

Panelist's Information

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My view on Daniel 11:40-45 is the *literal/Turkey-view* as presented in Uriah Smith's book, *Daniel and the Revelation*. I came to this view in January of 2010 by reading Uriah Smith's book. See: ThirdWoe.com

The *literal/Turkey-view* for Daniel 11:40-45 was the majority view of the Seventh-day Adventist Church up until around 1949. For the past seventy years the majority in our church have rejected the *literal/Turkey-view* of these last six verses of Daniel 11 and have opted for a *spiritual/Papal-view*. Both views will be represented in our group of panelists at our upcoming symposium in Las Vegas.

To illustrate the difference between these two views, notice how Daniel 11:44 is interpreted by each viewpoint.

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” Daniel 11:44

Literal/Turkey-view interpretation:

Troubled by intelligence reports (tidings) coming out of Russia and Persia (north and east of Turkey), Sultan Abdulmecid I of Turkey (king of the north), declares war resulting in the Crimean War (1853-1856AD). – **Uriah Smith**

Spiritual/Papal-view interpretation:

The Loud Cry (Rev. 18.1) is based on the LORD coming to the east gate of the temple (Ezek. 40.2; 42.1-4, 12). God's throne is to the north (Ps. 48.2, Isa. 14.13-14). This represents the final warning message and call of mercy to “Come out of her, my people!” and the king of the north (papacy) responds with fury and violence. – **Louis Were**

Each proponent of each of these two views applies their rules of interpretation to the text. An important rule that guides the interpretation for those holding the *literal/Turkey-view* is William Miller's Rule #11:

“How to know when a word is used figuratively. *If it makes **good sense** as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it **must** be understood literally*; if not, figuratively. Rev 12: 1, 2; 17:3-7.” Rule #11 of William Miller's Rules of Prophetic Interpretation.

This rule is echoed in Ellen White's book, *The Great Controversy*:

“The language of the Bible should be explained according to its **obvious meaning** [literal view], unless a symbol or figure is employed.” *The Great Controversy*, 598.

This rule requires that the word *north* be understood *literally* seeing that the word *north* makes good sense as it stands and does no violence to the simple laws of nature. There is nothing in the text that would make it obvious that the *tidings out of the north* refer to a message from God's throne. If *north* consistently indicated an earthly point of reference in the prophecy as most prophetic expositors agree, it would be inconsistent to view *north* in verse 44 from a spiritual, heavenly point of reference.

Hence, the *literal/Turkey-view* proponent believes that in all eight instances where the world *north* is used in Daniel 11, its **obvious** purpose is to simply point to an earthly geographical territory located in the north. There is nothing **obvious** in the text that would indicate that *north* is pointing to the position of God's throne thus indicating that the *tidings* mentioned in the text must relate to the Loud Cry given by God's church. I believe that if we accept this take on the word *north* that this would violate the rule of “obvious meaning” and Miller's Rule #11.

A rule adopted by many who take a *spiritual/Papal-view* of Daniel 11:44 is that all prophecy that takes place in Daniel 11 after Christ was crucified must be viewed *spiritually/globally* rather than *literally*. The *spiritual/Papal-view* proponent believes that the phrase “tidings out of the east and out of the north” must therefore have spiritual signification and thus it is understood to be referring to the Loud Cry that God’s people will soon be giving to the world.

Besides Uriah Smith’s view on Daniel 11:44 harmonizing best with Miller’s Rules of Interpretation, there is another important reason why I am promoting Smith’s *literal/Turkey-view* of Daniel 11:40-45. It has to do with this statement of fact:

“**The interest in *Daniel and the Revelation* is to continue as long as probationary time shall last.** God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth. Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King?” 1MR 63 (1899)

The interest in this book only lasted another 50 years from when Jesus, through His messenger, declared that interest was to continue to the close of probation. Why is there no interest in his book today? How could we reignite interest? Also, Jesus directed that Uriah Smith’s book, along with *The Great Controversy*, **above all other books**, be given to the people and yet, we are not currently doing this:

“The books *Daniel and Revelation* and *The Great Controversy* are the books which above all others should be in circulation now. *Give them to the people.* Light and truth they must have.” Ms29-1890.28

Here is what destroyed interest in *Daniel and the Revelation*. Louis Were convinced our church that Uriah Smith’s teaching on the king of the north was a Jesuit-inspired teaching. He also claimed that anyone who would believe Uriah Smith’s view on Daniel 11 would not be able to experience righteousness by faith.*

But God says that **there will be interest** in this book as long as probationary time shall last and I believe that the best way to restore this interest is to show that Louis Were was categorically wrong. A contrary teaching on Daniel 11:40-45 is what destroyed interest in Uriah Smith’s book. Restoring interest would require us to demonstrate that Uriah Smith was following sound rules of interpretation in his exposition of these verses.

I believe that this needs to be done in order to fulfill the will of God as revealed in the two statements above. If we fail to verify the correctness of Smith’s view, I doubt that we will ever see interest restored and the words of Jesus regarding a continuing interest in Uriah Smith’s book until the close of probation will not be fulfilled.

And then what do we make of Ellen White’s statements quoted above? Does anyone else have a plan to put forward as to how this interest could be restored? Must we just ignore these statements? If we do that, what explanation will we offer to God?

* “His presentation that Turkey is the king of the north (Dan 11) and that, Armageddon refers to a military battle in Palestine is a part of the **Jesuit-fostered system of interpretation**-the counterfeit of the Spirit of Prophecy teaching concerning ‘the final conflict’”. *THE TRUTH concerning Mrs. E. G. White, Uriah Smith, and The King of The North*, page 10.

“The most wonderful teaching that our Lord Jesus is preciously near to the Christian in his struggles with the powers of darkness, giving him victory now and in the final conflict, is hidden from those who believe that Turkey is the king of the north and that Armageddon (Rev. 16: 12-16) refers to a military war.” *THE TRUTH concerning Mrs. E. G. White, Uriah Smith, and The King of The North*, page 10.