

the thought, "If He doesn't come." In almost breathless anxiety they assembled at places of worship, expecting momentarily to hear "the voice of the Archangel" and "the trump of God," and to see Jesus their King coming to take them home.<sup>19</sup>

However, that day passed and Jesus did not come. The Millerites were greatly disappointed. Therefore, the failure of Jesus to come on that day is spoken of as "The Great Disappointment of 1844 A.D."

As a result of that disappointment, many of the Millerites gave up their belief in the soon coming of Christ and in the prophetic interpretation of the Millerite movement. However, some of the Millerites maintained these beliefs, even though Jesus still had not come. Out of this group there emerged three groups which later united to form the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

The first group was headed by Mr. Hiram Edson. Mr. Edson was from Western New York, and he was a devout Millerite. On the morning of October 23, 1844 A.D. which was the morning after the "Great Disappointment," Mr. Edson and his friend, Mr. O. R. L. Crosier, were on their way home. In order to avoid the mocking gazes and taunts of their neighbors, they cut across a cornfield near Port Gibson, New York. As they silently walked across that cornfield, they thought about the great disappointment which they had experienced the previous day. Suddenly Mr. Edson stopped, lifted his face toward Heaven, and prayed for light. An overwhelming conviction then came upon him that the sanctuary in Daniel 8:14 was not the earth, but that it was the sanctuary in Heaven, and that Jesus had entered the second apartment of that sanctuary to perform a special work before coming back to earth. I quote Mr. Edson's own words. He said:

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 28.