

# **The Simplicity of Daniel 11**

Elder Tory St.Cyr

President of The Clear and Present Truth

torystcyr@gmail.com

## **Prologue**

I believe most authors who have written about Daniel 11 will agree it is a complex chapter. As a matter of fact, I will guess that most books written about Daniel 11 begin with a statement declaring this chapter to be among the more difficult chapters to understand. However, this paper will prove the exact opposite—that the interpretation of Daniel 11 is actually based on simplicity.

It should be understood that Daniel 11 has rules and guidelines. Without these rules and guidelines, the interpretation of this chapter becomes challenging, and the likelihood of a misapplication becomes greater. The rules are stringent requirements that are essential for an accurate understanding of Daniel 11, and the guidelines are suggested perimeters that help clarify the structure of Daniel 11. The potential for misinterpretation and misapplication is why we must first establish these rules and guidelines.

## Rules for interpreting Daniel 11

### 1. Understand world history

To understand Daniel 11, you must have a knowledge of world history. This history begins with classical antiquity, runs through the middle ages, and reaches our present day. Even if we were able to apply all the other rules and guidelines, a lack of historical knowledge would nullify all the guidance set in place. Fortunately, this paper will supply much of the history needed to understand this chapter; however, it is recommended that you verify the accuracy of the information that will be provided.

### 2. Understand the theme of Daniel 11

Some may not realize it, but Daniel's prophecies (chapters 2,7,8, and 11) have themes. Not only does each prophecy maintain its own theme, but each theme is designated by the previous prophecy. Allow me to demonstrate.

Daniel 2, which has a metals theme, designates that the prophecy of Daniel 7's focus will be "*beasts of the field and fowls of the heaven.*"<sup>1</sup> Daniel 7, which focuses on beasts of the fields and fowls with wings, designates Daniel 8's focus will be beasts with horns. Daniel 8's focus is Beasts with horns but designates Daniel 11's focus will be the four cardinal points on the compass (north, east, south, and west), which north and south become dominant. Each of the four

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel 2:38

prophecies maintains their designated themes. You must understand that Daniel 11 will seek to revert to this theme whenever it is applicable.

### 3. Daniel 11 is a literal prophecy.

Daniel 2,7,8, and 11 are prophecies that all tell the same story. Nevertheless, every time the prophecy is restated, Daniel provides us more information, or as it is commonly referred to—repeats and enlarges. Students of prophecy should notice that Daniel 11's repeat and enlarge is unique from its prophetic predecessors. Daniel 11 contains neither beasts nor horns. This chapter makes no mention of lions or bears. Daniel 11 speaks of kings and princes; it speaks of nations and world powers. This vision gives us no reason to force symbolism into its interpretation, which is an indication that the prophecies in Daniel 11 are not meant to be symbolic; they are meant to be literal. How do we interpret a literal prophecy? Simple. If the scripture says Egypt, it means Egypt—not France or some other country. If the scripture says Israel, this is not the Church nor the United States of America. Israel is Israel. Daniel 11 does not end with the National Sunday Law. Daniel 11 does not refer to the Loud Cry. Daniel 11's focus is precisely what the majority of the chapter describes—the conflict between nations. That being said, this literal prophecy may include metaphorical components. For example, vs. 27 says, "*And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table...*" The table in this verse is likely symbolic and was utilized by Daniel to show betrayal. In essence, components

of this prophecy may be symbolic, while the prophecy maintains a literal structure.

## Guidelines for Interpreting Daniel 11

### 1. Understand the Segments of Daniel 11.

Daniel 11 is a prophetic chapter that reveals the (now historical) details of the Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires. We will also see that the chapter reveals some future details of the Roman Empire.

Since we understand Daniel 11's focus is on three distinct empires, we need to know how Daniel 11 is partitioned for these nations. Which scriptures refer to Persia? How do we determine when the chapter transitions to Greece? Lastly, how do we determine when Rome steps into the spotlight? The good news is that we don't have to guess how Daniel 11 is partitioned. In His wisdom, God placed built-in indicators into this chapter to let us know when a transition occurs. You've read these indicators; you just didn't realize they were indicators. The rule for these indicators is simple: The way a kingdom rises is the same way that kingdom falls. Notice how Daniel 11 has these transitions already built-in.

**Persia is introduced:** "And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall **stand up** yet three kings in Persia..." Daniel 11:2

**Persia ends, and Greece begins:** And a mighty king shall **stand up**, that shall rule with great dominion, and **do according to his will**. Daniel 11:3

Greece ends, and Rome begins: But he that cometh against him **shall do according to his own will**, and none shall stand before him: and **he shall stand in the glorious land**, which by his hand shall be consumed. Daniel 11:16

Rome ends: **And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain**; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. Daniel 11:45

Do you see how simple this is? We don't have to guess when Daniel 11 transitions from one kingdom to the next. God has already done the work for us; all we need to do is apply it.

## 2. Understand that Ellen White provides the sub-division of the Roman Empire.

Students of Bible prophecy understand that there were at least two phases of the Roman Empire—Pagan Rome and Papal Rome. However, we don't have to guess where Daniel 11 transitions from the Pagan phase to the Papal phase and where the Papal phase ends; Ellen White provides that detail. Here is what she says:

The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfilment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfilment of this prophecy will be repeated.

In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that "shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant..." *Letters 103, 1904.*

Ellen White continues by quoting Daniel 11:30-36. You may not see it yet, but these are the only verses designated to the Papacy. We now have our subdivision of Rome.

### **Rule and Guidelines summarized**

Here, I will reveal to you that Daniel 11:40-45 has its own rules. However, I will divulge those rules when we get to that part of the chapter. For now, let's summarize our known rules and guidelines.

- Daniel 11's theme is the north and south cardinal points. The chapter will always seek to expose antagonists based in these two regions.
- Daniel 11 is a literal prophecy, and we must interpret it as such.
- The first 36 verses of Daniel 11 is segmented as follows:
  - Daniel 11:1-2 = Persia
  - Daniel 11:3-16 = Greece
  - Daniel 11:16-30 = Pagan Rome
  - Daniel 11:30-36 = Papal Rome

Now that we have established our rules and guidelines, it is now time for us to apply some historical context in order to establish the meaning and message of Daniel 11.

## Greece

After the rise of Greece and the fall of Alexander the Great, the power known as Greece divides. Ultimately those divisions consolidated into two competing powers—The King of the North and the King of the South. From verses 5-16, the conflict goes back and forth between these two regions. Verse 15 details the conflict of Antiochus Epiphanes and the Revolt of Maccabeus. The scripture declared that *neither his chosen people* would withstand, and just as predicted, Antiochus took Jerusalem by storm in 167 BC and enforced its Hellenization. On pain of death, the Jews were forbidden to perform any Jewish rites, including the worship of Yahweh. In their temple, an altar of Zeus was erected, and sacrifices were made to honor false gods.<sup>2</sup> Antiochus, who Evangelicals often label as the ultimate antagonists against Israel, came up against the rising Roman Empire. It is clear to me, Satan, knowing that Rome was the fourth Beast, raised up Antiochus just as Rome was becoming the dominant kingdom. Why would Satan do this? To deceive the masses into believing Antiochus Epiphanes possessed the characteristics of the dreadful

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<sup>2</sup> "Antiochus IV Epiphanes," Encyclopædia Britannica, November 13, 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Antiochus-IV-Epiphanes>

and terrible Beast—an assertion still made by many today.

## **Pagan Rome**

Daniel 11 introduces Pagan Rome by foreshadowing one of Rome's main "contributions" to Bible prophecy—the destruction of Jerusalem. Verse 16 says, "*he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.*" Daniel thrusts us into Roman history through the story of two of the Empire's most famous characters: Julius Caesar and Cleopatra (also known as the daughter of women). After Julius was assassinated (vs. 19), the chapter takes us through the life of Augustus Caesar (vs. 20) and Tiberius Caesar (vs. 21). In verse 22, God reveals to Daniel that this Roman power would destroy Jerusalem and that it would also crucify the Prince of the Covenant.

## **A new King of the South**

Once Rome became the dominant power, it occupied the regions of north and south. However, after the crucifixion of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem, Daniel 11 now "reverts back to the mean." The chapter speeds up the timeline looking for the next antagonist that allows the chapter to expose the conflict between the north and the south. The chapter transports us approximately 400 years after the destruction of Jerusalem and introduces the new King of the South with these words:

And after the league made with him he shall work



deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong  
with a small people. Daniel 11:23

The transition is not apparent, but the characteristics are clearly that of the next southern power to challenge the Roman infrastructure—the Kingdom of the Vandals.

In the fifth century, large amounts of Barbarian tribes started pouring into the Roman Empire, overwhelming it. The Vandals began as a small insignificant tribe but became one of Rome's biggest rivals. Thus the scripture accurately declares it *became strong with a small people*.

Daniel 11 continues by declaring that *He [the Vandals] shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province*. In the original language, the word for peaceably is "shalvah." Shalvah can also be translated as "prosperity."<sup>3</sup> Considering verse 24 mentions "fattest places" and "riches" and "spoil," the context seems to suggest that prosperity is the focus of this verse. Therefore, the proper rendering of this text should be "*He shall enter into prosperity—even the fattest (most fertile) places of the (Roman) province.*" At that time, the "fattest" place was clearly in North Africa. The Vandals took Rome's most fertile lands and established their kingdom there.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> "H4924 - mashman - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV)." Blue Letter Bible. Accessed 5 Feb, 2021. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=H4924&t=KJV>

<sup>4</sup> "The Vandal conquest," Encyclopaedia Britannica, accessed on November 14, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/place/North-Africa/The-Vandal-conquest>

The career of the Vandal empire continues until verse 30; however, verse 28 details the rise of Justinian I, the Eastern Roman Emperor. History reveals that Justinian exhausted the public treasure and then turned his focus to his subjects through taxation.<sup>5</sup> This over-taxation is how Justinian *returned into his land with great riches*. Justinian was also against the holy covenant through his preference towards the Bishop of Rome.

One of Justinian's main goals was to reclaim territory that had been lost to the invading Barbarian tribes. Justinian experienced success, and as a result of this success, we see the fall of the Vandals in verses 29-30. Chittim is a general term for all islanders of the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>6</sup> The ships of Chittim is most likely a reference to the Vandal fleet, which ruled the Mediterranean for over a century. The ships of Chittim weren't effective on this final battle, and the Vandals were *grieved*. The second part of verse 30 details the beginning of the Papacy. After Justinian recovers [*returns*] the lost territory of Rome, his scorn is directed against the Christian Church. Justinian focuses on compiling a list of Roman laws known as the Code of Justinian. In the Code of Justinian, there is a letter from Justinian addressed to Pope John II, which states the following:

"We hasten to bring to the knowledge of Your Holiness  
everything relating to the condition of the Church, as We

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<sup>5</sup> Procopius. United Kingdom: W. Heinemann, 1935, p. 231

<sup>6</sup> "H3794 - Kittiy - Strong's Hebrew Lexicon (KJV)." Blue Letter Bible. Accessed 8 Dec, 2020.  
<https://www.blueletterbible.org//lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=H3794&t=KJV>

have always had the greatest desire to preserve the unity of your Apostolic See, and the condition of the Holy Churches of God, as they exist at the present time, that they may remain without disturbance or opposition. Therefore, We have exerted Ourselves to unite all the priests of the East and subject them to the See of Your Holiness..." Thomas William Allies *The Formation of Christendom*, Volume VI, pp 115-116.

Emperor Justinian's recognition of the Roman Bishop's authority was the beginning of what Daniel called the *indignation against the holy covenant*.

### **Papal Supremacy**

Daniel 11:31 details the official rise of the Papacy. The Daily Sacrifice and the Abomination of Desolation are two terms that are often misunderstood. The Daily Sacrifice is not a sacrifice at all. *Sacrifice* was erroneously added by the Bible translators and does not belong in the text. The *Daily* in the original language simply means "continual." The Continual was the continuation of Israel under the New Covenant—also known as the New Testament Church. The Daily (true Christianity) was taken away and replaced by the Abomination of Desolation.

The Abomination of Desolation occurs when Satan's forces invade God's territory. A physical Abomination of Desolation took place when the Romans

invaded Jerusalem in 70 AD and destroyed the city; however, Daniel here is describing a spiritual invasion. In 538 AD, God's Church was spiritually invaded by Satan's forces once again. Paganism joined Christianity, and the Papacy was established.

Daniel 11:32-36 takes us through the 1260 years of Papal supremacy, including the Protestant Reformation (vs. 34), and carries us to the Papacy's deadly wound that took place in 1798 AD. Verse 36 gives us the finality of the Papacy's reign by revealing that the Papacy *would prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.*

### **Daniel sets the stage for The King of the South's final conflict against the King of the North**

During the reign of the Papacy, Islam steadily gained traction in the south. Daniel 11 now sets the stage for an end-time conflict by providing details of the empire that was also dominant during the Papal reign and would soon fall after the Papacy's demise. The kingdom that verses 37-39 details is none other than the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire originated in Turkey. Turkey (Asia-Minor) was the territory of the seven churches in Revelation. Even though the Turkish people had been Muslim for centuries, Jehovah was the God of their fathers. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was blessed among women (Luke 1:42). It appears that women looked favorably upon Mary because she gave birth to the Savior. This should be clear when we read the Gospel of Luke:

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a **certain woman** of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. Luke 11:27

Giving birth to Jesus was the reason Mary was blessed, and it was the birth of the Messiah that was *the desire of women*.

As an Islamic world power, the Ottoman Empire was different from most conquering nations because it did not force those it conquered to convert to Islam. As a matter of fact, the Ottomans established the millet system, which allowed each religious group to maintain its own faith, have its own spiritual leader, and rule themselves according to their individual laws.<sup>7</sup>

Because the Ottomans were not inclined to convert those it conquered, they essentially had *no regard for Jehovah—the God of their fathers, or Jesus—the desire of women, nor a regard for any god* of those it conquered. This was how the Ottoman Empire *magnified* and grew—because they received less resistance than other nations that forced religious conversions upon those it conquered.

The Ottomans conquered much of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire, and thus the scripture reveals that in the Roman estate *shall he* [the Ottomans] *honour the God of forces*. Forces also can be defined as a fortress or a

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<sup>7</sup> Kia, Mehrdad. Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire. United Kingdom: ABC-CLIO, 2011, p 117.

fortified city. Who better to have a god of fortified cities than the group often known for its Jihad?

Verse 39 details the fall of the Ottoman Empire. History reveals that ultimately Turkey was dismantled. After World War I, the vast conglomeration of territories that formed the Ottoman Empire was divided into several new states by the British and French.<sup>8</sup> According to scripture, the Ottoman Empire was *divided for gain*. Islam has not produced a superpower since that time.

### **The last five verses of Daniel 11**

The last five verses of Daniel 11 have been the subject of much debate. In order to understand Daniel 11:40-45, you must understand two simple points:

1. Daniel 11:40-45 is about war and nothing else but war.
2. Daniel 11:40-45 reveals a third phase of Rome.

Now that we have our two rules, let's understand how they are determined. Ellen White provides us the first rule. Notice what she says about Daniel 11:

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

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<sup>8</sup> Roderic H. Davison; Review "From Paris to Sèvres: The Partition of the Ottoman Empire at the Peace Conference of 1919-1920" by Paul C. Helmreich in *Slavic Review*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Mar. 1975), pp. 186-187

Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.—The Review and Herald, November 24, 1904.

Notice, Ellen White reveals the end of Daniel is about the *spirit of war* within the world. It is this *spirit of war* that indicates the prophecies of Daniel 11 have almost reached their fulfillment. This is not the only statement she would make in regards to wars at the end Daniel 11:

**The world is becoming more and more lawless. Soon great trouble will arise among the nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes.**—The Review and Herald, February 11, 1904.

Do you see it? Trouble will arise among the nations. War is the focus of the last five verses. Contrary to popular belief, Daniel 11 is not trying to reveal the Mark of the Beast. The persecution of God's commandment-keeping Saints is nowhere to be found in these last five verses. If your interpretation of these five verses concludes with spiritual matters, I implore you to please take one more look at the description Daniel gives to the last five verses and pray earnestly.

Like many Adventists, I've always believed that these last five verses somehow detailed the events that we've been preparing for our whole lives. However, the more I studied, the more I realized that Daniel 11 reveals to us what the *world* is going to look like right before the close of probation, not the Church.

The second rule is this: When we look at the components of spiritual Babylon, Revelation 16:19 helps us understand that *the great city was divided into three parts*. We also know that these three parts are the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet (Revelation 16:13). The Dragon represents Spiritualism (Pagan Rome), the Beast represents Catholicism (Papal Rome), and the False Prophet represents Apostate Protestantism.<sup>9</sup> Remember, these components are the three divisions of Mystical Babylon. A three-part union is what we call a trinity. This same trinity is what Ellen White called a "*threefold union*."<sup>10</sup> She also declared that these three entities are part of "*the same family*."<sup>11</sup> So even though they are three separate entities, the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet are prophetically one power divided into three sections. Regarding apostate Protestantism, here is what Ellen White says:

Romanism in the Old World and apostate **Protestantism in the New** will pursue a similar course toward those who keep all of God's commandments. *Love Under Fire*, p. 249

The New World is America. America can also be considered the headquarters for Protestantism. In essence, the Dragon represents Pagan Rome, the Beast represents Papal Rome, and the False Prophet represents the

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<sup>9</sup> Nichol, Francis D. 1953. *The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible commentary*; Washington: Review and Herald Pub. Association. p. 847

<sup>10</sup> White, Ellen G. 1950. *The great controversy between Christ and Satan*. Mountain View, Calif: Pacific Press Pub. Association. p.588

<sup>11</sup> White, Ellen G. 1950. *The great controversy between Christ and Satan*. Mountain View, Calif: Pacific Press Pub. Association. p.680



United States of America. If America is part of Satan's "trinity," this means they will attempt to mimic the heavenly trinity. What did Jesus say about Himself? *He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.* John 14:9. The same applies to Satan's trio. In other words, if you see the False Prophet, you've seen the Dragon! And since the False Prophet is part of this trinity, then we now understand that the last five verses of Daniel 11 refer to the third phase of the Roman Empire—The United States of America.

### **The United States of America**

Daniel 11:40 says, *"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."* The time of the end represents any time after 1798. The description of this prophecy appears to point to the event that we know today as "911." The attack that occurred on September 11, 2001, was facilitated by Muslim extremists. Even though the Ottoman Empire has long been disbanded, the territory of the former Muslim confederacy maintains the same Islamic creed. Therefore, the attack on September 11<sup>th</sup> was the King of the South pushing against America (the King of the North). America responded by sending its ships, "chariots," and "horsemen," to topple regimes and kill dictators. This was a direct reference to the War on Terror. Prophetically, we are

still in verse 40. Although the war on terror has subsided, the agitation of the Middle East is not over. Daniel tells us what happens next:

Verse 41 says, *He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.* From reading this text, it appears America will enter the Palestinian region of the Middle East. Assuming America retains its ally-friendly relationship with Israel, there's only one reason why America would want to enter this region: the nations of the Middle East will attack Israel.

The United States of America (possibly including an alliance of other western nations) will enter the region of the Middle East and begin toppling regimes.

Daniel then mentions Edom Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon as the three groups that will escape this onslaught. Scriptures reveal that the Israelites initially encountered these three heathen tribes during their journey from Egypt to the promised land. According to the Bible, the Israelites were not allowed to pass through their territory, and God forbade Israel from troubling them. (See Deuteronomy 2:4-5, 9, 19). According to the Bible, the children of Ammon, Moab, and Edom were given their land directly from God, and Israel was not allowed to war against them in order to take their territory for themselves. Today, that land equates to the country of Jordan.

According to the end-time prophecy of Daniel 11, when the United States military and its allies come against the glorious land, they will honor the command that God gave Israel in Deuteronomy 2 and refrain from attacking the country of Jordan (most likely at the request of Evangelical leaders). In this fashion, *Edom, Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon escape out of his (America's) hand.*

We must also be careful to point out that Daniel did not say "Ammon" by itself. He said, "*the chief of the children of Ammon.*" In the original language, chief means "first in rank" or "principal thing." Here, it is applicable to point out that the chief city of this country was called Rabbath Ammon, which is the site of the modern city of Amman—Jordan's capital. The chief of the children of Ammon most likely refers to the capital of Jordan and the officials that are situated there.

Verse 42 details how America will also attack the original King of the South—Egypt. America will *have power over [Egypt's] treasures of gold and of silver.* Similar to America's control of Iraqi oil during the Iraq war, America will exercise that same power over the treasures of Egypt. The scripture continues by declaring that *the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.* Ethiopia in Old Testament times would be considered much of Sudan today. Libya borders Egypt to the west, and Sudan borders Egypt to the south. These nations appear to suffer the same fate as Egypt. However, we are not sure if their fate will be

determined by their geographical proximity to Egypt or their involvement with the conflict in Palestine.

Daniel 11:44 speaks about tidings that come from the east and north. We need to understand what power resides in the east and the north. The book of Isaiah explains where this north and eastern territory is located. Notice who the prophet says came from the east:

"Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings?" Isaiah 41:2

In that same chapter, notice who came from the north:

"I have raised up one from the **north**, and he shall come: and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name..." Isaiah 41:25

Regarding this north and east reference, the Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary states the following:

"Cyrus is represented as coming from both the north and the east."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Nichol, Francis D. 1953. The Seventh-Day Adventist Bible commentary; Washington: Review and Herald Pub. Association. p. 254

Cyrus the Great is represented as the King of the Medes, from the north, and the Persians from the East. Today, Medo-Persia would be located in the territory of Iran. The Bible is revealing to us that Iran will enter this end-time conflict. It appears Iran will do something that will get America's attention. Whatever the tidings are, America and its allies will seek to destroy that nation.

### **The Papacy and America obtain Jerusalem**

Verse 45 says, "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." It appears that the results of this war will be that the Papacy will obtain Jerusalem. To what extent the Papacy possesses Jerusalem is unknown, but it appears that America will plant the tabernacle of the Papacy [its headquarters] in Palestine. The question is—Why would the Papacy want to be in Jerusalem? The answer is—the Papacy will welcome Satan when he makes his debut on this earth as Christ. This is important to understand because when Satan appears in Jerusalem, he will "defend" Jerusalem by bringing fire down from heaven and destroying the Muslim armies. This will immediately bring about a time Ellen White spoke of in her writings:

They declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them and walked with them, that great power, and signs and wonders were performed among them, and this was the **Temporal**

**Millennium**, which they had been expecting so long.

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According to many Evangelicals, the temporal millennium is a time of peace.<sup>13</sup> I believe that the personation of Christ by Satan and the destruction of the Muslim armies will bring about this peace. But when they say *peace and safety*, we know what happens afterward.

For an understanding of what happens during this time of peace, I suggest you read Matthew 24. The events outlined in this chapter are the blueprint for what happens after Daniel 11 but before Michael stands up in Daniel 12. With the world at peace, there will be natural disasters as we've never seen before. They will occur in the same sequence as they are listed in Matthew 24. During this time, we can probably expect to see a world-wide famine, an unfathomable disease, asteroids as falling balls of fire, storms that will produce unthinkable damage, and earthquakes that may destroy whole cities. This will lead to a World Order that will look to bring an end to the disasters that are destroying this world. One of the initiatives of this World Order will be the establishment of a National Sunday Law. This initiative will be instigated by Satan and pushed by the United States of America to get the world on one accord. Notice how Ellen White describes this:

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<sup>13</sup> Frith, William. *The age to come; or, The millennium*. United Kingdom: S.W. Partridge & Company, 1884.

Satan puts his interpretation upon events, and they think, as he would have them, that the calamities which fill the land are a result of Sundaybreaking. Thinking to appease the wrath of God these influential men make laws enforcing Sunday observance. *Manuscript Releases* 10:239 (1899).

Satan, personating as Christ, will declare that a small company of believers is the cause of all the disasters. A death decree will then be announced. The Mark of the Beast will be declared, *And at that time shall Michael stand up.* Daniel 12:1

Ellen White declared that *Much of the history that has taken place in fulfilment of this prophecy will be repeated.* The repetition she speaks of refers back to the time of Papal supremacy (vs. 30–36) when the Papacy thought to *change times and laws* and persecuted the Saints. When Michel stands up, scenes similar to the 1260 years of Papal persecution will occur again. After the plagues conclude, Jesus will appear in the clouds.

Now we understand why Daniel 11 is a Clear and Present Truth! God has revealed to His servants exactly what will take place among the nations before He comes. The Book of Revelation reveals what happens to the church, but Daniel reveals what happens to the nations. Praise God for the simplicity of Daniel 11.