
Looking Back, Looking Forward . . .

1. How far back can you remember anything?

For my 5th birthday my brother made me a #5 that I could hang around my neck; I was so proud of myself! I was turning 5! I strutted around like a peacock with my #5 around my neck!

2. Have you ever really looked forward to something?

Key Discovery and Bible Text: Daniel 8:14

Context - Vertical Expansion (beyond geo-politics): "And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down *some* of the host and *some* of the stars to the ground, and trampled them" (v10) . . . "And he said to me, 'For 2300 days, then shall the sanctuary be **cleansed**' (Dan 8:14 NKJV); from Hebrew: : וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי עַד עֶרֶב בִּקְרַר אֶלְפִים וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת וּנְצִדֶּקָה קִדָּשׁ

The translation "cleansed" has been heavily debated, but notice the confirming choice of the Septuagint translators: "Ἐως ἑσπέρας καὶ πρωὶ ἡμέραι δισχιλία τριακόσια, καὶ **καθαρισθήσεται** τὸ ἅγιον.

Principle: When God cleanses a place, He wants to cleanse His people!

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Also note: the word "days" is actually "evening morning" in Hebrew - a fit reminder of the days in Genesis, and thus a comforting confirmation that **God's judgments are always re-creations!**

Miller's Method: Slow and Steady

Originally Miller suggested the possibility of a Fall return of Jesus (*Signs of the Times*, May 17, 1843). His Bible study method: slow and steady.

SC 90: "There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times. **But there is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained.** . . . Scripture must be compared with scripture. There must be careful research and prayerful reflection. And such study will be richly repaid. As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth,

so will he who perseveringly searches the word of God as for hid treasure find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker. The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the fountain of life."

Facts & Feelings

S. S. Snow: "The important point in this type is the completion of the reconciliation at the coming of the high priest out of the holy place. The high priest was a type of Jesus our High Priest; the most holy place a type of heaven itself; and the coming out of the high priest a type of the coming of Jesus the second time to bless his waiting people. As this was on the tenth day of the 7th month, so on that day Jesus will certainly come, because not a single point of the law is to fail. All must be fulfilled."

George Storrs, *Bible Examiner*, September 24, 1844, "Go Ye Out to Meet Him": "I take up my pen with feelings such as I never before experienced. Beyond a doubt . . . The tenth day of the seventh month, will witness the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven. We are then within a few days of that event."

Miller: "I see a glory in the seventh month which I never saw before" (Letter to Joshua V. Himes October 6, 1844, from Low Hampton; Miller didn't know at the time that Himes had accepted the October 22 date as well!).

"I am almost home. Glory! Glory!! Glory!!! . . . My soul is so full I cannot write. . . . My doubts, and fears, and darkness, are all gone. I see that we are yet right. God's Word is true; and my soul is full of joy; my heart is full of gratitude to God. Oh, how I wish I could shout. But I will shout when the 'King of kings comes.'"

Look Mom, Jesus!

In the mid-90s my wife worked for several education professors at Andrews University. One day a mom came with her two children to see one of the professors who had a picture of Jesus' Second Coming hanging on the wall. The older sister pointed out the picture and said, "Look, Mom, Jesus!" The little boy didn't know his sister had pointed at the picture on wall. Instead he pointed out the window and exclaimed, "Look, Mom, Jesus!"

Christianity has waited for 2,000 years now. The successors of the Millerites 177 years (2021 dating).

How (long) can we say that Jesus is coming back soon?!

The ultimate irony: The delay has made many Christians complacent, but when He comes it will be too soon for many people and then it will be too late for most people!

May we live every day, every moment, with the childlike faith and excitement of . . .

LOOK MOM, JESUS!

The Great (Dis)appointment

What has been your greatest disappointment in life?

Are there some disappointments you don't want to mention? Too painful? Too embarrassing? Too hurtful? How well have you recovered from them? *How* did you recover from them? Which ones have you not recovered from? Does God view your disappointments the same way you do? Have some disappointments turned out to be a blessing in disguise?

When I was 11 or 12 I wanted a parrot so bad. My parents could drop me off at the pet store, get their shopping done, and pick me up an hour later. I'd just stand there and stare at that blue hyacinth yellow Ara Ara. It was a difficult decision: Ara Ara or Cockatoo?! (It was kinda like Mac or PC, Canon or Nikon, Mercedes or BMW?). I never got a parrot. A friend let us take care of their parakeet for a week. It was a long week and one week enough. What a mess, and oh the screeching, and then he escaped from his cage and fluttered all over my room (making even more of a mess), and almost escaped out the window! *No parrot!*

What has been your greatest disappointment?

Disappointed in Jesus?!

The disciples experienced their share of disappointments with Jesus. Can you imagine walking with Jesus and then whispering your disappointment in the evening to James and John, where Jesus "couldn't hear you" - but when He returned from prayer He knew exactly what you had been talking about (like your mother has eyes on the back of her head)?

Think about it:

- **No king:** He didn't declare Himself king, although He had the perfect opportunity to do so. The crowds were ready, the disciples were ready, Judas was ready, the time was ripe. But nothing. *What is He waiting for?!*
- **Not fair:** He healed people who deserved to suffer - and die. The paralytic - come on! And touching lepers? Why?
- **Not making sense:** The Sermon from the Mount . . . I don't get it. I mean, blessed are the poor, the mourning, the meek? That's a bit backwards, don't you think?
- **Not smart:** The Samaritan woman . . . What was Jesus doing?! His reputation?! And what a waste of time; after all, she would never become a disciple!
- **Not safe:** His take on Sabbath was a bit different, too, don't you think? At one point His claim to Lordship over the Sabbath lead to the death penalty (Mt 12)!
- **No future:** Death. Unbelievable. Jesus dead. There went 3.5 years, and this is how it ends?! So much potential, and all just - poof - gone. Back to the nets and boats, I suppose. Back to fishing for fish. Back to Emmaus. Devastating. And embarrassing.

October 23, 1844: The Millerites went through such an experience. Rev 10 calls it sweet in the mouth, bitter in the belly. Bitter just for the ridicule they experienced:

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "the world still hangs fire. The old planet is still on the track, notwithstanding the efforts to 'stop 'er.' The 'believers' in this city, after being up a few nights watching and making noises like serenading Tom cats, have now gone to bed and concluded to take a snooze. We hope they will wake up *rational beings!*" (Emphasis original)

Henry Edmonds: "I waited all Tuesday [October 22] and dear Jesus did not come,-I waited all 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" (*Day-Star* Oct. 25, 1845, p. 6).

Josiah Litch to William Miller and Joshua V. Homes, Oct. 24, 1844: "It is a cloudy and dark day here - the sheep are scattered - and the Lord has not come yet."

Hiram Edson: "we wept, and wept, till the day dawn" (Doc. 20, Hiram Edson manuscript fragment)

Of course, the corn field vision did much to help the pioneers continue in their faith, along with the prophetic mandate of Rev 10:11: "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Here is how the disciples recovered in Luke 24 . . . **impressions without expressions lead to depressions!**

Illustration: Hammer on metal bowl

1. **24:17 - Exploration of Facts:** "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" no answer! Intentional personal dialogues require time for trust to develop!
2. **24:19 - Expression of Feelings:** "What things?"
3. **24:25-27 - Explanation of Facts:** "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ tho have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."
4. **24:32 - Restoration of Feelings:** "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" Verse 32
5. **24:50-53 - Return to the Mission** despite Jesus' absence again: "And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen."

*Impression without Expression leads to Depression, but . . .
Expression after Impression cancels Depression!*

And then, maybe we can lead just one more person to say, Look Mom, Jesus!