27 says that Jesus would confirm the covenant with His people for one prophetic week or seven literal years. A.D. 27 to A.D. 34 is seven literal years.
- 35c. Note: In the middle of the one prophetic week or seven literal years, Jesus would be crucified. As the Lamb of God, Jesus, was crucified on the day of Passover. Passover was always held during the Spring of the year.
36. Note: The following is one way to prove that Jesus' baptism took place in A.D. 27. In Matthew 2:1-16, we read that the wise men from the East went to Jerusalem to inquire of the birth of Jesus. They finally were led by the Star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. Herod sent forth a decree to kill all the male children in Bethlehem and in the coasts thereof from two years old and under. Consider the fact that nine times in Matthew 2:8-21 that Bible calls Jesus a "young child." The word "young" means an infant. See The Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance, number 3813. Matthew could have used other words in the place of "young," but he chose the greek word that means "infant." The age of an infant child ranges from newborn to 1 year old. Jesus was called a young child or an infant before he was brought into Egypt by Joseph and Mary. See Matthew 2:8-15. Additionally, Jesus was still called a young child, an infant, after the death of Herod and His return to Nazareth of Galilee. See Matthew 2:19-21.

37. Note: Herod died in the year 4 B.C. "The life of Herod the Great (B.C. 73–B.C. 4) —king of ancient Judea—was the stuff of legend, but the cause of his grisly death more than 2,000 years ago has been a mystery." http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/01/0128_020128_KingHerod.html

38. Note: Jesus was about 30 years old when he was baptized by John the Baptist. See Luke 3:21-23. Subtract 4 B.C. from 30 and the answer is 26. From B.C. to A.D., one must be added. Therefore, 4 B.C. is the starting date. Go 30 years in the future, then you will arrive at A.D. 27. Jesus' baptism is A.D. 27.

39. Additional proof that Jesus was only a few months old when the death decree for all male children two years and under was issued by Herod, is in the account of Moses. Read Acts 7:17-21. Consider that Moses was three months old at the crisis when the Hebrew parents casted out their "young children." The word "young" means babe and infant. See The Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance, number 1025.

40. Note: A.D. 27 begins the final one prophetic week of Daniel 9:27. This means that Jesus would confirm the covenant for seven literal years, beginning in A.D. 27, His baptism. Jesus was crucified in the middle of the week. The middle of the week was the Spring of A.D. 31. The Passover lamb was slain in the Spring annually. Therefore, the baptism of Jesus took place in the Autumn of A.D. 27. And the stoning of Stephen took place in the Autumn of A.D. 34.

41a. Note: The following is another point to confirm that the baptism of Jesus took place in the year of A.D. 27. In John 1:29-36, 40 and 41 Jesus was baptized. This date as mentioned before is A.D. 27. Jesus attended the first Passover feast after His baptism, which was only a few months afterwards. See John 2:13. At this Passover feast, there was a conversation between Jesus and the Jews. It was told to Jesus that the temple building had been in renovation for 46 years. See John 2:18-21. Herod, the great, began the renovation of the Jewish temple between 20 and 19 B.C., according to history.

41b. "In the eighteenth year (20-19 B.C.) of his reign Herod rebuilt the Temple on a more magnificent scale. There are many evidences that he shared the passion for building by which many powerful men of that time were moved. He had adorned many cities and had erected many heathen temples; and it was not fitting that the temple of his capital should fall beneath these in magnificence. Probably, also, one of his motives was to placate the more pious of his subjects, whose sentiments he had often outraged." <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14304-temple-of-herod>

<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/temple-at-jerusalem/the-temple-mount-in-the-herodian-period/>

42. Note: Using 19 B.C. as your starting point, go forward 46 years in the future; you will arrive at A.D. 28. The Passover feast of John 2:13 would have been in A.D. 28 Spring, because Passover is always held in the Spring of the year.

43a. Since we have the correct starting date for the 2300 years, which is 457 B.C., the Heavenly Sanctuary would begin to be cleansed, the investigative judgment would begin at the ending of the period, namely the Autumn of 1844.

43b. Note: William Miller and his associates preached prophetic time that led to the opening of the Investigative Judgment, the Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary. The Lord's messengers must repeat that message. Additionally, they must preach the closing of the Investigative Judgment, the Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary, based on the fulfillment of prophetic events.

43c. Note: The following shows us that the close of the Investigative Judgment is near. The Mark of the Beast crisis shows the second coming of Jesus is near. See Revelation 14:9-16.

44. "This time is right upon us. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth. When the angel of mercy folds her wings and departs, Satan will do the evil deeds he has long wished to do. Storm and tempest, war and bloodshed,—in these things he delights, and thus he gathers in his harvest. And so completely will men be deceived by him that they will declare that these calamities are the result of the desecration of the first day of the week. From the pulpits of the popular churches will be heard the statement that the world is being punished because Sunday is not honored as it should be. And it will require no great stretch of imagination for men to believe this. They are guided by the enemy, and therefore they reach conclusions which are entirely false. — {RH September 17, 1901 Par. 9}"

45. #237. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world...It [Sunday] protects human action from becoming empty activism; it [Sunday] also prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation which make us seek personal gain to the detriment of all else. The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day...[See Ex 23:12]. Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

46. "In order to fulfill my solemn duty to protect America and its citizens, the United States will withdraw from the Paris climate accord but begin negotiations to reenter either the Paris accord or an entirely new transaction under terms that are fair to the United States," Trump said from the White House Rose Garden. "We're getting out. And we will start to renegotiate and we'll see if there's a better deal. If we can, great. If we can't, that's fine," he added. In triggering the official withdrawal procedures, Trump will spark a lengthy process that won't conclude until November 2020 — the same month he's up for reelection, ensuring the issue becomes a major topic of debate in the next presidential contest. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/01/trump-announces-paris-climate-agreement-decision.html>

47. "Pelosi: Trump Dishonored God By Walking Away From Paris Accord" **Faith leaders, starting with the Holiness Pope Francis, to the evangelical community, have urged us** to be responsible stewards of the beauty of God's creation. They believe as you live that this planet is God's creation and **we have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of it.** "When the pope went to the White House, he talked about the dangers of air pollution when he was here. Just last week, the pope met with President Trump and gave him a copy of his encyclical, which made the strong case to halt the climate crisis. **The pope wrote the climate is a common good belonging to all and meant for all. The Bible tells us to minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship. To ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us and that is what we are doing by walking away from this accord.**" <http://www.breitbart.com/video/2017/06/02/pelosi-trump-dishonored-god-walking-away-paris-accord/>

48. The 21st century presents no greater moral challenge than addressing the threat of human-caused climate change. President Donald Trump has utterly failed that test... This decision is wrong in the sense that it is evil—it will result in devastation to life on Earth for generations to come. Its global consequences and impact on every living being on the planet makes it fundamentally immoral. His failure, however, only increases the responsibility of others. If this President fails, it falls then to the people and their elected representatives to reject, reverse, and overcome it. The Parliament is committed to that reversal and to overcoming its consequences as well as the ignorance on which it is based. We call on others who cherish all that is sacred in our world to join in that commitment, and to endorse that commitment with their own words and their own actions. <https://parliamentofreligions.org/blog/2017-06-01-1507/parliament-world%E2%80%99s-religions-condemns-president-trump%E2%80%99s-plans-withdraw-paris>

Most Americans want 'aggressive' action on climate change: Reuters/Ipsos poll <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/06/most-americans-want-aggressive-action-on-climate-change-reutersipsos-poll.html>

247 mayors adopt Paris climate accord after U.S. pulls out (updated) <https://www.curbed.com/2017/6/1/15726376/paris-accord-climate-change-mayors-trump>

Cities light up green in support of Paris climate agreement <https://www.curbed.com/2017/6/2/15729682/paris-climate-agreement-cities-green-lights>

Mike Bloomberg doubles down to ensure America will fulfill the Paris Agreement <https://www.bloomberg.org/press/releases/bloomberg-philanthropies-commits-15-million-fill-budget-gap-left-trumps-revoking-us-support-un-climate-treaty/>

Jerry Brown Plays President; Signs Climate Deal with China <http://www.breitbart.com/california/2017/06/07/jerry-brown-plays-president-signs-climate-deal-china/>

49. Note: Read Revelation 13:3,4

Pentecost pope affirms charismatic renewal as 'current of grace' <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/06/05/pentecost-pope-affirms-charismatic-renewal-current-grace/>

Pope sees Charismatic Renewal as key force in ecumenism <https://international.la-croix.com/news/pope-sees-charismatic-renewal-as-key-force-in-ecumenism/5296>

Pope on Pentecost: Division isn't from the Holy Spirit... **On Pentecost Sunday, Pope Francis said that division doesn't come from the Holy Spirit, who forms the universal Church with both unity and diversity – and we must pray to resist the temptation to encourage division.** The Holy Spirit creates diversity in unity, Pope Francis said June 4, because in every time and place he gives and nurtures different charisms and graces. And he does so in a way that “effects true union, according to God's will, a union that is not uniformity, but unity in difference.” But there are two temptations we must avoid in order to receive these graces, he warned. **One is the temptation to seek diversity without unity, which is what happens when we take sides or get locked in our own way of doing things, perhaps even thinking that we are better than other people or always in the right. “When this happens, we choose the part over the whole, belonging to this or that group before belonging to the Church,”** he said. “We become avid supporters for one side, rather than brothers and sisters in the one Spirit. We become Christians of the ‘right’ or the ‘left,’ before being on the side of Jesus.” <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-on-pentecost-division-isnt-from-the-holy-spirit-89032/>

50. The ancient ruined stadium, where chariots were once raced and early Christians martyred, was packed with Catholic Charismatics from all corners of the globe, who had come at the invitation of Pope Francis to celebrate their Golden Jubilee and this great Church feast with him. <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/06/07/at-the-charismatic-pentecost-vigil-i-realised-what-unity-truly-means/>

Pope: May the Holy Spirit give peace to the world and heal war and terrorism wounds... **“May the Spirit give peace to the whole world and heal the wounds of war and terrorism.”** <http://www.romereports.com/2017/06/05/pope-may-the-holy-spirit-give-peace-to-the-world-and-heal-war-and-terrorism-wounds>

51. What doctrine did Miller first declare was erroneous? Why was this teaching dangerous? _____

Taking the manner in which the prophecies had been fulfilled in the past as a criterion by which to judge of the fulfillment of those which were still future, **he became satisfied that the popular view of the spiritual reign of Christ—a temporal millennium before the end of the world—was not sustained by the word of God. This doctrine, pointing to a thousand years of righteousness and peace before the personal coming of the Lord, put far off the terrors of the day of God. But, pleasing though it may be, it is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His apostles...** {GC 321.1}


These and other scriptures clearly proved to Miller's mind that the events which were generally expected to take place before the coming of Christ, **such as the universal reign of peace and the setting up of the kingdom of God upon the earth,** were to be subsequent to the second advent. {GC 323.1}

52. Pope Francis appeals for 'One Minute for Peace' initiative... **Pope Francis has appealed for prayers and international participation in the “One Minute for Peace” initiative to be held Thursday, 8 June, at 1:00 PM Rome time.** He said the initiative represents “a short moment of prayer on the recurrence of the meeting in the Vatican between me, the late Israeli President Peres, and the Palestinian President Abbas”. Their encounter took place in the Vatican Gardens on 8 June 2014, during which the three men prayed together for peace. **The Holy Father said, “In our days, there is a great need to pray – Christians, Jews, and Muslims – for peace.”** http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/06/07/pope_francis_appeals_for_%E2%80%98one_minute_for_peace%E2%80%99_initiative/1317386

53. “Former Israeli President Shimon Peres has said that **Pope Francis is more powerful than the United Nation** when it comes to advocating peace. While visiting the Vatican earlier today, Mr Peres asked Pope Francis to head a parallel United Nations called the ‘United Religions’ to counter religious extremism in the world today. Peres said the United Nations and its peacekeepers ‘do not have the force or the effectiveness of any one of the Pope’s homilies...’ ‘So given that the United Nations has run its course, what we need is an **organization of United Religions.**’ Mr Peres said, as ‘the best way to counteract these terrorists who kill in the name of their faith.’ ‘What we need is an **unquestionable moral authority** who says out loud, ‘No...’” <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2014/09/04/shimon-peres-pope-francis-is-a-more-powerful-peace-advocate-than-un/>

54. "Pope Francis: Read Robert Hugh Benson's Lord of the World to understand me" <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/pope-francis-read-robert-hugh-bensons-lord-of-the-world-to-understand-me/story-fnb64oi6-1227201899230?sv=edbde7ebdcd792cc409bb5635500cac8>

55. **The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable.** Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, **and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism.** Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. **Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.** {GC 588.3}

People around the globe stop for a minute of prayer for peace...In India, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, and his entire staff stopped at 4:30 pm local time to join the pope in prayer...Even popstar Miley Cyrus asked her 68 million followers on Instagram to join the pope in prayer, saying "This sounds like a great idea! Let's dooooo it!  this might just change everythiiiiing!"

June 8 was chosen because it was the third anniversary of the 2014 meeting the pope held in the Vatican Gardens with late Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The Argentine Bishops' Conference put out a statement saying the anniversary of the event was chosen because that is **where the the three men "prayed to invoke the gift of peace, and tear down the walls of enmity."** <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2017/06/08/people-around-globe-stop-minute-prayer-peace/>

56. How many years did Miller spend in studying the Scriptures? How many years did he delay before proclaiming the truth of Daniel 8:14?

But at the age of **thirty-four** the Holy Spirit impressed his heart with a sense of his condition as a sinner. {GC 318.1} **Five years spent thus left him fully convinced of the correctness of his position.** {GC 329.3} **For nine years he waited,** the burden still pressing upon his soul, until in 1831 he for the first time publicly gave the reasons of his faith. {GC 330.2} He was now **fifty years of age,** unaccustomed to public speaking, and burdened with a sense of unfitness for the work before him. But from **the first his labors** were blessed in a remarkable manner to the salvation of souls. {GC 331.2}

57. What words continually rang in Miller's ear? Ezekiel 33:8,9

And now the duty of making known to others what he believed to be so clearly taught in the Scriptures, urged itself with new force upon him. "When I was about my business," he said, **"it was continually ringing in my ears, 'Go and tell the world of their danger.' This text was constantly occurring to me:** "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." **Ezekiel 33:8, 9.** I felt that if the wicked could be effectually warned, multitudes of them would repent; and that if they were not warned, their blood might be required at my hand."--Bliss, page 92. **The words were ever recurring to his mind: "Go and tell it to the world; their blood will I require at thy hand."** For nine years he waited, the burden still pressing upon his soul, until in 1831 he for the first time publicly gave the reasons of his faith. {GC 330.1}

58. Who were converted as Miller preached the prophecy of Daniel 8:14?

But from the first his labors were blessed in a remarkable manner to the salvation of souls. **His first lecture was followed by a religious awakening in which thirteen entire families, with the exception of two persons, were converted.** He was immediately urged to speak in other places, and in nearly every place his labor resulted in a revival of the work of God. **Sinners were converted. Christians were roused to greater consecration, and deists and infidels were led to acknowledge the truth of the Bible and the Christian religion.** The testimony of those among whom he labored was: "A class of minds are reached by him not within the influence of other men."--Ibid., page 138. **His preaching was calculated to arouse the public mind to the great things of religion and to check the growing worldliness and sensuality of the age.** {GC 331.2}

59. What impact did Miller's preaching have on the cities and the communities?

In nearly every town there were scores, in some, hundreds, converted as a result of his preaching. In many places Protestant churches of nearly all denominations were thrown open to him, and the invitations to labor usually came from the ministers of the several congregations. It was his invariable rule not to labor in any place to which he had not been invited, yet he soon found himself unable to comply with half the requests that poured in upon him. Many who did not accept his views as to the exact time of the second advent were convinced of the certainty and nearness of Christ's coming and their need of preparation. **In some of the large cities his work produced a marked impression. Liquor dealers abandoned the traffic and turned their shops into meeting rooms; gambling dens were broken up; infidels, deists, Universalists, and even the most abandoned profligates were reformed, some of whom had not entered a house of worship for years. Prayer meetings were established by the various denominations, in different quarters, at almost every hour, businessmen assembling at midday for prayer and praise.** There was no extravagant excitement, but an almost universal solemnity on the minds of the people. **His work, like that of the early Reformers, tended rather to convince the understanding and arouse the conscience than merely to excite the emotions.** {GC 331.3}