

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree with sparse white blossoms stands on a rocky outcrop. The background features rolling mountains under a hazy sky. The text "The Golden Thread of Prophecy" is overlaid in the center in a stylized, outlined font.

The Golden Thread of Prophecy

Section 9b 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. **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.** 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.]

Similar Scenes

“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.]” {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. It is a 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.

King of the South and 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. 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.

ESTABLISH, v. t. [L. stabilio; Heb. to set, fix, establish.] To set and fix firmly or unalterably; to settle permanently. To set up in the place of another and confirm. – Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Rome Establishes the Vision

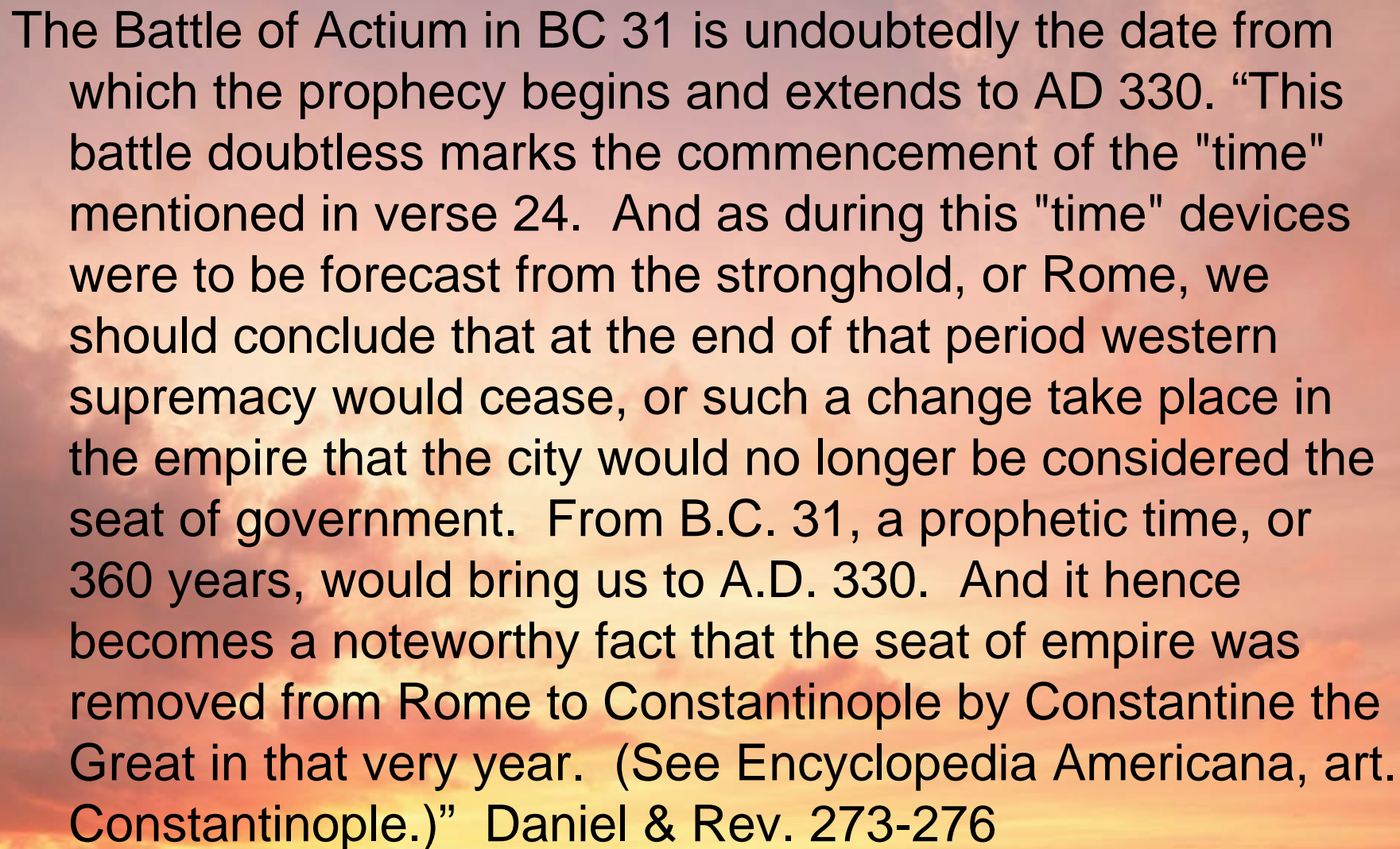
Let's just look carefully at this verse: And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: **ALSO** the robbers of thy people. Is it the **SAME** entity here that the first part of the verse is talking about? No, when it says **ALSO**- it is bringing in a new entity—the robbers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

Rome is the power that is introduced in verse 14. 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.

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.



The Battle of Actium in BC 31 is undoubtedly the date from which the prophecy begins and extends to AD 330. “This battle doubtless marks the commencement of the "time" mentioned in verse 24. And as during this "time" devices were to be forecast 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.)” Daniel & Rev. 273-276

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.**

The Transition

This situation parallels Daniel 7:7,8 where we see Rome disintegrating into the ten parts and then three of the horn needed to be plucked up.

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.**”

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, the Vandals in A.D. 428-468.

The Transition

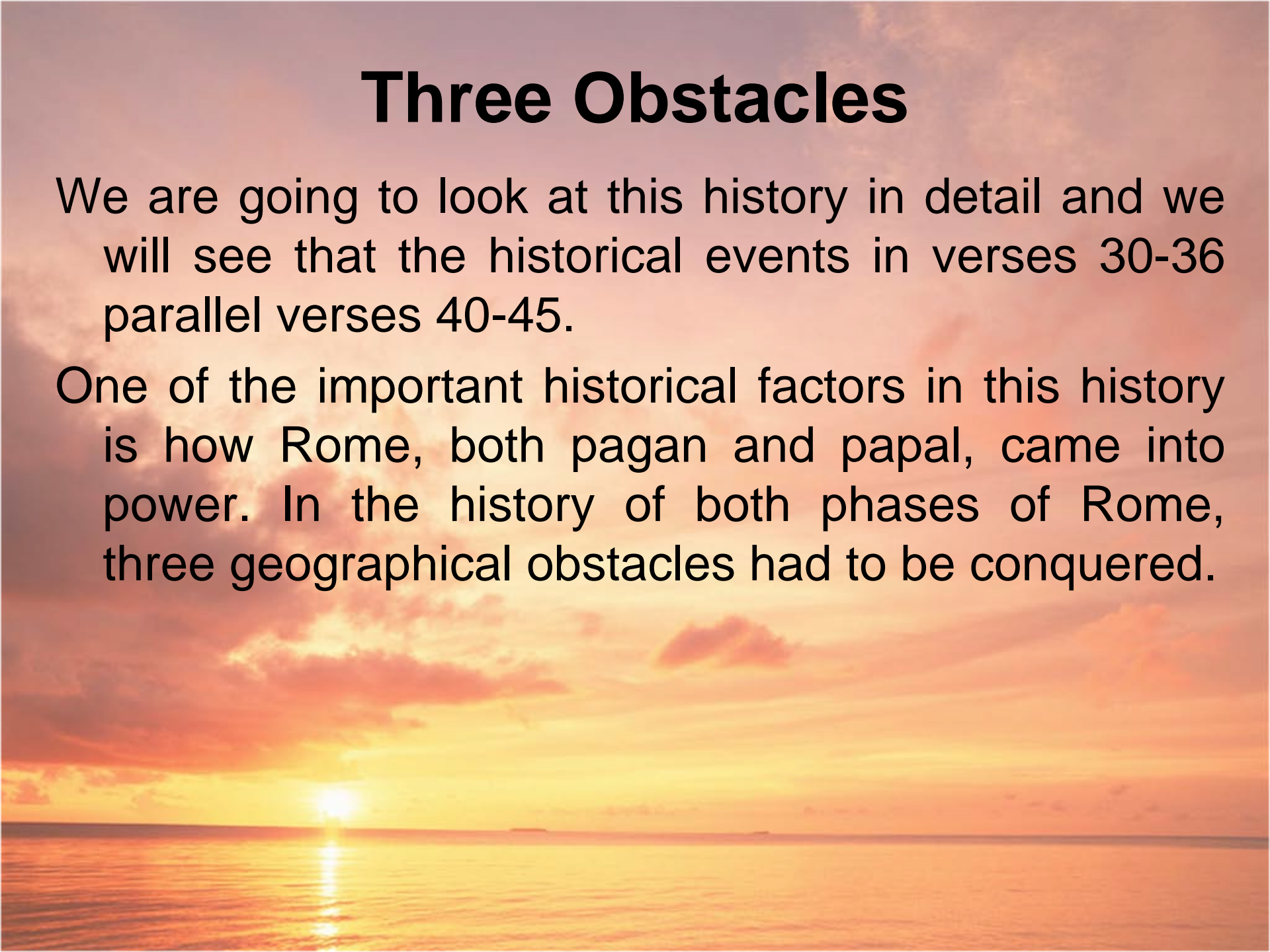
We here have a transition of power of a changing of heads. Verses 24-30 deal with the events that lead up to the end of the pagan Roman empire and the beginning of the papal.

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.”**

Three Obstacles

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.

One of the important historical factors in this history is how Rome, both pagan and papal, came into power. In the history of both phases of Rome, three geographical obstacles had to be conquered.



Three Obstacles

Daniel 8:8, 9

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

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.**

Three Obstacles

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.

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.**

Daniel 11:30

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 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

Daniel 11:30

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

Daniel 11:31

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

Arms shall Stand

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.

Arms shall Stand

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.

Arms shall Stand

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.

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.

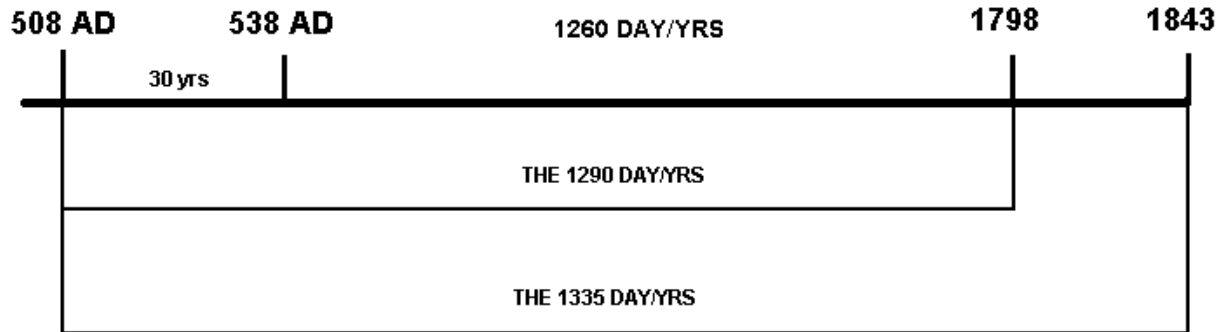
Prophetic Key # 6 – The changing of ones national religion

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 32 to 35

- 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.



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

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 36 to 39

Daniel 11:36 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.

Verses 36 to 39

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.

Verses 36 to 39

“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

Verses 40-45 History Repeats

As Papal Rome returns to the throne of the world—
Rome rising for the 3rd time—the same pattern will
be followed:

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

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

Verses 40-45 History Repeats

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

Prophetic Key # 6 – The changing of ones national religion

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

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

Verses 40-45 History Repeats

“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. . . 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.

Verses 40-45 History Repeats

“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. . . Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces . . . 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

Next 9c The History of the Whirlwind

