

Miller to proclaim his message on the second coming in the big cities so that the people there would also have an opportunity to repent before the second coming of Christ took place, and all unrepentant sinners were destroyed. Therefore, Mr. Himes invited Mr. Miller to lecture in his church. Mr. Miller consented, and this marked the beginning of the proclamation of Mr. Miller's message on the second coming in the big cities. From then on Mr. Miller lectured both in big cities and in rural communities.

Finally, the time came in which Mr. Miller said Jesus would come back to earth. However, Jesus did not come. This caused some of the Millerites to reject Mr. Miller's message on the second coming, but the rest of the Millerites still believed it. These Millerites frankly admitted that a mistake was made in setting the date for the second coming, but they pointed out that the Bible taught that Jesus would go through a tarrying time before He came back to earth. One of the main passages of scripture on which they based this teaching was Matthew 25:5 where we read, "while the bridegroom tarried, they (the ten virgins) all slumbered and slept."¹⁴ The Millerites said that this tarrying time began at the very same time in which Mr. Miller said Jesus would come back to earth. They said that the last day of the time in which Mr. Miller said Jesus would come was March 21, 1844 A.D. Therefore, they said that this tarrying time began at that time. They said that this tarrying time would continue until the time for the second coming came, and then Jesus would come back to earth as Mr. Miller said.

During this tarrying time the Millerites diligently studied the Bible in order to find the mistake which was made in setting the date for the second coming. As a result of this Bible study, they said that the mistake was to date the beginning of the 2,300 years in Daniel 8:14 from the Spring in-

¹⁴Matt. 25:5.