

“Daniel 11: Are We Closer To Agreement Than We Thought?”

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For many years I believed that someday, fulfilling prophecy would make it clear which of the three major viewpoints on Daniel 11 is the **“right one”**, and all would join together in that viewpoint. I am not so sure about that anymore. I am now seeing a very likely scenario where all three viewpoints will be thinking that they are basically correct. Which means that they will not be likely to combine into one, but that each viewpoint will be close enough for God to use it for good!

In the SDA church we have three primary viewpoints.

The first is the Uriah Smith viewpoint which believes that all of Daniel 11 is literal, including after the cross (Daniel 11:22). He taught that the end-time King of the North (KON) is Turkey and the King of the South (KOS) was Napolianic Egypt. It expects a final conflict with Turkey invading Jerusalem.

The second is the Atheism as the KOS viewpoint which believes that Daniel 11 is literal up to verse 22. After verse 22, they see all place names as symbolic or spiritual. In verses 40 to 45 they see the KON as the Papacy and the KOS as atheistic secularism. They see the final conflict as a global, spiritual conflict.

The third is the Islam as the KOS viewpoint which believes that Daniel 11 is literal all the way through. However, from verse 22 and following it also has a parallel global-religious application. They believe that the KON is the papacy and the KOS is radical or Islamist Islam. Islamist are those who believe that all the world will be conquered by Islam and they will set up the world-wide capital of this Caliphate in Al-Quds, known by the rest of the world as Jerusalem. Those of the Islamist as the KOS viewpoint expect a conflict in or near Jerusalem with Papal-led Christianity as the KON taking control in the area of Israel. As Jerusalem gets caught in the middle, so do God’s people of faith (Israel of faith) get caught in the middle all over the world. God’s Sabbath keeping people get caught in the middle between KON/Papal Sunday and KOS/Muslim Friday. This is the viewpoint I agree with.

We have good people who love God, the Bible, and the church in all three of these viewpoints. They look at the same data and come up with differing conclusions. Unfortunately, there are a few who believe others are heretics if they do not come to the same conclusions. The following are actual statements that I have heard. “I really hate getting chewed up and spit out, and told that I am working against the Lord and will be shaken out of the church because I am a terrible troubler of the truth.” And, “Unfortunately, Pastor ___ has become an agent for Satan to present prophetic deception in these final hours of probation”

Actually EGW indicated that the differing views on the identity of the KON was a minor point of difference, and we are not to make it into a fight.¹ The reality is that we have much in common:

¹ <http://drc.whiteestate.org> - Type North in the search box and below the box highlight only Q & A - Click on search - Then select, Did Ellen G. White Identify the King of the North? (Conflicting Views of James White and Uriah Smith)

1. Pillars: Salvation in Christ, Sanctuary, Sabbath, Second Advent, and State of the Dead
2. We are all historicists
3. We all agree with the Great Controversy outline of end time events, Rev. 13 Role of Papacy & USA, the Sunday Law, Loud Cry, Persecution, and Close of Probation

I will now compare the Uriah Smith and the atheism viewpoints to the Islam viewpoint.

Uriah Smith & Islam viewpoints points of agreement:

1. Literal Fulfillments after the cross
2. Turkey and /or Islam major player
3. Rev. 11 as French Revolution

Even though they have a number of differences, they both will likely feel their viewpoints are being confirmed by current events. John Witcombe, a proponent of the Uriah Smith viewpoint, sees current events involving Turkey as an indicator that Turkey is fulfilling prophecy by trying to reinstate the caliphate², making the Hagia Sophia a mosque once again, and claiming that they will liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. These are things the Smith viewpoint has been expecting. On the other hand, the Islamic viewpoint sees Turkey's actions as support for Islam being the KOS. This is because the Islam viewpoint believes that radical muslims, called Islamists, including Turkey, Iran, and other Islamists (such as the Muslim Brotherhood, ISIS, Al Qaida, etc.), all want to create a world wide caliphate, force all to be Muslims and make Al Quds/Jerusalem the caliphate's capital. So, looking at the same data, they both feel vindicated even though one sees Turkey as the KON and the others sees Turkey as a part of the KOS. This is because of their hermeneutics. The Uriah Smith group sees Turkey as the KON because its capital is north of Jerusalem. The Islam viewpoint sees Turkey as a part of the KOS because Islam first invaded Israel from the south. This is based on Jeremiah 1, that shows that Babylon was a kingdom of the north, because it invaded from the north even though its capital was to the east. So the same event can be seen as fulfillment for both viewpoints at the same time.

Atheism & Islam viewpoints agreement³:

1. Papacy as KON
2. Rev. 11 and French Revolution (More later)
3. Edom, Moab, and Ammon refer to a remnant
4. Tidings from N&E = "Loud Cry"
5. Papacy destroyed by the True KON

² From John Witcombe: Even though the speaker on this video has a different understanding on nearly all of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation from what is taught in Uriah Smith's book, *Daniel and the Revelation*, this video presentation, nevertheless, provides an excellent overview of the progress that the king of the north is making towards the fulfillment of Daniel 11:45 as interpreted by Uriah Smith and as is presented in the book, *Jerusalem Caliphate and the Third Jihad*. https://shoutout.wix.com/so/dcNEvgobY/c?w=XlfHC8WUHw327Ti2uInB34NuEZOaY97_vDCjUFJmZS4.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHViZS5jb20vd2F0Y2g_dj05ejl1eEg4ZXVMcyZmZWF0dXJIPXlvdXR1LmJlliwicil6ImQ1Y2Y5NTdiLTVmYmUtNDI2Ny1lZmU1LWQ2N2Q0M2MzZDI2ZCIsIm0iOiJtYWlslwiYyI6IjEzNWMwNmNjLTIwZDktNDM0Yy04M2Y5LTA0N2Q4YzNjNmM2MCJ9

³ This is a partial list based on a discussion between me and Samuel Nunez, JR.

Uriah Smith & Atheism viewpoint agreement:

1. Many believe Daniel 11:23 refers back to times before the cross (161BC).
2. Revelation 11 refers to the French Revolution.

Atheism as the Daniel 11 KOS viewpoint bases their understanding of the KOS on Revelation 11, with the belief that the power “which is spiritually called Sodom, Egypt, where our Lord was crucified” (Revelation 11:8) is the same power as the KOS in Daniel 11. So they believe the KOS is the power that comes from the French Revolution and extends to today through atheistic secularism. Many have seen this to be embodied in Communism or the more radical political left. So when they see the rising threat of secular vs Christian culture wars with unrest and riots, or Communist China or North Korea posing a threat to papal-led Christianity, they believe they are seeing a fulfillment of their viewpoint. On the other hand, the Islam view somewhat agrees with this. This is because they also see a fulfillment of Revelation 11 in the French Revolution and all the atheistic/secular movements that have been based on it up to today.

In general, all three viewpoints believe that Revelation 11 depicts the French Revolution and the powers that have come from it, often called atheistic secularism. Some also see the KOS in Daniel 11:40-45 as atheistic secularism based on Revelation 11. However, there is no Biblical text or EGW statement that directly makes that connection. Others see the KOS in Daniel 11:40-45 as the last of the three conflicts between the Papal KON and radical Islam KOS. There are some like Ivor Myers⁴ who see the KOS as both atheism and Islam. I believe that a careful comparison of Daniel 11 and Revelation 11 reveals not one but two powers who work together in the “time of the end” in Daniel or the 3rd woe/7th trumpet period in Revelation. This will show that all of us have had at least a part of this right, with additional information that we have overlooked. It is hoped that the following will help give us common ground.

Egypt in Revelation 11:8 is like, but not, the Daniel 11 King of the South

The power in Rev.11:8 is “Spiritually called Sodom, Egypt, where also our Lord was Crucified.” Note it is “Spiritually called...” It is not Sodom, but like it. It is not Egypt, but like it. It is not Jerusalem, but like it. This is a very important distinction, because in Daniel every place name in the rest of the book is literal, it means what it says. However, in Revelation place names primarily have symbolic meaning. For instance, in Daniel Babylon means the literal land or nation of Babylon. In Revelation Babylon means a power like Babylon. In the Great Controversy, chapter 15 “The Bible and the French Revolution” pp. 266-272, EGW applies Rev. 11:8 to the French Revolution. The revolutionaries threw out marriage and morals and so were like Sodom. They claimed they didn’t know God just as Pharaoh in Egypt said. Even though they had the scriptures, they turned against Christ as did the people in Jerusalem. The French Revolution was taking place in the 1790s and Rev. 11:14 places the arrival of this power just before the close of the 1260 day/year prophecy⁵ and before the ending of the 2nd woe, which ended in

⁴ See Ivor Myers presentation at the 2018 Daniel 11 Conference.

⁵ Great Controversy page 269

1840⁶. This indicates that near the end of the 2nd woe a power would be rising (atheistic secularism/communism from the French Revolution) that would in many ways be like Egypt (Islam), the Daniel 11 KOS. However, it is not Egypt, the Daniel 11 KOS. History shows that radical Islam and atheistic secularism work together in the “time of the end”.

By the 1840s Carl Marx developed the atheistic French Revolution into Marxism which developed into communism. Then from 1917 to 1990 communism does the work of resisting the papacy while Islam is weak after the fall of the Ottoman empire. Communism is taken down by the combined efforts of Pope John Paul II and Reagan/US. The fall of communism leads to a short window of evangelistic opportunity. The rise and fall of communism comes between the Daniel 11 2nd and 3rd conflicts between the KON and the KOS (1840s - 2000). In the 3rd conflict Islam once again has the role of resisting the papacy. However, Marxist Socialism from the French Revolution is not just the foundation of communism. It is also the foundation of today’s radical political left which is currently joining together with radical Islam on many levels. This is an area I have made a slight adjustment in my understanding. Earlier, I believed communism/atheistic secularism to be fading away as Islam re-enters the picture after the 1990s. I now believe that Islam and the remnants of atheistic secularism will likely band together for one last stand that creates a backlash that will usher in the period of Revelation 13’s described papal and protestant US domination. This had caused some from the atheistic secularism as the KOS viewpoint to now agree with me.

Daniel 11 KOS parallel or alliance with the Revelation 11 atheistic secularism.

In Daniel 11 the KOS attacks the KON and is then overthrown by the KON. If the KON is the papacy, the 1st beast of Revelation 13, then the 2nd beast, which most of us agree is the USA, becomes the enforcer for the papacy. Since this 2nd beast supports the papacy and its teachings, it would be protestant America or the US political right, not the political left. Additionally, many of us see Islam in the three woes of Revelation 9. This power comes from the abyss but so does the power of Revelation 11 which is “spiritually called Sodom, Egypt...”. This shows that Islam and the radical left descending from the French Revolution are likely linked. So, while the papacy is getting the support of the political right, Islam will be getting the support of the political left that is “like” Egypt/KOS. This should clearly tell all of us to avoid affiliation with the political left or the political right. We should remember and teach that no politician or party saves us. **Only Jesus saves us!** Now let’s look at the historical evidence that radical/Islamist Islam and the radical political left are “like” each other.

Both hate Israel. “The origins of today’s crisis in Labour date back to the 19th century, and ever since Jews have been seen as a problem by a strain of socialist thought. The current antisemitism crisis on the left has not come out of nowhere. Instead, it has its roots in a tradition on the left itself, which, at best, has always had difficulty in responding swiftly to antisemitism and, at worst, excused or condoned, even promoted it.”⁷

⁶ Great Controversy page 335: Here EGW endorses Josiah Litch’s understanding that the second woe/6th trumpet ends with the fall of the Ottoman empire becoming subservient to European powers on Aug. 11, 1840. Many SDA scholars now downplay the fall of the Ottomans in 1840. However, by saying that atheistic secularism comes from the French Revolution they are unintentionally admitting that the ending of the 2nd woe would be shortly after the 1790’s. 1840 is just after the 1790’s.

⁷ The Guardian, April 1, 2018 “The shame of antisemitism on the left has a long, malign history”

Both dislike capitalism.

Both dislike Papal-led Christianity. This is true of communism and the radical left today.

They both dislike American Exceptionalism. In street demonstrations Islamist say “Death to America” while the political left says, “Down with America”.

They both dislike conservative/political right politicians.

They both support Social Justice. However, Islamists kill homosexuals while the left promotes homosexuality. This is accepted by the left since they believe Muslims have been discriminated against and their “truth” or viewpoint must therefore be accepted.

Both see Jesus as just a good man, not our Savior, and neither accepts the Bible as the absolute moral authority.

This Islamist and political left “Alliance” was written about in 2005 by David Horowitz in his book, Unholy Alliance Radical, Radical Islam and the American Left. In 2020 this alliance has come out into the open.

Often I am asked about EGW’s statement that Jesus could have come long ago if His people had been ready. If this is true, then radical Islam and atheistic secularism (Marxist Socialism) would have had to be an option repeatedly since the 1840s and it has!

In the early to mid 1800s the Barbary pirates of North Africa were trying to establish a caliphate. They were subdued by American forces. At the same time Turkey still existed as the sick man of the east and tried to come back several times. During this same time period we had the French Revolution followed by Karl Marx who turned the principles of the French Revolution into Marxism in the 1840s. God’s people were not ready and we missed the opportunity.

In 1915-1917, the Turks were trying to establish their power and they killed about 1.5 million Armenians plus Nestorians and Arabs.⁸ 1917 was also the year of the Bolshevik Revolution.

In the 1960s Arab muslim nations attacked Israel, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization was active. The communist and the political left sided with Muslims against Israel. Note the following: “By tapping into an international politics of anti-imperialism, national liberation, and human rights, Palestinian liberation fighters were able to gain access to an array of resources - material, political, and ideological - that would surely have been closed to them in earlier times. Arafat and Khalf’s voyage to Beijing and Hanoi (March, 1970)- along with similar trips- was just one link in a much wider network of connections between revolutionary movements and left-wing radicals during the long 1960s.”⁹

⁸ The Murderous Tyranny of the Turks, By Arnold J. Toynbee, Hodder and Stoughton, 1917, p15

⁹ “The Struggle Against Oppression Everywhere: The Global Politics of Palestinian Liberation” Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 47, No. 1 (January 2011), p. 25, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27920339>

Today we are seeing a repeat of the 1960s, but Islam and the radical political left are both stronger or more determined this time. Note the following articles: “Democrats Pass Resolution Applauding ‘Nonreligious Americans,’ Criticizing Churchgoers”¹⁰ and “Thousands of Americans Have Become Socialists Since March”.¹¹ This all accelerated with the killing of George Floyd and the resulting Black Lives Matter protests that have been joined by Antifa¹² and Muslim activists.¹³ Note that leaders of the Black Lives Matter organization claim to be trained Marxists.¹⁴ This is demonstrating on a daily basis that the political left and Islam are both trying to make a move to gain and consolidate power.

Note the similarities of today's world with the EGW description of the French Revolution in her book Great Controversy. My comments to show parallels to today are in parentheses. These comments show what is happening in the US but there are similar situations in the Muslim world.¹⁵ “Eager to redress the wrongs they had suffered, they determined to undertake the reconstruction of society (racism, police brutality and change society to socialism). An outraged populace, whose minds were filled with bitter and long-treasured memories of wrong, resolved to revolutionize (constant talk of revolution) the state of misery that had grown unbearable and to avenge themselves upon those whom they regarded as the authors of their sufferings (loot the stores and attack government buildings). The war against the Bible (burning Bibles in

¹⁰ ChristianHeadlines.com, “Nonreligious Americans,’ Criticizing Churchgoers” 10/29/19

¹¹ The Atlantic Monthly, “Thousands of Americans Have Become Socialists Since March” 5/14/20

¹² Los Angeles Times, “Portland, America's 'whitest' big city, is an unlikely hub of Black Lives Matter”, August 2, 2020. <https://news.yahoo.com/portland-americas-whitest-big-city-113025189.html>

New York Times, “From Antifa to Mothers in Helmets, Diverse Elements Fuel Portland Protests”, July 19, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/19/us/portland-protests.html>

¹³ Al-Monitor, “Palestinian activists press solidarity between Palestinians, Black Lives Matter”, June 17, 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/06/palestinian-protests-hallaq-floyd-israel-racism.html>

Jihad Watch, “NY Muslim lawyer who threw Molotov cocktail at cop car: “This s-t won’t ever stop unless we f-kin’ take it all down”, June 6, 2020. <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2020/06/ny-muslim-lawyer-who-threw-molotov-cocktail-at-cop-car-this-s-t-wont-ever-stop-unless-we-f-kin-take-it-all-down>

Jihad Watch, “Red-Green Twitterstorm to America: Burn, Baby, Burn (Part One)”, June, 11, 2020. <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2020/06/red-green-twitterstorm-to-america-burn-baby-burn-part-one>

¹⁴ NY Post, “Black Lives Matter co-founder describes herself as ‘trained Marxist’”, One 25, 2020. <https://nypost.com/2020/06/25/blm-co-founder-describes-herself-as-trained-marxist/>

¹⁵ Aljazeera, “Beware of the looming chaos in the Middle East”, August 3, 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/beware-looming-chaos-middle-east-200803042230463.html>

Portland during protests) inaugurated an era which stands in the world's history as the Reign of Terror (cancel culture). Peace and happiness were banished from the homes and hearts of men. No one was secure. He who triumphed today was suspected, condemned tomorrow (many on the left have been attacked for not being “woke” enough). Violence and lust held undisputed sway. (riots, LGBTQ agenda, and lack of interest in marriage) King, clergy, and nobles were compelled to submit to the atrocities of an excited and maddened people (take the knee or else) A general slaughter of all suspected of hostility to the Revolution was determined. The cities of the kingdom were filled with scenes of horror. (riots across the nation) One party of revolutionists was against another party, (armed groups from left and right attack each other) and France became a vast field for contending masses, swayed by the fury of their passions. And to add to the general misery, the nation became involved in a prolonged and devastating war (war on terrorism).... The country was nearly bankrupt (the deficit has ballooned with COVID-19 spending),... and civilization was almost extinguished in anarchy and license (this is the tendency of the US and the world at this time).”¹⁶

The conservative side of the Catholic church clearly sees this threat posed by Islamists and the political left. “Crisis” magazine chose their name for the following reason. “The West has arrived at a crisis point. We must decide: Do we serve the City of God or the City of Man? Does our first allegiance lie with the Church or with the State? Do we profess the ancient and immutable Faith or the latest fashionable secular dogmas? Not since the Cold War have we experienced such violent political, cultural, and spiritual unrest. Not since the Civil War has our country been divided so bitterly against itself. Our civilization is under attack from the far-left within and radical Islam without.”¹⁷ It should be noted that Catholics see Islamist (Daniel 11 KOS) and the political left (Revelation 11 power from French Revolution) as their great threat or crisis. What is one of their solutions? Sunday Laws! “During America’s finally-abating coronavirus quarantine, our nation, at least outwardly, seemed to have gained a more noiseless, contemplative, revivifying spirit. Now, in the terrible wake of murder, to preempt accusations of “theocracy,” I am not advocating mandatory church-going (though it wouldn’t be the worst idea), but rather simple restrictions on which businesses remain open on Sunday. If promulgated in a prudent and focused way, they can cultivate virtue, strengthen neighborliness, and protect small businesses. Most importantly, they can help promote prayer and peace—now, when America needs them most.”¹⁸ In a time when many Catholic churches statues have been vandalized and/or burned¹⁹ some Catholic leaders are siding with Trump or the American Right. “The former papal nuncio to the US writes to President Trump on the spiritual forces at work in the US riots. They are not spontaneous protests, he argues, but part of a deeper plan to subvert Western Christian civilization.

“[T]he attack to which you were subjected after your visit to the National Shrine of Saint John Paul II is part of the orchestrated media narrative which seeks not to fight racism and bring

¹⁶ Great Controversy pages 282 and 283

¹⁷ “Crisis” Magazine web page, About us page

¹⁸ “Bring Back the Blue Laws”, Crisis Magazine, June 17, 2020, <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2020/bring-back-the-blue-laws>

¹⁹ Breitbart News, “Catholics Decry ‘Week of Vandalism and Arson’ Against Churches Across U.S.”, July 20, 2020. <https://www.breitbart.com/faith/2020/07/20/catholics-decry-week-of-vandalism-and-arson-against-churches-across-u-s/>

social order, but to aggravate dispositions; not to bring justice, but to legitimize violence and crime; not to serve the truth, but to favor one political faction.”²⁰

Conclusion

So, at least in the current environment, I do not see proponents of any of the three viewpoints switching because they believe that they are wrong. The good news is, it may be that God has so arranged things that all three have at least enough truth to avoid being a major embarrassment to His end time movement. Which means we must help sharpen each other so we can take our end time message to the world as never before, without wasting effort on attacking or demonizing each other. It may also mean that our final coalescence of viewpoints will be found in some sort of a combination of viewpoints, not based on compromise, but open minded searching of the text and history for truth, realizing that God may be working through all of us.

²⁰ Anglican.ink, June 7, 2020, <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2020/06/ny-muslim-lawyer-who-threw-molotov-cocktail-at-cop-car-this-s-t-wont-ever-stop-unless-we-f-kin-take-it-all-down>