The Golden Thread of Prophecy

Section #09b: Daniel 11:40-45

Historical Repetition

Similar Scenes

"We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. <u>The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated.</u> 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.]

"<u>Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place</u>. 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.]" 13MR 394

It was a common understanding to the pioneers of Adventism that the prophecy of Daniel 11 was completed up to the first part of verse 40.

EGW isolates verses 40-45 by the very texts she uses to explain herself. In these references Sister White isolates the very verses 40-45 by her choice of verses. She chooses verses 30-36 which she says will be repeated; then she goes to chapter 12:1-4 and says we are entering into that time of trouble. The verses she hasn't dealt with are 37-45. Verses 37-39 give us the understanding of the characteristics of the Papacy. Verses 40-45 lead to the close of probation. What we need to understand is that similar scenes will take place so we want to take a look at the scenes of Daniel 11:30-36.

The History of Daniel 11

Daniel 11:1-4 "Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. 2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. 3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4 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."

This shows the transition of power from the Persian kingdom to that of the Grecian kingdom. It is the time-period when Medo-Persia is going off the scene and the Grecian kingdom is coming on the scene. This parallels very clearly Daniel 7 and 8. Daniel 8 shows that when that 'great horn' was broken four horns would stand up in its place. Verse four says the same thing here. Those four horns were his four generals, Cassander, who had Greece and its

area; Lysimachus, who had Asia-minor; Ptolemy, who had Egypt; and Seleucus, who had Syria and Babylon.

Verses 5-14 are now describing the two principle powers which came out of the Grecian kingdom—Ptolemy and Seleucus—the King of the North and the King of the South, and the warfare between them.

King of the South and North

Biblically the kingdoms of the North and South are designated by their location in connection with Jerusalem.

The geographical area of Babylon was north of Jerusalem so it was considered the Kingdom of the North. Because there was a desert between Jerusalem and Babylon towards the west, when they would attack Jerusalem they would come down from the North.

The geographical area of Egypt was south of Jerusalem so it was considered the Kingdom of the South. Egypt would attack from the South.

Jeremiah 1:13, "And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. Jer 1:14 Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. 15 For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah."

Jeremiah tells us who the families from the North were in chapter 25:9

Jeremiah 25:9 "Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations."

In verse 11 it goes on to say:

Jeremiah 25:11 "And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

So when God said He was going to send a kingdom from the North, it referred to Babylon because when Babylon attacked they would come from the North. What about Egypt, the King of the South?

Genesis 11:31 "And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. 32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran."

When Abram was told to leave he was leaving Ur of the Chaldees, the Babylonians. So he traveled south to Canaan.

Genesis 12:9 "And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. 10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land."

From the land of Canaan, he journeyed south to Egypt because of the famine. So the Kingdom of the North is Babylon and the Kingdom of the South is Egypt.

Rome Establishes the Vision

Now when we come to verse 14, something interesting happens.

Daniel 11:14 "And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall."

Let's just look carefully at this verse: And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: **ALSO the robbers of thy people**. Is it the SAME entity here that the first part of the verse is talking about? No, when it says ALSO- it is bringing in a new entity—the robbers of thy people.

ESTABLISH, v. t. [L. stabilio; Heb. to set, fix, establish.]

To set and fix firmly or unalterably; to settle permanently.

To found permanently; to erect and fix or settle; as, to establish a colony or an empire.

To enact or decree by authority and for permanence; to ordain; to appoint; as, to establish laws, regulations, institutions, rules, ordinances, etc.

To settle or fix; to confirm; as, to establish a person, society or corporation, in possessions or privileges.

To make firm; to confirm; to ratify what has been previously set or made.

To settle or fix what is wavering, doubtful or weak; to confirm.

To confirm; to fulfill; to make good.

To set up in the place of another and confirm. – Webster's 1828 Dictionary

"A new power is now introduced, - "the robbers of thy people;" literally, says Bishop Newton, "the breakers of thy people." Far away on the banks of the Tiber, a kingdom had been nourishing itself with ambitious projects and dark designs. Small and weak at first, it grew with marvelous rapidity in strength and vigor, reaching out cautiously here and there to try its prowess, and test the vigor of its warlike arm, till, conscious of its power, it boldly reared its head among the nations of the earth, and seized with invincible hand the helm of their affairs. Henceforth the name of Rome stands upon the historic page, destined for long ages to control the affairs of the world, and exert a mighty influence among the nations even to the end of time…

"To establish the vision." The Romans being more prominently than any other people the subject of Daniel's prophecy, their first interference in the affairs of these kingdoms is here referred to as being the establishment, or demonstration, of the truth of the vision which predicted the existence of such a power." Daniel and the Revelation, 256-257

Rome is the power that is introduced in verse 14.

Daniel 11:15 "So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand."

In verse 15 it is still talking about the time of Greece but in 16 the power now changes as if the king took off his crown and passed it to another who then becomes the King of the North.

Daniel 11:16 "But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed."

The title of King of the North now is passed to Rome, and from this point till the end of the chapter, Rome, either pagan or papal, is the focus of the prophecy.

Even for a Time

Daniel 11:24 "He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time."

The 'He' is referring to the King of the North. From verse 16 all the way to verse 45 Rome is the subject , the king of the North. As we read, we have to decipher if the King of the North is Pagan or Papal Rome.

Pagan Rome is here given a time prophecy in which to rule the world supremely. A time—a prophetic year—360 years. So for 360 years Pagan Rome would be ruling the earth from the city of Rome.

"To the latter portion of this verse, Bishop Newton gives the idea of forecasting devices from strongholds, instead of against them. This the Romans did from the strong fortress of their seven-hilled city. "Even for a time;" doubtless a prophetic time, 360 years. From what point are these years to be dated? Probably from the event brought to view in the following verse…

"By verses 23 and 24 we are brought down this side of the league between the Jews and the Romans, B.C. 161, to the time when Rome had acquired universal dominion. The verse now before us brings to view a vigorous campaign against the king of the south, Egypt, and the occurrence of a notable battle between great and mighty armies. Did such events as these transpire in the history of Rome about this time? - They did. The was the war between Egypt and Rome; and the battle was the battle of Actium. Let us take a brief view of the circumstances that led to this conflict…

"The battle was fought Sept. 2, B.C. 31, at the mouth of the gulf of Ambracia, near the city of Actium. The world was the stake for which these stern warriors, Antony and Caesar, now played. The contest, long doubtful, was at length decided by the course which Cleopatra pursued; for she, frightened at the din of battle, took to flight when there was no danger, and drew after her the whole Egyptian fleet. Antony, beholding this movement, and lost to everything but his blind passion for her, precipitately followed, and yielded a victory to Caesar, which, had his Egyptian forces proved true to him, and had he proved true to his own manhood, he might have gained.

"This battle doubtless marks the commencement of the "time" mentioned in verse 24. And as during this "time" devices were to be forcast from the stronghold, or Rome, we should conclude that at the end of that period western supremacy would cease, or such a change take place in the empire that the city would no longer be considered the seat of government. From B.C. 31, a prophetic time, or 360 years, would bring us to A.D.330. And it hence becomes a noteworthy fact that the seat of empire was removed from Rome to Constantinople by Constantine the Great in that very year. (See Encyclopedia Americana, art. Constantinople.)" Ibid, 273-276

When Constantine moved the capital to Constantinople, Pagan Rome's power was broken and it began to crumble. It broke up first into 3 and was given to his three sons. Finally it broke down into two, and then the two began to be ravaged by the Barbarians from the North.

Daniel 11:25-29 "And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him. 26 Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain. 27 And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they

shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed."

Note: what was the appointed time? The 360 years of Pagan Rome. Whenever you see the phrase, 'the appointed time', the 'time of the end' or 'the end', it is referring to a previous time prophecy. 330 AD was the 'time appointed'.

28 "Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land. 29 At the time appointed (330AD) he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter."

The time appointed is was the prophetic time of verse 24 which began September 2, 31 B.C. and would end in A.D. 330, when the seat of Rome was moved to Constantinople by Constantine the Great.

"The time appointed is probably the prophetic time of verse 24, which has been previously mentioned. It closed, as already shown, in A.D. 330, at which time this power was to return and come again toward the south, but not as on the former occasion, when it went to Egypt, nor as the latter, when it went to Judea. Those were expeditions which resulted in conquest and glory. This one led to demoralization and ruin.

The removal of the seat of empire to Constantinople was the signal for the downfall of the empire. Rome then lost its prestige. The western division was exposed to the incursions of foreign enemies. On the death of Constantine, the Roman empire was divided into three parts, between his three sons, Constantius, Constantine II, and Constans.

Constantine II and Constans quarreled, and Constans, being victor, gained the supremacy of the whole West. He was soon slain by one of his commanders, who, in turn, was shortly after defeated by the surviving emperor, and in despair ended his own days, A.D. 353.

The barbarians of the North now began their incursions, and extended their conquests till the imperial power of the West expired in A.D. 476.

"This was indeed different from the two former movements brought to view in the prophecy; and to this the fatal step of removing the seat of empire from Rome to Constantinople directly led." Ibid, 280

Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

Now here we see Rome disintegrating into the ten parts and then three of the horn needed to be plucked up.

The Transition

Daniel 11:30 "For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he 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."

We here have a transition of power of a changing of heads. Verses 24-30 deal with the events that lead up to the end of the pagan Roman Empire and the beginning of the papal.

"The prophetic narrative still has reference to the power which has been the subject of the prophecy from the sixteenth verse; namely, Rome. What were the ships of Chittim that came against this power, and when was this movement made? What country or power is meant by Chittim? …Carthage.

"Was ever a naval warfare with Carthage as a base of operations, waged against the Roman empire? We have but to think of the terrible onslaught of the Vandals upon Rome under the fierce Genseric, to answer readily in the affirmative… That this is the work brought to view is further evident when we consider that we are brought down in the prophecy to this very time. In verse 29, the transfer of empire to Constantinople we understood to be mentioned. Following in due course of time, as the next remarkable revolution, came the irruptions of the barbarians of the North, prominent among which was the Vandal war already mentioned. The years A.D.428-468 mark the career of Genseric." Ibid, 280-281

Revelation 8:8, 9 "And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed."

cf. Daniel 7:7, 8, 19, 20, 23, 24

Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns"

Daniel 7:19 "Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows."

Daniel 7:23 "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

We need to take notice that this history of the transition of power represented in this verse is the very place that inspiration begins when saying, "**Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated… Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place.**"

We are going to look at this history in detail and we will see that the historical events in verses 30-36 parallel verses 40-45.

Three Obstacles

One of the important historical factors in this history is how Rome, both pagan and papal, came into power.

Daniel 8:8, 9 "Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And

out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."

Daniel 7:23, 24 "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

In the history of both phases of Rome, three geographical obstacles had to be conquered.

2 Corinthians 13:1 "This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."

cf. Genesis 41:32 "And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass."

Based upon the prophetic principles of "The Repetition of History" and that a thing is established "Upon the Testimony of Two", the two histories of Rome furnish us with a key to understand how post-deadly-wound papal Rome's—modern Rome's—deadly wound will be healed. With the conquering of three geographical areas.

Verse Thirty

Daniel 11:30 "For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he 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."

"He shall be grieved and return." This may have reference to the desperate efforts which were made to dispossess Genseric of the sovereignty of the seas, the first by Majorian, the second by Leo, both of which proved to be utter failures; and Rome was obliged to submit to the humiliation of seeing its provinces ravaged, and its "eternal city" pillaged by the enemy. (See on Rev.8:8.)

"Indignation against the covenant;" that is, the Holy Scriptures, the book of the covenant. A revolution of this nature was accomplished in Rome. The Heruli, Goths, and Vandals, who conquered Rome, embraced the Arian faith, and became enemies of the Catholic Church. It was especially for the purpose of exterminating this heresy that Justinian decreed the pope to be the head of the church and the corrector of heretics. The Bible soon came to be regarded as a dangerous book that should not be read by the common people, but all questions in dispute were to be submitted to the pope. Thus was indignity heaped upon God's word. And the emperors of Rome, the eastern division of which still continued, had intelligence, or connived with the Church of Rome, which had forsaken the covenant, and constituted the great apostasy, for the purpose of putting down "heresy." The man of sin was raised to his presumptuous throne by the defeat of the Arian Goths, who then held possession of Rome, in A.D.538." Ibid, 281-282

For the ships of Chittim – Vandals of Northern Africa under Genseric, second trumpet of Revelation 8 & 9

shall come against him – Western Pagan Roman empire

therefore he shall be grieved – Restrained in its ability to rule the world supremely and from being able to fulfill its prophetic role of placing Papal Rome upon the throne of the earth

and return – to Constantinople

and have indignation against the holy covenant – wage war on the Bible and the Sabbath before 538

so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant – communication with the Roman church

Prophetic Key # 1 – A power was restrained in its ability to rule the world supremely and from fulfilling its prophetic role to place the next power on its throne

Prophetic Key # 2 – The offense of a holy covenant or promise

Prophetic Key # 3 – A secret alliance with a divergent power –Church and State came together

Verse Thirty-one

Daniel 11:31 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.

Once again the crown is passed and from this point until the end of the prophecy the King of the North is papal Rome.

ARMS: Military power or support – of Pagan Rome

"And the emperors of Rome, the eastern division of which still continued, had intelligence, or connived with the Church of Rome, which had forsaken the covenant, and constituted the great apostasy, for the purpose of putting down "heresy." The man of sin was raised to his presumptuous throne by the defeat of the Arian Goths, who then held possession of Rome, in A.D.538.

[VERSE 31 quoted]

"The power of the empire was committed to the carrying on of the work before mentioned." Ibid, 282

Four Actions

And the arms shall stand up for the papacy – 496 to 538 A.D.

And the arms shall pollute the sanctuary of strength – 330 to 538 A.D.

And the arms shall remove the daily – 508 A.D.

And the arms shall place the abomination that maketh desolate – 538 A.D.

From the year 496 through 538, pagan Rome stood up militarily for the papacy; and in doing so, pagan Rome polluted the sanctuary of strength.

Pagan Rome had removed the daily by 508, and placed the papacy in 538.

Standing up – the 7 European Kings

Daniel 7:7, 8 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

Clovis of France 496 –508

Daniel 11:32 "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

Prophetic Key # 4 – Once opposing powers they now gave their support to the Papacy

The Sanctuary of Strength

Pagan Rome polluted the sanctuary [miqdash] of strength

6944: qodesh: holiness; holy thing; sanctuary. – Strong's

4720: miqdash: a consecrated thing or place, espec. a palace, sanctuary (whether Jehovah or of idols). – Ibid.

"And they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength," or Rome. If this applies to the barbarians, it was literally fulfilled; for Rome was sacked by the Goths and Vandals, and the imperial power of the West ceased through the conquest of Rome by Odoacer. Or if it refers to those rulers of the empire who were working in behalf of the papacy against the pagan and all other opposing religions, it would signify the removal of the seat of empire from Rome to Constantinople, which contributed its measure of influence to the downfall of Rome. The passage would then be parallel to Daniel 8:11 and Revelation 13:2." Daniel and the Revelation, 282

Daniel 8:11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary miqdash was cast down.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, 508 and his seat, 330 and great authority. 533

Prophetic Key # 5 – The polluting of a sanctuary or safe haven of strength

Removing the Daily

Beginning with Clovis of France 496 One by one each nation changed their national religion, from paganism, to Catholicism by 508 AD.

Prophetic Key # 6 – The changing of ones national religion

Placing the Abomination That Maketh Desolate

Daniel 7:8, 20, 24 cf. Daniel 8:9

"And they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." Having shown quite fully what constituted the taking away of the daily, or paganism, we now inquire, When was the abomination that maketh desolate, or the papacy, placed, or set up? The little horn that had eyes like the eyes of man was not slow to see when the way was open for his advancement and elevation. From the year 508 his progress toward universal supremacy was without a parallel. . .

"The whole nation of the Ostrogoths had been assembled for the siege of Rome; but success did not attend their efforts. Their hosts melted away in frequent and bloody combats under the city walls; and the year and nine days during which the siege lasted, witnessed almost the entire consumption of the whole nation. In the month of March, 538, dangers beginning to threaten them from other quarters, they raised the siege, burned their tents, and retired in tumult and confusion from the city, with numbers scarcely sufficient to preserve their existence as a nation or their identity as a people.

"Thus the Gothic horn, the last of the three, was plucked up before the little horn of Daniel 7. Nothing now stood in the way of the pope to prevent his exercising the power

conferred upon him by Justinian five years before. The saints, times, and laws were now in his hands, not in purpose only, but in fact. And this must therefore be taken as the year when this abomination was placed, or set up, and as the point from which to date the predicted 1260 years of its supremacy." Ibid, 283-288

In order for the Papacy to be placed upon it throne; three geographical powers had to be removed by the power(s) that were to place the Papacy on its throne.

Prophetic Key # 7 – The overcoming of three geographical powers in order to place the Papacy on its throne

Verses Thirty-two to Thirty-five

Daniel 11:32-35 "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. 33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. 34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. 35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed."

This time refers to the 1260 years of papal supremacy that ended in 1798 when Papal Rome received its deadly wound.

These verses depict the persecution of the Dark Ages, the 1260 years of papal persecution.

Daniel 11:33 "And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days."

cf. Matthew 24:21, 22 "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Many Days

"In the Saviour's conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church,--the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened,--He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Mark 13:24. The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased." The Great Controversy, 306

"From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the chain of this earth's history,--the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. Between these two events, there lay open to Christ's view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked with blood and tears and agony. Upon these scenes His disciples could not then endure to look, and Jesus passed them by with a brief mention. "Then shall be great tribulation," He said, "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." For more than a thousand years such persecution as the world had never before known was to come upon Christ"s followers. Millions upon millions of His faithful witnesses were to be slain. Had not God's hand been stretched out

to preserve His people, all would have perished. "But for the elect's sake," He said, "those days shall be shortened." The Desire of Ages, 630

Prophetic Key # 8 – Once the papacy conquers the third geographical obstacle it starts to persecute God's people.

The "many days" in verse 33 are the 1260 years of papal persecution. Therefore the "time of the end" and the "time appointed" in verse 35 is 1798 when the papacy received its deadly wound and lost its civil power.

Verses Thirty-six to Thirty-nine

Daniel 11:36-39 "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. 39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain."

These verses are specifically pointed out that they will be repeated.

cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4; 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; 4 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, shewing himself that he is God.

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

"This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of "the man of sin" foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power--a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will." GC 50

Verse Forty to Forty-five

Daniel 11:40-45 "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. 41 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. 42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 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. 44 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. 45 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."

"The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power.

"I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." Verse 3. The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, "his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." Paul states plainly that the "man of sin" will continue until the second advent. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8. To the very close of time he will carry forward the work of deception. And the revelator declares, also referring to the papacy: "All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life." Revelation 13:8. In both the Old and the New World, the papacy will receive homage in the honor paid to the Sunday institution, that rests solely upon the authority of the Roman Church…

"And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

"God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution." GC 579-581