



Lesson 56

Millerite History part 2

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In part 1 of this series on Millerite history, we looked at the structure of the Alpha history of Modern Israel. We saw that Millerite history only had two fractals, one for the church and one for the world. In part 2 of this series, we'll look at some of the external events in Millerite history, beginning in 1619.

Pre 1798

1619- the first slave ship

The colonies that made up the first states of the United States existed long before 1798. Before that year you can see the main issue that is found in Millerite history. In 1619, the first representative government was formed in America. It operated from late July to early August. It was called the General Assembly and it was in the colony of Virginia. That government was made up of the governor, his 4 councilors, and 22 other men chosen by the people (specifically the free white men). Their job was to make laws for the colony. On August 20th of that same year the first ship (an English ship called the White Lion) arrived in Virginia carrying around 20 slaves which were sold for supplies. The slaves on that ship had actually been captured from a Portuguese ship that had kidnapped them from their home in Africa. They were the first enslaved Africans in the colonies; the subject of slavery existed long before 1798 and it was the main external issue in Millerite history. These are two important things (a representative government and slavery) that happened in America in 1619.

The First Great Awakening

The First Great Awakening was a series of Christian revivals that swept through Britain and America. It took place from the 1730's to the 1770's. It came during a time when religion was becoming less and less popular and people began to stop going to church. It was the time of The Enlightenment- which made religion less appealing to people. Preachers during the First Great Awakening covered many topics, but two major ones were repentance and forgiveness of sin. They said that people should have a personal connection with God. The great awakening took place primarily among the Dutch Reformed, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Baptists, some Anglicans, and Calvinists. Those who accepted it were called "new lights" and those who didn't were called "old lights". This awakening separated America into liberal and conservative.

1793- the first Fugitive Slave Law

The Fugitive Slave Law was an important external event that took place in 1793. On February 12, 1793, the Second United States Congress enacted the first Fugitive Slave Law. The law applied part of article 4 of the Constitution which said "No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due." Basically, the Fugitive Slave Law allowed slave owners to capture their escaped slaves, whether they were in a free state or not. This law caused an up roar in the North. They rightly claimed that this law was legalizing kidnaping. For

the most part, in the North, the law wasn't kept. The North passed laws that gave runaways the right to a trial, and most importantly, they organized the Underground Railroad: a network that helped slaves escape to free states or Canada. The North's disregard of the law enraged Southerners and eventually led to another Fugitive Slave Law fifty-seven years later. So in 1793, the first Fugitive Slave Law was passed- this was an important external event in Millerite history.

1798

William Bentley and Jedidiah Morse

Out of the First Great Awakening two parts of Protestantism emerged: conservative Protestantism and liberal Protestantism; liberal Protestantism was new. Two important people on those two sides were William Bentley and Jedidiah Morse. Jedidiah Morse was a prominent pastor and a geographer. He was very conservative- he supported the traditional views of Christianity and a literal reading of the Bible. He, and other conservatives, thought that the states were becoming too immoral; they thought that it was the role of the church (and therefore the pastors) to keep everyone moral. Morse had no problem with combining church and state because he was a conservative, and he believed that the success of the United States was dependent on it listening to pastors like himself. William Bentley was a liberal pastor who lived at the same time as Jedidiah Morse. He (and other liberals) didn't agree with the conservatives' view of the role of the church. William Bentley was opposed to Morse. These two pastors (Morse and Bentley) represented the two sides of Protestantism in the early Millerite history: conservatism and liberalism.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were two politicians in the Millerite history. Adams was the second President of the United States and Jefferson was his Vice President. It was nearly impossible for them to work together because Adams was a conservative while Jefferson was a liberal. He was supported by liberal Protestants while Adams was supported by conservative Protestants. If Jefferson and Adams were so opposed to one another, how did he become his Vice President? Back in that time, the Vice President was the person who won the second most electoral college votes. That person was Jefferson, so he became a conservative's Vice President. In 1798, John Adams passed the Alien and Sedition Acts which made it harder for people to become citizens and easier for him to deport "aliens". Jefferson was opposed to this act. In fact, during Adam's entire presidency, Jefferson continuously sought to undermine his actions. That was the state of the United States in the Millerite history.

May 9, 1798- National Fast day

May 9, 1798 was a turning point in Protestantism. John Adams was facing opposition to his presidency so on March 23, 1798, he scheduled a national day of fasting to take place on May 9th. On May 9th, Jedidiah Morse gave a speech. He talked about immorality and how everyone needs to repent, but then he says something different. He begins to talk about the people in opposition to the conservative political and religious parties. He claims that the liberals are under the control of the Bavarian Illuminati. He says that all of the threats to conservatives are the work of the Illuminati, which is being controlled by France. Jedidiah Morse then names two states that are supposedly harboring the Illuminati. He names the Commonwealth of Virginia and New York. Why would he name those two? Because the Commonwealth of Virginia was the home state of Thomas Jefferson and New York was the home state of Alexander Hamilton, a conservative that was an enemy of John Adams. This speech was a turning point in Protestantism. It was the introduction of conspiracy theories to give reasons for opposition to conservatives, and to account for their political beliefs. So on May 9, 1798, Jedidiah Morse gave a speech- he introduced conspiracy theories and it began a whole new methodology for conservative Protestantism.

1800

1800- the election

An election took place in 1800- it was between the then current President John Adams and the then current Vice President Thomas Jefferson. John Adams was backed by conservative Protestants like Jedidiah Morse, while Thomas Jefferson was backed by liberal ones. Both candidates and their supporters attacked each other; Jedidiah Morse, as we have seen, made up conspiracy theories to try to hurt Jefferson so that Adams could get a second term. But his plan did not work. John Adams was scared of Thomas Jefferson because the people liked him more than they liked him; he thought that his presidency would be forgotten. Back then the electors were chosen either by the people or by the state government and there was no set date for the election, so the states voted whenever they wanted to in 1800. When the electors voted: the person with the most votes became the President and the second place person became the Vice President. On February 17th the electoral college voted. Thomas Jefferson got more electoral votes than John Adams, but he got the same amount of votes as Aaron Burr who he had run with. So the House of Representatives had to vote to determine who would be the next President; after voting thirty-five times Thomas Jefferson was elected as the third President (and Aaron Burr was elected as the Vice President).

Post 1800

Second Great Awakening

The Second Great Awakening began in the late 1700's. It lasted until the early 1800's. Although it was less widespread than the First Great Awakening, it led to the founding of many colleges and seminaries. It was during the Second Great Awakening that a form of meetings was invented: they were known as camp meetings. More people began attending church. The Methodist and Baptist churches especially saw an increase of attendance. During this time, it was constantly set before the people that sinners could immediately change and fix their salvation. That was the main point of the Second Great Awakening. One movement in particular came out of that time period. The Millerite movement began during of the Second Great Awakening.

Whigs and Democrats

The Democratic party in the 1800s were the conservatives and the Whigs were the liberals. We have already seen how there were conservative and liberal politicians in Millerite history. Their parties had their names, but in 1828, the conservative party took the name Democrat. The Democrats kept their conservative ideas like a weak federal government and strong state governments. They also continued to practice and support slavery. In 1833, the Whig party formed. It was made by the liberals to counter the Democratic party. The Whig party was liberal, and was made of mostly people that didn't support slavery; and conservatives who didn't like what their party had become. So in 1828, the conservative political party became the Democratic party and in 1833 the liberal political party became the Whig party.

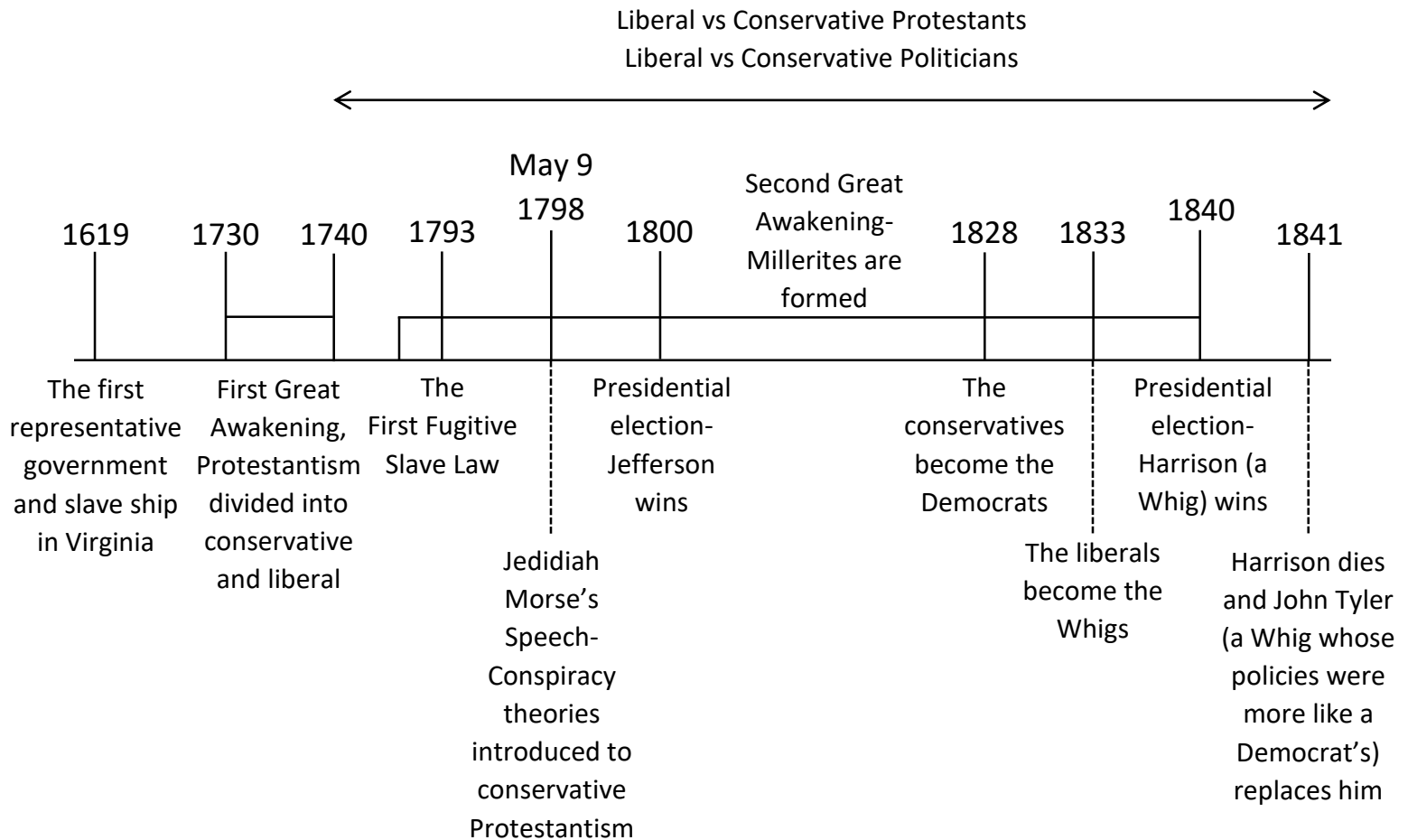
1840- the election

In 1840, there was another presidential election. This one was between the Whig party and the Democratic party, and it was the second presidential election that the Whigs participated in. In May of 1840, the Democrats nominated the then current President Martin Van Buren for president, but they did not nominate the then current Vice President (Richard Johnson) formally, so technically there was no Democrat running for Vice President. The Whigs had their first national convention in December of 1839, where they nominated William Henry Harrison for President and the Southerner John Tyler for Vice President. They called their ticket "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too", because Harrison had fought in the battle of Tippecanoe. The Whigs tried to picture William H. Harrison as a common person, who cared for the common people, who lived in a log cabin (he had actually lived in a log cabin for some years), while they tried to picture Martin Van Buren as a rich man who didn't care about common people. Also, at that time there was a financial crisis in the United States: the Panic of 1837, and the people blamed Van Buren for the crisis. The election took place from late October to early December of 1840. William H. Harrison won a little more of the popular vote than Van Buren, and that year more people voted than any of the previous elections. Harrison also won way more of the electoral college votes than Van Buren. William Henry Harrison became the ninth and oldest (67 years old) president up to that time; he was also the first Whig president.

1841- the Presidential replacement

The election in 1840 turned out good for the Whig party- at first. You see, they nominated William Henry Harrison to be the President. He ran against Martin Van Buren. Harrison won the election and went on to become the ninth President of the United States. "He took the oath of office on Thursday, March 4, 1841, a cold and wet day. He braved the cold weather and chose not to wear an overcoat or a hat, rode on horseback to the ceremony rather than in the closed carriage that had been offered him, and delivered the longest inaugural address in American history at 8,445 words. It took him nearly two hours to read..." *Wikipedia*. Only twenty-two days later, on March 26th, he became ill with flu-like symptoms. He grew worse, came down with pneumonia, and died on April 4th. He was only in office for one month. Just like today, if something were to happen to the President, the Vice President would become the next President. So, Harrison's Vice President, John Tyler, became the President. That's when the Whigs realized their grave mistake. You see, John Tyler was a compromise. The Whig party agreed to make him Vice President to appease the South. He was a Whig like Harrison, but his ideology was more aligned with the Democrats- the South. So when he became the President, they now had a Southern President- all because they compromised on the Vice President. But after Tyler became the President, the Whigs were so disgusted with him, they kicked him out of their party.

In Summary:



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