

Local Church



William Miller was considered a mad man when he put God first. Even then, he didn't give up. What can we learn from William Miller today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

He was a man of integrity who could not bring himself to believe the Bible to be true. But, after an unexplainable event during his time at war, Williams Miller's worldview was shattered. He asked himself, "If the laws of nature are the only possible forces acting in the universe, how did I not die when the bomb exploded so close to me?"

He decided to start a deep study of scripture. Back at his farm in Whitehall, New York, Miller committed to reading and understanding the Bible, one verse at a time. This endeavour took him two years—1816 to 1818—during which time he absolutely fell in love with his saviour, Jesus Christ.

One of the most significant discoveries Williams Miller made during this time was the prophecy of the 2300 "evenings and mornings" found in Daniel 8:14. The prophecy foretold a significant event to take place about 1843 or 1844 and he was compelled to share this knowledge with as many people as he could. However, he was not a preacher and refused to do it.

As the Holy Spirit kept impressing him to tell others what he had discovered, he asked God to be abundantly clear in this calling. If someone would ask him to share these findings, it would be a sign between him and God that he should do it. Less than an hour later, a family member arrived at the farm to ask him to share his findings.

At first, Miller was upset because God had sent this invitation immediately. But he was the kind of man who kept his word. That day Williams Miller put God first and started preaching this beautiful message that God had not abandoned the world and would soon do something great.

His preaching led to a great disappointment on October 22, 1844. Hundreds of thousands of people expected Jesus to return that day—but Jesus didn't. Instead, He started His ministry in the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary. It was from this disappointment that God called the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Today Seventh-day Adventists are preaching the good news of the soon coming of Jesus in more than 200 countries. Millions of people are now hopeful because of Miller's determination to put God first.

William Miller put God first, even when he was laughed at. His courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.

Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.