

Appendix 3

Ellen G. White's References to Dan 11

The few statements of Ellen G. White concerning Dan 11 fall within more than one category. Apart from a general reference to Dan 7-12,¹ there are two passages that mention Darius the Mede in the context of Dan 11:1.

Darius was favored of heaven; for in the first year of his reign the angel Gabriel "stood up to confirm and to strengthen him."²

The reign of Darius was honored of God. To him was sent the angel Gabriel, "to and confirm and strengthen him." Daniel 11:1.³

Unfortunately Dan 11:1 is not part of the narrative as such but serves an introductory function. So far I have been able to find only four statements which deal with the substance of what the angel said to Daniel and each of these has the same point to make--i.e., that the prophecy has almost reached its complete fulfillment. Here are the first three statements:

The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.⁴

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.⁵

The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.⁶

The fourth statement (below) is especially interesting for two reasons. First, it was presented in 1976 as a new manuscript discovery. And second, because, in addition to reaffirming the thrust of the three quoted above, it adds that, "Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated." What does this mean? Here is the statement in question:

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 [chapter] 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. 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. 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." [the rest of Dan 11:30-36 quoted]

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:- [Dan 12:1-4 quoted]

The Spirit of the Lord is being withdrawn from the world. It is no time now for men to exalt themselves.⁷

In my view what she means by saying that history will be repeated is that the fatal wound of Rev 13:3 will be healed. Her point appears to be that what the sea beast of Rev 13 does after the wound heals will be similar to what it did before the wound was inflicted. There was religious persecution before; there will be religious persecution again. The wound therefore represents a period of rest from persecution--a hiatus in the beast's second or religious phase of activity. The first phase was secular Rome (in power at the time of Christ's first coming); the second phase--the one temporarily interrupted by the wound from which we still benefit today--is religious Rome. Thus, any consortium of end time persecuting powers will resemble its great historical predecessor.

In any event, the statement about history repeating itself is not her main thrust.⁸ What she is saying here, just as she does in the three other passages quoted, is that "the prophecy in the eleventh [chapter] of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment." But what that fulfillment is, she does not tell us.

¹"His wonderful prophecies, as recorded by him in chapters 7 to 12 of the book bearing his name, were not fully understood even by the prophet himself; but before his life labors closed, he was given the blessed assurance that "at the end of the days" --in the closing period of this world's history--he would again be permitted to stand in his lot and place. . . .

"As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies recorded by Daniel demand our special attention, as they relate to the very time in which we are living" (Ellen White, *The Story of Prophets and Kings* [Mountain View: Pacific Press, 1943], pp. 547-58).

²*Ellen G. White Present Truth and Review and Herald Articles*, 6 vols. (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, n.d.), vol. 5: *Review and Herald, 1904-1909*, p. 319 (March 21, 1907).

³*Idem, Prophets and Kings*, p. 556.

⁴*Review and Herald Articles*, 5:94 (November 24, 1904).

⁵*Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View: Pacific Press, 1948), 9:14.

⁶*Welfare Ministry* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1952), p. 136.

⁷Letter 103, 1904, pp. 5-6; *Review and Herald*, July 8, 1976.

⁸Any who use this letter to provide a framework for the delay in Christ's return are making the wrong use of it. She is not saying that the prophecies would be repeated, therefore we must wait for their repetition. The context involves money. She is appealing to a certain individual for funds to invest in the work of God and the basis for her urgency is that time would not go on much longer and that our funds should be put to the best use now. Thus, she is arguing from the absence of time rather than its continued availability. Her final words in this letter are, "Let us beware of selfish greed." It is sound advice.