

Statement No. 13

New Light

Statement Sponsor

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Statement: New light on the prophecies of Daniel 11:40-45 will only build upon the light that God has already given to His church. It is okay to choose to believe that God gave to this church, shortly after its inception, a correct understanding of the major prophetic lines of prophecy to present to the world.

Will further light on the prophecies of Daniel or Revelation ever provide a completely new interpretation of a prophecy from what is found in Uriah Smith's book *Daniel and the Revelation*? In other words, is it possible that Louis Were's spiritualized view on Daniel 11:40-45 could be new light for God's church?

Ellen White clearly indicates that there will be new light, new truth to be revealed:

“There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.” {Counsels to Writers and Editors, page 35}

“We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed.” {Counsels to Writers and Editors, page 37}

“New light will ever be revealed on the word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God. But light is not given simply to be a strength to the church, but to be shed upon those who are in darkness.” {CSW 34.1}

“Men and women will arise professing to have some new light or some new revelation whose tendency is to unsettle faith in the old landmarks. Their doctrines will not bear the test of God's word, yet souls will be deceived.” {CCh 344.4}

“We are to pray for divine enlightenment, and at the same time we should be careful about receiving everything termed new light. . . . I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to divert minds to some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to salvation. . . .” {CTr 363.2}

So, we can expect that new light will come to God's people. But we should be cautious regarding any new light. New light must not undo the light that God has already given:

“It is true that there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled. But very erroneous work has been done again and again, and will continue to be done by those **who seek to find new light in the prophecies, and**

who begin by turning away from the light that God has already given.”—Manuscript 32, 1896 (Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, pp. 12-15). {CTr 342.5}

Did God not guide this church in its original investigation of Bible prophecy?

“By a thorough investigation of the prophecies we understand where we are in this world’s history; and we know for a certainty that the second coming of Christ is near. The result of these investigations must be brought before the world through the press... The evidences of our position have been increasing with every year. We have been receiving fresh assurance that we have the truth as revealed in the word of God, that in accepting the third angel’s message we have not given heed to fables, but to the ‘sure word of prophecy.’ We are now living in the **full blaze of the light of Bible truth.**” {4T 592.2}

This light that resulted from this “thorough investigation of the prophecies” was brought before the world through the book, *Daniel and the Revelation*. Can we trust that this book contains the full blaze of the light of Bible truth?

“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}

Any new light on any of the prophecies should not extinguish the light found in Uriah Smith’s book. I believe that God took extreme care in guiding His remnant church who “must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” Rev 10:11. I do not believe that He would have misled His church when channeling light through Uriah Smith to direct minds to the truth.

I see how perfectly God directed His church in establishing our principle beliefs during those 22 Sabbath conferences. Why would He not have given the same trustworthy guidance during those ten years of “investigation of the prophecies”? I understand that not all of us have chosen to believe this as have I. And it is simply a choice that I made to surrender all of my own carefully thought out prophetic views and accept the prophetic interpretations found in the book that God called “His helping hand”. I had “new light” that contradicted old light. I decided to let the standard-bearers tell me what constitutes the truth for this time:

“Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another with **new light, which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit.** A few are still alive who passed through the experience gained in the establishment of this truth. God has graciously spared their lives to repeat and repeat, till the close of their lives, the experience through which they passed, even as did John the apostle till the very close of his life. And the standard-bearers who have fallen in death are to speak through the re-printing of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. **They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.**” {MR760 19.1}

In conclusion, I believe that God has provided the help we need to bring us into harmony. It will require humility on our part to accept what a bunch of unschooled men and women discovered in their ten-year study of the prophecies. Not one of them had a terminal degree in theology or in the biblical languages. What could these laymen possibly know? Because they were so unqualified, God had to channel truth through them if they were to ever arrive at the truth that God wanted them to publish to the world. It is for this reason that I have such confidence in the Eastern Question in Bible Prophecy that they presented for 80 years of our church history.