

Statement No. 1
The King of Verse 36 and the Papacy
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Statement: Does the king of Daniel 11:36 represent the civil partner of the church/state union, the power that was responsible for carrying out the papal persecution of God's people brought to view in verses 33-35 or does it represent the church partner of this church/state union? The evidence appears to teach that the king represents the state that is being controlled by the church. And it was the true character of the apostate church that was revealed through the actions of the state even up through the French Revolution.

It was the uniting of the church with the state that began the 1260 years papal oppression of God's people. The deadly wound was afflicted on the papacy when the state removed its power. Revelation 13 tells us that the deadly will be healed; church and state will once again be united bringing persecution back to God's people. So the state uniting with an apostate church is a big deal to God's people. Wouldn't it be great to find an actual prophecy that actually states that the church will unite with the state? Wouldn't that be great if we could find that prophecy stated in Daniel 11?

Ellen White quotes Daniel 11:30-36 which speaks of God's people being persecuted during the time when church and state were united back in the Dark Ages. Then she says that the history of these verses will be repeated. In other words, church and state will once again be united. That history is foretold in Revelation 13. I believe that we find this prophecy of the state uniting with the church in Daniel 11:30 which I will attempt to support by my statement #1.

In Revelation 13:11-17 there is brought to view a revived church/state union. It will be the United States of America, united with and controlled by apostate Christianity, who will repeat the persecution of the Dark Ages.

In these verses we have 8 personal pronouns (he) that refer to the civil power identified in these verses as the earth beast with lamb-like horns. These pronouns all refer to the state partner of this future church/state union. The state is the featured power that enforces the will of the church.

It is the state that will enforce the no buy/no sell punishment along with the death decree. Because of the importance of the state joining up with the church, the prophecy in Revelation identifies the state and places a focus upon that half of the church/state union. Again, the state is the primary subject and focus of these verses.

It is highly probable that the very same emphasis will be found in the prophecy where this same unlawful union of church and state is foretold in Daniel 11. Is this what we see in Daniel 11:30-36?

I believe it is because Revelation 13 is simply the history of Daniel 11:30-36 being repeated at the end of time as we were told would be taking place ("Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place." Lt103-1904). Following this pattern found in Revelation 13, I count 12 personal pronouns that I believe refer to the state partner of this church/state union of the Dark Ages.

The focus in these passages in both Daniel and Revelation appears to be on the state power of the church/state alliance. It is the state power that Ellen White also focuses upon in the following statement:

“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.’** [Verses 31-36, quoted.]”
{13MR 394.1}{Lt103-1904}

Because Ellen White includes in this *power spoken of*, verses 30-36, whoever the *power* is referring to in verse 30 would be the *power* referred to in the king of verse 36. Is this *power that is spoken of* the church or the state or a church/state union? Those are our three options.

If the *power* is the church/state union, then who is this *power* having intelligence with or uniting with as another translation puts it? Because it will be the event of the church uniting with the state that will result in persecution, it seems reasonable that this extremely important union event would be noted in the prophecies. If we could see that those who forsook the holy covenant was the apostate church, as Uriah Smith teaches, then what we would have in verse 30 would be a prophecy of the event of a power (state) uniting with the church as noted in the words *and have intelligence with them*.

Notice in the following statement to whom the phrase *great powers* is referring:

“Through the **great powers** controlled by paganism and the papacy, symbolized by the dragon and the leopard-like beast, Satan for many centuries **destroyed God’s faithful witnesses.**” {4SP 276.2}

The *great powers* would be civil Rome, France and other papal friendly civil states who were controlled by paganism and the papacy. And it is the **great powers** that destroy God’s faithful witnesses. In the near future the great power of the United States of America, controlled by apostate Protestantism, will seek to destroy God’s people.

Take careful note of this next statement:

“Under the symbols of a great red dragon, a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamblike horns, **the earthly governments** which would especially engage in trampling upon God’s law and **persecuting His people**, were presented to John. The war is carried on till the close of time.” {ST November 1, 1899, par. 3}

In that statement we have three powers that would persecute God’s people. Each one is a church/state union.

The great red dragon was the religion of paganism united with civil Rome.

The leopard-like beast was the Catholic Church united with France and other civil governments.

And the beast with lamblike horns will be apostate Protestantism united with the United States of America.

The infliction of the deadly wound to this leopard-like beast took place when the state separated from the church. When that took place, there was no longer the ability for the church to persecute God's people. When the wound is healed by the state coming back into the picture, persecution will resume. The deciding factor for persecution to take place is whether or not the state is connected with the church.

Notice who it is that Ellen White identifies in this statement as especially persecuting God's people. She highlights the fact that it is the earthly governments that carry out the will of religious powers to persecute God's people.

She highlights the fact that it is the earthly governments that carry out the will of religious powers to persecute God's people. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4 Paul is telling us that the second coming will not take place until the man of sin is revealed:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

Has this man of sin been revealed and if so, when did this revealing take place? In the following three statements the answer is revealed:

“When Satan wrought through the Roman Church to lead men away from obedience, his agency was concealed, and his work was so disguised that the degradation and misery which resulted were not seen to be the fruit of transgression. And his power was so far counteracted by the working of the Spirit of God that his purposes were prevented from reaching their full fruition. The people did not trace the effect to its cause and discover the source of their miseries. But in the Revolution, the law of God was openly set aside by the National Council. And in the Reign of Terror which followed, the working of cause and effect could be seen by all.” {GC 285.4}

“The war against the Bible, carried forward for so many centuries in France, culminated in the scenes of the Revolution. That terrible outbreaking was but the legitimate result of Rome's suppression of the Scriptures. It presented the most striking illustration which the world has ever witnessed of the working out of the papal policy-- an illustration of the results to which for more than a thousand years the teaching of the Roman Church had been tending.” {GC 265.2}

“It was popery that had begun the work which atheism was completing. The policy of Rome had wrought out those conditions, social, political, and religious, that were hurrying France on to ruin. Writers, in referring to the horrors of the Revolution, say that these excesses are to be charged upon the throne and the church. In strict justice they are to be charged upon the church. Popery had poisoned the minds of kings against the Reformation, as an enemy to the crown, an element of discord that would be fatal to the peace and harmony of the nation. It was the genius of Rome that by this means inspired the direst cruelty and the most galling oppression which proceeded from the throne.” {GC 276.4}

For nearly 1260 years the papal power ruled the nations but during this time the man of sin was concealed in sacerdotal garments:

“It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations which were disguised in sacerdotal garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and proscribed.” {GC 45.2}

It was in those three and a half years of France’s Reign of Terror that the sacerdotal garments came off the papacy and she was revealed for who she really is. The prophecy of these three and a half years is brought to view in Revelation 11 and in Daniel 11:37-39 as is taught in Uriah Smith’s book, Daniel and the Revelation.

Today, the man of sin is once again concealed. With the apparent humility of the current pope, the memory of the good works of Mother Teresa, the strong stand against abortion – the world now considers the papacy a moral force for good. But at the very end of time the man of sin will be once more revealed but to a greater degree than the revealing that took place in France:

“At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution--all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France. {Ed 228.2}

When the deadly wound is fully healed in the universal Sunday law and there is a world-wide dissemination of papal teaching, the man of sin will once again be revealed during the great time of trouble when the whole world will experience a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.

Further support for this statement:

Here are some thoughts on this issue that I emailed to Pastor Ken LeBrun:

Hi Ken, tell me what you think:

Verses 30 through 35 speak of a church/state union and its persecution of the Christian Church during the Dark Ages. Much of the history of this persecution will be repeated just before the Second Coming of Jesus.

Ellen White also says that the history of verse 36 will be repeated. And in verses 36-39 are where we see the papacy unveiled. These verses describe the outworking of the papal teachings in the experience of France. Paul, in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4 was led by the Spirit of God to use the very words found in Daniel 11:36 to describe the man of sin which is the papacy. In fact, verses 36-39 uses language that can describe both the papacy and the atheistic French Revolution perfectly because they are really one in the same. This power that is brought to view in Daniel 11:36-39 is the identical power brought to view in Revelation 11:8-12.

In what we saw demonstrated in the mid-1790s in France where it appeared that the Spirit of God had taken leave of that nation and men acted more like demons than men in the orgy of

killing and wickedness that shocked all of Europe; this experience will be repeated in the future. Notice how the quotation continues:

“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: [Daniel 12:1-4, quoted.] The Spirit of the Lord is being withdrawn from the world. It is no time now for men to exalt themselves.”—Letter 103, 1904.

You will see that she quotes Daniel 12:1-4 which deals with a time of trouble such as this world has never seen. It is in this time that the Spirit of the Lord will be withdrawn from man and the whole world will repeat the history of what took place there in France:

“. . . the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution--all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France.—Education, p. 228.

So I see a very good reason for Ellen White to quote verse 36 in connection with 30-35. Not only will God’s people be persecuted, in addition, the Spirit of the Lord will be withdrawn from man and the history of what took place in atheistic France will be repeated and the man of sin will once more be laid bare before the entire world.

From what we see here we can know that the king of verse 36 is indeed civil France and thus the pronoun “he” in verse 40 is civil France. With this knowledge it is rather easy to discover the war that is being described in Daniel 11:40-43 – the Egyptian/Napoleonic/Ottoman war of 1798.

Notice the last phrase of verse 36: “. . . and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.”

The indignation is the revealing of the man of sin in the experience of France’s Reign of Terror which was just a prelude to the revealing that will take place in the near future. The papacy is a blasphemous power but is not seen to be such by the world today. This atheistic revealing of the papal power is clearly seen to be a blasphemous power. And it comes from the same place that the papacy arose from – the bottomless pit:

“God's faithful witnesses, slain by the blasphemous power that "ascendeth out of the bottomless pit," were not long to remain silent.” GC 287

“In many of the nations of Europe the powers that ruled in church and state had for centuries been controlled by Satan through the medium of the papacy. But here is brought to view a new manifestation of satanic power. GC 268

What we have described in Daniel 11:37-39 is the retribution poured out upon the man of sin by atheistic France as a fulfillment of “. . . for that that is determined shall be done.”

Here is what was done just prior to 1798 which will again be repeated in the near future:

“All too well the people had learned the lessons of cruelty and torture which Rome had so diligently taught. A day of retribution at last had come. It was not now the disciples of Jesus that were thrust into dungeons and dragged to the stake. Long ago these had

perished or been driven into exile. Unsparing Rome now felt the deadly power of those whom she had trained to delight in deeds of blood. "The example of persecution which the clergy of France had exhibited for so many ages, was now retorted upon them with signal vigor. The scaffolds ran red with the blood of the priests. The galleys and the prisons, once crowded with Huguenots, were now filled with their persecutors. Chained to the bench and toiling at the oar, the Roman Catholic clergy experienced all those woes which their church had so freely inflicted on the gentle heretics." {GC 283.2}

"Centuries of apostasy and crime had been treasuring up wrath against the day of retribution; and when their iniquity was full, the despisers of God learned too late that it is a fearful thing to have worn out the divine patience. The restraining Spirit of God, which imposes a check upon the cruel power of Satan, was in a great measure removed, and he whose only delight is the wretchedness of men was permitted to work his will. Those who had chosen the service of rebellion were left to reap its fruits until the land was filled with crimes too horrible for pen to trace. From devastated provinces and ruined cities a terrible cry was heard--a cry of bitterest anguish. France was shaken as if by an earthquake. Religion, law, social order, the family, the state, and the church--all were smitten down by the impious hand that had been lifted against the law of God. Truly spoke the wise man: "The wicked shall fall by his own wickedness." "Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him: but it shall not be well with the wicked." Proverbs 11:5; Ecclesiastes 8:12, 13. "They hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord;" "therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices." Proverbs 1:29, 31." {GC 286.1}

Pastor Ken LeBrun's response:

John, I got out of bed this morning specifically to look up and read again Letter 103, 1904, which was on my mind as I lay in bed. Now I open my computer and you are writing to me about it.

I believe you have something here.

I will write more later.

Ken

Here is what Ken wrote later:

I am particularly interested in why Ellen White quotes the particular verses that she does. Why does she begin with verse 30? And why does she end with verse 36? Why does she not quote verse 37? What does she say about the verses that she quotes, that would make them particularly relevant as scenes that will be repeated? What makes verses 30-36 a distinct block of text by itself? And what changes in verse 37 so that she would not include that verse? These are the questions that I had while lying in bed this morning, and the reason I got up to look at that statement.

She says, "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 the 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....' "

The "power" spoken of here must be a power that reigns only in the verses she quotes. It must inherit the position of the reigning power of the previous verses, and it must morph into the

power that begins in verse 37. But verses 30b-36 as she quotes them must be an identifiable block in the history covered in the chapter.

Adventists generally assign these verses to the papacy in order to follow the pattern established in Daniel 7. But chapter 11 is about civil powers. The papacy, although exercising a degree of civil power, is not primarily a civil power. It requires support from external civil powers in order to exercise any power in civil matters. So the papacy is not the inheritor of the civil power of Rome. Therefore, the papacy is never the subject of any sentence in Daniel 11. What power inherited Rome's civil power? What is the "power" that Ellen White speaks of in verse 30?

"It was the Franks alone of all the German tribes who became a wide power in the general history of the middle ages. It is to them that the political inheritance of the Roman Empire passed, to them came the honor of taking up and carrying on, roughly, to be sure, and far less extensively and effectively, but nevertheless of actually carrying on the political work which Rome had been doing." George Burton Adams, *Civilization During the Middle Ages*, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900), 137.

So we should look to the Franks as the power that "shall be **grieved**, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant." And this being "grieved" should have something to do with the ships of Chittim coming in. The ships of Chittim are the Arian barbarians that took over the Roman Empire, particularly the Arian Goths. It was the swarming in of these Arians that prevented Catholicism from establishing spiritual supremacy in the West.

Notice the words of Clovis, king of the Franks just before his campaign against the Visigoths in 507: "It **grieves** me to see that the Arians still possess the fairest portion of Gaul. Let us march against them with the aid of God; and, having vanquished the heretics, we will possess and divide their fertile provinces." Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. III, p. 582.

In the last part of verse 30 Clovis is said to "have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant," i.e., with the Catholic bishops. It was the Catholic Church that had forsaken the holy covenant. So what does history say about the French kings having intelligence with the Catholic bishops?

"But with the conversion of Clovis, there was at least one barbarian leader with whom the Bishop of Rome could negotiate as with a faithful son of the Church.... In Gregory's famous History of the Franks, the cruel and unscrupulous king [Clovis] appears as God's chosen instrument for the extension of the Catholic faith. Certainly Clovis quickly learned to combine his own interests with those of the Church, and **the alliance between the pope and the Frankish kings** was to have a great influence upon the history of western Europe." James Harvey Robinson, *An Introduction to the History of Western Europe*, 1903 ed., pp. 35, 36.

"And arms shall stand on his part, and they . . . shall take away the daily . . ." (verse 31). This we know happened in 508, according to Daniel 12:11. The "arms" were Clovis' armed forces.

"It is evident, from the language of Gregory of Tours, that this conflict between the Franks and the Visigoths was regarded by the orthodox party of his own and preceding ages as a religious war, on which, humanly speaking, the prevalence of the Catholic or the Arian creed in western Europe depended." Walter C. Perry, *The Franks, From their First Appearance in History to the Death of King Pepin*, p. 85.

Notice that the civil ruler of France fulfills each specification of the prophecy. That remains true through verse 36. In verse 32 it says, “And such as do wickedly against the covenant [that would be the Catholic pontiffs] shall he [the subject of the sentence: the French kings, i.e. Pepin, Charlemagne, and their successors] corrupt by flatteries.” It was the French kings who flattered and exalted the popes.

Verse 36 says, “And **the king shall do according to his will**; and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself . . .” This must be a French king. We have no excuse to apply it to any other power. This cannot be revolutionary France, for it executed the ruling monarch and thus had no king. So, what king could this be who is known to “do according to his will and exalt himself”? The obvious answer is Louis XIV.

“Louis had never been taught gratitude to man or God. Born king, he was taught his importance to the welfare of the State. When Mazarine was dead **he felt himself delivered from all obstructions to his will**; and, declaring he would govern **according to his own wishes**, he took the position which he maintained through life—‘**I am the State.**’ ” William Henry Foote, D.D., *The Huguenots; or, Reformed French Church* (Harrisonburg, VA: Sprinkle Publications, 2002), 337, 338.

“**His will** and pleasure governed the court.” Ibid., p. 336. He exalted himself and magnified himself even against the God of gods in his horrific treatment of God’s faithful Bible-believing people. And this policy prospered until the indignation be accomplished and that that is determined was done.

Louis XIV determined that everyone in his realm would be Catholic. Dr. Foote’s book from which I have quoted explains how he went about eradicating Protestantism from France. It also explains the terrible results to that country of those actions. It was the eradication of Protestantism from France by Louis XIV that resulted in the conditions that bred the Reign of Terror. The Revolution was the direct result of Louis’ efforts to make Catholicism universal in his realm.

So we see that French monarchs ruled from verse 30 to verse 36, the very verses that Ellen White quotes and speaks of as an identifiable “power.” But a change comes in verse 37. Now France, without a king, does not regard any god. Verses 37-39 describe the Revolution.

Why does Ellen White quote these verses and say that scenes similar to those described in these verses will take place? Because it will once again be a civil power that flatters and supports the apostate religious system of the last days. As a result, God’s faithful followers will be persecuted and appointed to extermination. But the apostasy will bring nothing but ruin to the civilization.

I think what you are saying is true. Actually, the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians 2 is ultimately Satan himself who, disguised, was working through the papacy. As you have pointed out, he was not “revealed” as who he was during the dark ages. He was not exposed fully until the papacy bore its fruit the Reign of Terror. I am thankful for the references you have cited in support of this. I had not seen that before. But I believe that in Daniel 11:36, to which Paul alludes in 2 Thessalonians 2, the man of sin is still not yet revealed in that way in that verse. The opposing and exalting “himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” may take place before he is exposed in his true character. And that behavior continues “till the indignation be accomplished.” Therefore Daniel 11:36, which speaks of what continues until then, must apply to the king of France before

the Revolution. The fact that verse 37 continues seamlessly shows that the Revolution was the natural follow-up to Louis' policy described in verse 36.

Daniel 12:7 uses similar wording. Verse 6 asks the question, "How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" And verse 7 answers, "that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." And Revelation 11:7 says, "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them. . . ."

What do you think of making the king in verse 36 an actual historical civil king just like we do with all the previous kings in the chapter? To apply that word to a political revolution without a king is to adopt a figurative approach such as they use who apply these verses to the papacy.

With that minor adjustment, I think what you are presenting here is excellent. But I am wondering if Paul is explaining to the Thessalonians that Jesus won't come until a series of events take place: **1.** The falling away. This was what happened in the fourth century when Christianity was corrupted and false doctrine became the established creed. **2.** The man of sin, for over twelve hundred years, opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped. **3.** That man of sin is revealed for who he is in the French Revolution. I think this is slightly different from what you may be saying, because you may be holding off the "exalting himself" part until the French Revolution.

But notice 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed." Here is Ellen White's commentary on those verses:

"Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, **the mystery of iniquity** carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly **the customs of heathenism** found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was **restrained** for a time by the fierce **persecutions** which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now, the work of corruption rapidly progressed. **Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror.** Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ." *The Great Controversy*, pp. 49, 50.

To Ellen White, it seems that "the mystery of iniquity" may be defined as "the customs of heathenism" or "paganism." The restrainer was persecution. That restraint was "taken out of the way" when Constantine legalized Christianity in 313. Then the text says, "And then shall that Wicked be revealed." So is that revealing the same as the revealing in verse 3? It sounds like the revealing in verse 8 took place when paganism conquered the church, while appearing to be vanquished, in the fourth century. But the statements you have quoted indicate that the true spirit behind the papacy, heathenism, was not fully revealed until the French Revolution. That looks to be what Paul might be saying in all of this.