

Michael Stands Up

Consider this statement from Sr. White from 9T 14:

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.

Read Daniel 11:40-45. Previous to that, Daniel 11:31-39 describes the history of the papacy during the 1260 years, using the symbol of the king of the north. Verse 40 refers to when secularism (the king of the south) gave the papacy its deadly wound at the conclusion of the French Revolution. These events are in the past. In the statement above, Sr. White was, thus, referring to verses 41-45 as having nearly reached fulfillment.

Of those verses, verses 41-43 describe the future in which the papacy will recover from its wound and overwhelm these secular powers to control the “kings of the earth.” But then verse 44 states:

news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.

News from the east is described in Rev 7:2 as the sealing of God’s people. The loud cry in Rev 18 comes from heaven, which in Scripture is depicted as the “north.” So, Satan, working through the papacy, is infuriated (wroth with the seed of the woman) and goes to make war with the saints who are bringing the loud cry to warn the world. This precipitates an attempt of the combined forces of the papacy, apostate Protestants, and spiritualistic forces, to wipe out God’s people. This alliance “cause[s] those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain” (Rev 13:15).

This attack on God’s people is the anti-type of the surrounding of Jerusalem by Sennacherib. The anti-type is prophesied in Dan 11:45:

And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

Of course, Jesus intervenes, as He did for King Hezekiah, and delivers His people. This is shown in Dan 12:1.

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

The expression “at that time” refers to verse 44 where “news from the east and the north” enrages the king of the north and turns him against God’s people, resulting in the death decree. Then, a wonderful happens with the phrase, “Michael stands up.” The phrase occurs 11 times in Daniel, and every time it refers to a king taking the throne. Before the close of probation, Jesus is in the Most Holy Place wearing priestly robes. After the close of probation, he changes to His kingly robes (see Rev 19 description of a warrior king coming to deliver His people). Sr. White comments on this in EW 281:

Then I saw Jesus lay off His priestly attire and clothe Himself with His most kingly robes. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven.

However, before He comes, He goes to the Father to receive His kingdom. Only after the close of probation can it be determined which individuals constitute His kingdom. Dan 7 13-14 describes this:

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Receiving the kingdom from the Father is when Jesus weds His church. Wedding parables are about an event in heaven in which people on Earth are not present. For example, examine Luke 12:35-37:

Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

We see a sequence in Luke 12 that can be seen elsewhere: 1) the wedding or receiving the kingdom in heaven, 2) the return of Jesus to Earth at the Second Coming, and 3) the wedding feast in heaven with Jesus and all the saints.

According to Sr. White, these events are the next to occur in the prophetic timeline. Now is the time to ensure we are fully surrendered to Jesus so that He can fit us to go through to the end.

For more detail on these prophecies, see a previously distributed paper entitled, "Daniel 11 – What Happens Next?." Also listen to the sermon, "The Wedding and Its Reception - Matthew 25.