

THE ADVENTIST PIONEERS AND ELLEN WHITE ON THE EASTERN QUESTION: WHO IS THE KING OF THE NORTH?

1. ALONZO T. JONES, BOOK *THE EASTERN QUESTION*

- A. In the forty-fourth verse the angel says of this king of the north, the Turkish power, “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.” This was accomplished in the Crimean War, when Russia from the north and east warred against the Ottoman Empire, and the latter was saved only by the support and power of Great Britain and other allies. EQ 11.2
- B. And now the last verse of Daniel 11 tells of the two events that all Europe is constantly expecting to see, and which are certain soon to take place, namely, the expulsion of the Turkish power from Constantinople and the wiping out of the Ottoman Empire. These are the words of the angel as to this looked-for event, “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. EQ 12.1
- C. Constantinople itself is “between the seas.” But this does not meet the word of the angel. No, but he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas “in the glorious holy mountain.” This can be no other place than Jerusalem; even now Jerusalem is called in the Turkish and Arabic “The Holy.” It is certain, therefore, that the seat of the Ottoman power will be removed from Constantinople, and will finally be planted in Jerusalem, and then it is just as certain that power comes to an end. EQ 12.2

2. ALONZO T. JONES, BOOK *THE KING OF THE NORTH AND HIS END*

- A. In the 44th verse the angel says of this king of the north, —the Turkish power, — “tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him and he shall go forth with fury to destroy and utterly to make away many.” This was accomplished in the Crimean war when Russia from the north and east warred against the Ottoman

Empire, and the Turkish Power was saved only by the support and power of Great Britain and other allies. BEST June 8, 1896, p. 171.12

- B. And now the last verse of Daniel 11 tells of the two events that all Europe are constantly expecting to see; the events that many people in mass meetings and other assemblies are loudly calling for; the events which are certain soon to take place; namely, the expulsion of the Turkish power from Constantinople, and the wiping out of the Ottoman Empire. These are the words of the angel as to this looked-for event: "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." BEST June 8, 1896, p. 171.13
- C. Constantinople itself is "between the seas." But this does not meet the word of the angel. No, but he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas "in the glorious holy mountain." This can be no other place than Jerusalem; even as Jerusalem is even now called in the Turkish and Arabic "The Holy." It is certain therefore that the seat of the Ottoman power will be removed from Constantinople, and will finally be planted in Jerusalem, and then it is just as certain that that power comes to an end. BEST June 8, 1896, p. 172.1
- D. Yea, "he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." This expression shows that he would before having come to his end unless somebody had helped him. We have seen how fully this has been so since 1840. And in the autumn and winter of 1895-96, we have again seen that power standing for months on the very brink of expulsion from Constantinople; how that each morning as we arose and bought the daily paper, we expected to read dispatches saying that this had been accomplished. But in this crisis again somebody has helped him, and he still abides in his place. But the day is certain to come, and to come soon, when the Ottoman power will be removed from Constantinople and will be planted in Jerusalem, and then he shall come to his end, and none shall help him—and indeed he will come to his end simply because none will help him. BEST June 8, 1896, p. 172.2

3. STEPHEN N. HASKELL, BOOK *STORY OF DANIEL THE PROPHET*

- A. "Mohammedanism is but another form of Egyptian darkness. By the power of the sword the followers of Mohammed strove to enter Europe. The western horn of the Crescent, the Moslem symbol, was extended into Spain in the early part of the eighth century, and for a time all Europe was threatened, but the battle of Tours (732 AD) stopped the progress of the conquerors. In 1453, however, Constantinople was captured, and has since remained in the hands of the Turks, the boldest advocates of the doctrine of Mohammed. As the founding of Constantinople is a guidepost in history, so the capture of that city in 1453 is another landmark. One of the greatest checks received by the papacy was due to the influx into Italy of Greek scholars, driven from Constantinople by the incoming Mohammedans. [SDP 247.1]

- B. The ambition of Napoleon to establish the authority of Europe in Egypt might have been the beginning of the last struggle between the north and the south. Even in his day Russia and France made friends, but the time had not yet come for the Turk to take his departure from Europe, and England took the part of Egypt against the arms of Napoleon. Napoleon recognized the strength of Constantinople, so also did Russia, and there has been constant jealousy among the nations of Europe unless one should outwit the others and become the possessor of that stronghold. [SDP 247.2]
- C. Every eye is centered on that one spot and has been for years. Turkey is known universally as the “Sick Man of the East,” and the only reason he does not die is because intoxicants are administered, figuratively speaking, by first one nation then another. The time will come when he will leave Constantinople, and take up his abode in Palestine; that is, plant his tabernacle between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Time and again the world has been brought to realize that the end of all things is near at hand, for all know that when the Turk steps out of Constantinople, there will be a general breaking up of Europe. They may not name this impending conflict the battle of Armageddon, but God has so named it. In the Crimean war of 1853-1856, the world trembled for Turkey, and, lest the crisis should be precipitated, England and France came to the rescue, and Russia was bidden to stand back. In the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, the powers of Europe united to sustain the life of the sick man. [SDP 247.3]
- D. “I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth.... And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried ...saying, hurt not the earth ...till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” These angels now hold the winds of strife, waiting for the church of God to prepare for his coming. The sealing angel goes through Jerusalem (the church) to place the seal of the living God on the foreheads of the faithful, and while this work goes forward, Turkey stands as a national guidepost to the world, that men may know what is going on in the sanctuary in heaven above. [SDP 248.1]
- E. God’s eye is upon his people, and he never leaves himself without a witness in the world. No man knows when Turkey will take its departure from Europe, but when that move is made, earth’s history will be short. Then it will be said, “He that is unjust let him be unjust still, ...and he that is righteous let him be righteous still.” To-day is “the day of preparation.” [SDP 248.2]

4. URIAH SMITH, BOOK *DANIEL AND THE REVELATION*, ***CIRCA 1897**

- i. Editor’s Note: This section has been REMOVED from all new DARs published after this date, the eastern question position was removed from the book once Uriah Smith died (1903), a newly revised version was published in 1941 under the direction of Leroy Froom. This new version was *never* endorsed by Ellen White. If you want the truth, you must read the original published 1897 book endorsed by

Ellen White while she and brother Uriah were still alive. The endorsements for the original book by Ellen White are listed in Appendix A

- B. VERSE 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." DAR 280.5
- C. "On this verse Dr. Clarke has a note which is worthy of mention. He says: "This part of the prophecy is allowed to be yet unfulfilled." His note was printed in 1825. In another portion of his comment, he says: "If the Turkish power be understood, as in the preceding verses, it may mean that the Persians on the east, and the Russians on the north, will at some time greatly embarrass the Ottoman government." DAR 281.1
- D. Between this conjecture of Dr. Clarke's, written in 1825, and the Crimean war of 1853-1856, there is certainly a striking coincidence, since the very powers he mentions, the Persians on the east and the Russians on the north, were the ones which instigated that conflict. Tidings from these powers troubled him (Turkey). Their attitude and movements incited the sultan to anger and revenge. Russia, being the more aggressive party, was the object of attack. Turkey declared war on her powerful northern neighbor in 1853. The world looked on in amazement to see a government which had long been called "the Sick Man of the East," a government whose army was dispirited and demoralized, whose treasuries were empty, whose rulers were vile and imbecile, and whose subjects were rebellious and threatening secession, rush with such impetuosity into the conflict. The prophecy said that they should go forth with "great fury;" and when they thus went forth in the war aforesaid, they were described, in the profane vernacular of an American writer, as "fighting like devils." England and France, it is true, soon came to the help of Turkey; but she went forth in the manner described, and as is reported, gained important victories before receiving the assistance of these powers." DAR 281.2
- E. VERSE 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". DAR 281.3
- F. "If the application to which we have given the preference in passing over these verses, is correct, we must look to Turkey to make the move here indicated. DAR 281.4
- G. And let it be noted how readily this could be done. Palestine, which contains the "glorious holy mountain," the mountain on which Jerusalem stands, "between the seas," the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean, is a Turkish province; and if the Turk should be obliged to retire hastily from Europe, he could easily go to any point within his own dominions to establish his temporary headquarters, here appropriately described as the tabernacles, movable dwellings, of his palace; but he could not go beyond them. The most notable point within the limit of Turkey in Asia, is Jerusalem." DAR 282.1

- H. “In 1895 the world was startled by the report of the terrible atrocities inflicted by the Turks and Kurds upon the Armenians. Reliable reports show that many thousands have been slaughtered, with every circumstance of fiendish cruelty. The nations through their ambassadors: protest and threaten; the sultan promises but does nothing. He evidently has not the disposition, if he has the power, to stay the tide of blood. Fanatical Moslems seem seized with a frenzy to destroy all the Armenian men and take their wives and children to slavery or a more lamentable fate. At this writing (January 1897) thousands of widows and orphans are said to be wandering in the mountains of Armenia, perishing of cold and hunger; and they stretch out despairing hands to England and America to save them from total destruction. A thrill of horror has run through Christendom, and a cry is rising from all lands, Let the Turk be driven out, and come to his end! And yet the selfishness of the nations, and their jealousy of each other, restrain their hands from arresting this carnival of slaughter and ruin, by unseating the terrible Turk. How long, O Lord, how long? DAR 291.4
- I. Thus, all evidence goes to show that the Turk must soon leave Europe. Where will he then plant the tabernacles of his palace? In Jerusalem? That certainly is the most probable point. Newton on the Prophecies, p. 318, says: “Between the seas in the glorious holy mountain must denote, as we have shown, some part of the Holy Land. There the Turk shall encamp with all his powers; yet he ‘shall come to his end, and none shall help him,’ — shall help him effectually, or deliver him.” DAR 292.1

5. URIAH SMITH, *ADVENTIST REVIEW AND SABBATH HERALD*, 1900

- i. Editor’s Note: Read the entire ARSH entry [here](#) for full context.
- B. “What, then, are the scriptures that relate to Turkey in this time? The last verses of Daniel 11 relate to Turkey, which, as king of the north, with its center at Constantinople, occupies, in direct descent, the place of the original king of the north in the division of the empire of Alexander the Great, as in the fourth verse and onward. And of this Power it is written: “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 11:45.” ARSH October 2, 1900, p. 632.11

APPENDIX A | ELLEN WHITE ENDORSES URIAH SMITH’S BOOK

6. ELLEN WHITE, *1MR 60-61 & 4T 279*, ENDORSES URIAH SMITH

- A. Sell The Daniel and Revelation book wherever you can. – {1MR 60.4}

- B. Especially should the book Daniel and the Revelation be brought before people as the very book for this time. This book contains the message which all need to read and understand. – {1MR 60.5}
- C. Let our canvassers urge this book upon the attention of all. The Lord has shown me that this book will do a good work in enlightening those who become interested in the truth for this time. Those who embrace the truth now, who have not shared in the experiences of those who entered the work in the early history of the message, should study the instruction given in Daniel and the Revelation, becoming familiar with the truth it presents. Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find Daniel and the Revelation an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. – {1MR 61.1}
- D. Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find Daniel and the Revelation an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that none need err therein. Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers. They need that one to teach them what is meant by godliness and truth. The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in Daniel and the Revelation. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains. – {1MR 61.2}
- E. Boats and trains poured their living freight upon the ground in thousands. Elder Smith spoke in the morning upon the Eastern Question. The subject was of special interest, and the people listened with the most earnest attention. In the afternoon it was difficult to make my way to the desk through the standing crowd. Upon reaching it, a sea of heads was before me. The mammoth tent was full, and thousands stood outside, making a living wall several feet deep. — 4T 279.1

7. ELLEN WHITE, *MS189, 1898*, ENDORSES A.G. DANIELLS

- i. Monday, December 26, 1898, Campground, Newcastle, New South Wales
- B. God alone can make the impression and give the increase. He alone can water the seed that has been sown. I pray to the Lord that the labor put forth may not be in vain. Many seem to feel deeply. We feel to thank and praise God that this large number could have a chance to hear the truth for themselves. Dr. Caro is now speaking at five o'clock p.m. upon the health question. 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. 13LtMs, Ms 189, 1898, par. 9

APPENDIX B | SOME IMPORTANT STATEMENTS FROM ELLEN WHITE

8. ELLEN WHITE COMMENTS ON THE BOOK OF DANIEL, THE TRUTH WAS FULLY ESTABLISHED BY THE END OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF ADVENTISM, AND PROPER BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- A. Daniel is today standing in his lot, and we are to give him place to speak to the people. Our message is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. "At THAT TIME [DANIEL 11:45] 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. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." AUCR March 11, 1907, par. 10
- B. THESE WORDS present the WORK that WE ARE TO DO IN THESE LAST DAYS. We are not one-half awake. We have not the power that is essential to the doing of the work that must be done. We must come into life, come into UNION. Now, just now, we must stand in that position where repentance and pardon shall be the striking features of our work. There must be no quarrelling. It is too late to engage with Satan in his work of blinding eyes. It is too late to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. AUCR March 11, 1907, par. 11
- C. When the power of God testifies to what is truth, the TRUTH is to STAND FOREVER as the truth. NO after suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are NOT truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a FOUNDATION for our faith. HE Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise and still another with new light which CONTRADICTS the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit. The standard bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus [their] voices are to be heard. THEY are to bear their TESTIMONY as to what CONSTITUTES the truth for this time. We are NOT to receive the words of those who come with a message that CONTRADICTS the SPECIAL points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture and pile it as proof around their asserted THEORIES. This has been done repeatedly during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God's Word, and are to be respected, the application of them, IF such application MOVES EVEN

ONE PILLAR of the FOUNDATION that God has sustained these fifty years, IT IS a GREAT mistake. He who makes such an application KNOWS NOT the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God. - PH020 14.2 [Ellen White]

- D. 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. – {GC 598.3}
- E. When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No after suppositions contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. 1SM 161.1
- F. “Christ tells us when that day shall be ushered in. He does not say that all the world will be converted, but that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come.” By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God. 2 Peter 3:12. HAD the CHURCH of Christ DONE her appointed WORK as the Lord ordained, the WHOLE WORLD would before this have been WARNED, and the Lord Jesus WOULD HAVE COME to our earth in power and great glory.” - (DA 633.3) (GCB Feb 22, 1895)
- G.