

## October Prophecy Conference

**“There must be no long discussions, no presenting of new theories in regard to prophecies that God has already made plain.”** {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 13} (For statement context, see below.)

How can we know if Ellen White is including the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45 as part of the “prophecies that God has already made *plain*” thus barring the presentation of new theories on these verses?

I doubt that Mrs. White would have written, “**The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment**” (9T 14, 1909), unless she knew that God had already made *plain* to her readers the prophetic interpretation of the final verses of Daniel. Why would she mention a prophecy on which there was no clarity or unity of understanding? The fact is there was both clarity and unity of view on this significant prophecy when she penned that statement. She knew that her readers understood that the fulfillment of verse 45 was all that was left for Daniel 11’s complete fulfillment to be reached. By 1909 the church had been teaching the *Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy* (a non-symbolic rendering of Daniel 11:40-45) for nearly 40 years. It was prophetic truth that our church believed God had made *plain* to them and thus they were unitedly proclaiming it to the world by pen and by voice. Notice that it is “**The world [that] is stirred with the spirit of war**”. This sentence is directly linked with the fulfillment of the final verses of Daniel 11. From this we can see that the last verses of Daniel 11 deal with *civil* warfare between nations and not *religious* conflict between the papal and remnant church.

“Elder Daniells speaks this evening upon the *Eastern Question*. May the Lord give His Holy Spirit to inspire the hearts to make **the truth plain**.” {Ms189-1898 (December 25, 1898) par. 9}

**God’s Holy Spirit could not have made the truth taught by the *Eastern Question* lecture plain to the hearts of the hearers unless it was prophetic truth that God had already made plain to Elder Daniells<sup>1</sup>.**

When did God make *plain* to His church the *Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy*?

I believe that it was made *plain* during that ten-year period of time (1862-1872) when *a thorough investigation*<sup>2</sup> of the books of Daniel and Revelation was made by our church.

Regarding the leader of this thorough investigation, Ellen White wrote: “God used the author [Uriah Smith] of this book [*Daniel and the Revelation*] as a *channel through which to communicate light* to direct minds to the **truth**.” {1MR 63} Perhaps it is no coincidence that, on two separate occasions, God led Ellen White to call the *Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy*, **truth**.

Here are two questions to which we should give thoughtful consideration:

- 1) Did God make the interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 plain to our church during that ten-year investigation of the prophecies, when God channeled prophetic light through Uriah Smith as he led that group of “able Bible students” in a thorough investigation of Daniel and Revelation?**
- 2) If He did indeed make it plain, should we be presenting new theories (papacy/atheism/Islam) on the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45 when we have explicit instruction that we must not do this?**

<sup>1</sup> “Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find *Daniel and the Revelation* an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that none need err therein. . . . The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in *Daniel and the Revelation*. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains.” {1MR, 61}

<sup>2</sup> “While the people who are anxious for truth have been calling, ‘Watchman, what of the night?’ the answer has been given intelligently, ‘The morning cometh, and also the night.’ *By a thorough investigation of the prophecies* we understand where we are in this world’s history; and we know for a certainty that the second coming of Christ is near. The result of these investigations must be brought before the world through the press.” {4T 592} (1881)

## Statement Context

The context in which this important statement is found, instructing us that there is to be “**no presenting of new theories in regard to prophecies that God has already made plain**” {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 13}, includes discussion of the close of probation which is very relevant to the *Eastern Question*.

In the following paragraph Ellen White is alluding to timeline, waymark prophecy that is leading up to the great time of trouble. Daniel 12:1 concerns the close of probation to which the *Eastern Question* closely relates.

“*Everything has been moving on just as the Lord revealed in prophecy that it would.* Something great and decisive is soon to take place, else no flesh would be saved. The character of God will not be compromised. *Under the wrath of God, universal desolation will soon reach all parts of the known world.*” {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 2}

In the next paragraph, the close of probation is mentioned:

“The Lord says to the people of the earth, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time, the nearness of *the day when human probation shall be ended.*” {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 3}

The following paragraph contains the words of Christ, which according to Ellen White, are not referring to the second coming of Jesus, but to the close of probation (2T 190).

“The words of Christ have a direct application to this time: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."” {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 4}

In the context of the above paragraphs we find our statement about not presenting new theories on prophecies that have already been made *plain*. Also, in the following paragraph, we find this important statement in the context of a coming storm that we must prepare for. The close of probation with its great time of trouble is thus indicated.

“The Lord wishes all to understand his providential dealings now, just now, in the time in which we live. **There must be no long discussions, no presenting of new theories in regard to prophecies that God has already made plain.** The great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal standing in the sight of God. Are our feet on the Rock of Ages? Are we hiding ourselves in the only Refuge? *The storm is coming, relentless in its fury.* Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as he is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in co-partnership with the Saviour?” {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 13}

And then, following our statement under consideration, we again find a statement referring to the close of probation. The four winds are to be held until the event of Daniel 12:1 takes place – the close of probation:

“Already kingdom is rising against kingdom. There is not now a determined engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the Powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation! How earnestly we should examine ourselves! We should eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God; that is, carefully study the Word, eat it, digest it, make it a part of our being. We are to live the Word, not keep it apart from our lives. The character of Christ is to be our character. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our hearts. Here is our only safety. Nothing can separate a living Christian from God.” {RH, November 27, 1900 par. 16}

It seems reasonable to me that it would not be out of place to include the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45 (the *Eastern Question*) with the prophecies that God has made *plain* to His church.

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