

Letter to Hiram Crow - Anchor Points by John Witcombe

I am seeing that the insights on Daniel 11 that Ellen White provided in her personal letter* to Hiram Crow provide for us clear anchor points to help us understand Daniel 11:30-45.

In verse 30 we have the setting up of a power that would persecute God's people for 1260 years. Right after Ellen White says, "In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of. . ." she begins to quote: "shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant."

"... have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant" indicates a union of church and state being formed.

"In the thirtieth verse a *power* is spoken of. . ." "**Power was given unto him** to continue forty and two months." Revelation 13:5 ". . . she sought the support of the *secular power*. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the *power of the state* and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of 'heresy.'" GC 443

The reason that the history of verses 30-36 will be repeated in the future, as stated in the letter, is because this union will once more be established as prophesied in Revelation 13. The United States will have intelligence with apostate Protestantism just as France had this with the Roman Catholic Church.

So this power that will persecute God's people is the union of church and state that begins in verse 30 and goes through verse 36. This power is the state of France who was controlled by the Catholic Church. In the French Revolution and its three and one half year Reign of Terror, the state disconnected from the Catholic Church.

In verse 36 the same civil power that connected to the Catholic Church in verse 30 is identified as "the king". Following the precedent of the former kings that have been mentioned in chapter 11, we would look for an identity in history who would match the actions of this king. This king would need to still be a part of this power that began in verse 30 so he would need to still be vitally connected to the Catholic Church and doing her bidding. King Louis the IV would fit this identity. And it was the actions he took during his long reign that set the stage for the French Revolution that finally brought an end to this church /state union. Verses 37-39 describe this period where the church and state had separated and in verse 40 we have the time of the end beginning which started when church and state were officially separated on February 15, 1798.

The fact that Ellen White connects verses 30-36 as one power unit is very insightful as to how we are to interpret these verses. The fact that she starts out her statement by saying, "The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfilment" tells us that the interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 (the Eastern Question) that was being presented in the Sabbath School lesson (tinyurl.com/yby2vqyj) at the very time she wrote this letter to Hiram Crow was a correct view of these prophecies. This statement was published in the Review and Herold (RH November 24, 1904, Art. B, par. 8) and in volume 9 of the *Testimonies*, page 14 and the understanding, that all who would have read this statement, would have been in harmony with what was being taught in that quarter's Sabbath School lesson. That understanding was that all 44 verses have been fulfilled and only one verse, verse 45, was left for Daniel 11 to reach its complete fulfillment. Ellen White would no doubt have intended the readers to so understand her statements.

And the only way this arrangement of only one verse being left in Daniel 11 could have come about was for verses 40-43 to have been fulfilled in 1798-1801 in the Napoleonic Egyptian Campaign and verse 44

to have been fulfilled in the 1853-1856 Crimean War. Both events deal with the world being stirred with the spirit of war as she indicates. This is exactly what was being taught in that 1904, first quarter's Sabbath School lesson.

So what we can ascertain from this statement is that the Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy lecture that teaches the interpretation of verses 40-45 as found in Uriah Smith's book, *Daniel and the Revelation*, is the correct interpretation. That being the case, the "him" of verse 40 must be a French power therefore the "king" of verse 36 must also be a French power. And then because verses 30 through 36 describe a single power, France must be the state that is connected with the Roman Catholic Church creating the church/state union which is that persecuting power (verses 33-35) brought to view in verses 30-36.

With these anchor points in place we can go to the historical records to find the history that matches the prophecy.

Here are all the anchor points that we have today:

1. One power for verses 30-36.
2. Only one verse left in Daniel 11 yet to be fulfilled.
3. Because the Eastern Question as taught by our church was identified by Ellen White as being a true message on two different occasions thus affirming our interpretation of verses 40-45, the king of verse 36 must be a French king.

* "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. 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: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. {Lt103-1904.17}

"And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. {Lt103-1904.18}

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done." [Verses 30-36.] {Lt103-1904.19}

Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place. We see evidence that Satan is fast obtaining the control of human minds, who have not the fear of God before them. Let all read and understand the prophecies of this book, for we are now entering upon the time of trouble spoken of: {Lt103-1904.20}

"At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince that standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

[Daniel 12:1-4.] {Lt103-1904.21} February 24, 1904