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To the Editor:

Just a quick note to compliment you on the current issue of *Historicism*. It was good to see you put out your work on the chiasmic construction of Dan 10-12 for general consumption. There is one minor point along the way in this that I noted on p. 20. I think you may well have treated this in your fuller thesis length study but it is of interest that the elements of gold and silver are reversed between vv. 11:8 and 11:38, and 43. If you want another parallel for this elsewhere in Daniel, see 5:2 as compared with 5:23 where the order of gold and silver are reversed again, this time, I would suggest because the gold kingdom of Dan 2 has turned over its power to the silver kingdom to follow on that very night.

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Actually I missed this in the thesis, but it is a point worth bringing up. In the case of Dan 11 it is not just that the same two metals appear in reverse order in parts of the chapter that correspond to each other chiastically. The contexts for their use are also reversed. In 11:8 the king of the South attacks the king of the North and captures Northern wealth. In 11:43 the king of the North attacks the king of the South and captures Southern wealth.

There are two further things to notice here. First, the contrast between 11:8 and 11:43 illustrates the fact that South starts strong and ends weak. For North the opposite is true. This is a motif that runs throughout the chapter and is illustrated in each of its major sections.

Second, and this is extremely important, in 11:43 the king of the North is fighting the king of the South, i.e., Egypt. He is not fighting Jews. This interpretation is demanded by the immediate context of the passage and reinforced by the broader context of the chapter's chiasmic structure, since in the corresponding passage (11:8) the same two parties are at war. Only the direction of the attack is different. Thus, the text itself argues against popular writers such as Hal Lindsey who appeal to Dan 11:40-45 for support of their belief that the Soviet Union will eventually attack Israel.

For further information on the literary relationships operating in the contrast between Dan 5:2 and 23 see William H. Shea, "Further Literary Structures in Daniel 2-7: An Analysis of Daniel 5, and the Broader Relationships Within Chapters 2-7," *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 23 (1985): pp. 281-85. - FWH