





## Question 21

You will want to end this lesson on a high note emphasizing God's deliverance of His people. The last days may bring troublous times, but God will deliver His faithful people.

### Response Questions:

1. If you are thankful that God is in control of human history, put a check mark in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to stand with God's people when Michael stands up to deliver them, put a check mark in Box #2.

## Question 3

This question reinforces the great controversy theme by showing that behind the issues of earth there are unseen forces at work.

While you will talk about these unseen forces at work to thwart the divine purpose, be certain to make it plain that God ultimately will win this controversy.

This is not a time to build up the devil's power and exalt him, but instead to show clearly the victorious Christ.

The Events of Daniel 11. At this point make certain that your people are clear on the delineation of the empires in the book of Daniel: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the papal system. It would be well to review outline prophecy here, showing again how every prophecy has paralleled the previous ones but has added significant details. Likewise, we would expect that Daniel 11 will go through exactly the same empires again, and will give us added details with a special focus upon the end time.

## Questions 7 to 11

This section gives a rapid survey of world history through the various empires. We have chosen to pick out just a few of the texts that clearly indicate the power being referred to, without going into a lot of detail.

If the teacher is interested in reading more background material on the meaning of the various symbols and a detailed exposition of the history of that period, he should refer to the S.D.A. Bible Commentary on this chapter. However, in his public presentation it would be well to go through this section fairly rapidly and not get too bogged down in the detailed history of those times.

While this may be fascinating to the history buff, it may cause you to lose the interest of those students who are less interested in history.

Remember, the focal point of the recitation of these various events is not merely to show that God knew these things ahead of time, but that God is

in control of human events—that things don't happen outside of the divine will.

## Question 12

You may wish to take a little more time on this question and go through the various points that clearly identify the papacy as the power delineated here as the king of the north. You may refer again to Lessons 9 and 15 where the papacy is described as the opposing power of God's people in the Dark Ages.

Remember, the point that you're trying to make here is that Daniel 11 is portraying for us all the powers throughout history that have oppressed the people of God.

Since the papacy was the major opposing power to God's people during the Dark Ages, it appears in this section as the oppressor of the people of God, the king of the north.

## Questions 13-21

This section of the lesson covers Daniel 11:40-45, the part that is most controverted in Seventh-day Adventist circles. Various interpretations have been given for the king of the north and the king of the south as delineated in these verses. You will notice that the lesson makes no attempt to interpret the king of the north or the king of the south at the time of the end.

The lesson merely recites the Biblical account of what happens. Rather than attempting to build a case for last-day events out of Daniel 11, the next few lessons will move into the book of Revelation where last-day events are more clearly expounded. It is there that we can see what powers are involved in last-day events.

For your information, there are two major interpretations that have been offered by Seventh-day Adventist scholars throughout the years as to the identity of the king of the north in Daniel 11:40-45, The first interpretation offered was by James White, who felt that the last power

referred to in Daniel 11 was the same power described in Revelation 13:11-13, which we understand to be the revived papal, apostate Protestantism and spiritualistic union of the last days.

James White wrote: "Michael is to stand up at the time that the last power in Chapter 11 comes to his end, and none to help him. This power is the last that treads down the true church of God. . . This last power that treads down the saints is brought to view in Revelation 13:11-13. His number is 666." James White, "The Time of Trouble," **A Word to the Little Flock**, 1847, pp. 97, 98.

Twenty years later Uriah Smith introduced a new interpretation that suggested that the king of the north did not refer to the papacy, but instead referred to Turkey. This caused some serious confrontations between Uriah Smith and James White.

Ellen White had to counsel her husband to not confront Uriah Smith in public. She felt that these were not issues to be debated at that time. However, after the death of James White, Uriah Smith became the dominant prophetic expositor among Seventh-day Adventists. His masterpiece, Daniel and Revelation, for many years became the dominant view of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

In the Seventh-day Adventist church today you will find people who still believe Uriah Smith's view that Daniel 11 refers to Turkey. Likewise there are those who feel that the last power mentioned in Daniel 11 is exactly what James White understood it to be: the threefold union of the final apostasy. Obviously we do not intend that you bring these facts out in your presentation. They are given only for your background information.

Be aware that there is a difference of opinion in this area among Seventh-day Adventists. It would be well as you give this section of the lesson that you merely enunciate, as the lesson has done, what the text says is going to happen in the last days, and then whet your students' appetite for the next few lessons which go into detail about all the powers involved in last-day events as seen from the book of Revelation. It is the book of Revelation that expands the prophecies of the book of Daniel and helps us to clearly understand the powers involved in last-day events.