

Ellen White's Position on Daniel 11:40-45

Did Ellen White ever endorse the interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 as we find it presented in Uriah Smith's book, *Daniel and the Revelation*?

Willie White, Ellen White's son, saw significance in the fact that his mother commented in the *Testimonies* on Uriah Smith's presentation on the Eastern Question (1877):

I do not know of any utterance of mother's that tells us about the King of the North. The two things that most nearly approach to it, are the statement in *Testimonies*, v. 9, p. 14 and *Testimonies*, v. 4, p. 279. Here, in reporting the Danvers campmeeting, she wrote: "Eld. Smith spoke in the morning on the Eastern Question. The subject was of special interest, and the people listened with the most earnest attention." These things are not proofs, but they seem to me to be very interesting indications.—Letter from Willie White to Elder John Vuilleumier, March 6, 1919.

A summary of this lecture Ellen White was commenting on was reported in the *Boston Evening Journal*, August 27, 1877. The report shows clearly that Elder Smith's Eastern Question lecture was related to the prophecy of Daniel 11:45. See: <http://tinyurl.com/qzk2p6x> (second page, fifth column).

If Willie White thought that that statement provided an interesting indication, what do you suppose he might have said if he had recalled the following two statements discovered in the collection of letters and manuscripts recently released (July 16, 2015) by the White Estate?

The evening meeting was largely attended. Elder Smith spoke with great clearness, and many listened *with open eyes, ears, and mouths*. *The outsiders seemed to be intensely interested in the Eastern question*. He closed with a very solemn address to those who had not been preparing for *these great events in the near future*.—Lt55-1884 (August 24, 1884) par. 7, emphasis supplied.

Elder Daniells speaks this evening upon the *Eastern Question*. May the Lord give His Holy Spirit to inspire the hearts to *make the truth plain*.—Ms189-1898 (December 25, 1898) par. 9, emphasis supplied.

I believe that Willie White would have seen significance to the fact that Ellen White connected the word *truth* to the interpretation that Elder Daniells was giving in his presentation on Daniel 11:45 (Eastern Question).

Significant also is Ellen White's indicating that the Eastern Question was connected with "great events in the near future" for which people needed to prepare. Those great events, directly connected to Daniel 11:45, are listed in the very next verse—the close of probation, the great time of trouble and the Second Coming of Jesus. Elder Smith's presentation to those many intensely interested, open-mouthed "outsiders" was showing how the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-44 related to recent history and how events in the Middle East could develop into fulfilling verse 45—the final, unfulfilled waymark of Daniel 11 that heralds the imminent closing of human probation.

In three separate years—1877, 1884, and 1898—Ellen White spoke of the Eastern Question. It seems from the plain reading of these statements that Ellen White endorsed the interpretation that Smith and Daniells were giving to Daniel 11:45. If this is true, then we too can present the interpretation of Daniel 11:36-45 as taught in Smith's book *Daniel and the Revelation* with confidence, knowing that we are teaching truth.

We need to speak with one voice on the great lines of prophecy. Perhaps God saw that we needed to hear from His messenger regarding this prophecy in order to bring us all into unity, and so, in God's providence, these statements were just released.

How do we know that the Eastern Question that Daniells was presenting was also all about Daniel 11:40-45?

You will find what Elder Daniells taught regarding the Eastern Question starting on page 49 of his book, *The World War: Its Relation to the Eastern Question and Armageddon*, which you can read here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ouvknwy>

The Eastern Question for Elder Daniells was all about Daniel 11:40-45. This was also the focus of the chapter entitled, "The Eastern Question," in the book, *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*:

<http://tinyurl.com/qc7ucph>

The following statements from two separate General Conference Session Secretary's reports provide additional evidence that Daniel 11 was the focus of the message Elder Daniells and Elder Smith were giving when they presented the Eastern Question:

For many years we have watched the Eastern question narrowing down toward the final fulfillment of Daniel 11.—May 14, 1909, W.A. Spicer, GCB 12.10.

Elder Allen Moon, president of the Lake Union Conference, in a recent letter had this to say about using newspapers: "Knowing your interest in the use of the public press in calling attention to revealed truth and the principles of righteousness, I will forward a few facts which seem to bear testimony in favor of making use of this means in reaching the sincere seeker after truth. In our little city (South Bend, Ind., which has a population of about fifty-three thousand) we have two daily papers. Both of these have, during the past winter, published articles treating on the peculiar views held by Seventh-day Adventists, notably an article on the *Eastern Question, showing the unfolding of the prophecies of Daniel 11 in the events transpiring in the land of the Turk*. It was stated that this prophecy contained an outline in advance of history now being made by the events of the Balkan war. The article was printed in full, and attention called to it in the editorial. The result of the publication of the various articles in these two dailies has been to bring our people into prominence, and to set in motion a train of inquiry regarding other points of faith. The editor of one of the papers regarded these questions of such importance and interest to his readers that he looked up some Adventist people, and by telephone asked for further articles on special subjects.—May 21, 1913, W.A. Spicer, GCB 80.10, emphasis supplied.

A synopsis of George B. Starr's sermon on the Eastern Question can be read from a Chicago newspaper, 1886, last column (<http://tinyurl.com/qf9h32p>). This gives us more insight as to what Daniells and Smith were presenting when speaking of the Eastern Question.

Notice also that Ellen White associated war with the final verse of Daniel 11:

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.—RH Nov. 24, 1904.

The readers of the *Review and Herald* in 1904 would have understood what she meant by that statement. They knew of her support for the book *Daniel and the Revelation*, and they knew that it taught that there was only one more verse in Daniel 11 to be fulfilled.

Notice what the President of Turkey (king of the north) is up to these days:

<https://www.jerusalemcaliphate.com/news>

I think you will see from these posts that Daniel 11:45 could very well be on the verge of being fulfilled.

This paper is posted on the documents page of this website: <http://www.thirdwoe.com>.

For additional evidence that Elders Daniells and Smith were sound in their interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45, see *Unholy War* posted at this same site.

John Witcombe

pastorjcw@gmail.com