

Dan 11:40 and the Spirit of Prophecy

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It is to be regretted that Ellen White does not have more to say concerning Dan 11. God wants us to study this chapter out and to understand it by comparing Scripture with Scripture. And yet there are materials from the Spirit of Prophecy that are legitimately available for the student of Dan 11, and here especially Dan 11:40-45.

First Connection: Rev 13:3

Consider two tables drawn from other sources. The first describes thematic parallels between Dan 11:40-45 and Rev 13:3. See table 1.

Table 1
Parallels Between Dan 11:40-45 and Rev 13:3

Dan 11	Rev 13
At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, (vs. 40a)	One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, (vs. 3a)
but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. ^[41] He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. ^[42] He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ^[43] He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train. (vss. 40b-d, 41-43)	but its mortal wound was healed, (vs. 3b)
But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. ^[45] And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him. (vss. 44-45)	and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. (vs. 3c)

Ellen White has a vanishingly small amount to say about Dan 11 and nothing whatever on Dan 11:40-45. But she does mention Rev 13:3 (Mar 188, 6T 14). By observing the parallels between Dan 11:40-45 and Rev 13:3, we can legitimately leverage her remarks on the second passage, applying them to the first.

Second Connection: GC Chaps. 35-40

Another set of thematic parallels, this one to six chapters of *Great Controversy* directly, are as follows. See table 2.

Table 2
Parallels Between Dan 11:40b-45 and
Great Controversy chaps. 35-40

Dan 11	ESV	GC	Chapter Title
Group A			
40b-d	[B]ut the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through.	35	Liberty of Conscience Threatened
41	He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.	36	The Impending Conflict
42-43	He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train.	37	The Scriptures a Safeguard
Group B			
44a	But news from the east and the north shall alarm him,	38	The Final Warning
44b	[A]nd he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.	39	The Time of Trouble
45	And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.	40	God's People Delivered

Here we compare a bloc of verses from Dan 11 with a bloc of chapters from *Great Controversy*. Seeing a connection between the early verses and early chapters requires thought, but when studied in the context of the later verses and later chapters, it becomes clear. We omit Dan 11:40a from this summary because that would take us back to *Great Controversy*, chap. 15. The close parallel I want to focus on here begins with the king's response to the Southern attack. See fig. 1.

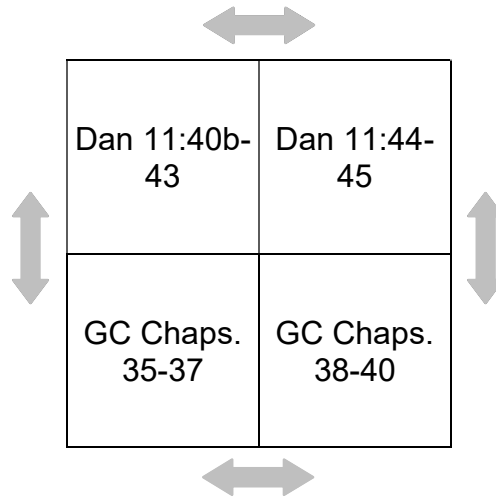


Fig. 1. Relationships between Dan 11:40-45 and six of the last chapters from *Great Controversy*.

If the earlier and later verses from Daniel form a cohesive sequence (11:40-43, 44-45), and the earlier and later chapters from *Great Controversy* form a cohesive sequence (35-37, 38-40), and if the later chapters map well onto the later verses (Dan 11:44-45 = GC caps 38-40), then the earlier verses should also correspond to the earlier chapters (Dan 11:40b-43 = GC chaps 35-37). In what follows let group A refer to earlier verses and chapters and group B refer to later verses and chapters.

Group A: (i) Dan 11:40b-d/GC chap. 36 warn that the papacy is gaining favor in the popular mind and that this trend will only continue. (ii) Dan 11:41/GC chap. 37 show what the issues in the conflict will be, when the time comes to face them. Here Ellen White directs our attention to two issues in particular, i.e., the Sabbath and the state of the dead. (iii) Dan 11:42-43/GC chap. 38 does not tell us everything the king will do, but only how to resist his influence, which is the one piece of information we need most. Her objective is to help us come through last events successfully and with faith intact. Only those who study their Bibles diligently will remain faithful and be able to meet Christ in peace. Just as chap. 37 focuses on the believing world, chap. 38 focuses on the unbelieving world. Ever since the king was wounded, he has been occupied with regaining what he lost (11:42-43). When he finishes doing this, his attention will turn toward the people of God (11:44-45).

Group B: (i) Dan 11:44a/GC chap. 39 shows that, as the remnant study more deeply, they begin to share with others more widely, and their warning swells to a loud cry.¹ (ii) In Dan 11:44b/GC chap. 40 this warning causes the king to react in two ways – first with fear, then with anger. The anger of the king leads to a time of trouble for the remnant. (iii) Dan 11:45/GC chap. 41 shows that God will rescue his people rather than allow them to be destroyed. His rescue mission begins when Michael arises (Dan

¹ EW 277-279.

12:1a). The interesting thing here is not that He stands up, but what He does next. In Rev 19 He mounts a white horse and leads all the angels of heaven with Him to the earth (19:11-21). This is why heaven is silent during the seventh seal (Rev 8:1). No one is there; they are all here rescuing us. This is the second coming.

If the group B chapters of *Great Controversy* apply in connection with Dan 11:44-45, the group A chapters apply in connection with Dan 11:41-43. Here the language sounds military, but Ellen White says nothing about literal warfare. I suggest that Dan 11:41-43 truly does describe a war, but not a military one. A conflict does need not to be military in order to be a conflict (Eph 6:12); nor does it need to be described literally in order to be real.

These parallels enable us to leverage what Ellen White says about last events in a manner largely independent of Daniel to our specific passage. Having said this, she does begin chap. 39 by quoting Dan 12:1, which is an important fact in its own right, because structurally Dan 12:1-3 is the last part of Dan 11. Steve Bohr has done some good work on this.

Third Connection: Rev 11:1-13

A third body of material that enables us to benefit from the insights given by God to Ellen White is her extensive remarks on Rev 11:1-13 in *Great Controversy*, chap. 15, "The French Revolution." Some will disagree, but I think that any description of the 1260 days is a description of Dan 11:29-35/36-39, parallel to Dan 7:25. If Ellen White gives that description, all the better; and if she gives it in connection with Rev 11:1-13, all the worse for any effort to separate that passage from Dan 11:40.