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The Investigative Judgment of Seventh-day Adventism Is the Seventh-day Adventist Church a Cult?

by J. Greg Sheryl

Disappointment is a bitter pill to swallow. When it is too painful to accept, a person might enter a state of denial, refusing to believe that the disappointment has occurred. With God's help, the person *can* face reality and move on. But not everyone moves on.

Seventh-day Adventism grew out of an event called the "Great Disappointment," which happened after William Miller, an American 19th-century Baptist preacher, predicted the Second Coming of Christ, first in 1843, and then again in 1844.¹ Miller based his dates on his understanding of Daniel 8:14 and 9:24-27.²

Adherents to Millerism were estimated to have ranged from 30,000 to 100,000.³ Members of various main-line denominations were part of the Millerite movement.

When Christ did not return on the second predicted date (Oct. 22, 1844),

Miller's followers were disappointed and disillusioned. One Millerite, Hiram Edson, wrote:

"Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before. It seemed that the loss of all earthly friends could have been no comparison. We wept, and wept, till the day dawn."⁴

Miller himself declined to set any further dates for the Second Advent. He died a few years later. However, some followers struggled to understand what went wrong. Some returned to their former churches. Others formed new denominations, none of which grew and flourished as much as the Seventh-day Adventist church.

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