

Islamic Invasions against the Papal King #2

Daniel 11:40-43; Revelation 9:12-21

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What we see in these passages of Scripture that are before us is the execution of God's sovereign rule over the nations of the world. Nations are collectively moral persons (like an individual person) that are bound by God's Law and are responsible to submit to God's appointed King—Jesus Christ—and to His holy commandments (Psalm 2:10-12). Those that do so will be blessed, and those that refuse to do so will be judged. But God's judgment does not necessarily fall immediately and completely upon a nation/people in destroying them. God sends his prophets (not only to Israel, but to Gentile nations like Nineveh through Jonah or to Babylon through Daniel or to the Roman Empire through the apostles). When those nations refused to turn from their idolatry, wicked ways, and persecution of God's people, judgment fell upon them, and they were destroyed or incorporated into the conquering nation.

The Book of Daniel teaches these truths as does the Book of Revelation. God is longsuffering, but when that longsuffering becomes an excuse for the wicked to continue in their rebellion against the King of kings (rather than the longsuffering of God becoming a reason to repent of their rebellion), God righteously brings His judgment upon that nation/people, usually through it being destroyed/conquered by other nations. This is what we see happening in the prophecies before us.

This a clear warning to us as a nation—whatever Christian heritage we may have from the past or even the solemn covenant of our faithful forefathers in England, Ireland, and Scotland—they cannot save us if we as a nation will not repent and turn in faith to Jesus Christ and submit to Him as King. A Christian heritage and a solemn covenant only aggravate our sin, rather than excusing our sin (Romans 2:4-5). This is a moral principle that applies to individuals, families, churches, and nations. God's judgments and the threat of them are a merciful call to us to repent and flee to Him. Christ calls us to repentance that we might be blessed and that His mercy/grace might flow in abundance to us.

As we consider our text today, our main points are: (1) The Second Islamic Invasion against the Papal King (Daniel 11:40b-43); (2) A Brief Confirmation of the Second Islamic Invasion Found in the Sixth Trumpet Judgment (Revelation 9:12-21).

I. The Second Islamic Invasion against the Papal King (Daniel 11:40b-43).

A. Let us remember that these Islamic invasions against the Papal King are God's judgments for the idolatry/apostasy of the Papal King that we have already noted in Daniel 11:36-39. The Lord brought the first Islamic invasion from the Arabian Saracens (the King of the South) against the Papal King. Like locusts/scorpions they conquered and afflicted with their corrupt religion Arabia, Egypt, the Holy Land, Syria, and also pushed against the Papal King in Catholic Spain/Portugal, Catholic Sicily, Catholic Italy (besieging Rome), until they were halted/defeated by the Frankish King, Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne, at the Battle of Tours/Poitiers (732), at which time Europe and the Papal King were providentially preserved from Islamic domination. This first Islamic invasion continued in its most extensive reach for 150 years (Revelation 9:1-11—Fifth Trumpet Judgment) and relaxed at the founding of the city of Baghdad (762). But the Papal King and his kingdom in Europe did not repent of their idolatry, and the Lord sent a second Islamic invasion which came from the King of the North this time.

B. After the King of the South (the Arabian Saracens) had tormented nations and the Papal King, a few hundred years passed with different Islamic kingdoms fighting for supremacy, there came another major Islamic insurgency in which the King of the North (Turks) gained control over the previous kingdoms conquered by the King of the South (the Arabian Saracens) and moved east from Baghdad to bring an end to

the Christian Byzantine Empire, besieging/capturing the capital, Constantinople, in 1453. From there, the King of the North (Islamic Turks) moved west and south into Catholic Europe (the Papal Kingdom) taking control of various territories until their advance was once again providentially/mercifully halted at the Battle of Vienna (1683).

C. The Crusades wherein the Papal King launched numerous military campaigns to free the Holy Land from the control of the Islamic Turks were stretched out for hundreds of years (1095-1303). These many battles likewise depict the King of the North (the Islamic Turks) coming against the Papal King like a whirlwind with huge military and naval forces that overflow into many countries and overthrow them (Daniel 11:40b-41). At the Fifth Lateran Council in Rome (1512-1517), the threat of the advancing hordes of Islam was so great that the Papal King declared war against the encroaching Islamic Turks.

D. In Daniel 11:41, the King of the North (the Turks) did conquer “the glorious land” (the Holy Land) which became again the battle ground for much of the Crusades. Interestingly, the Turks left the Arabians (where previously Edom, Moab, and Ammon dwelt) outside their immediate control and rather used them/paid them for their services in crossing the Arabian desert and particularly in crossing the desert to Mecca on holy pilgrimages.

E. In Daniel 11:42-43, the angel, Gabriel, prophesies to Daniel that the King of the North (the Islamic Turks) will not stop at conquering the Holy Land, but will continue south to conquer northern Africa as well (Egypt, Libya) and made inroads into Ethiopia in the early 1800s. Thus, Daniel 11:40-43 give us a brief prophetic overview of the second Islamic invasion from the King of the North (the Islamic Turks). We will stop there and pick up the text in the following verses next Lord’s Day (God willing).

II. A Brief Confirmation of the Second Islamic Invasion Found in the Sixth Trumpet Judgment (Revelation 9:12-21).

A. After the Fifth Trumpet Judgment or first woe (Revelation 9:1-11), and after the 5 prophetic months (150 days=150 years) in which the Islamic Saracens from Arabia (the King of the South) advanced and overcame Egypt, the Holy Land, Syria, Catholic Europe, and came to rest at the founding of Baghdad in 762 (the civil capital of Islam), though wars continued for many years among various Islamic kingdoms/dynasties vying for supremacy in certain territories.

B. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment (the second woe) sounds in Revelation 9:12-14, and Christ’s voice (as King) thunders forth from the four horns of the golden altar of incense. Let us note once again some of the highlights of this judgment that connect it with what we have already noted of the Islamic invasion of the Islamic Turks in Daniel 11:40ff.

1. The second Islamic invasion has a location from where it is unleashed—the Euphrates River (which is just west of Baghdad). This seems to fix our sights upon the civil capital of Islam. Indeed, there was unleashed a mighty torrent of Islamic conquerors (Seljuk Turks, then Ottoman Turks) that overran and conquered more and more territory of the Greek Byzantine Empire, Persia, the Holy Land, Egypt and northern Africa, and made inroads into kingdoms of the Papal King in eastern Europe (knocking at the door of western Europe until its decisive defeat at the Battle of Vienna in 1683). During the Reformation, the Papal King even appealed to the Protestant Reformers to unite with him in defeating the King of the North (Islamic Turks). This was a very real threat to Europe and the Papal King.

2. There is a once again a prophetic time period given in Revelation 9:15 (as in Revelation 9:5,10—5 months=150 days=150 years). Once again it should be interpreted according to the day-year principle (per Daniel 9—the 70 weeks of Daniel). 1 year=360 days=360 years; 1 month=30 days=30 years; 1 day=1 year; 1 hour=1/24th of a day=1/24th of a year=15 days=391 years and 15 days (nearly a 400 year time span for the advancing/conquering of the King of the North or Islamic Turks). If this period of 391 years ended with the capture of Constantinople in 1453 by the Islamic Turks (which it likely does as the battle described in Revelation 9:1;7-19), then the period of intense invasions began in 1062.

3. The number of the Islamic army (Revelation 9:16) is not literally 200,000,000 but “myriads” (which is simply a large host, Luke 12:1; Hebrews 12:22—“thousand” is *chilioi* or *chilia* as in Revelation 20:4). The Islamic military forces were known for the immense size (some historical records at the time estimate the naval and military troops brought against Constantinople to be above 300,000).

4. The colors of the Ottoman Turks (Revelation 9:17) were scarlet (fire), blue (jacinth or hyacinth), and yellow (brimstone) in their apparel/banners.

5. Out of the mouth of the horses (Revelation 9:17) came fire, smoke, and brimstone. Though gunpowder was invented by the Chinese, it was used with canons by the Turks to bring down the mighty walls of Constantinople (1453). A canon was specially built at that time that was 24 feet long, 2 ½ feet in diameter, and could shoot a canon ball weighing 1200 lbs. a distance of one mile.

6. The famous Theodosian Walls of Constantinople (double walls) that had withstood many attacks for the past 1,000 years fell as did the Christian Greek Empire that had likewise apostatized by way of its idolatry from the faith of the apostles. It is stated in Revelation 9:18 that 1/3 of men were killed. The Christian world was divided into three parts—Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa. The Christian Greek Empire was politically killed/destroyed at that time.

7. But the rest of the Christian world in Revelation 9:20-21 (primarily the Papal King and his kingdom in Europe) did not repent of their idolatry and worship of **devils**—*daimonion* (the pagans used this word to describe lesser gods that interceded with the greater gods as in Deuteronomy 32:17; 1 Corinthians 10:20—here it refers to departed spirits—patron/intercessory saints); **idols**/images; **murders** of unjust wars against pre-Protestants and Protestants; **sorceries** (in praying to dead saints); **fornication** (a practice that permeated the priesthood, popes, monks/nuns—Rome is called Sodom in Revelation 11:8); and **thefts** (stealing from the poor by way of indulgences to purchase forgiveness of sins for oneself and dead relatives). After all that the Papal King had witnessed by way of Christ’s judgment upon the Eastern Christian Kingdom (Constantinople) and upon his own kingdom in Western Christian Europe, it did not phase the Papal King in turning him and his kingdom away from their idolatry and corruption in the truth and morals—they repented not. These judgments should have brought repentance, but it did not. It only hardened him and his kingdom in their sin and rebellion against God.

C. Application

1. Do you know what is worse than falling into some sin (whether it be a hidden sin of pride/idolatry or a public sin of fornication or blasphemy)? It is not repenting of that sin. It is continuing to live in that sin in the knowledge that God condemns that sin. It is continuing to live in that sin though there is abundant testimony in Scripture that God judges those who do so. It is ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit that pricks our conscience. That is a greater aggravation of the original sin (whether great or small—the little foxes spoil the vine when unattended).

2. Do you know what is better than the repentance and sorrow we have in confessing our sin to the Lord and in turning from our sin? It is the lifting of the heavy weight of that sin from our conscience by the knowledge of our Father’s forgiveness. It is the joy, peace, and comfort that overwhelms us at the mercy/grace/love of Christ that is freely showered upon us when we repent. It is the blessed communion that is restored with our glorious God when we humbly repent. “Blessed are those who mourn (mourn over and repent of their sin), for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4).

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