

# The Sixth Trumpet

It was recently brought to my attention that there was a discrepancy in Josiah Litch's prediction of the fall of the Ottoman Empire. The individual who brought this to my attention mentioned that we, as Seventh-day Adventists, had many other fulfillments of prophecy that are accurate and expressed concern in sharing inaccurate information. The following are my findings on the subject: The Julian calendar is older than the Gregorian calendar. The reason for the alleged discrepancy is that Litch used the Julian calendar to determine the beginning date and calculated it's fulfillment in the Gregorian calendar. Accordingly, the proper way to determine the date would be to convert the beginning date to the Gregorian calendar first. The discrepancy would have caused the date to be placed a few days prior to the actual event. The evidence to support this is that Litch himself is reported to have said that he did not convert the original date to the Gregorian calendar. Litch's date was determined by using *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon, who was born under the Julian calendar and died under the Gregorian calendar, a period when the switch to the Gregorian calendar was taking place in many parts of Europe. His book was written and published after the change to the Gregorian calendar. Gibbon's source for the battle date was the thirteenth-century Byzantine historian, Georgius Pachymeres (1242-c. 1310). However, Pachymeres gave only the day and month of the battle, but not the year. In 1668, the French Jesuit scholar, Pierre Poussines (1609-1686), translated Pachymeres's work and added to it his notes, *Observationum*, where "he analyzes, in detail, all the important synchronizing dates, comparing the same with other authoritative writers" and also consulting the Islamic calendar. (Synchronizing: representing or arranging events to indicate coincidence or coexistence) He concluded that the year for the battle was 1299.

I find this historical information to be a great demonstration of God's providence. He used Gibbon, who leaned toward deism (belief in the existence of God solely based on natural reason, without reference to revelation), not believing that God directly intervened in the affairs of man to write a history that would be relied on for solid dates in the historicist interpretation. God also used this Jesuit to determine the exact date that we will understand is

a critical part of our Adventist heritage: "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth" (2 Corinthians 13:8).

## A Brief Overview

The date of 1299 A.D. is significant because it begins the 150 prophetic years of Revelation 9:5. This time began on July 27, 1299, and ended on July 27, 1449. The sixth angel sounded, with its 391 years and 15 days of Revelation 9:15; this was a long period of intense persecution, tribulation associated with the "locusts," mentioned in verse 7. The date of 1299 was the first battle of the Ottomans and thus would have been the beginning of the prophetic 150 years; this date is not without its critics. Joseph Freiherr von Hammer-Purgstall was a historian who lived around the end of the 1700s until his death, sometime during the mid-1800s. He was educated in the Catholic-Jesuitical tradition, but he later adopted the mindset of the French Revolution. In his book, *History of the Ottoman Empire* (written between 1827 and 1835 in Pest, Hungary, with a revised edition appearing between 1834 and 1836), he contested the year set by Georgius Pachymeres. The year set by Pierre Poussines was uncontested until slightly short of—only 13 years before—its prophetic fulfillment. Here are three reasons why von Hammer-Purgstall's criticism was incorrect:

1. He incorrectly transferred his date from the Islamic calendar. Following the chronology of Had-schi Chalfa, he placed the battle in the year AH 701, which is A.D. 1301. ("AH" is, essentially, the Islamic equivalent of "A.D." in the Gregorian calendar.) However, the July 27 battle could not have been fought in the year AH 701; for that time lasted from September 1301 to August 1302.

2. When the battle was fought, the river surrounding the Byzantine castle "changed its bed three times; and it finally returned to its original bed. Then the castle moat became so filled with silt and sand that the enemy could cross on foot." (Castle moat: a deep, wide ditch or trench that surrounds a castle, to protect it from attack) These conditions fit with the summer of 1299; but the winter before had been very harsh. So there was much snow water [water that comes from melted snow] in the spring, but not with the summer of 1301, which Pachymeres described as "very dry."

3. In his history, Pachymeres traced the period

1299-1302, but then backed up to the battle of 1299.

2 Due to Pachymeres's many synchronisms, which Poussines was aware of, Pachymeres described two major battles with the Byzantines. The first time that the Ottomans attacked Nicomedia was in 1299; and the second time was in the battle of 1302, when they finally beat the Byzantine general, who had escaped from them three years earlier. This caused later historians to confuse the two battles into one and to date it to the time of the later battle, thus placing the date of the real first battle too late. Essentially, contesting this date was an attempt by Satan to muddy the waters of history, to make current (1840s) Protestant prophetic interpretation seem less reliable.

### **Why Is This an Important Prophecy to Us as Seventh-day Adventists?**

The Seven Trumpets are the work of Christ at the altar of incense. The Bible tells us that the sound of the trumpet is the alarm of war (Jeremiah 4:19). Each of these trumpets heralds war, these are specifically judgments called out upon pagan and Papal Rome. The time prophecy uttered in the midst of the sixth trumpet ended on August 11, 1840, and immediately following the description of the work of the Ottoman Empire. We read in Revelation 10:1-3:

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire: and He had in His hand a little book open: and He set His right foot upon the sea, and His left foot on the earth, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices."

Christ Himself was at the head of the Advent Movement. He released the four angels (Revelation 9:13-15) from the golden altar to give strength and power to the Advent Movement through a time prophecy. And it accomplished its work. Let us read a small excerpt of what Josiah Litch wrote:

"Allowing the first period, 150 years to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years [and] 15 days commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case.

"But still there is no first period was exactly to a day, fulfilled; nor yet that the second period begun, to a day, where the first closed. If they begun and ended so, the above calculation will be correct. If they did not, then there will be a variation in the conclusion; but the evidence is clear that there cannot be a year's variation from that calculation. We must patiently wait for the issue.

"But what, it is asked, will be the effect on your own mind, if it does not come out according

to the above calculation? Will not your confidence in your theory be shaken? I reply, not all. The prophecy in hand is an isolated one; and a failure in the calculation does not necessarily affect any other calculation. But yet, whenever it is fulfilled, whether in 1840, or at a future period, it will open the way for the scenes of the last day. Let no man, therefore, triumph, even if there should be an error of a few months in our calculation on this prophecy."—*By Josiah Litch, in Signs of the Times [Himes], Volume 1, August 1, 1840, page 70, paragraphs 12, 13, 14.*

Josiah Litch thought that perhaps his date would be incorrect; and, if it was, it would only be a matter of months, at most, before it would be fulfilled. This date had no bearing on any other prophecy. If the day was wrong, it was seemingly insignificant. Ellen White writes:

"At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended."—*1911 Great Controversy, 335.*

The wonderful impetus that was given to the Advent Movement was the sound of a roaring lion. (Impetus: stimulation or encouragement resulting in increased activity) Thinking people everywhere recognized the significance of such a fulfillment, mainly that the Millerites were using a correct means of interpreting prophecy. This turned their message of the second coming of Christ, from the little book of Daniel, into the roar of a lion; and many people trembled with fear at the sound, repented of their sins, and were converted. This fulfillment of prophecy was concrete proof that infidels could not deny. Even today, the fulfillment of this prophecy gives our movement power. By demonstrating the validity of the methods used to obtain the specific date, it proves that something did, in fact, happen on October 22, 1844. To ignore this prophecy is to weaken the foundation of our faith, and this is exactly what Satan is making every effort to accomplish. Another wonderful impetus is yet to be given the Adventist Movement. When the Sunday law is passed, the cry of the three angels, which has for more than 175 years been sounding, will receive great power. Prophecy will fulfill before our eyes, our faith will be greatly strengthened, and the cry will go forth mightily: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen. Come out of her, My people" (Revelation 18:4). And God's children will hear the

voice of their Shepherd.

### Reasons Why This Prophecy Is Contested

One of the reasons that the fulfillment of the sixth trumpet is contested is because many have accepted the view that the King of the North, in the final verses of Daniel 11, is Turkey. Believing that the Ottoman power fell in 1840 rather easily defeats this whole view. What can a fallen power accomplish without help? The papacy, it is prophesied, will receive help and rise again; but no other power in prophecy will receive such an experience. The most powerful strike against the King of the North being Turkey is found in Revelation. Revelation is the revealing of Jesus' work, especially against the enemies of His people; it is not concerned with nations and peoples and political events that have nothing to do with this theme.

"In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, 'But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.' Daniel 12:4."—*Acts of the Apostles*, 585.

Both Daniel and Revelation cover the same topics; this is really the struggle between Truth and Error, Christ and Satan, which is the theme of this prophecy. Notice what the Bible says about the papacy in Revelation 13:2: "The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." This haughty power began as the Roman Empire and is described in great detail in Daniel 11. In fact, Daniel 11 covers its rise to power, its conversion to a religious power, and its destruction—when Michael stands up. Christ Himself, riding on a white horse and followed by the army of heaven, comes to do battle with the papacy and its allies during the seventh trumpet, in answer to the prayers of His saints. When this understanding is altered (changed), the attention of the Christian is moved from the true danger—the rising of the papacy to a fallen power that prophetically has little to do with the end of the world. I have no doubt that the sneaky leopard-like beast ("the Papacy—there symbolized by the beast like unto a leopard" [*The Faith I Live By*, 329]) would have it so, especially considering his current work of uniting religions through a front of peace, safety, and Christian unity.

We should note that the prophecies of Daniel 11 are incredibly important for our time. They lay out the exact work that is to be done by the papacy before Christ comes back.

"The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place."—*Councils for the Church*, 38.

Let us take a moment to view the papacy in Daniel 11. In Daniel 11:24, we are given a time prophecy of 360 years. From B.C. 31-A.D. 330, the seat of Rome was in Rome. Daniel 11:29 tells us of this move, which took place at the time appointed, that it would not come to the south but toward it. And this was indeed fulfilled when, exactly 360 years later, Rome moved its capital to Constantinople in 330 A.D. We then can understand, from verses 29 to 40, Papal Rome's unopposed rise to power. Then, in verse 40, Papal Rome is "pushed at," which is "nâgach" in Hebrew and literally means "gore with horns." This goring is done by the King of the South and describes Papal Rome receiving the deadly wound. In 508 A.D., Clovis (the king of the Franks) set up the first church-state union in what is now France. 1,290 years later, during the 1798 rebellion against church, state, and God, the pope was taken captive. In 1798, upon his refusal to renounce his temporal power, Pope Pius VI was taken prisoner and transported to France. He died eighteen months later in Valence, France. This experience is recorded in Revelation 11, where the focus is on the two testaments ("testimony": the Old and New Testaments) rather than the beast's power. Here are our most applicable verses, Revelation 11:7-8:

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

The King of the South that gored the papacy is ideological atheism, the spirit of Egypt with the attitude of "Who is God that I should serve Him!" Daniel 11:40 gives no description of the healing of the deadly wound; it is simply implying that once Rome gets power again, it immediately seeks revenge, making war against atheism. This does not surprise the student of prophecy who understands that it was the powers of the Goths, Vandals, and Heruli who were instrumental in the overthrow of pagan Rome and were "plucked up by the roots" by Papal Rome in an act of revenge. Papal Rome's current enemies are atheism, Marxism, and communism; all are based on the same principle, "Who is God that I should serve Him?" We understand that "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). The campaign against atheism began on June 7, 1982, when Ronald Reagan, president of the United States and Pope John Paul II joined forces against communism. We read in *Time* magazine:

"Declares Richard Allen, Reagan's first National

4 Security Adviser: 'This was one of the great secret alliances of all time.'—*Time, February 24, 1992.*

In further fulfillment of prophecy, we read in the same article:

"Yet the mission would have been impossible without the full support of Reagan, who believed fervently in both the benefits and the practical applications of Washington's relationship with the Vatican. One of his earliest goals as President, Reagan says, was to recognize the Vatican as a state 'and make them an ally.' "

The papacy has been stealthily (slow, deliberate, and secret in action or character; see *Great Controversy, 581*) entering into all the Protestant Churches, including God's last day remnant church—the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Her goal is to unite all Churches in worship, but not destroy their structures or creeds. What she wants is a state of "reconciled diversity," where no member is able to speak about the errors of another Church (reconciled) and every Church holds a few foundational principles in common, such as the Eucharist and the day of worship, while maintaining their unique doctrines (diversity). Ultimately, the goal of the papacy is to wipe atheism from existence and bring everyone to recognize the supremacy of the pontiff; and this victory will be accomplished with a worldwide Sunday law.

Why is this important to understand? Because the battle is intensifying. Our most recent election was strikingly atheism vs. Christianity. This was especially seen when, at a Kamala Harris' rally, someone shouted "Jesus is King" and she responded "You're at the wrong rally." We are seeing, in America, the battle between the papacy and atheism. Project 2025 is the attempt to rid America of Marxist and communist ideology. Christian nationalism is the work of Protestant America. They are seeking to make an image to the beast. The three powers are uniting against a common enemy; this work seems noble, but every student of prophecy will recognize the signs of the times. It is crucial that we have our attention fixed in the right place.

"The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*9 Testimonies, 11.*

These agencies of evil are further described as being three powers:

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will

bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience."—*1911 The Great Controversy, 588.*

Turkey is not a member of the prophetic final players. But some folk mistake an error for a pillar in a zealous effort to protect so many of the pillars of our faith that are being attacked. I encourage any of you, who are in contact with such people, to not exchange grievous words. They have a zeal but not according to knowledge; so point them to the words of the Bible:

"Be not carried about with divers [different kinds] and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."—*Hebrews 13:9.*

We stand upon a sure word of prophecy that profits those who are occupied in them. What profit comes to those who believe Turkey is the King of the North? The man who introduced this idea declared that he was interpreting Scripture using newspaper headlines. We have growing to do; if our pioneers had all the light, Christ would have returned. Prophecy is rapidly fulfilling, and it behooves us to look in the right place. According to Revelation, Rome, apostate Protestantism, and spiritualism are the final players. Would Daniel say otherwise? Are they not complements to one another? Christ is coming very soon; momentous times are just before us. Christ will reveal the future to every sincere seeker, and it will not be of a private interpretation.

*For a finished work*



**Jonathan Taylor**

*Wisdom is justified of all her children. -Luke 7:35*

*More Food for the Little Flock —*