

## Islamic Invasions against the Papal King #1

Daniel 11:40; Revelation 9:1-11

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Greg L. Price

When God's people fall into idolatry, God sends avenging nations against them to demonstrate their folly/rebellion in turning away from the Lord God whom they profess to serve. The Lord sent the Assyrians against the northern kingdom of Israel for their idolatry, which is spiritual adultery (2 Kings 17:6,10-12), and God sent the Babylonians against the southern kingdom of Judah for their idolatry (2 Chronicles 36:14-17). Likewise, the Lord Jesus threatens judgment against churches that practice idolatry—Pergamos (Revelation 2:14-16) and Thyatira (Revelation 2:20-22).

Our God is most gracious and merciful, full of compassion and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, but let us never forget that He is also a holy God that is rightly jealous for the worship alone that He has commanded be given to Him, and He hates/despises the mixing of idolatry (our own innovations) with His true worship that is offered to Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). It is not legalism to worship God only as He has commanded (not adding to it or subtracting from it). It is actually an expression of our love for God to desire to do so and to do so.

What does idolatry have to do with our text in Daniel 11:40ff? It has everything to do with what God brings in His righteous judgment upon the Papal King for the idolatry that had become (by the seventh century) entrenched in the Church of Rome in the west, and likewise in the Church of Constantinople in the east. For as we shall see, after the angel, Gabriel, reveals to Daniel the idolatry of saints and their images that the Papal King would introduce into the Church in worshipping “a strange god” (Daniel 11:36-39) which his fathers (the apostles) did not know (Daniel 11:38), Daniel is shown what judgment God would bring against the Papal King (and those who follow his idolatry) through the scourge of Islam beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

Let me give you an overview of what major events are prophesied in Daniel 11:40—Daniel 12:3 (which we will consider more carefully over the next few weeks). There are four major periods of history that Gabriel prophesies shall come after the Papal King has arisen and has introduced his idolatry into the Church (Daniel 11:36-39): (1) the first invasion of Islam (Daniel 11:40a; Revelation 9:1-11—Fifth Trumpet Judgment); (2) the second invasion of Islam (Daniel 11:40b-45a; Revelation 9:12-21—Sixth Trumpet Judgment); (3) the end of God's enemies (Daniel 11:45b-12:1; Revelation 11:13—Sixth Trumpet Judgment); (4) the reign of Christ is realized over all the earth when His people are raised to serve Him (Daniel 12:2-3; Revelation 11:11-19—Seventh Trumpet Judgment).

The main points for the sermon this Lord's Day are: (1) The First Islamic Invasion against the Papal King (Daniel 11:40a); (2) A Brief Confirmation of the First Islamic Invasion Found in the Fifth Trumpet Judgment (Revelation 9:1-11).

### I. The First Islamic Invasion against the Papal King (Daniel 11:40a).

A. We have seen that Gabriel reveals to Daniel that there would arise “the king” (the Papal King—Daniel 11:36-39) who would do according to his own infallible will in exalting himself above all gods (rulers) on earth and even speak against the God of gods in usurping His authority and office, who would not regard marriage (but promote celibacy among his priests, monks, and nuns), who would also introduce into worship patron saints (*mauzzim*) and images to them which his fathers (apostles knew not), and who would build “strong holds” (temples, cathedrals) in which to place these images.

B. What does the Lord God do about this idolatry brought into the worship of His people by this Papal King? Does the holy God say anything? Does He do anything? God brings against the Papal King another King (he is called the King of the Abyss in Revelation 9:11) who reigns over a people and who like locusts spread their destructive power from the Arabian desert against Christendom—even against the Papal King. I

submit that as we come to Daniel 11:40 and look at those events that will lead to the time of the end when God's enemies are destroyed, the King of the South is the King of the Abyss (in Revelation 9) that pushes (like a bull) against "him"—the Papal King (who is the subject of the previous verses, Daniel 11:36-39).

C. The Papal King gained the recognition as the universal bishop over the whole church on earth in 606 as Emperor Phocas made this declaration for the Roman Empire. By that time in the Roman Empire, the veneration of patron saints and their images had become a part of worship (ever growing 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries). God responds at that time through the scourge of the Prophet of Islam—the King of the Abyss—Muhammed (570-632).

1. Muhammed was born to a tribal leader in Mecca. His father died when he was young, and he was raised by his grandfather and uncle who was a trader that traveled far and wide throughout the Middle East. As a result, Muhammed was exposed to both Jewish and Christian systems of belief, which is clearly seen in the Koran, though it is a perversion of the Old and New Testaments—the Koran teaches that Jesus is not God, there is no atonement in His death, and he was not raised from the dead. The Koran teaches that Jesus was God's prophet, but Muhammed (being the last Prophet) is the greatest Prophet. Muhammed saw the images of saints in Christian Churches as idolatry and saw it as his mission to rid the world of such idolatry.

2. Muhammed began to publicly preach what he claimed were revelations given to him by the angel, Gabriel, in 612, and from 622 the Islamic crusades began in Arabia. A few years later (639-642), the Islamic conquest of Egypt was complete and reached through the Holy Land to Syria and Persia (Iran), and crossed the Mediterranean Sea into Europe—beginning with Catholic Spain (711-721), Catholic Sicily (827-902), even attacking Rome and the Papal King (846).

3. Thus, the King of the South (under the Islamic Saracens who occupied the regions of Egypt) in advancing against the Papal King (Daniel 11:40) is in harmony with what is only briefly stated there.

## **II. A Brief Confirmation of the First Islamic Invasion Found in the Fifth Trumpet Judgment (Revelation 9:1-11).**

A. We have just begun a study in the Book of Revelation in our midweek Bible Study. I have given some introductory material there that I will not repeat here at this time. But let me say that I believe the Book of Revelation (or most of it) was not realized around 70 a.d. (Preterism). Nor did I believe that the Book of Revelation (or most of it) is yet to be fulfilled (Futurism). I believe the Book of Revelation began to be fulfilled at the time John penned it by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (94-96 a.d.) and that in it the Lord Jesus reveals throughout history that He is King, and He will conquer all His enemies and save His people (Historicism).

B. There are three major groups of judgments in the Book of Revelation: the Seal Judgments in Revelation 6 (which cover God's judgment upon pagan Rome from about 100-400); the Trumpet Judgments in Revelation 8, 9, 11 (which cover God's judgment upon civil and ecclesiastical Rome beginning with the barbarian invasions in 400 and stretching all the way into the future when Jesus destroys His enemies and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ); the Vial Judgments in Revelation 16 (which lead us through history to the destruction of the Papal Kingdom and Jesus as King subduing all nations to Himself).

C. Thus, when we consider the Trumpet Judgments, Judgments 1-4 begin detail the barbarian invasion of Roman Europe (400-600). We then come to Judgments 5-6 which detail the rise of Islam that advances against both the Western and Eastern kingdoms (and brings Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox in those kingdoms under its power).

D. I will only have time to briefly identify some of the symbols in Revelation 9:1-11 (the first Islamic invasion of the Arabian Saracens—the second Islamic invasion in the Sixth Trumpet is that of the Turks).

1. The star that falls from heaven to earth is called the king over the locusts that are released from the bottomless pit (Revelation 9:1,11). A star may refer to true ministers (angels) in Revelation 1:20, and this star is a fallen minister that has perverted biblical Christianity and has formed his own false religion. I submit this is fulfilled by Muhammed who proclaimed himself God's last true Prophet who completed the testimony of Jesus.

2. The true light of the gospel and doctrine found in Scripture is darkened/corrupted when this king releases smoke that darkens the sun in all its light/glory (Revelation 9:2; Psalm 119:105; Malachi 4:2).

3. Out of the smoke of error/perversion of the truth come forth locusts which are known to arise from the Arabian deserts (Revelation 9:3; Exodus 10:13; Joel 2:25). The locusts are the vast numbers of the Islamic armies that invaded Egypt and overcome it and the Christians in Northern Africa before spreading to Roman Catholic Europe and to the Greek Orthodox of the Byzantine Empire. Likewise, the figure of a scorpion (Revelation 9:5) points to their origin being in the Arabian desert.

4. Historically, these first Islamic invasions did not destroy the vegetation/trees upon which people depended (they did not have a scorch earth policy), but rather tormented the people with the sting of their false doctrine and strict laws (Revelation 9:4).

5. That torment fell upon the people they conquered at its height for 5 prophetic months according to Revelation 9:5 (or 150 days=150 years using the Day-Year Prophetic Principle found in Daniel 9 for 70 weeks—490 days=490 years). This corresponds to the period from 612 (when Muhammed began his crusade) to 762 (when Baghdad was established as the Islamic capital—the City of Peace—Islamic peace through submission to its false religion).

6. Historically, these Islamic warriors were noted for their horses (Revelation 9:7—some of the finest horses in the world, Arabian horses). Their distinctive golden crowns (turbans) and their long hair and breastplates of iron were also distinctive characteristics of these warriors.

7. Thus, I submit that Revelation 9:1-11 likewise gives in greater detail what is given in a few words in Daniel 11:40 concerning the King of the South pushing against the Papal King.

#### E. Application

1. Once again, there is in these verses a warning against idolatry (both ecclesiastical and personal). Personal idolatry is evidenced in making sitting upon the throne of our life and in making our will supreme over God's will—not Thy will but mine be done. Let us cry out to the Lord that He crush that stubborn pride of idolatry in our lives, that He take captive to Himself every desire, thought, plan, word, and act to the obedience of Jesus Christ.

2. False religion always seeks to block out the glory of the Sun of Righteousness—to dim in some way His absolute authority, His offices, His rule, His sacrificial atonement, His resurrection, and His intercession. When the glory of Jesus is usurped and given to another, it is like smoke that is darkening the sun. That is one of the key evidences of one who is a false prophet.

3. Revelation 9:4 teaches by implication that true believers cannot be deceived and led away from Jesus Christ, for they are sealed not with a physical mark, but with a spiritual mark by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption (Matthew 24:24). No doubt, there were true believers among those who were conquered and endured great oppression from the Islamic invaders, but no amount of deception/perversion could take them away from their faith in Christ and the gospel (not true of mere professing Christians which this judgment fell upon in the kingdom of the Papal King). Let not your faith rest in yourself, but in Jesus Christ and His promise and power to save you.

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