



Lesson 65

From Simple to Complex

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 - Progressively harder
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 - Reformers vs. the Catholic church
 - Whigs vs. Democrats
 - The North vs. the South
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 - The North compromised
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Different dispensations focus on different subjects. As we get closer to the end of our reform line, the tests become more difficult. In this lesson, we'll be looking at two dispensations, 2014 to 2019 and 2019 to 2021. We'll look at the subjects of those dispensations, and see how this dispensation we are in is different, and more challenging, than the last.

Dispensations

Progressively harder

There are four dispensations on the line of the Priests. At the end of each dispensation, there is a test. As the dispensations pass, the test gets harder. From 1989-2001, the test was easy. But from 2001-2014, the test wasn't as easy, it was a little harder. From 2014-2019 the test got even harder. And in the final dispensation, 2019-2021, the test is the hardest for the Priests. The tests get progressively harder the further along we are on the reform line.

2014 - 2019

Good vs. evil

The previous dispensation on the line of the Priests was from 2014 to November 9, 2019. That was the dispensation where we got the Midnight Cry message. This Movement, as we know, was conservative so God had to change our view of things. He first gave us a simple message so that we could see that we were wrong and get on the right side. That message- simply- was good versus evil. The “good” was liberalism and the “evil” was conservatism; He showed us those two sides internally and externally. We were in the bad stream so God gave us a simple message telling us what the good stream was and why it was good. He did that because He wanted us to change, and it worked, many people in this Movement passed the test of that dispensation.

Reformers vs. the Catholic church

In the 1500-1600s a change came over Christianity. Members of the Catholic church became unhappy with the church and its views. They began spreading new views of God and the Bible. One of the most famous reformers was Martin Luther. He famously nailed 95 new ideas (called the 95 theses) to the door of a catholic church. He caused so much attention that the Catholic church began to want him dead. *The Great Controversy* 140.2 says, “Rome was bent upon the destruction of Luther; but God was his defense. His doctrines were heard everywhere—‘in cottages and convents, ... in the castles of the nobles, in the universities, and in the palaces of kings;’ and noble men were rising on every hand to sustain his efforts.” Ellen G. White says that Luther and the reformers were good, that’s why we believe they are good. So, this is an example of good vs. evil. The reformation wasn’t necessarily a subject from 2014-2019, we talked about it a little bit with the Diet of Spires (in 1529), but we would have all agreed that reformers were good and the Catholic church was evil.

Whigs vs. Democrats

In our history, there are two opposing political parties- Democrats and Republicans. There were also two opposing political sides in Millerite history. They were Whigs and Democrats. Back then, Democrats did not stand for the same thing that they stand for now. Then, they stood for the South and slavery. They were the most prominent conservative party in the 1800’s. The Whigs, which eventually were replaced with the Republicans, were on the opposite side. They, the Republicans, did not stand for what they do today. They, like their predecessor, the Whig party, was the political party of the North. They were anti-slavery. So just like today, you have two political parties- one was good and one was bad. This is another example of good vs. evil.

The North vs. the South

One important point of the Midnight Cry message was the American Civil War. The Civil War is part of the lines of revolutions that pointed to November 9th and Donald Trump being a dictator. The Civil War is also a part of the Millerites' Sunday Law history. In the Civil War there are two sides: the north and the south. The southern states all allowed slavery; they also had a church-state relationship and they would use their reading of the Bible to approve slavery. The northern states, on the other hand, were mostly not slave states (there were a few border states who had slavery); most abolitionists lived in the north. Also the north was more diverse than the south. The North was the good side and the South was the bad side- because slavery was the Sunday Law issue and the South was pushing it. That was the understanding that God gave us in our previous dispensation.

Democrats vs. Republicans

Democrats vs Republicans is an example of good vs. evil. From 2014-2019, this Movement began looking at the political world. Before this Movement didn't have much of a concern about the government, besides the president, but in 2018 the study of two streams was presented. We saw that there were two sides, conservative and liberal. We learned that the conservative side was bad, and that Republicans were on that side. In the other stream we saw that Democrats and liberals were good. Before that year this Movement had been very conservative. In 2016, most of this Movement thought the Clintons were corrupt and that Trump was a better pick for president. But when 2018 came we saw that we were wrong. Over the course of the next year the subject of Democrats vs. Republicans became very clear; Democrats were the good people because they were for equality, or, as much of equality as they knew, and Republicans, specifically Trump, were bad because they were nationalist, sexist, and homophobic. It was people like Future for America that couldn't handle the fact that two "European socialists" (Elders Tess and Parminder) were telling us to side with those "corrupt" Clintons, and eventually left the Movement. But for most people that stayed, it was clear who to side with politically; Democrats good, Republicans evil.

Compromise

As before talked about, the further along a reform line you go, the harder the tests become. We are in the final dispensation of the Priests. Compared to the previous dispensation, this one is the hardest. It is the most complex dispensation that we have lived in. And why is that? Because it is the last one. The previous ones were very simple compared to this one. Among other things that we have to recognize in this dispensation, such as equality, we need to understand compromise. We need to understand how the good side, the Democrat Party, is always compromising with the Republican Party.

Protestant reformers weren't perfect

Simply, the Reformation was a good thing- it was good Protestants against evil Catholics. The Catholics persecuted the Protestants who were innocent and kind people. But we know that in this dispensation we need a deeper understanding of everything. The Protestants, for one, didn't like each other and of course they didn't like Catholics. Martin Luther and his followers didn't like John Calvin and his followers. The Protestants also didn't believe in the separation of church and state- they just wanted the state to enforce their form of Protestantism (not Catholicism). For a few years that did happen in Geneva and Calvinism was the state religion. In that time the Protestants (headed by John Calvin) acted like Catholics by killing and exiling people who didn't follow the church's rules. Another reformer was John Knox who brought Calvinism to Scotland (where it turned into Presbyterianism). Knox was very sexist and the Protestants there wanted a church and state relationship too. All of this tells us that when you look closer the Protestant Reformers and their followers were nowhere near perfect.

Whigs compromised

The Whigs weren't perfect. We looked at some examples of good vs. evil. We saw that from 2014-2019 we would have looked at Millerite history and said that the Democrats were bad, because of slavery, and the Whigs were good because they didn't own slaves. But in this dispensation things aren't that simple. Just because they were anti-slavery didn't make the Whigs perfect- their main problem was their compromising. We can look at 1850 to prove this. A popular Whig was Henry Clay; the Whig party once nominated him for president. So we can see Henry Clay as representing the party. Henry Clay was a compromiser; he is even called The Great Compromiser. He wrote the 1850 compromise, which was later passed. It was written to please Democrats, even though the Whigs knew that somethings in it were wrong. The compromise permitted some states to become slave states. There were a few things in there to benefit the Whigs, but the most significant bill was the Fugitive Slave Law that gave slave owners (which were Democrats) the power to chase escaped slaves, even in free states. So in this dispensation, we can no longer say Whigs were good and Democrats were evil. We have to recognize the problems in the Whig party; we can't fully be on their side because they compromised.

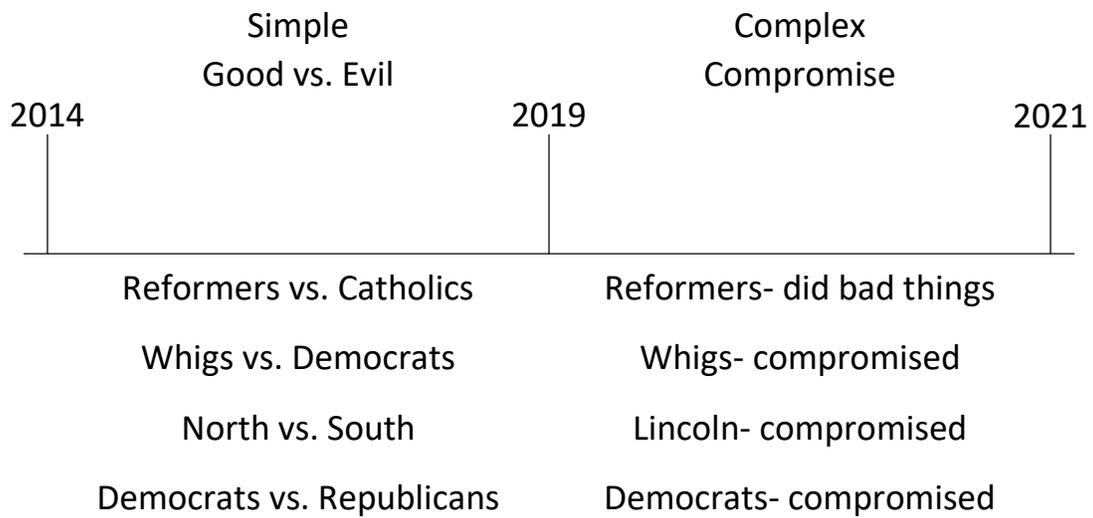
The North compromised

In the Millerite history, there were two opposing parties, which we looked at already. They were the Whig party and the Democrat party. The Whig party, as also mentioned before, eventually fell apart and was replaced with the Republican party. The Republican Party, however, was composed of compromisers. They didn't want a Southern president so they needed a Northern president that could appease the South. This meant that they couldn't push very hardcore Northern ideology while they campaigned because they wanted the South to vote for that candidate. Their very first president was Abraham Lincoln. Although he did fight the Civil War against the South, it wasn't to end slavery, he simple wanted to keep the Union together. He did not believe in equality either. Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president, was a compromiser.

The Democrats are not perfect- they compromise

One of the points that we need to see in this dispensation is compromise; we need to see how the side that we thought was good compromises (and compromising is not good). This concept can be seen today. In the dispensation from 2014 to November 9th we learned that Democrats were good and Republicans were bad. Now we know that we need to recognize that the Democrats compromise. They compromised by nominating Joe Biden for president. They chose a moderate- not a progressive and a white man- not a woman or someone of color. They did that to get votes. The Democrats knew that they would need the moderates and some Republicans to vote for their candidate in order to have a chance to win. So they chose Biden. When we look deeply at the Democrats in this dispensation we can see that they are not perfect because they compromise.

In Summary:



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