

**Statement No. 4**  
**Spirit of Prophecy on Daniel 11:40-45**  
**Statement Sponsor**  
**John Witcombe**

**Statement: Ellen White’s statement that Daniel 11 “has nearly reached its complete fulfilment” implies that there is only one verse left to be fulfilled. This, in turn, implies support for the Eastern Question.**

In a 1904 personal letter to Hiram A. Crow, Ellen White solicited a loan for “one or two thousand dollars” at a low interest rate to invest in the work. In this letter she mentions the eleventh chapter of Daniel. I believe that what she says about Daniel 11 confirms the correctness of the interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 that was being taught in the lecture on the Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy.

Let’s take a close look at this appeal to Hiram Crow: “We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. **The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfilment.**” Lt103-1904

Ellen White wanted Hiram Crow to have a sense of the shortness of time and so she says, “We have no time to lose.” And the prophecy that she knew that best revealed where we were in the stream of time was the prophecy of Daniel 11.

This letter was written to Hiram A. Crow on February 24, 1904. The Adult Sabbath School Lesson for the first quarter of 1904 was on “The Prophecies of Daniel” ([tinyurl.com/yby2vqyj](http://tinyurl.com/yby2vqyj)). These lessons covered Daniel 11:1-45 from the perspective of Uriah Smith’s book, *Daniel and the Revelation* and *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*. In the months of February and March Ellen White, along with the world church, would have been studying the Eastern Question in lessons 9 through 11. In this context it would have been obvious to church members what Ellen White meant by the phrase: “The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfilment.” By studying his Sabbath School Lesson, Brother Crow would have believed that Ellen White was confirming that 44 verses of Daniel 11 had already been fulfilled in history and that only verse 45 was left to be fulfilled in order for the eleventh chapter of Daniel to reach its complete fulfilment. By making this statement in the context of what was believed, taught and published in the Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly, Ellen White appears to be supporting the biblical interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 as found in the official publications of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In the November, 1904 issue of the Review and Herald, Ellen White published this statement that she had sent in a personal letter to Hiram A. Crow regarding the shortness of time:

“The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. **The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfilment.**”  
{RH November 24, 1904, Art. B, par. 8}

Again, the fact that there is only one verse left to be fulfilled in the eleventh chapter of Daniel and the prophecies of that last verse are directly connected with the close of human probation,

this final waymark fact is the prime evidence that God is using to tell us that the end is very near at hand. Because of the Sabbath School Lesson earlier that year supporting the interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 as taught in the Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy lecture that was being presented to the public across this nation, Ellen White would have been aware that this statement would have been taken by the readers of her article as her endorsement of the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist view of Daniel 11:40-45.

In 1910 she again repeats this statement, once again affirming the denomination's view of Daniel 11:40-45:

“The truth is to go to all parts of the world. It is no time now for us to lay off our burden. The message must be kept before our churches: “Present the truth in its high, holy, sanctified character to the people.” Read pages thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen in Testimony, Vol. 9. The last crisis is close upon us. **The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh of Daniel has almost reached its complete fulfillment.** Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.” {Lt80-1910.3}

Here is the complete statement in volume 9 of the *Testimonies*:

“But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians “knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away.” Matthew 24:39. They had heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin. **The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment.** Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.” {9T 14}

When these statements about the eleventh chapter of Daniel are coupled with Ellen White's three statements on the Eastern Question, it becomes evident that the prophet of God endorsed the interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 as taught by our church for nearly 80 years.