

Caught Unprepared

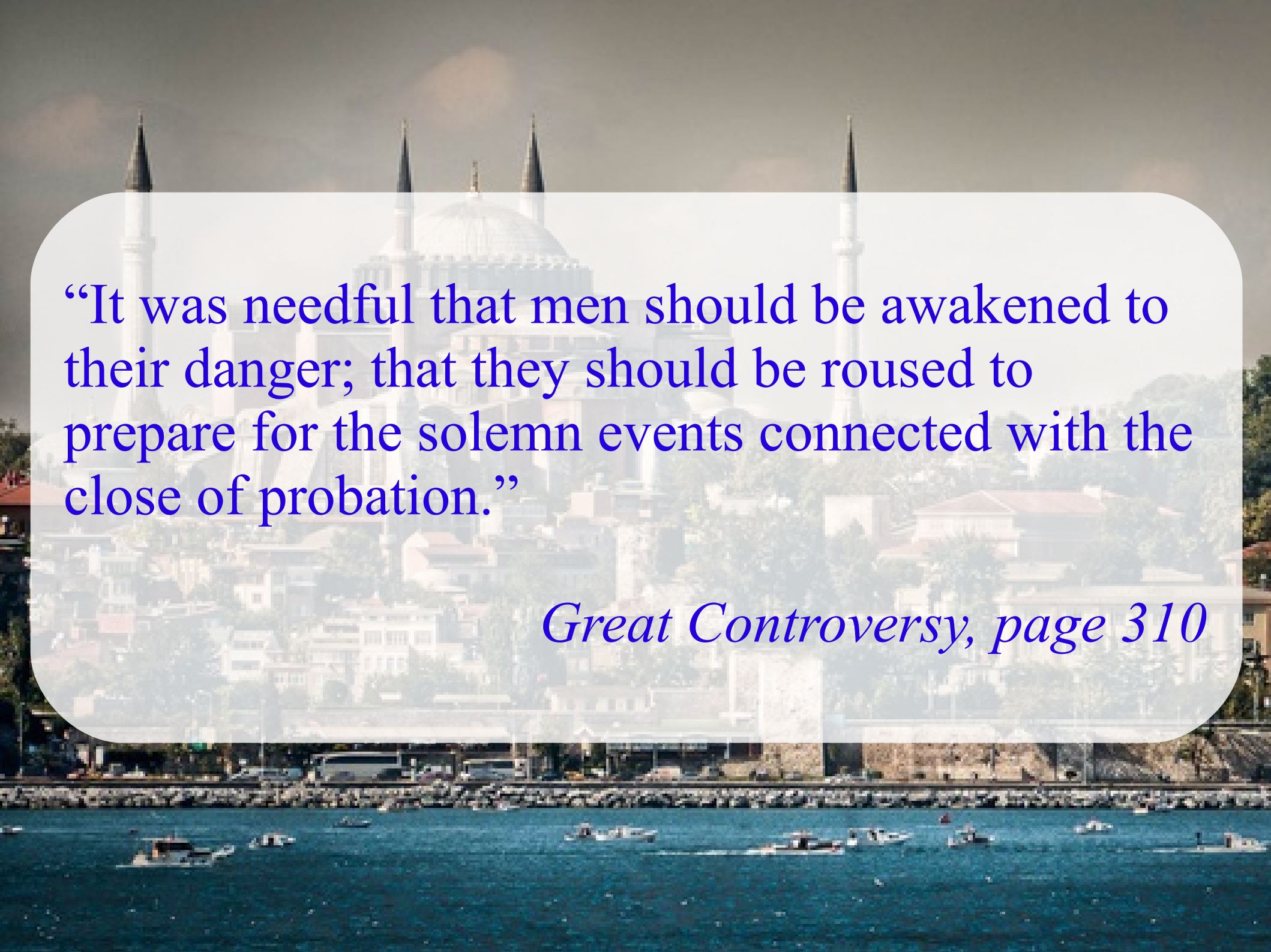
Part 6

The Whirlwind from the North



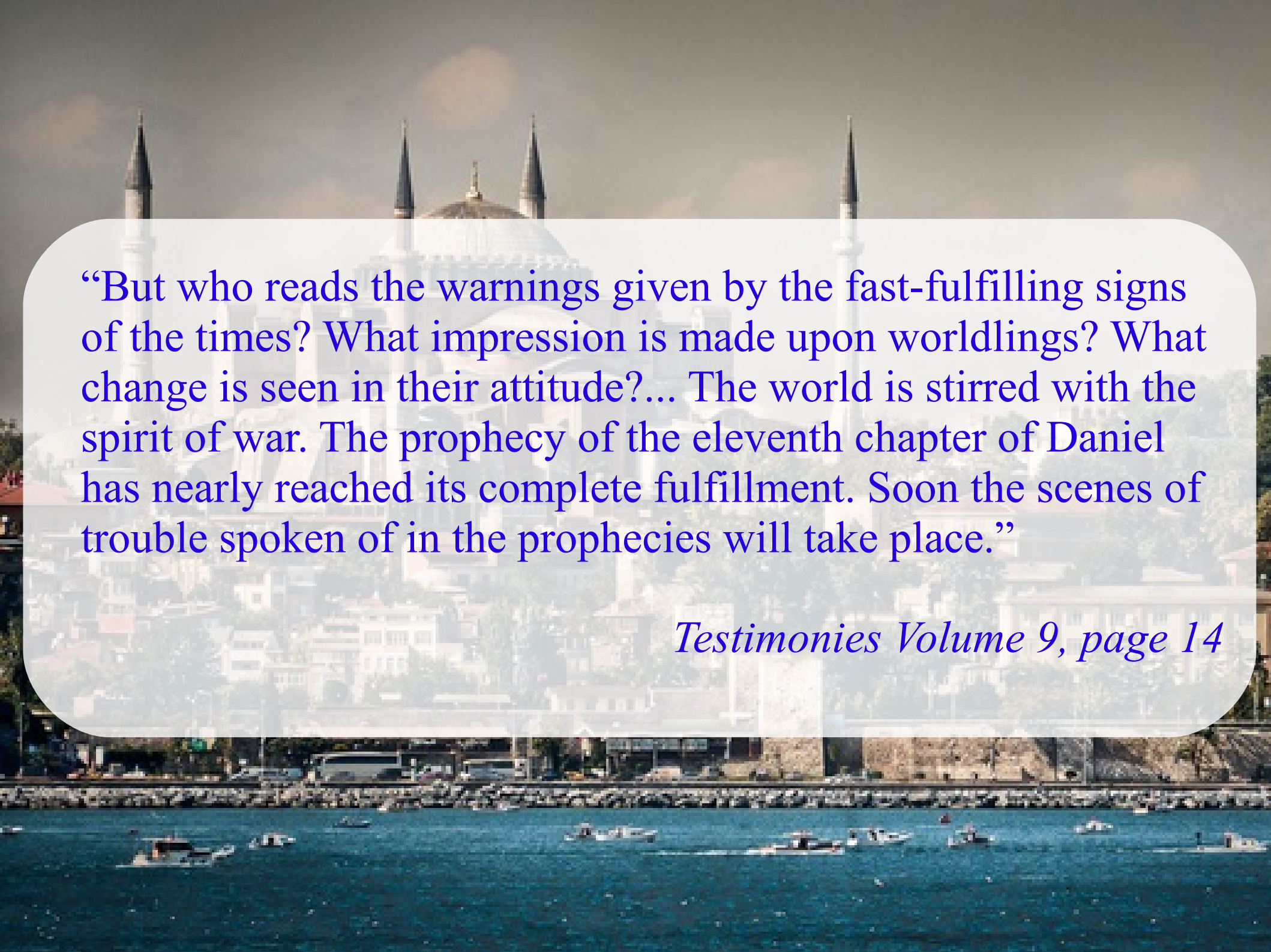
“In the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.”

*Review and Herald, June 7, 1906;
Spirit of Prophecy page 412;
Great Controversy page 594*



“It was needful that men should be awakened to their danger; that they should be roused to prepare for the solemn events connected with the close of probation.”

Great Controversy, page 310



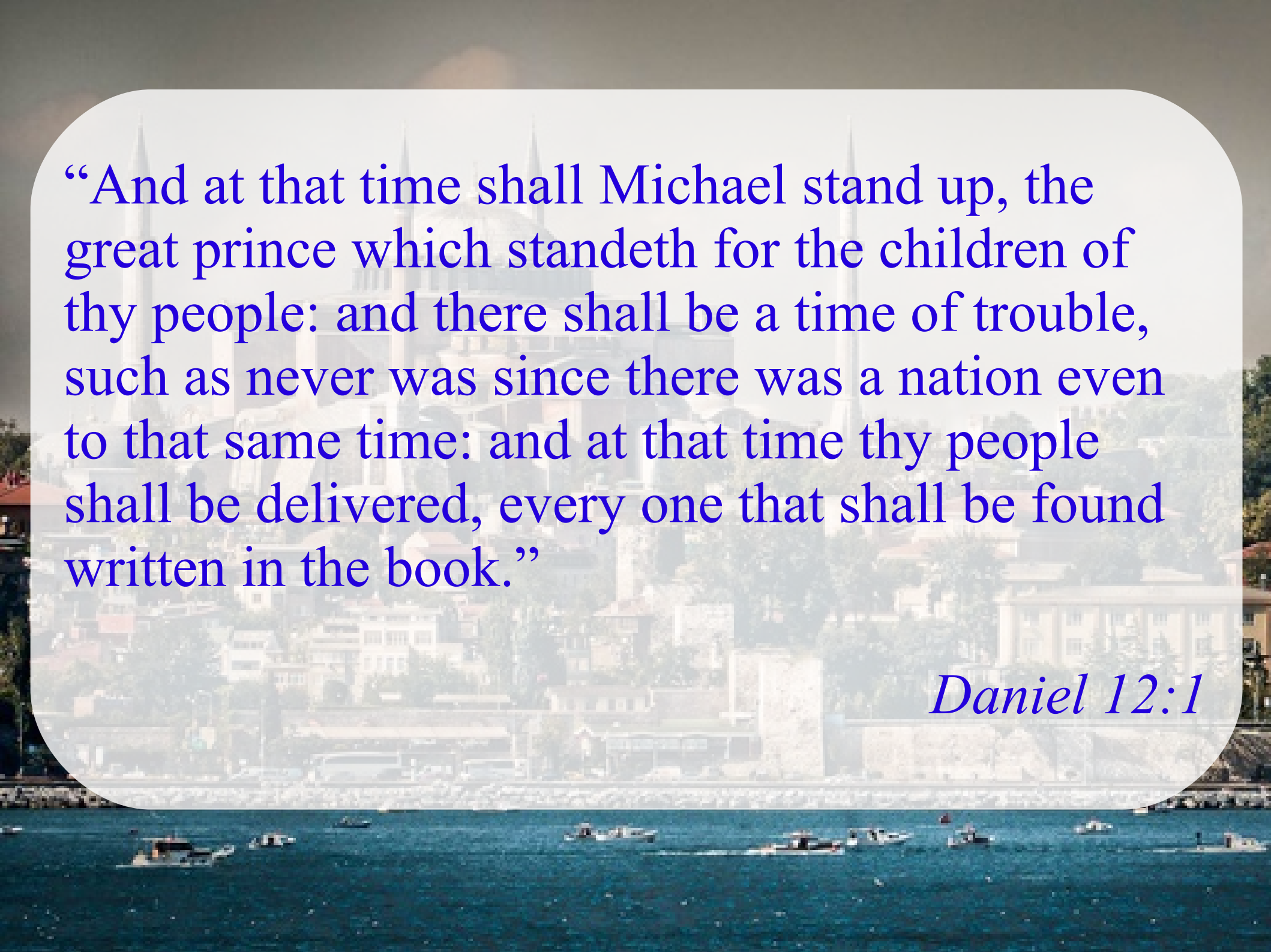
“But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude?... The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.”

Testimonies Volume 9, page 14

“Let us read and study the twelfth chapter of Daniel. It is a warning that we shall all need to understand before the time of the end.”

Manuscript Releases Vol. 15, page 228

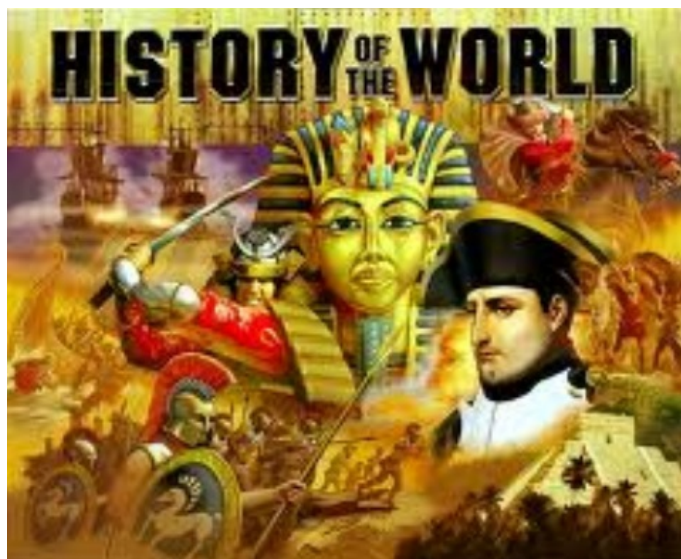
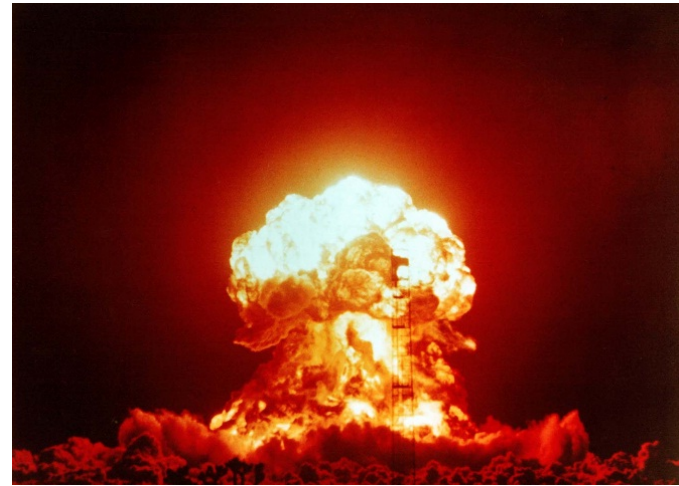




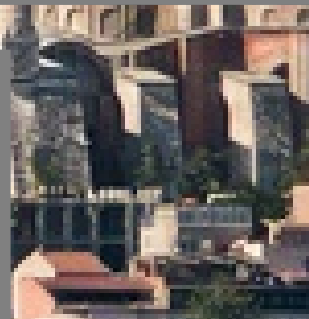
“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

Daniel 12:1

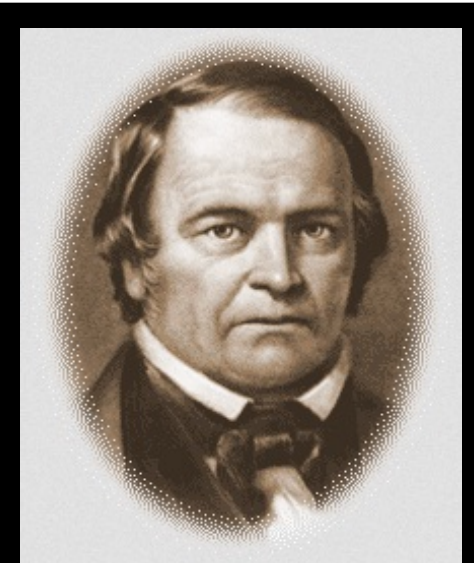
This verse is the only one in the Bible that pinpoints the time of trouble and the close of probation. But in order to find out when that time is we must identify the events that occur in chapter 11.



As we have pointed out before, Daniel 11 is different than other prophecies in that it is presented in plain language instead of in symbols. The angel says “And now will I show thee the truth...” *Daniel 11:2*. But some claim that verses 40-45 have spiritual meaning and are not literally fulfilled at all. How can we know for sure what these verses mean?



William Miller gave us fourteen principles for the interpretation of prophecy. In number 11 he says “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.” In number 13 he tells us, “To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy: If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. **But if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development.** For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed.” *Views of the Prophetic Chronology, Selected from the Manuscripts of William Miller With a Memoir of His Life by Joshua V. Himes, 1841, page 22 (parenthesis supplied by Miller).*



William Miller - 1782-1849

Sister White tells us “The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared, ‘Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God.’ The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, ‘If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine.’ If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.”
Review and Herald, June 28, 1906.



Ellen G. White - 1827-1915

There is no controversy on the first portion of this vision in Daniel 11. Its meaning is too plain and it is literally fulfilled in Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Because of this we haven't chosen to go over this portion of the prophecy but are focusing our attention on the last six verses. So let's take a look at the prophecy and the history and see if we can find in history events that literally fulfill every word.



Alexander the Great – 356-323 BC



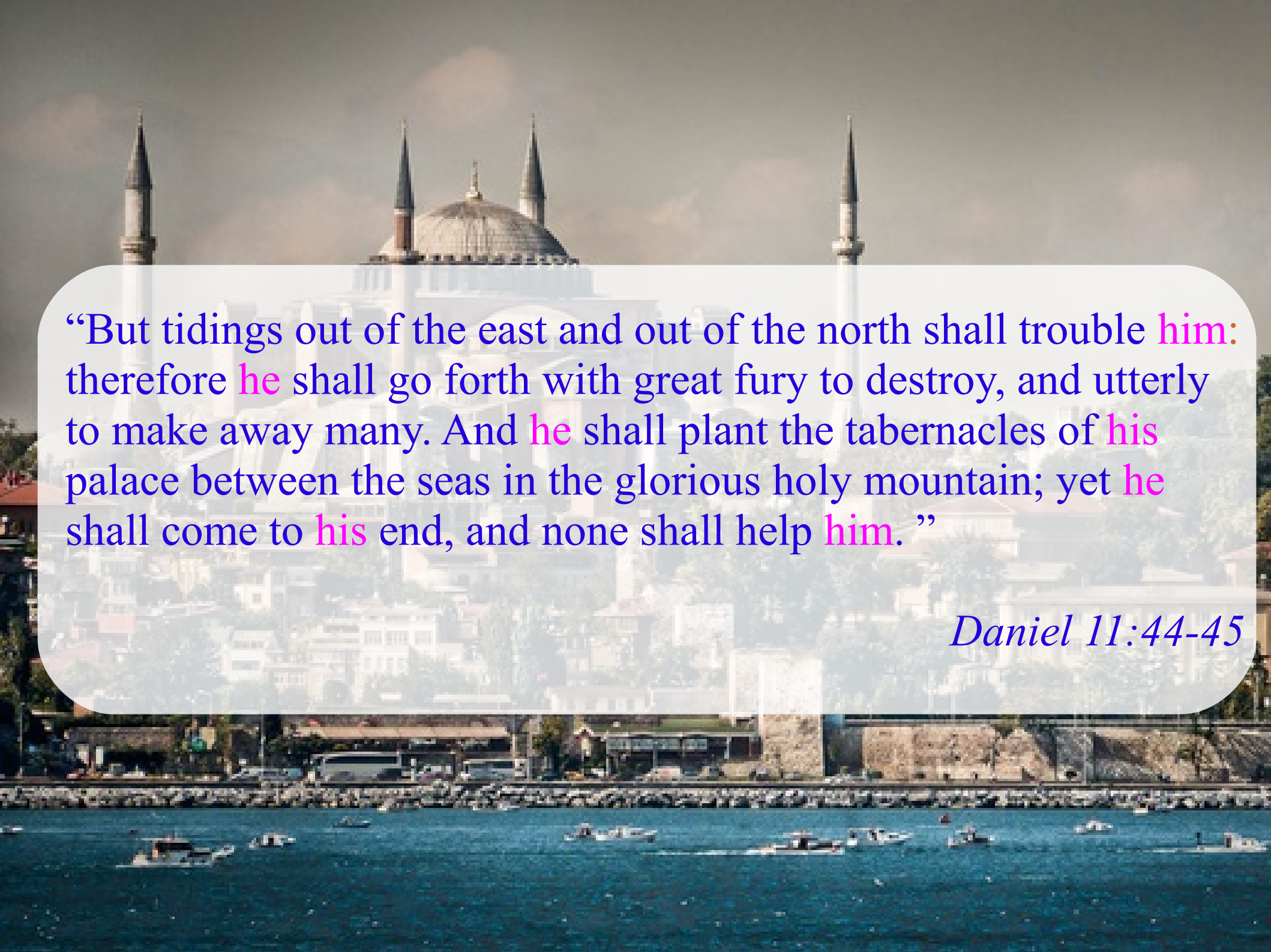
Cyrus the Great – 600-576 BC



Julius Caesar – 100 – 44 BC

“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. **He** shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of **his** hand, even **Edom**, and **Moab**, and the chief of the children of **Ammon**. **He** shall stretch forth **his** hand also upon the countries: and the land of **Egypt** shall not escape. But **he** shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of **Egypt**: and the **Libyans** and the **Ethiopians** shall be at his steps.”

Daniel 11:40-43



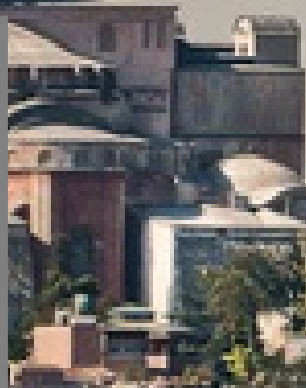
“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble **him**: therefore **he** shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And **he** shall plant the tabernacles of **his** palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet **he** shall come to **his** end, and none shall help **him**. ”

Daniel 11:44-45

So far we have positively identified the time of the end as 1798, the king of the south as Egypt, and him (the willful king) as France. We also established that there was a war fought between Egypt and France in the year 1798 that exactly fits the description in verse 40. But now we see another player, the king of the north, coming into the picture. Who is this king of the north?



French taking the Pope captive - 1798

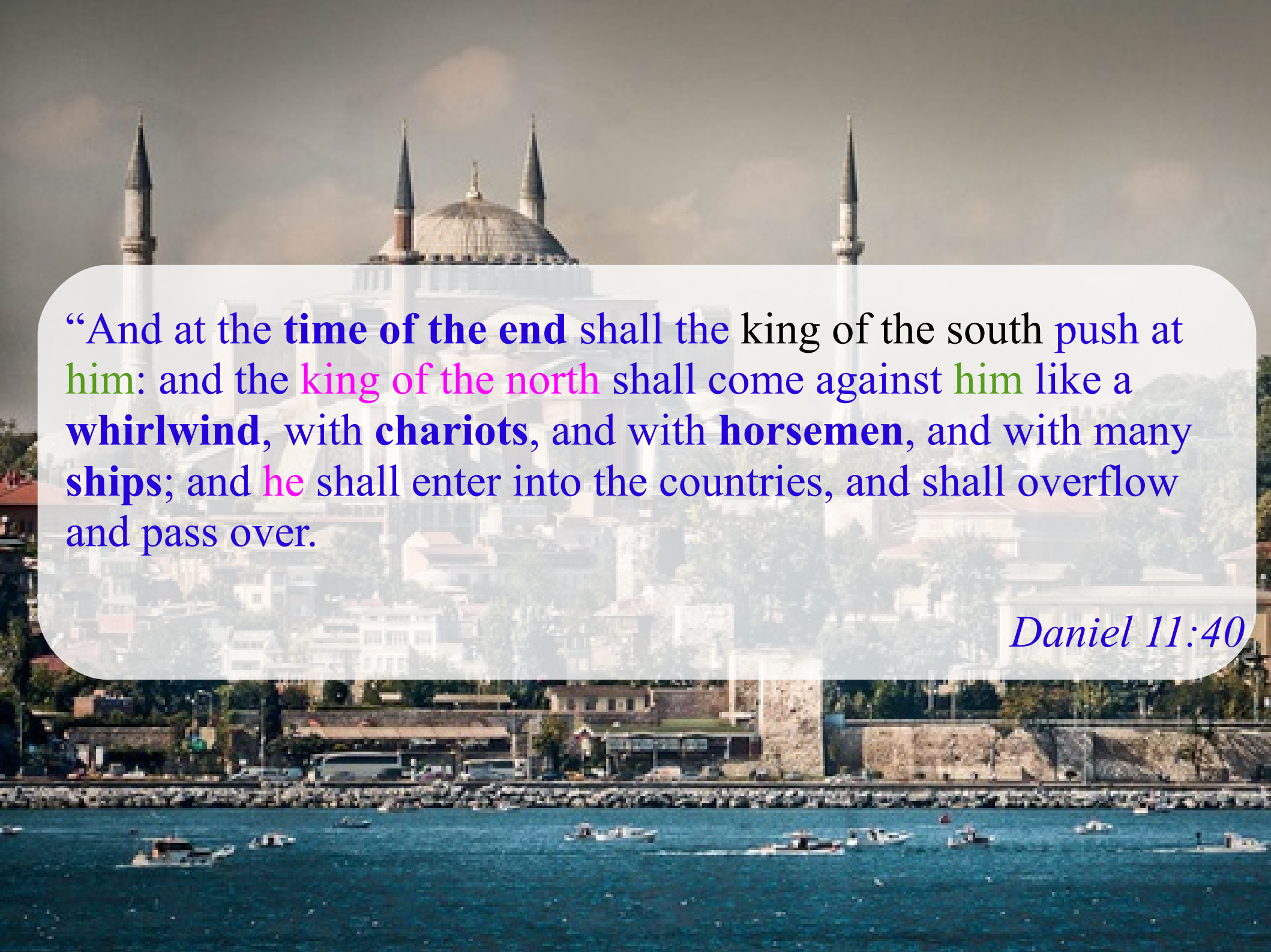


Egyptian Sphinx



Battle of Abukir - 1799





“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



Pope Pius VI - 1798



French taking the Pope captive - 1798



Battle of Abukir - 1799

It can't be the papacy here because they had just received their deadly wound and could not be described as attacking anybody "like a whirlwind." It has been claimed by some that this king of the north is the same power as "him." But this doesn't work. If France just conquered Egypt and is now united with the king of the south, France cannot then come "like a whirlwind" because he would be fighting with himself. We must look elsewhere to identify this power.

We first meet the king of the north at the beginning of chapter 11.

Seleucid Empire – Northern Division of Alexander's Empire



“And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those. And the king of the south shall be strong... for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the **king of the north** to make an agreement”

Daniel 11:4-6

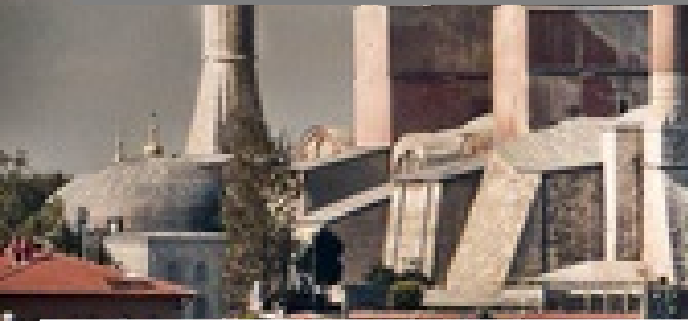
There is no controversy that here the king of the north was the northern division of Alexander's empire. This king controlled what is now roughly Syria and Turkey. The king that controlled this area is always the king of the north. Does it make sense that the king of the north should be from somewhere else in verse 40? It is very obvious that neither France, nor the papacy, ever controlled this region. But who did in 1798?



Triangular War 1798
France, Egypt, Ottoman Empire

On February 27, 1799, Napoleon marched from Egypt, heading toward Syria. He met with little resistance until he reached St. Jean D'Acre.

There the Turks, aided by Sir Sidney Smith and a force of British sailors, dug in and fought back. Napoleon laid siege to the city.



St. Jean D'Acre Today



Battle of St. Jean D'Acre 1799



St. Jean D'Acre
(Pronounced as saint-john-d'äker)

*The historian tells us, “Napoleon had been engaged for ten days in an almost incessant assault upon the works of Acre, when the approach of the great Turkish army was announced... The unclouded sun was just rising over the hills of Palestine and revealed to his view the whole embattled Turkish host spread out before him... Twelve thousand horsemen, decorated with the most gorgeous trappings of military show, and mounted on the fleetest Arabian chargers, were prancing and curveting in all directions... The French, too proud and self-confident to retreat before any superiority in numbers. had barely time to form themselves into one of Napoleon’s impregnable squares, when the whole cavalcade of horsemen, with gleaming sabers and hideous yells, and **like the sweep of the wind**, came rushing down upon them.”* John Stevens C. Abbott, *The life of Napoleon Bonaparte*, page 102-103.





Notice the striking similarity between the secular historian's description of this skirmish and the description in Daniel. "Come against him like a whirlwind," "like the sweep of the wind." We also notice the 10,000 horsemen as the horses mentioned in Daniel. But what of the chariots? This could be referring to any horse drawn vehicle. There is a lot of similarity between the horse drawn artillery used in this battle and the ancient Egyptian chariot. Remember from history that artillery was first invented by the Turks and one interesting note is that Napoleon sent his artillery by ship from Egypt to Acre. But the British intercepted his ships, captured the artillery and then handed it over to the Turks who in turn used against Napoleon.

But the prophecy also mentions “many ships.” The Turks have never been known as a seafaring people, but the prophecy points out “many ships” as being one of the marks of this conflict. As unusual as it seems, Russia, the avowed enemy of Turkey, united with them in defense against Napoleon. The Russian fleet was sent with the small Turkish fleet to the harbor of St. Jean D’Acre and they were joined there by two British squadrons. The total number of ships reaching more than thirty. Napoleon was defeated for the first time. The Turks certainly did “come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships.” *Daniel 11:40*



Battle of St. Jean D’Acre 1799

“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.**

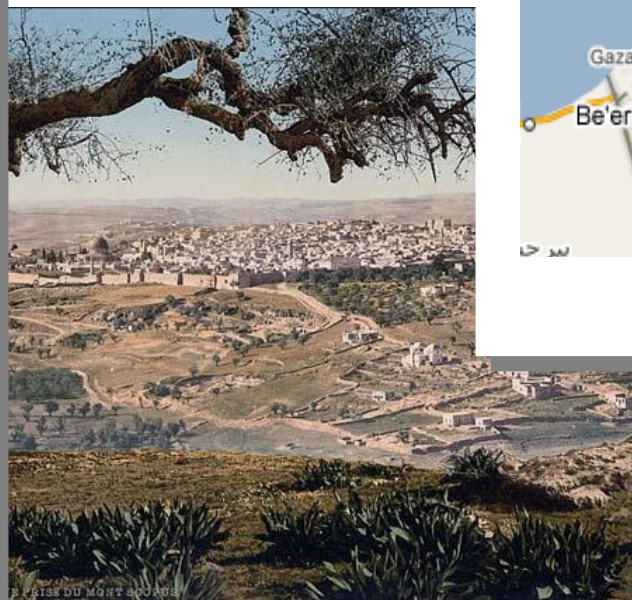
Daniel 11:40

Who “shall overflow and pass over”? France, or the king of the north? This is where Uriah Smith differs from Josiah Litch. According to Litch it is Napoleon who passes over, but Smith thinks it is the Ottomans. But what does the phrase mean? There is a similar phrase used in Daniel 11:10 “and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through.” This verse is speaking of Antiochus Magnus, king of the north, who took Syria back from Ptolemy Philopater, king of the south. In this instance the victor is said to “overflow and pass through.” Wouldn't it make sense that when we find this phrase again in verse 40 it should also refer to the victor? The Ottoman Empire was victorious. Also, the grammatical structure of the verse leads you to believe that it is the king of the north who is said to “overflow and pass over”

But what of the “countries” he should enter into? According to Strong’s concordance this word could also mean regions. The Ottoman Turks entered the regions they had formerly controlled, overflowed and passed over the ground as they followed Napoleon’s defeated army into Egypt.



The French In Palestine

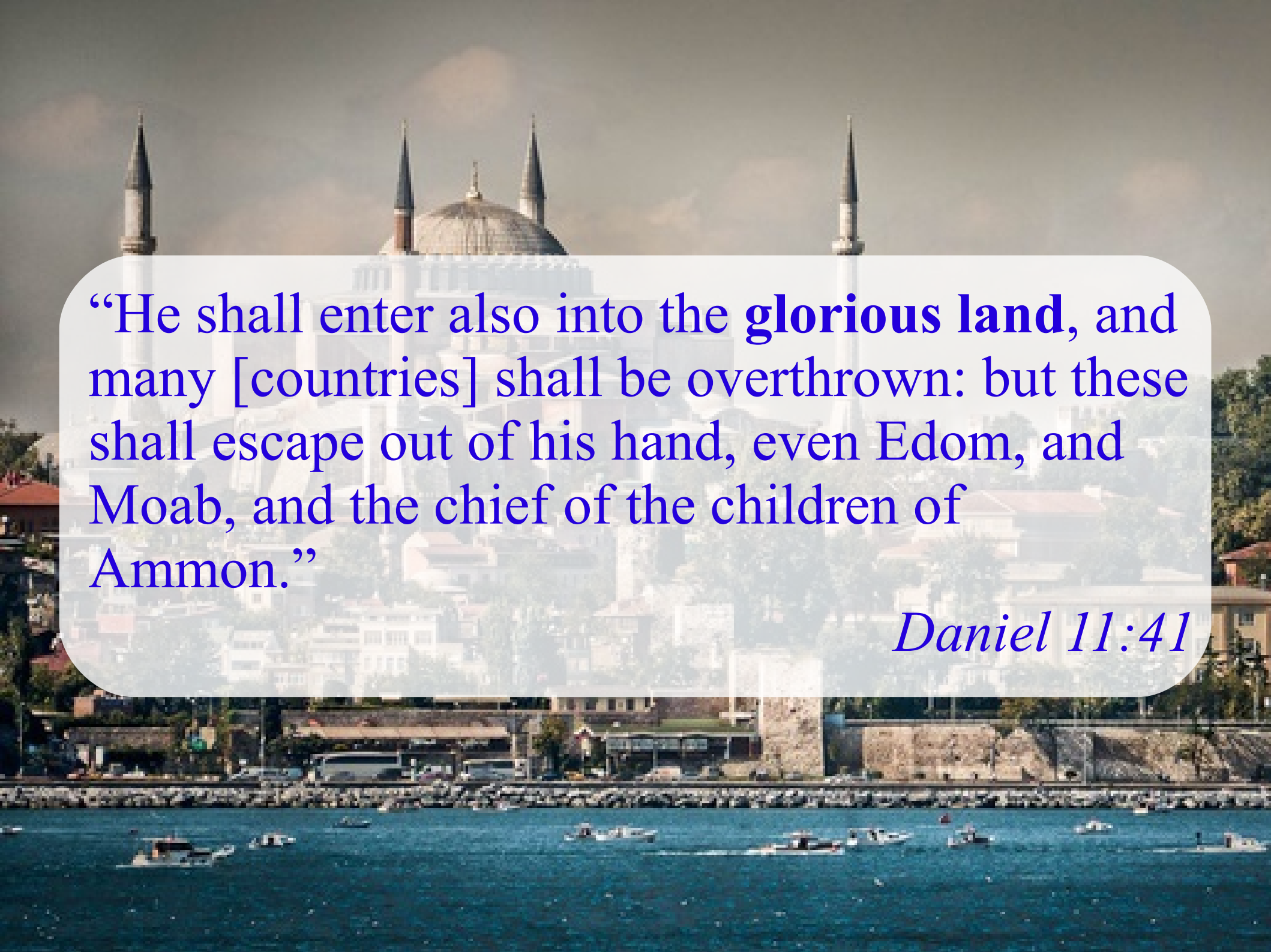


Jerusalem - 1800's



St. Jean D'Acre
(Pronounced as saint-john-d'äker)





“He shall enter also into the **glorious land**, and many [countries] shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”

Daniel 11:41

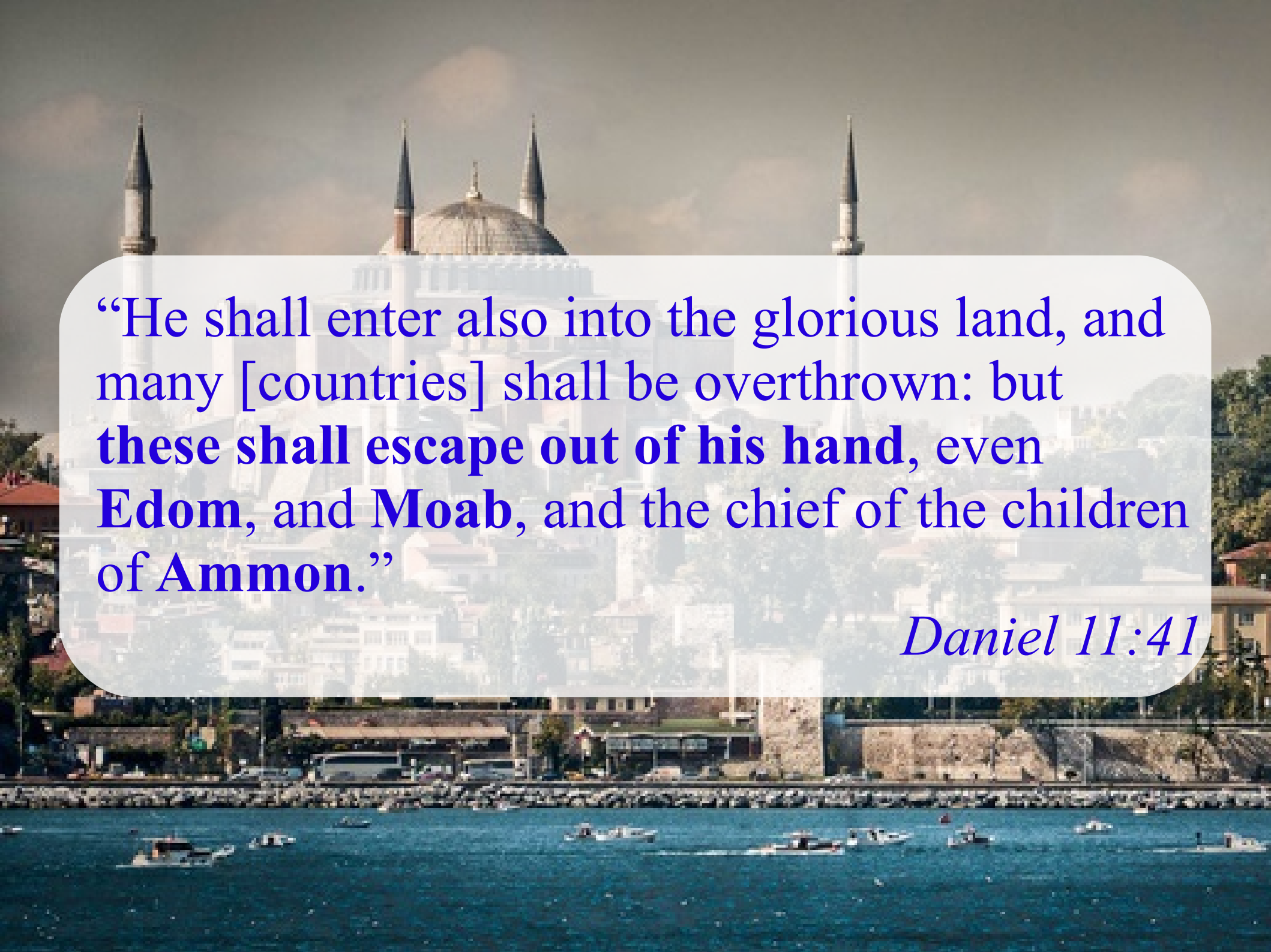
What is the “glorious land”? William Miller and several of the early pioneers thought that this phrase referred to Italy. But this is not consistent with how this phrase is used in the rest of the chapter, it has always before referred to Palestine. To be consistent, it must still refer to Palestine. We find from history that the Ottomans retook Palestine from Napoleon and followed him all the way into Egypt. But what was overthrown? Certainly not countries, for this word is supplied by the translators. But Napoleon lost 3,600 men, dead, wounded, and sick. While at the battle of Abukir, in Egypt, the Ottomans lost 10,000 men to drowning besides those killed and wounded. It seems that it was many soldiers who were overthrown.



The French In Palestine



Battle of Abukir, in Egypt




“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown: but **these shall escape out of his hand**, even **Edom**, and **Moab**, and the chief of the children of **Ammon**.”

Daniel 11:41



But who are those who escape out of his hand? The land east of the Jordan, what is now the country of Jordan, was anciently inhabited by the descendants of Lot and Esau. The land of the Edomites was in the desert regions east and south of Israel. Many of the descendants of these nations spread out into Saudi Arabia. But the Ottoman Empire was never able to completely subdue these peoples, living east and south of the Jordan river. In fact they were forced to pay annual tribute to the tribes living in this region to assure safe passage of the caravans to Mecca. The Ottoman Empire controlled the coasts of Arabia but never controlled the interior. Also the battles with Napoleon all occurred west of the Jordan, and when the Turks reconquered these lands, all the people east of the Jordan were ignored by them.





“He shall stretch forth his hand **also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.”**

Daniel 11:42


He stretched out his hand “also upon the countries,” or regions that had once been his and ruthlessly brought them back under his control. The Turks tortured and beheaded any French soldiers they found and any who sympathized with the French. The land of Egypt did not escape either. It appears that Egypt would want to escape but did not. We find an interesting passage in a book written in the early 19th century by Englishman, Richard Robert Madden. “Read of the atrocities attributed by Sir Robert Wilson to the French, and you will imagine that the only object of our interference was the domestic happiness of the invaded people. Yet, strange to say, the Arabs speak of the French with respect, and of their expulsion with regret.” *Travels in Turkey, Egypt, Nubia and Palestine in 1824, 1825, 1826 & 1827* page 173.



Napoleon and his Generals



Selim III - 1761-1808



“But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”

Daniel 11:43

After Napoleon left Egypt, the remaining French forces were driven out, or captured by the Turks and English. One of the young Turkish officers who helped drive out the French, was an Albanian named Mohamed Ali Pasha. After he gained control of Egypt, it remained an Ottoman province. The Pasha extorted every bit of wealth from the country. He levied high taxes on the people and used every means, legal and illegal to extort money, impoverishing the people and making them dependent on him. He then sent some of this money as tribute to Constantinople or used it for conquering the neighboring regions. Thus the Sultan, through the Pasha had access to “the treasures of gold and silver” and “all the precious things of Egypt.”



Mohamed Ali Pasha



The Mohamed Ali Mosque
Built with Funds the Pasha Extorted from Egypt

“And the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.” These are regions lying west and south of Egypt. Libya was early conquered by the Ottoman Empire along with all the Mediterranean coast of northern Africa. The region of Libya became almost entirely independent in 1711 when an Ottoman cavalry officer, Ahmed Karamanli, took over the area and established his own dynasty, although still nominally under the control of the Ottoman Empire. The region was virtually autonomous until 1814, when the Sultan re-established direct control over the area. This was after the Sultan had regained control of Egypt. The prophecy indicates that Libya would be at his steps after he conquered Egypt and the Ottoman Empire regained control of the region after driving Napoleon out.



The country of Ethiopia, today, lies south and east of the Sudan and was never part of the Ottoman Empire or even bordering it. So on the surface this word does not seem to fit. But anciently, the term Ethiopia referred to the region directly south of and bordering Egypt. This area is now Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Egypt, under the direction of the Sultan, captured northern Sudan in 1820. Thus the “Lybians and the Ethiopians” were “at his steps” during this time, just as the prophecy says they would be.



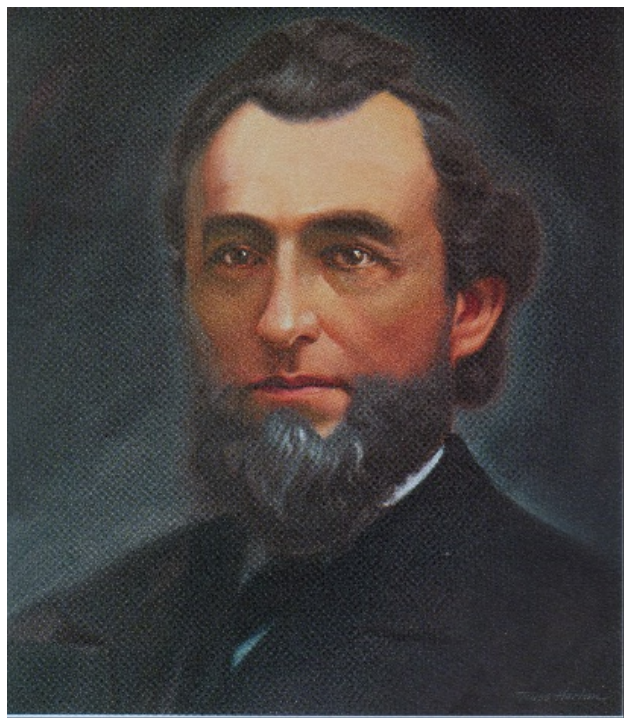
Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia Today



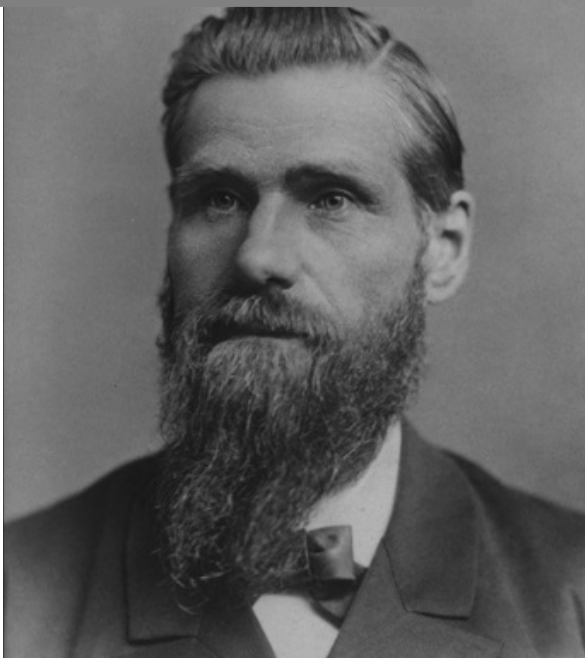
Ancient Ethiopian Church



Area Conquered by Egypt, 1820's



Uriah Smith - 1832-1903



Stephen Haskell - 1833-1922

Up until this point everything about the king of the north in Daniel 11:40-45 fits the Ottoman Empire perfectly. But the next two verses were either in the process of fulfillment, or still future when Smith was writing. He predicted that the Sultan would move his government from Constantinople to Jerusalem and come his end. It was also predicted by Adventists of this period that when this happened Europe would erupt into the worst war in history. They believed that this war would be the battle of Armageddon with Christ coming shortly after. It seems obvious that this did not happen. The Ottoman Empire ended quietly in 1922 and Christ has not returned yet.

So, did the prophecy fail? Have we identified the wrong power? Was Smith completely wrong on this one? The Ottoman empire seems to have little significance in world history after it started to decline in the 15th century. They accepted European protection in 1840 and became “the sick man of the east,” a term coined by the Russian ambassador, which became a popular phrase to describe the Ottoman empire in the 19th century. A sick and dying man kept alive by the powers of Europe who were afraid of what would happen if he died. But the fact is that this power had an enormous impact on the world and its demise was one of the major causes of the two most destructive wars in this world's history.



Europe – 1914



The Trenches – World War I

In our next presentation we will consider the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1840 to it's demise in 1922. We will continue laying the history beside the prophecy to see if we can find a fulfillment of every word. So this is not really...



The End

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