



2020 1Q Daniel: Lesson 12 From North and South to the Beautiful Land

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

We received the following emails this week:

Aloha Come and Reason Ministries,

We are so grateful to have a Sabbath School Class that feels like home. Even though we have never met any of you we feel like we belong to a family of loving and inclusive believers.

We set our alarm for 5 am every Sabbath morning to listen to the class live as we live in Hawaii and are five hours earlier than TN

Listening to God's word presented though His design law of love has been and continues to be very healing and gives us the courage to go to a church where teaching God's design law is not welcomed and the challenge to continue to attend sometimes seems overwhelming but at the same time has offered an unprecedented opportunity to have God show us our hearts and how much healing we truly need so we can look at those who judge and criticize with the same eyes as our loving Heavenly Father. It is such a place of peace to know that God is recreating His mind in ours and that in that day we will rise healed and whole.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your continuous ministry

Ben and Colette Ferris

Thank you very much for allowing the lady to share her testimony as part of your broadcast of this week's lesson, Dr Jennings.

You describe and explain really well about sin and remedy; God's design law. However, this woman finally broke through to me how God's grace, His transformation, can be effective.

*Thank you for your faithfulness - you and your congregation - in presenting sometimes a very different viewpoint from that provided in lesson guides.
God bless you and your loved ones, plus all those people touched by your balanced material. For many years, I have thought we need to introduce Jesus then permit God's Holy Spirit to do His work in lives - without my coercing or whatever - just (hopefully, prayerfully) encouraging queries, softly nudging when someone asks.*

We cannot legislate faith. We can (and should) enable freedom to express beliefs, however they manifest...



God bless all concerned within Come and Reason Ministry.

Sincerely,

Wilma Gibbs (Australia)

SUNDAY

Read Daniel 11:1-4:

And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him. 2 “Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. 4 After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others. NIV84

What is being described?

Read first two paragraphs, “Gabriel tells Daniel...”

MONDAY

Daniel 11:5-14 depicts the battle between the Hellenistic dynasties, read first paragraph, “Upon the death of Alexander...”

In **TUESDAY**'s lesson verses 16-28 are considered and commentators believe this moves from the Hellenistic dynasties to Rome as the king of the North.

Read first paragraph, “A transition in power...” This seems to be confirmed by verse 22 which read, “Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed” (NIV 84).

The prince of the covenant would refer to the crucifixion of Jesus which occurred under the Romans.

WEDNESDAY

Daniel 11:29-39 transition us from literal Israel to spiritual Israel and Pagan Rome as the king of the north to Christian Rome as the king of the north.



Read all paragraphs, “Daniel 11...” Do we see elements that remind us of 2Thes in which the man of sin sets himself up in God’s temple?

This is more than just physical conquest of Palestine, it now encompasses the Spirit temple—hearts and minds of God’s people worldwide.

THURSDAY

Daniel 11:40-45 are reviewed, and there are a variety of interpretations for these texts.

November 2019, *Adventist Review* article summarized a theological conference held in Berrien Springs to discuss the different views of Daniel 11:

1. The Turkey and Egypt Position

The first view holds fairly closely to what Uriah Smith wrote in his 1884 book...

The King of the North in verses 40-45 is interpreted as being Turkey, either as the Ottoman Empire in its conflict in 1798 AD with Napoleonic France and the breakaway rulers of Egypt (verses 40-44), or as a last-days reincarnation of the Caliphate; and the King of the South in verses 40-45 represents Egypt.

2. The Papacy and Atheism Position

The second position takes the latter half of the chapter symbolically, arguing that the papacy is represented in its persecuting phase during the 1,260 years of papal supremacy.

This position agrees with the first position of a literal/historical interpretive framework for verses 1-22, down to the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary, but argues that after Calvary, the New Testament (NT) consistently applies a more spiritualized interpretation of Old Testament (OT) literal actors.

For instance, historical Babylon in Daniel becomes spiritual Babylon in Revelation; ethnic Israel through the OT era to the end of the 490-year prophecy of Daniel becomes spiritual Israel in NT times; and so on.

Thus, although this position identifies historical actors from verse 23 onward, these historical actors are no longer considered to represent the literal earthly powers to the north and south of Jerusalem, but rather they represent spiritual powers that are manifest in earthly realities, such as, for instance, the papacy as the King of the North. Verses 36-39 represent the full flowering of the blasphemous and persecuting papal power before 1798 AD.



In verses 40-45, the papacy remains as the King of the North and atheism as the King of the South. This position parallels the identification of the atheist French Revolution in Revelation 11, and Revolutionary France being the power that overthrew the papacy in 1798 AD....

I expand this from the Papacy only, to false Christianity. All of Christianity that embraces and promotes the false law construct with an imperial dictator God and which would use the power of the state to oppose and eliminate its enemies.

I see this view as false Christianity being the king of the North fighting against atheism, humanism and progressivism as the king of the South. And the king of the North suffered defeat by atheism for a period but comes back and destroys the king of the South.

One of the founders of the SDA church wrote in the book *The Great Controversy* the following:

“The great city” in whose streets the witnesses are slain, and where their dead bodies lie, is “spiritually” Egypt. Of all nations presented in Bible history, Egypt most boldly denied the existence of the living God and resisted His commands. No monarch ever ventured upon more open and highhanded rebellion against the authority of Heaven than did the king of Egypt. When the message was brought him by Moses, in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh proudly answered: “Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto His voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, and moreover I will not let Israel go.” Exodus 5:2, A.R.V. This is atheism, and the nation represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance. “The great city” is also compared, “spiritually,” to Sodom. The corruption of Sodom in breaking the law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness. And this sin was also to be a pre-eminent characteristic of the nation that should fulfill the specifications of this scripture. GC 269.2

The book goes on to apply this to the French Revolution which rejected God and enthroned the goddess of reason. And is the power that overthrew entered Rome and took the Pope captive thus ending the 1260-year reign.

But could this also extend beyond the literal nation of France and the French revolution to the spiritual revolution of rejecting a belief in God and the growth of atheism throughout the world?

What I see happening through history is this:

- Christ came and presented the truth about God and procured the Remedy to sin
- The Apostolic church embraced this truth and the gospel spread and many pagans were converted to Christ over the next several hundred years
- Satan counterattacks with the infection into Christianity of the Imperial law lie when Constantine converts and Christianity becomes false and begins using the methods of Satan to coerce—the crusades, inquisition, burning people at the stake are the most obvious abuses. But, the Imperial law lie also led to arbitrary rules for members about partaking of the Eucharist, about sacred or holy ground to be buried in, about purgatory, indulgences and the denial of science.



- This led to science—which is based on God’s book of nature—to conflict with arbitrary rules of the church and science combined with the abuses of an arbitrary Christianity that was based on imposed law resulted in the atheism and the rejection of God.
- Today, as science advances it, combined with the design law understanding of Scripture, which is the truth about God is overthrowing the lies of atheism and the lies of the imperial false god that has infected Christianity. This is the message of the 3 angels to present the eternal gospel and call people back to worship the Designer who made the heavens, earth, sea... Today many honest scientists who follow the evidence are returning to a belief in God because the complexities of science and the laws of nature are inconsistent with life occurring from random forces.
- So we have the remnant of God opposing both the King of the North—false Christianity and the King of the South—atheism to present the true gospel message about our Creator God.

3. The Papacy and Islam Position

... Verses 23-30 trace the rise of the religio-political church of Rome and its political-military exploits, including the Crusades and later campaigns against Islamic power, in which Catholic forces coming to the land of Israel from the north and Muslim armies coming to it from the south sought to control it (verses 25-30).

Then verses 31-39 flesh out the predictions in Daniel 7 and 8 concerning the papacy’s unique and astonishing religious pretensions and vicious persecutions (verses 31-39; see also 2 Thessalonians 2). In verses 40-43, the papacy and its allies (“Babylon” in Revelation) finally triumph over Islamic power, its long-time religio-political nemesis (see also the fifth and sixth trumpets in Revelation 9), during the “time of the end” (after 1798 and 1844).

In the course of a final campaign, which apparently aims to persecute God’s true people, the papacy abruptly meets its end (verses 44-45) just before a “time of trouble” and Christ’s second coming (12:1-3). This interpretation accepts religious emphasis and globalization developing after Christ’s first coming as Israel becomes the Christian church and Rome becomes the papacy. However, God’s true Christian people are also affected by the political-military activities of Rome and Islam at particular times and locations.

<https://www.adventistreview.org/what-does-daniel-chapter-11-mean>

Do we agree that there is a transition away from Imperial Rome to Christian Rome in this prophecy?

If this is correct then the prophecy takes us beyond the local region of Palestine to a worldwide problem. It is no longer about genetic descendants of Abraham being harassed in Palestine, but about the people of God being harassed by two sides—the King of the North representing false Christianity and the King of the South representing either atheism or Islam, depending upon one’s interpretation. Or could the King of the South represent both atheism and Islam?

What is the impact upon God’s people of these conflicts?



For instance—does Satan use the two sides against each other as a trap to seduce or trick God’s people into choosing one of the two sides when both sides are actually Satan’s side?

- Could we get caught up in a conflict over whether we should have prayer in schools or not—Christianity promoting prayer in schools versus atheism opposing prayer in schools?
 - Could this lead to good Christian people being tricked into choosing to side with the King of the North—false Christianity—that would seek to force its religious views on others through the power of the state and deny freedom to those who would not want to pray?
 - Could this lead other good Christian people who recognize the principles of liberty as being godly being tricked into siding with the King of the South—atheism—and promoting a system that denies God and indoctrinating generations of children into a false belief system making it harder for them to come to know God?
 - What would be a godly solution to this problem? If the state decides it is its best interest to require its citizens to be educated then, the state provides the funding but leaves the parents free to choose where the child gets educated. The state requires the schools to meet basic academic requirements but doesn’t police the religious beliefs taught at those schools.
- Could we get caught up in a conflict over abortion—(this is not about whether abortion is right or wrong any more than prayer is right or wrong, but is about whether the issue could be used by Satan to trick Christians into using his methods to achieve their goals)
 - Could good Christian people who value life and want to protect it get tricked into siding with the King of the North—false Christianity—and seek to pass laws to force people to practice their moral views regardless of circumstance? Could ideas be put forth that say “we believe that every child is a gift from God” and could such rhetoric confuse people—children, adolescents, or young women—who were raped or sexually abused and became pregnant to wonder if it is true; was the rape God giving them a gift? Could good Christian people get tricked by the King of the North to promote lies about God?
 - Could it lead other good-hearted people who may not be Christian, but who do care about others to recognize the principles of liberty and to side with the King of the South—there is no God—it is just your body, make any choice you want and in so doing lead *some* women to make choices that they later regret?
- Could it lead to Christian and Islamic conflict?
 - Could those who value Christian principles be tricked by the King of the North into believing that it is godly to use physical might and power to go to war with those who are a threat and we should eradicate Islam because it is the religion of terrorists?
 - Could millions of good-hearted people be tricked by the King of the South—Islam—into believing American and Christianity are the great Satan and they should use whatever means necessary to kill the infidel?

If we allow that this prophecy goes beyond Palestine and genetic descendants of Abraham to encompass the entire world, do we recognize that neither the King of the North nor the King of the South are part of God’s kingdom?



Are we as Christians able to recognize that participating with either the King of the North or South is a trap of Satan, in which he gets people to think they are fighting for right while in reality they are siding with evil?

How do we stay faithful to God while these two forces fight each other?

Could it be that the primary purpose of these two forces fighting each other is not for the King of the North and South to destroy each other, but the real purpose is Satan using both sides to destroy God's people?

How do we identify movements of Satan, whether King of the North or South?

The law and methods used—Satan always uses human imposed law and will always use coercion to force his way. No one can buy or sell save him who has the mark of the beast...(Rev 13:17)

God always uses truth, presented in love, while leaving people free. God does not coerce or force the conscience. Whenever you see movements that violate liberty you can be sure it is not the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Angel Rodriguez of the Biblical Research Institute wrote a document on Daniel 11 in 2015
https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Release_13_Angel_for_website.pdf

In this article he makes some very interesting insights. He makes the case that the prophecies are not merely local and geographic, but are dealing with the cosmic conflict between good and evil. That Michael and Gabriel are involved battling forces of evil behind the scenes.

He connects the events of Daniel with the events of Revelation and makes the case that both books are describing a conflict that goes beyond just human history.

In the Bible God's throne or place of rulership is referred to as being in the North, and Satan wanted to take God's place there. Thus, the King of the North would represent a power that wants to supplant God—a power that believes in God but claims to be God.

The King of the South is identified in the Daniel text as Egypt and Egypt is a power that rejected Yahweh, denied God's existence and set up its many own gods. Thus Egypt represents godlessness in all its forms—paganism, atheism etc.

The BRI institute article makes a compelling case that Daniel 11 is drawing from the backdrop of the greatest and most important event in Israel's history—the Exodus from Egypt:

- God's hand was against Egypt during the Exodus—now the King of the North's hand is against Egypt. God led the exodus from Egypt, whereas the King of the North leads a return to Egypt
- God used the waters of the Red Sea to destroy Pharaoh's army, the king of the north is described a flood coming over Egypt



- The references of chariots and horsemen echo the references of Pharaoh's army chasing the Hebrews
- Edom, Moab, and Ammonites are referenced in the Exodus from Egypt and were people not conquered by Israel. These are also mentioned in Daniel 11 as not being conquered by the king of the north
- Israel took silver, gold and precious things from Egypt, now the king of the north does
- Israel left Egypt to meet God on the holy mountain, Sinai; the king of the north leaves Egypt to go to the "holy mountain"
- Israel was commanded to exterminate the Canaanites and the king of the north heads to Israel to exterminate the people of God

So, the article makes a compelling case that the imagery in Daniel 11 is from the backdrop of the Exodus, but in this prophecy the king of the north supplants God and claims God's authority and seeks to undermine, overthrow or destroy God's purposes and people.

Are there lessons from this imagery that we are to understand as having a larger application than just that geographic region?

- God's people went from Canaan to Egypt and were captives in Egypt and God delivered them from captivity to return to Canaan
 - Humanity left Eden and went into captivity, becoming slaves to sin in Satan's kingdom of fear and selfishness yet Jesus sets us free, He delivers us and leads us back to Eden!
- God sent the plagues upon Egypt to reveal the impotence of their false gods in order to free the minds of the people from belief in them and turn their hearts back to Him.
 - At the end of time plagues fall on Babylon the Great, the trials and difficulties occur to wake up a world that believes in itself and its false gods and get people to evaluate the truth and turn to God
- God led the people through the Red Sea on the way to the promised land.
 - Paul refers to this as a symbol of baptism which is when we die to the old selfish ways and are reborn to a new life. It is only by this rebirth we can enter the new promised land.
 - The waters of the Red Sea destroyed forces of Egypt and the cleansing waters of God, which represent the Holy Spirit, destroy fear, selfishness and the power of Satan in our hearts and minds.
 - 2Cor 10:3-5, For though we live in the world....
 - Where is the battle fought? In our hearts and minds
 - What are the weapons of God that demolish Satan's strongholds? Truth and love—which are the weapons of God, brought by the Spirit of truth and love, and are metaphorically represented as the water of life
- God gave them manna, the bread of heaven, to eat in the wilderness
 - We are in the wilderness of this world of sin and God sent Jesus the Word made flesh for us to ingest. It is by partaking the truth of Jesus that the lies are dispelled and we come to know God and in that true knowledge of God we are won to trust
- While feeding them manna God took them to Sinai and gave them the law



- After we partake of Jesus, taking the living Word into our hearts and are won to trust, then we open our hearts and God writes His law on our hearts and minds. This is the New Covenant (Heb 8:10). This is the law of love, the living principles of God's kingdom, it is partaking of the divine nature. Thus, we who were dead in trespass and sin, are reborn to life and bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness.
- Edom, Moab, and Ammonites were not killed by Israel
 - Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Moabites were the descendants of Lot and his oldest daughter, Ammonites were the descendants of Lot and his youngest daughter.
 - They were allowed to join Israel if they converted.
 - As they were all related to Abraham, they represent people from other branches of the human family that cannot be part of God's family unless they convert, but of whom we are not to war with, instead we are to seek to convert. Yet these people often war with us.
 - Ruth was a Moabitess
 - In Jeremiah 49 God predicts destruction for the Ammonites who worship Molech, but states in the end He will restore the fortunes of the Ammonites.
 - "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name," declares the LORD, who will do these things. (Amos 9:11-12 NIV84)
 - So God seeks to save people from all branches of the human family, but only those who actually participate with God for transformation of heart become part of His redeemed.

What is the finally end of the kings of the north and south?

What brings about the end?

How do we understand the future events to unfold?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 27,28, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>

April 17,18, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH.

September 17-19 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX

October 3, 2020: Come and Reason will have a one day seminar in Chattanooga TN on Healing the Mind, Recovering from Sexual Abuse, the Impact of Digital Media on Kids and more. Details coming soon.