

Statement No. 6

“We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power...”

Statement Sponsor

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Statement: In reference to Daniel 8 and 11, Ellen White’s statement that “We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy...” provides guidance in identifying the king of the north mentioned in Daniel 11:40.

It has been suggested, and I agree, that chapter 11 is an explanation specifically of chapter 8. Pastor LeBrun writes: “If that be the case, we need to ask what the primary focus of chapter 8 is. Chapter 8’s focus is not the same as that of chapter 7. In chapter 7 where we have wild beasts, the focus is on the succession of earthly powers leading up to the 1260-year supremacy of the papacy. The judgment is mentioned to show that Satan’s counterfeit will be defeated. But Daniel’s interest in chapter 7 is primarily in the little horn. Here we see exactly what the papacy will do and how long it will reign. The time prophecy is all about the papacy. But the focus of chapter 8, on the other hand, is different. The symbols are now that of sanctuary animals. The discussion of the papal apostasy is merely a lead-up to the main theme of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary. The time prophecy in this chapter does not point to Satan’s work, but to Christ’s. As chapter 8 closes, Daniel is not wondering about the 1260 years and the papacy, but rather about the 2300 years and the cleansing of the sanctuary. So chapter 7 emphasizes the papacy, and chapter 8 emphasizes the cleansing of the sanctuary. The rest of the book is there to illuminate chapter 8’s theme, not chapter 7’s. Chapter 9 is added to help us calculate when the end-time cleansing work of Christ would *begin*. And chapter 11 was given to let us know when the end-time cleansing work of Christ would *end*. If chapters 9 and 11 were primarily an expansion of chapter 7, we would expect the papacy to be prominent in them as it is in chapter 7. But as a further explanation of chapter 8, the theme of interest in chapters 9 and 11 is no longer the papal apostasy, but rather how to know when the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary would begin and we would know when that work would end.”

In light of this thought that the subject of chapter 8 is not primarily regarding the papacy and that chapter 11 is an explanation of chapter 8, the following statement of Ellen White is significant:

“There is need of a much closer study of the Word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. *We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy*, but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. . . .Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, *the history of the kingdoms there represented*. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase pride and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. *In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler and setting up another*. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty, are mortals. . . .The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. *The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass.*” {CTr 335}

You will notice that the context of this statement where she is telling us that we may have less to say in regard to the Roman power and the papacy has to do with the two visions given by the two rivers, Ulai and the Hiddekel. Those two prophetic visions were chapters 8 and 11 of Daniel.

These two chapters are not as papal-focused as is Daniel 7 or Revelation 13. Daniel 11 is very much like Daniel 2. The end focus of Daniel 2 is about the legs of civil Rome becoming the nations of Europe and in the days of these kings Jesus comes. There is not a papal focus in this chapter; it is all civil and thus a very good chapter to use as an entering wedge message for the public. Daniel 11 is very much like Daniel 2 in that it is an entering wedge message for the public. It is not primarily a message focused on the “Roman power and the papacy” and thus it serves as an excellent entering wedge for our three angel’s messages. This is how our pioneers used these two chapters. The Eastern Question was not a papal-focused message. It was an entering wedge for the messages found in Daniel 7 and in Revelation 13 where the papal power is exposed. However, when we switched to seeing the king of Daniel 11:36 and the king of the north in Daniel 11:40 as referring to the papal power, we are now saying more in regard to the Roman power and the papacy in this vision that Daniel had when he was beside the Hiddekel River instead of less, as we have been counseled to say.