

THE EASTERN QUESTION

WILL TURKIYE
RECAPTURE JERUSALEM?



A Biblical Warning for Our Time

Bible prophecy was given so that God's people might understand the times in which they live. The book of Daniel provides a continuous outline of history, tracing the rise and fall of earthly powers from ancient times until the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. Daniel chapter 11 is the most detailed of these outlines.

But how does this prophecy conclude? And what role does the Eastern Question play in its final fulfillment?

How Should Daniel 11 Be Interpreted?

The first thirty-nine verses of Daniel 11 have been fulfilled with remarkable precision. Persia, Greece, Rome, and the division of Alexander's empire are identified clearly and historically. The prophecy is literal, geographic, and continuous.

Question: If the prophecy was fulfilled literally in the past, should it suddenly become symbolic at the end?

The same method of interpretation must be carried through to the close. The Bible offers no direction in changing this method.

Thus, when Daniel 11 speaks of kings, lands, and directions, these are to be understood as real powers occupying real territory.

When Does the "Time of the End" Begin?

Daniel 11:40 marks a transition point: *"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him..."*

According to historicist understanding, the time of the end began in 1798, when the papacy received its deadly wound and prophetic periods reached their fulfillment.

At this same time:

- Napoleon invaded Egypt
- Egypt (the king of the south) "Pushed" at France authority
- Ottoman Empire was forced into decisive action to "Push" at France

This marks the beginning of the final phase of Daniel 11

Who Is the King of the North?

Throughout Daniel 11, the king of the north is identified by territory. After the breakup of Alexander's empire, the northern territory centered in Asia Minor and Syria.

By the time of the end, (1798) this territory was occupied by the Ottoman Empire, whose capital was Constantinople (modern Istanbul).

Turkey clearly occupied the geographic position of the king of the north at the time the prophecy entered its final phase.

Key Principle: Prophecy follows territory, even when governments change.

What Does the "Push" of the King of the South Represent?

Daniel 11:40 describes a renewed conflict: *"The king of the south shall push at him..."*

In 1798, Egypt *"pushed at him"* (the French invasion), and the Ottoman Empire soon struck against France *"like a whirlwind, with chariots and many ships."* After driving out the French, the Ottoman power spread through the surrounding lands, entering the Glorious Land and taking control of Egypt's treasures of gold, silver, and all precious things, just as Daniel 11:43 foretold.

This perfectly matches the prophetic description.

Why Does the Prophecy Emphasize Expansion?

Daniel 11:41-43 describes the king of the north entering:

- The glorious land
- Egypt
- Libya
- Ethiopia

The Ottoman power historically controlled or influenced each of these regions, often with the help of European nations.

The prophecy also states: *"He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver..."*

This reflects political and economic control rather than moral strength.

What Are the "Tidings Out of the East and the North"?

Daniel 11:44 says: *"But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him..."*

These tidings as threaten, disturbed and affected Ottoman stability, particularly:

- Pressure from Russia (north)
- Unrest and conflict in eastern territories; such as Persia.

These tidings did not bring peace. Instead, they provoke fear and aggression.

Why Does the Prophecy End in Jerusalem?

Daniel 11:45 states: *"And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain..."*

- "Between the seas" refers to the Mediterranean and Dead Seas
- "The glorious holy mountain" is Jerusalem. —Daniel 9:16

Thus, the prophecy places the final scene in Palestine.

This is significant. Jerusalem has always been central in God's dealings with nations, and prophecy indicates it will again become the focal point at the close of human history.

What Does "None Shall Help Him" Mean?

The prophecy concludes decisively: *"Yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."*

Historically, the Ottoman Empire survived only because European powers repeatedly intervened. But prophecy declares that a moment will come when support is withdrawn.

- The complete collapse of the power represented
- The exhaustion of political alliances
- The end of human sovereignty in this line of prophecy

What Follows Immediately After?

Daniel 11:45 does not stand alone. The very next verse reads: *"And at that time shall Michael stand up..."* —Daniel 12:1

This shows that:

- The fall of the king of the north
- And the intervention of Christ are closely connected events

Earthly kingdoms reach their limit just as Christ assumes His final role on behalf of His people.

Why Is This Information Important Today?

Daniel 11 teaches that:

- Nations rise and fall according to God's Word
- Human power cannot avert divine judgment
- History is moving toward a fixed conclusion

The events unfolding in the Middle East, long known in history as the Eastern Question, are a sign that the world is nearing the close of its history. What should the reader do?

Prophecy was given to be heeded.

Jesus said: *"When ye see these things come to pass, know that it is near."*
—Luke 21:31

The wise reader will:

- Study the Scriptures carefully
- Place confidence in Jehovah rather than nations
- Prepare spiritually for the close of probation

Daniel 11 leads unbroken from ancient history to the brink of eternity. The Eastern Question marks the final movements of earthly power. Beyond it lies the kingdom of God. Human help will fail. Earthly systems will end. But Christ's reign will be everlasting. *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand for ever.* —Daniel 2:44

