A Former Seventh-Day Adventist writes...

This layout is a visual illustration of the Millerite charted timelines, which Seventh-Day Adventists believe ended in 1843/44. Today, 170 years later, it’s obvious that William Miller’s attempt to establish the timing of the Second Coming was erroneous, and based on a “day-for-a-year” conversion that distorted Daniel’s counting “days” (Hebrew: “yom”) by turning them into “years”; then speculative events and dates were assigned. A study of history indicates Miller’s chart and the dates used were not original, but the prevailing view of his day. And, no matter what face-saving attempts were made by individuals after its failure, the time chart does not stand the scrutiny of either the Bible or historical events. If it was not for Ellen White’s endorsement (whose views are considered by devout Adventist believers to be absolute truth and above criticism), the Millerite Chart would have been dismissed long ago with all other time charts that have failed.

A study of Daniel and Revelation during the period leading up to 1843/44 crisis would have proven beyond doubt the timing was wrong, for severe global tribulation involving plagues, persecution and death are essential elements of last-day events. The upheaval and disorder did not happen; and yet, laypeople and leaders who opposed the 1843/44 time-setting were...

...derided as enemies of God’s last-day revival, as is evident in their misguided “shut door” beliefs (meaning: all who rejected their message could not be saved). Yet, in 1850 Ellen White used the power of pen and persuasion: “I have seen that the 1843 chart was directed by the hand of the Lord, and that it should not be altered; that the figures were as He wanted them,” Early Writings, p. 74; nonetheless, debate over the chart, the “daily” and “investigative judgment” has continued for decades in Adventist circles.

The late C. Mervyn Maxwell—an Adventist theologian, disagreed with Ellen White’s view that Miller’s Chart “should not be altered.” He wrote, “Inasmuch as the Angel does not provide any event for the close of the 1,290 days and none for either the beginning or the ending of the 1,335 days, it is not yet possible to state with certainty that manner in which these two time prophecies were to be fulfilled,” God Cares, Book 1, p. 303, Pacific Press Publishing (1998). Evidently, he did not believe Miller’s use of the 1,290 and 1,335 days represented their fulfillment. Even today, there’s a growing uneasiness among Adventist pastors, theologians and members that E.G. White’s early excuses for the chart’s failure are not persuasive.

When studied with discernment, one discovers the Historicist view is packed with contradictions to the original Hebrew and Greek, generating a “crisis of interpretation”—meaning, the prophecies can say whatever the interpreter wishes. For example, if you don’t like 1,260 years, turn them into 1,260 years (because, we are smarter than God and His prophets!). And, the “daily” (Hebrew: “tamid”—Daniel 8:11-13; 12:11)? Let’s say it represents Pagan Rome, as believed by White. The late Dr. Raymond Cottrell, theologian and editor of the Adventist Review, disagreed and made his case that taking away of the “daily” represented something “good”—not bad; and, certainly not the downfall of Paganism. Thus, nothing at all happened in 508 AD to meet the criteria to start the 1,290 and 1,335 time periods. So, if not then… when will the daily be taken away that starts the 1,290 days? And, when will God fulfill His promise that the “wise will understand,” Daniel 12:9? His answer: at “the time of the end.”

Therefore, when Daniel’s book and the five time periods are unsealed, the end-time Calendar will include all the timelines of Bible prophecy and will represent 24 hour days (“yom”)—just as the prophet received and wrote them in the scroll. The counting periods will be connected to world events and global upheaval; and, will align to God’s “appointed times”—which will end at or near the autumn Festival season. William Miller had one point right: the historical Day of Atonement points to the future Day of the LORD! This is what the evidence implies, not an investigative judgment lasting 170 years. Again, this is what invention leads to: unbiblical ideas and spiritualized meanings. Another Historicist blunder is the belief that the “two witnesses” of Revelation 11 represent the Old and New Testaments, when it is clear the two witnesses are living, breathing last-day prophets who will be martyred in the streets of Jerusalem. “where also our LORD was crucified” (was He crucified in Paris, France?—an Adventist enigma), then to be resurrected to life 3½ days later (Revelation 11:8). It’s sad that most Adventists will miss the fulfillment of these prophetic counting periods when they do arrive in the last days, because of White’s misguided views. She was certainly a gifted writer; but, infallible… no. The last word? Absolutely not; the WORD is the last word. Only God’s “ways” and “knowledge” is “perfect” (Deut. 32:3-4; Job 36:4-5); but, if fabrications are endorsed and repeated, they become doctrine.