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Response From a Reader

Editor's Note: Treating a Christmas greeting as a letter to the editor may be unusual, but when the card is from David Duffie there is substance in it. So I thought that my readers would like to have both it and the following response.

Dear Frank,

I have enjoyed the *Historicism* series and have profited from it. I would like to have seen it continue even longer, but realize that all good things must come to an end.*

I reacted to issue before last on [Dan] 11:40-45 with a letter that is just as well that I have lost, even out of my computer, having decided to wait for some time to pass. I believe the gist was that to me it seemed that you had superimposed Ellen White's scenario onto the passage, trying to make it fit and strictly to interpret the Bible by her understanding--which apparently you feel is the right approach.

I also noted that in your view all but the first part of verse 40 is yet to be fulfilled, while in my view all but the last part of verse 45 has already been fulfilled!

Wishing you and your family a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

David (M.D.)

Dear David:

Thank you for your Christmas card and your subscription check for 1991.

Systematically bringing Ellen White into my paper, "Toward a Typological Interpretation of Dan 11:40-45" (No. 22/Apr 90), does open me to criticism, I realize. But just to clarify, I had been incubating roughly the same thoughts for some time before relating them to anything in *Great Controversy*. So it is inaccurate to say that I am reading Dan 11 into *Great Controversy* or vice versa. The relationship between the two lines of argument is A and B, not A from B.

The whole idea of a parallel between the last verses of Dan 11 and the last chapters of *Great Controversy* becomes more understandable if the king of the North's last attack is on the church. You have a number of carefully thought out reasons for disagreeing with me on this and in view of them I would speculate that you see my paper on "Jerusalem Symbolism" (No. 24/Oct 90) as being the very nadir of all those published in the journal so far. But that is the one which summarizes my argument most clearly because it provides a framework for the above claim that Dan 11:40-45 warns of dangers the church will face just before Christ's return--not the institutional church of course but God's faithful remnant wherever found. That is the time of trouble, from which Michael rescues His people at the beginning of chap. 12. It will become clear soon enough whether such a model was reasonable or not.

Thank you for your candor--and restraint, and friendship. I hope that you had the very best of Christmases and that we won't ever have to celebrate another one.

Yours,

Frank

*Note: *Historicism* will be published through the end of 1991. At that point the journal, having said what it set out to say, will be discontinued. An announcement to this effect was made in connection with the 1991 call for subscriptions.