

countries. Gorbachev is said to have bowed to “Roman legions,” attributing to John Paul II a “sweet victory.” The demise of communism is referred to as “Days of the Whirlwind.” All of this speaks with unerring accuracy of Bible prophecy fulfilled.

With Chariots and Horsemen

Used in the Bible to describe arms and power, this phrase points to the military strength and support the king of the North allied to himself (see Dan. 11:40; 1 Kings 1:5; 1 Kings 20:1). This prophesied strength and support came from the Western allies of the Vatican that vitally affected the crumbling of Communism.

“In 1981, the communist bloc got another shock. A new American President, Ronald Reagan, began fulfilling his promise to challenge the Soviets, not placate them. Over the next few years, he accelerated the military buildup and announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a space-based system for protecting against missile attack. He backed anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua, Angola, Cambodia and Afghanistan. And with American troops, he liberated the island of Grenada from communist thugs.

“The Soviets’ confidence was shaken,” says this *Readers Digest* article.

“The Western Europeans also pressured the Soviets. NATO forged ahead with military modernization. German voters spurned Soviet ‘peace overtures’ and elected a government that voted to deploy new intermediate-range missiles. . . .

“*Military pressure* from America and its Western allies had caused the Soviets to flinch.”⁴

This strong military pressure, symbolized in Bible prophecy by the “chariots and horsemen,” is an interpretation further substantiated by historical fact. The front cover of *Time* magazine, February 24, 1992, was entitled, “HOLY ALLIANCE.” Inside, a special report uncovered to the public eye that the United States and Papal Rome secretly worked together to bring down Communism. The subtitle read, “How Reagan and the Pope conspired to assist Poland’s Solidarity movement and hasten the demise of Communism.” The main thrust of the alliance began with a meeting on June 7, 1982. This was the first time the two leaders had met, and immediately they “agreed to undertake a clandestine campaign to hasten the dissolution of the communist empire.” President Reagan’s first National Security Adviser, Richard Allen, described the agreement as “one of the great secret alliances of all time.”

With Many Ships

Used in the Bible to describe economic trade, ships speak of the economic pressure that was brought against the king of the South (see Psalm 107:23; Proverbs 31:14; Revelation 18:17-19).

Readers Digest reported: “In the 1980s, communist economies, always inefficient, went belly up. Before, they had lacked consumer and luxury goods. Now perennial shortages of staples worsened as well. When Soviet miners went on strike in 1989, their demands included soap, toilet paper and sugar.” It is clear from Bible prophecy and current history that, to a large degree, the cold war was lost on the economic front. The Soviet Union could not keep up its high military spending to the neglect of the basic staple needs of its people.

Time magazine states that, “during the first half of 1982, a five-part strategy emerged that was aimed at bringing about the collapse of the Soviet *economy*. . . . Elements of that strategy included: The U.S. defense buildup already under way, aimed at making it too costly for the Soviets to compete militarily with the U.S. Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative—Star Wars—became a centerpiece of the strategy,” as well as “*economic* isolation of the Soviet Union.” Again history confirms Bible prophecy that depicted the power of the “North” as coming against atheism with “ships” or economic pressure.

Enter Into the Countries

How did the king of the North [Papal Rome/U.S.] enter into the communist countries? Again, when we review the history, the entering “into the countries” of atheism by the Papacy and the West begins to have its proper application.

First of all, the fall of communism began with the country of Poland, the home of Pope John Paul II. This country’s 90 percent Catholic population, once controlled by Communism, immediately elected a Catholic leader as well as a democratic form of government.

“Addressing the Pope as ‘Your Holiness’—no small gesture for the leader of a nation and party formally pledged to atheism,” in 1989 Gorbachev “promised that the Supreme Soviet would ‘shortly’ pass a law guaranteeing religious freedom for all believers.”⁵

The revival of religious freedom lifted an official ban on the five-million-member Ukrainian Catholic Church, “which has survived underground since 1946 when Stalin ordered it absorbed into the Russian Orthodox Church.” Winning legalization for the Ukrainian Church had been a primary aim of the Pope’s.

These policy changes by Gorbachev resulted in “hundreds of churches and tens of thousands of followers” returning to the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Though there was inner turmoil in the U.S.S.R. over Gorbachev’s decisions, and doubts from on-lookers of true and lasting change, it is clear that “Gorbachev’s choices” were “meager.” “Having embarked upon the road of radical reform,” he stated in 1990, “the socialist countries are crossing the line beyond which there is not return to the past.”⁶

Exploiting the Forces of History

The fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecies, supplemented by news and historical information, find its application in history today. “And at the time of the end [1798 and onward] shall the king of the South [atheism, communism] push at [war against] him [Papal Rome]: and the king of the North [Papal Rome] shall come [sweep] against him [atheism, communism] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen [military support, U.S.], and with many ships [trade or economic strength, U.S.], and he shall enter into the countries [atheist controlled], and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40).

“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41).

The “he” of this verse speaks to the combined powers of the U.S. and Papal Rome. Building on their “Holy Alliance,” this united power will eventually, in the wake of worldwide calamity, use political force to establish and enforce a one-world, religio-political system (see Matthew 24:6-9; Revelation 13:11-17). In fact, the U.S. is presently poised as the political-military power to lead the world in whatever crisis it encounters. Likewise, Papal Rome is fast becoming the one religious power to which other religions and faiths would acquiesce some degree of world loyalty in time of crisis. The key word here is *crisis!* It is a major worldwide crisis, inevitable, unstoppable, coming to this earth, that will eventually bring these two powers to the front. In the wake of this coming crisis, all other nations will submit.

¹ *Library of Universal History*, vol. VIII, New York: Union Book Company, 1900, p. 2612.

² Rev. Alexander Keith, *The Signs of the Times*, vol. II, 3rd edition. Edinburgh: William Whyte & Co., 1833, pp.114-115.

³ *Time*, December 4, 1989.

⁴ *Reader’s Digest*, March 1990.

⁵ *Time*, December 11, 1989.

⁶ *Ibid.*

The Unsealing of Daniel

Study Number 14



While most of what we have covered so far deals with history past, this present study will move us into our own prophetic present and future. The prophecy of Daniel 11 and 12 points to events that are soon to transpire, as well as recent history as it has unfolded before the world.

With breath-taking accuracy, the Word of God has given an outline of history past. We will now begin to see the very issues and movements that are shaping our world today. As we read and understand this heavenly record, we can be assured that earth’s future will no doubt play out just as Bible prophecy predicts.

Let’s pick up in verse 32 of Daniel 11, which portrays the *Dark Ages*.

Know God—Be Strong

“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. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed” (Daniel 11:32-35).

These verses apply to those who stood fast for God during the *Dark Ages* of religious compromise and persecution. The most important point is found in verse 32: “The people that do know their God.” It is when we know God through an intimate relationship with Him that we can remain strong during times of crisis. Even then, as the verses 33 through 35 imply, there are struggles and trials calculated to purge and make us white (see Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Peter 4:12-13; James 1:2-4). Verse 35 points to a “time appointed” when this period of persecution would end. The fact that God’s faithful would find “a little help” during this time must point to the various reformers and reformations that brought hope to these dark times.

Anti-Christ

“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor

Papal–U.S. Alliance in Prophecy

the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honor the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strongholds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain” (Daniel 11:36-39).

Here is described the antichrist power of history and of the last days. Other portions of Scripture address the same power. In 2 Thessalonians, for example, we find the apostle Paul almost quoting from Daniel 11:36 when he states: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-9).

The establishment of the papal power brought fulfillment to this prophecy in the history of the *Dark Ages*, but it also points to a more complete manifestation of the antichrist in the last days. Notice that this power was to begin its apostasy in the church, continuing on till the coming of Jesus, when it would be consumed by the “spirit of His mouth.”

The Time of the End

Now we come to a major shift in prophetic history. Verse 40 takes us to an amazing era designated as the “time of the end.” We will find this is the very time in which we live.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the South push at him: and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40).

Biblically understood to mark the completion of the prophetic “day for a year” periods given in Daniel 12, the “time of the end” began in the period 1793-1798 (see Ezekiel 4:6; Daniel 12:7, 11-12; Numbers 14:34). It denotes a time when “knowledge,” both Scriptural and technological, would “be increased” (Daniel 12:4).

This increase of Scriptural knowledge is marked by the distribution of over one billion Bibles, testaments, or portions of testaments beginning at the turn of the 19th century and continuing into the 20th century. The close of 1798 saw the establishment of the London Religious Tract Society (1799). The British and Foreign Bible Society was organized in 1804, the American Bible Society in 1816, and the American Tract Society in 1825. Today, parts of the Bible have been translated in over 1500 languages and roughly 2.5 billion copies have been printed in the last 200 years.

Before the “time of the end” Bibles in manuscript or in print, counting every version in every land, numbered just over four million. These four million were written in about 50 different languages, including such outdated speech as the Moeso-Gothic Ulfilas and the Anglo-Saxon of Bede.

Only as the Bible became available to the masses could the prophetic prediction find fulfillment, “many shall run to and fro [in the Bible], and knowledge [of Daniel’s prophecies] shall increase.” This fulfillment, culminating in 1798, establishes

the beginning of the “time of the end” (see Daniel 12:4).

The increased availability of the Bible brought in its train worldwide interest in Bible prophecy and “increased” knowledge of certain portions of prophecy previously “sealed” to human understanding (see Daniel 12:9).

Another indication of the beginning of the “time of the end” is the amazing increase of knowledge in technology. One newspaper article dating back to the 1800s cited the rapid strides the world was making in science, general intelligence and inventions as the most striking characteristic of our times. Another commented that there was never such activity of invention within the history of mankind.

In 1798, gas lighting and the cast iron plow were still recent developments. Steam-powered machinery was a new exploration. And electricity was an interesting laboratory experiment.

The King of the South

The word *south* is derived from a Hebrew word which occasionally translates “Egypt” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*). It is also biblically referred to as the country of Egypt (see Isaiah 30:1-7). Egypt denotes an atheistic power that denies the existence of God (see Exodus 5:2). In the “time of the end” (1793-1798), an atheistic power emerged in the country of France. “On the 23rd November atheism in France reached its extreme



power eventually evolved into modern Communism.

Shall Push At Him

Daniel was told that the king of the South “shall push at him [the king of the North].”

The word “push” means to “war against.” It is a simple definition, but it holds a key to unlocking Daniel 11:40. It describes the conflict that has been taking place between the “king of the South” (atheism) and the “king of the North,” since the “time of the end” began in 1798.

Giving an historical account of the French Revolution, Alexander Keith wrote of how atheism arose in France and turned upon the Papacy. “Of the horrors of the French Revolution it were needless to write. It is enough to say that the blood of the saints began to be avenged. . . . Tithes were abolished; monasteries suppressed; church lands confiscated; the priests despoiled and beggared; and, at a time when every other form of faith was tolerated, and atheism itself esteemed rather a virtue than a vice, and religious liberty proclaimed, the clergy of France were required to abjure all allegiance to the See of Rome, and that church was ‘deprived of its earthly power; or the dominion forcibly taken from its hands.’”²

By the year 1798, the French army, under General Berthier, entered Rome and

took the Pope captive. He died later in a French prison. From the overthrow of the “See of Rome” at the “time of the end,” into the 20th century, atheism has consistently warred against Papal Rome. Here is an account of the “spiritual war” given in a recent *Time* magazine article: “Until recently, the battalions of Marxism seemed to have the upper hand over the soldiers of the Cross. In the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Lenin had pledged toleration but delivered terror. ‘Russia turned crimson with the blood of martyrs,’ says Father Gleb Yakunin, Russian Orthodoxy’s bravest agitator for religious freedom. In the Bolsheviks’ first five years in power, 28 bishops and 1,200 priests were cut down by the red sickle. Stalin greatly accelerated the terror, and by the end of Khrushchev’s rule, liquidations of clergy reached an estimated 50,000. After World War II, fierce but generally less bloody persecution spread into the Ukraine and the new Soviet bloc, affecting millions of Roman Catholics and Protestants as well as Orthodox.”³

Bible prophecy speaks of the king of the South pushing against the king of the North. History confirms that since the beginning of the “time of the end” (1798), the “king of the South” (atheism) has pushed at or “warred against” the Catholic church as well as Protestantism. How does this history reveal the identity of the king of the North?

The King of the North

Most Bible scholars would agree that prophecy is history foretold and history is prophecy fulfilled. History verifies Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome as the four kingdoms symbolized in Daniel 2, 7 and 8. It is interesting to note that Rome is the fourth and last power in these Bible prophecies prior to the establishment of God’s everlasting kingdom (see Daniel 2:36-45; 7:7-11, 19-22, 25-27; 8:9-12, 23-25). Rome is also the last power in Daniel 11. (The prophetic visions in these four chapters are understood as cumulative and closely connected with each other). More interesting still is that in Daniel 11:40, the king of the South, which biblically represents atheism, is overthrown by this last power brought to view—the king of the North, or papal Rome. Thus the title in *U.S. News & World Report*, “GORBY’S BOW TO THE ROMAN LEGIONS,” was a profound historical statement having deep prophetic significance (December 11, 1989).

First, it describes a face-lift that took place in our world through the removal of political and religious lines in communist Eastern bloc countries. But more importantly, this speaks of the Roman power, identified in Daniel 11:40 as the king of the North. The fall of communism at the hand of Rome is a direct fulfillment of end-time prophecy (see Daniel 11:30).

Triumph for Papal Rome

The historical record cited above states further, “The rush to freedom in Eastern Europe is a sweet victory for John Paul II.”

Papal Rome is identified in Daniel 11:40 as the king of the North, the power to which atheistic communism has bowed. In Daniel 11:40, the king of the North is depicted as coming against the king of the South “like a whirlwind.” Here is one of the most significant confirmations of this prophecy, found in the description of the fall of the king of the South, or atheism. In *Newsweek*, December 25, 1989, an article describing the fall of communism was entitled, “DAYS OF THE WHIRLWIND.” Amazing! The Bible carefully delineates, thousands of years in advance, what is historical fact to our world today.

The words used in these modern-historical accounts describe the fall of communism as the end of a “dramatic spiritual war.” John Paul II is credited with helping to inflame a fervor for freedom that has “swept like brush fire” across the atheistic