

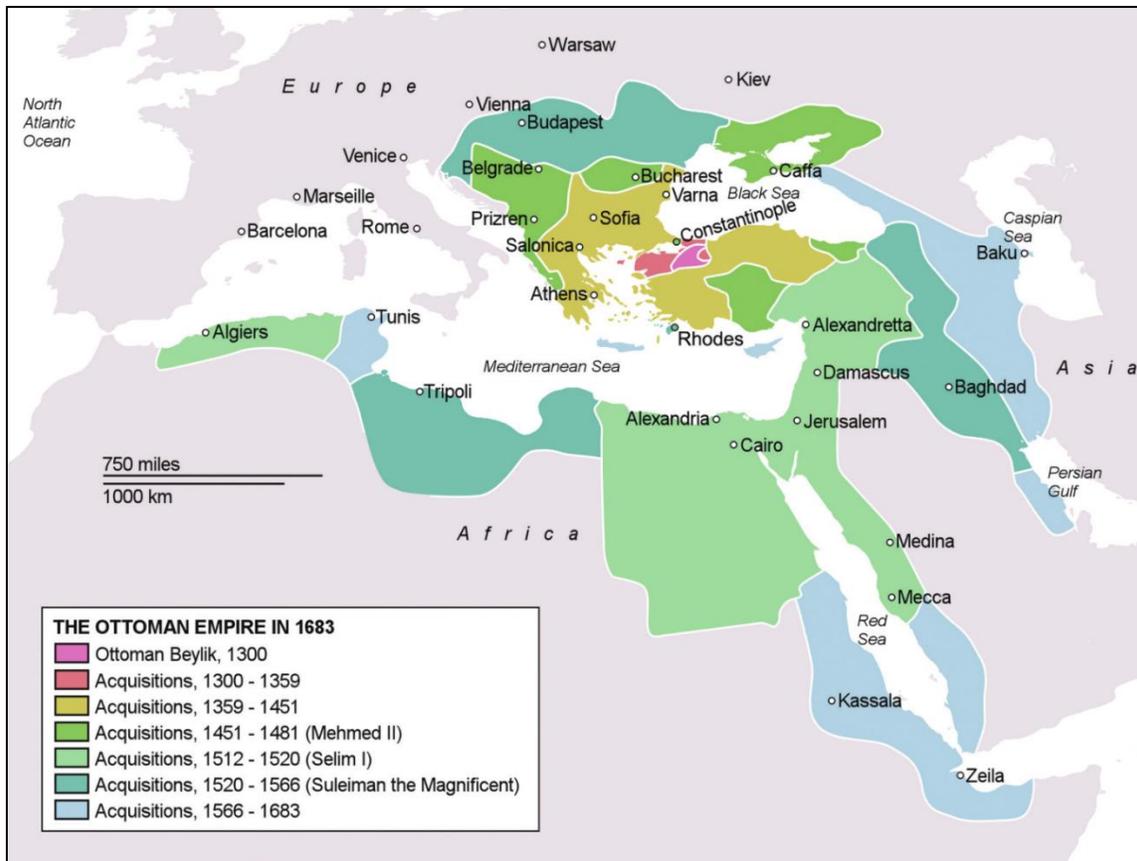
Statement No. 6
A Literal King of the South
Statement Sponsor
John Witcombe

Statement: 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 (Miller’s Rule 11). The phrase *king of the south* in verse 40 can be understood literally. Because it can, it is a violation of Rule 11 to interpret this phrase figuratively.

From Daniel 11:5-8, we find that the king of the south refers to the leader of Egypt. This is a literal view of the phrase *king of the south*. In verse 40, this same phrase, *king of the south*, is found. “If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally.” So, does a literal view of the king of the south make good sense as it stands? For it to make good sense there would have to be an independent ruler of Egypt at the time of the end.

When the battle described in Daniel 11:40 took place (1798), who was the king of the south? Who was in charge of Ptolemy’s Egyptian territory?

On the following map, we see that the Ottoman Empire obtained control of this southern territory in 1512:



And from this next map, we see that it lost this territory in 1879:



And yet, if the Ottoman Empire controlled Egypt at the time of Napoleon’s invasion, then we would have the king of the north pushing against France when they invaded Egypt. But the verse says that it would be the king of the south, not the king of the north that pushes against the “him”:

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [ruler of Egypt] push at him [the king of verse 36]: and the king of the north shall come against him [France] like a whirlwind”—Daniel 11:40.

If Napoleon had been battling the Ottoman Empire upon landing in Egypt, this history would not fit the verse.

But as providence would have it, Igrahim and Murad—Mamluk rulers—had taken Egypt from the Ottoman Empire and were co-ruling Egypt from 1791 up until the invasion of Napoleon. So the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire was not controlling Egypt; thus he was not the one who pushed against France when France invaded Egypt.

I consider it quite amazing that this prophecy fits so well with the actual facts of history. Following is the documentation to support the fact that the Ottoman Empire was not ruling Egypt at the time of Napoleon’s invasion:

“In late 1785, Ibrahim and Murad received Ottoman demands for tribute but refused to comply. On 18 July 1786, Murad Bey failed to contain the Ottoman expeditionary force sent against him, as a result of which the Turks set up a new

government in Cairo in August 1786. Murad and Ibrahim Bey withdrew to Upper Egypt where they resisted the Ottoman forces for the next six years. Returning to Cairo in July 1791, Murad Bey continued ruling Egypt for seven years, sharing power with Ibrahim Bey. In 1798, he served as sari askar (commander-in-chief) of the Mamluk forces against the French troops under General Napoleon Bonaparte but was decisively defeated at Shubra Khit (10-13 July) and Inbaba (Embaba) (21 July). He rejected Napoleon's offer to govern Girga province and with-drew to Upper Egypt, where he tied down considerable numbers of French troops under General Desaix. Demonstrating notable administrative and military skills, he fought the French to a draw at Sediman (El Lahun, 7 October 1798) but was defeated at Samhud (22 January 1799). Nevertheless, his guerrillas constantly harassed the French communication and supply lines."¹

"Ottomans attempted to restore control from Murad Bey and Ibrahim Bey but at no avail. Nevertheless, they both failed to defend Egypt against the French invasion led by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798. A fierce battle took place between the two sides near Imbaba in Cairo. The Mamluks were defeated, while those who survived from the battle defected the country including both Murad Bey and Ibrahim Bey who carried their treasures and hastily left Egypt."²

"With time he (Ibrahim Bey) emerged as one of the most influential Mamluk commanders, sharing a de facto control of Egypt with his fellow Georgian Murad Bey."³

Let's look at our text again:

"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"—Daniel 11:40.

History tells us that Napoleon headed north from Egypt in 1799 to conquer the Turks. They declared war upon Napoleon and came against him and his army like a whirlwind, ultimately reclaiming their southern territory with the help of English ships. Verses 41 to 43 follow the historical fulfillment of this war between Napoleon and the sultan of Turkey.

1. <http://tinyurl.com/q2sxxwqj>

2. <http://www.youregypt.com/ehistory/history/islamic/ottomans/>

3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Bey_\(Mamluk\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Bey_(Mamluk))