

## The King of the North Revealed

We must go back to the middle of Chapter 11, where this phrase "the abomination of desolation" is used as a code (Daniel 11:31). It reads, "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation."

The fascinating and sometimes puzzling thing about Bible prophecy is that there is often more than one fulfillment of a prophecy. Previously I gave an example from Matthew 24:15, 16 where there was a fulfillment in 70 AD by the Romans of this "abomination" and also an end-time fulfillment. The different fulfillments are both correct, but which one is *more relevant for today*? Obviously it is the one that will happen at the end of time, in modern times. Too often Bible students, even scholars, are satisfied with one fulfillment and do not consider other future fulfillments.

"His" refers to the King of the North (see Daniel 11:28). Therefore let us consider another interpretation that is more relevant to modern times. First of all I want to say that I respect people from all religious backgrounds. I will be discussing religious and political systems that God, in the Bible, has warned us about. Please understand that I am in no way judging individual persons. Only God knows each heart. But I will be judging the teachings of religious organizations by the teachings of the Bible. Sincere believers have always done so.

One scholar understands this "abomination" as "that *vast system* of belief and practice which for a thousand years or more led people away from the priestly ministry of Jesus, depriving them of access to the 'prince of the covenant' mentioned in verse 22. The 'wise' who fell 'by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder' (verse 33) were the brave people of God such as the Waldenses, Lollards, Hussites, Lutherans, Anabaptists and Huguenots, who chose to be hanged or drowned or burned at the stake or tortured or imprisoned rather than give up their living faith."[\[1\]](#) Anyone who has studied church history and the Protestant Reformation is aware of the conflict between the Roman Catholic Church and the many reformers. Historians estimate that over 50 million people were killed by this persecution. Both Catholics and Protestants persecuted each other before the idea of freedom of religion dawned.



Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre (August 23, 1572)

Daniel 11 is explaining in more detail a *Little Horn* power that "set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the *daily* sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did and the truth was thrown to the ground (Daniel 8:11, 12)." Many Protestants have gone beyond the Antiochus Epiphanies interpretation of the Little Horn. They have understood the Little Horn in light of the New Testament teaching that when Christ ascended to Heaven that he became the true High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary. The Old Testament Sanctuary was a type or "shadow" of the true Heavenly Sanctuary (see Hebrews 8:5). Daniel is told this vision concerns "the time of the end," (see Daniel 8:17, 19, 26) not his own time.

This word "*daily*" in the Hebrew is *tamid* and it actually means "continual or regular." The word "sacrifice" is not in the original Hebrew, it is added by the translators. So what does this "continual" mean? The Jewish Talmud used the word to refer to the daily animal sacrifices offered at the Jewish Temple. But New Testament scholars have understood this "daily" to mean the continual High Priestly ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 7:25). This Little Horn is described in Daniel 7:25 as speaking against God and oppressing His saints. The Pope claims the authority to forgive sins, to be "Head of the Church," the corrector of heretics, infallible. He claims to be the "Vicar" of Christ, which means Substitute for Christ. The city of Rome is called the "Holy City" or the "Eternal City." The

worship of Mary and the dead "saints" is substituted for the true worship of God. An earthly priesthood replaces the true one in the Heavenly Sanctuary, this is how "the place of His sanctuary was brought low... and the truth was thrown to the ground (Daniel 8:11, 12)." Again I am not speaking any person, but of an official position of the Pope and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

To summarize, I believe that the King of the North who causes the "Abomination" in Daniel 11:31 (and verses following) is the Pope, based in Rome. Many Protestants in the past have understood the *Little Horn* power in Daniel 7 to be the Papacy, such as John Wycliffe, John Knox, Martin Luther, Sir Isaac Newton and Roger Williams. This same symbol is used in Daniel 8 to expose the "abomination." Daniel 11 is merely explaining in more detail the Little Horn vision of Daniel 8.

It is not 'politically correct' to say these things but Ralph Woodrow writes, "If the Pope is the head of the church, then Protestants surely err by not acknowledging him as such. But if he is not, what can be said about a system that makes such a claim? The Reformers taught the head of the church is CHRIST and that the Papacy is Antichrist. For this position there are strong Biblical and historical arguments as we have shared here... But in any event, we do not believe a true understanding can be obtained by speculating about the future (ideas of a future Antichrist), while ignoring so much in the past." [2] We may be tempted to think it doesn't really matter, but as we read on we'll see how these events in the Middle East affect us all.

### **THE TIME OF THE END**

Daniel 11:35 says "Some of the wise will stumble so that they will be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time." The phrase "*time of the end*" (*eth qes* in Hebrew) is used in other texts in Daniel: 8:17, 11:40, and 12:4, 9.

In order to understand this phrase, we must look at the historical understanding of a time prophecy in Daniel 7:25. Daniel 7:24-25 reads, "The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change set times and laws. The saints will be handed over to him for *a time, times and half a time*." The phrase "*time, times and half a time*" literally means a year, two years and a half of a year or 3 ½ years. Allow me to briefly summarize this in-depth time prophecy.

One view is that a *day in this "prophetic time" equals a literal year in earthly time*. Based on the Jewish lunar calendar, there are 360 days in each year. Therefore the 3 ½ times 360 equals 1,260 days representing 1,260 years of history. This is called the *Historicist View* that was widely held by Protestants in the 19th Century. This view teaches that the 1,260 years of Papal persecution was fulfilled in the year 1798 when Pope Luis VI was taken captive by one of Napoleon's generals. [3]

Many Bible scholars have agreed that Daniel 11:35 extends "until the time of the end," meaning the period of Papal persecution which ended in 1798. After that time, although the Papacy was re-established, it never had the civil authority again to enforce its teachings. So, chronologically, the *verses from Daniel 11:36 represent events that happen after 1798*. So in the next section we will see what the Papacy is predicted to do after the year 1798.

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[1] C. Mervin Maxwell, *God Cares*, page 296

[2] Ralph Woodrow, *Great Prophecies of the Bible*, page 173

[3] The period began when the Roman Emperor, Justinian, decreed in a letter to the Bishop of Rome in 533 AD, that the Bishop of Rome was officially "head of all bishops and the true and effective corrector of heretics (*The Apocalypse of St. John*, by George Croly, p.170)." This decree was incorporated into the imperial code of laws. At the time the Emperor was based in Constantinople, while there was a power struggle between the bishops of Rome and Constantinople for the highest place in the Catholic Church. Justinian's decree put an end to this struggle by giving Rome full authority over the whole ecclesiastical body both East and West.

In 1798, the French General Berthier, entered Rome and declared the political rule of the Papacy to be over. He then took Pope Luis VI as a prisoner to France where he died. After this event, many students of Bible prophecy from divergent places and traditions could see the fulfillment of the 1,260 years predicted in Daniel 7:25 (and also in Revelation 12:14). Even before the event, Drue Cressener predicted, in 1689, that the 1,260 years would end "a little before the year 1800 (*The Judgments of God Upon the Catholic Church*, by Drue Cressener, p. 209)." Later, the Historical School expositors in Europe accepted the Papacy as the Little Horn of Daniel 7 and the Year-Day Principle fulfillment in 1798. In America, prominent church leaders such as Roger Williams, John Cotton and Timothy Dwight all accepted this view.

Of course the Catholic Theologians did not remain silent regarding this debate. The Jesuits, led by Francisco Ribera (d. 1591), sought to show that the Little Horn Antichrist was a future infidel Jew who would reign in Jerusalem for 3 ½ literal years (does this sound familiar?). This became known as the **Futurist** interpretation (also incorporated into the Dispensationalist school). Another Jesuit, Luis de Alcazar (d. 1613), put forth the idea that the Little Horn was fulfilled by a pagan Roman Emperor and became known as the **Preterist** interpretation.

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