

O. & A. File No. 4-D-8

September 22, 1959

Mentor Place
Pasadena, California

Dear

A million thanks for writing to this sister in Africa and advising her concerning her condition. You have been such a great blessing to so many people including myself, and I am grateful to you, John.

I haven't read your book, Imminent Prophecies for Today's World, but I have a copy before me and I have scanned it. I am impressed with the fact that you are hewing to the line and presenting the truths that we believe in an impressive way. However, in areas where you deal with the king of the north and the modern nation of Israel you are in an area that is controversial.

I am keeping my eyes open to the development of prophecy in the Near East. Uriah Smith's interpretation of the Armageddon and the king of the north may be right. One thing, however, is not generally known. That is that during the pioneer period of the denomination, Daniel 11:45 and Revelation 16:12 were considered equivalent and both emphasized Rome rather than Turkey as the subject of fulfillment. This was true until the early 1860's. During the next twenty years came a period of transition. Following that Smith, who changed from his belief in Rome as fulfilling the prophecy of the king of the north, transferred his emphasis to Turkey. This went on till his death see after the turn of the century.

For the next thirty years or so the emphasis was on Turkey--the big political and military conflict in the Holy Land. Beginning about 1931 the trend was back to the view of the pioneers. Today we hear much of Rome as fulfilling the prophecy of Daniel and the Revelation.

Elder James White, who in his pamphlet, Word to the Little Flock, stated first in the year 1847 the developing views of the denomination on the second advent, etc., was loathe to see Turkey in this prophecy at all. His reasoning was this way: If the image of Daniel 2 represented a developing Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome fulfillment, and if the same was true of Daniel 7, and if in Daniel 8 and 9 the same sequence of nations was presented prophetically, then it must also be true that in

Page 2
September 22, 1959

Daniel 11 there would come the great Roman kingdom, first pagan and then papal, to fulfill the master plan of prophecy. He couldn't see Turkey in there at all.

These things are interesting and need to be thought of in connection with our approach to Daniel 11 and Revelation 16.

A good teacher friend of mine used to say concerning fulfilling prophecy or prophecy to be fulfilled, "Keep your thoughts in solution. Don't crystalize them too soon." That is good advice. Of course, John, I recognize your deep loyalty to this message and to your church and mine. I admire you for this and I appreciate your efforts to uphold what you feel are the true interpretations of the prophecy.

My letter, no doubt, will raise counter-questions in your mind that could lead us into a lengthy correspondence. Let me say that I hope while I am in the West during October and November that I shall have the opportunity of giving you a buzz or possibly coming to your office and seeing you. Perhaps we can sit down and spend a half hour together. It will be a real pleasure. I do want to see you again and renew old friendships.

You know how I feel about you and the efforts you have made to help people along medical lines and that I have appreciated this, John. You have travelled over some pretty rough ground at times and people haven't made it exactly easy for you. Being human you may have erred yourself here or there, but nevertheless, you have persistently and steadily followed a course that you have believed to be right and I have always believed that you have been sincere.

I thank God for your accomplishments in the medical field, John, and I admire you for your faith in the basic statements of the Spirit of Prophecy concerning cancer, finding its origin, in virus, in chemicals, in indiscretions in diet, in vice, etc. No man who fully believes the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy can go too far wrong.

With Christian love and best wishes to you and Evelyn.

Faithfully your friend,

D. A. Delafield, Associate Secretary
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