

## **Dr. Josiah Litch Predicts the Fall of the Ottoman Empire**

Great Second Advent Movement by J. N. Loughborough

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 129 paragraph 2 In 1838 Dr. Josiah Litch, of Philadelphia, Pa., having embraced the truth set forth by William Miller, united in the work of giving greater publicity to the message. He prepared articles for the public print on the subject of the seven trumpets of the Revelation. He took the unqualified position that the sixth trumpet would cease to sound and the Ottoman power fall on the 11th day of August, 1840, and that that would demonstrate to the world that a day in symbolic prophecy represents a year of literal time.

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 129 paragraph 3 Some of the brethren, even those who believed with him on this point, trembled with fear for the result "if it should not come to pass" as he said. This did not, however, daunt him, but he went forward to do all in his power to give publicity to his views on the [Page 130] Turkish question. Public journals spread abroad the claim he had made on the subject. Infidel clubs discussed the question in their meetings, and said, "Here is a man that ventures something, and if this matter comes out as he says, it will establish his claim without a doubt that a day in prophecy symbolizes a year, and that twenty-three hundred days is so many years, and that they will terminate in 1844."

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 130 paragraph 1 The publication of Dr. Litch's lecture made a general stir, and many thousands were thus called to watch for the termination of the difficulties that had sprung up between Mehemet Ali, the pasha of Egypt, and the Turkish sultan. Hundreds said, "If this affair terminates as the doctor has asserted, it will establish the 'year-day' principle of interpreting symbolic time, and we will be Adventists."

## **The Turkish Sultan at War with the Pasha of Egypt**

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 130 paragraph 2 For several years previous to 1840, the sultan had been embroiled in a war with Mehemet Ali, pasha of Egypt. In 1838 the trouble between the sultan and his Egyptian vassal was for the time being restrained by the influence of the foreign ambassadors. In 1839, however, hostilities were again begun, and were prosecuted until, in a general battle between the armies of the sultan and Mehemet, the sultan's army was entirely cut up and destroyed, and his fleet taken by Mehemet and carried into Egypt. So completely had the sultan been reduced, that, when the war again began in August, he had only two first-rates and three frigates as the sad remains of the once powerful Turkish fleet. This fleet Mehemet positively refused to give up and return to the sultan, and declared that if the powers attempted to take it from him, he would burn it. In this posture affairs stood, when, in 1840, England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia interposed, and determined on a settlement of the difficulty; for it was evident that if let alone, Mehemet would soon become master of the sultan's throne.[Page 131]

## **Intervention of the Allied Powers**

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 131 paragraph 1 "The sultan accepted this intervention of the allied powers, and thus

made a voluntary surrender of the question into their hands. A conference of these powers was held in London, the sheik, Effendi Bey Likgis, being present as Ottoman plenipotentiary. An ultimatum was drawn up, to be presented to the pasha of Egypt, whereby the sultan was to offer him the hereditary government of Egypt, and all that part of Syria extending from the Gulf of Suez to the Lake of Tiberias, together with the province of Acre, for life; he, on his part, to evacuate all other parts of the sultan's dominions then occupied by him and to return the Ottoman fleet. In case he refused this offer from the sultan, the four powers were to take the matter into their own hands, and use such other means to bring him to terms as they should see fit.

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 131 paragraph 2 "It was apparent that just as soon as this ultimatum should be put into the hands of Mehemet Ali, the matter would forever be beyond the control of the former [the sultan], and the disposal of his affairs would, from that moment, be in the hands of the foreign powers.

### **The Prophecy Fulfilled-End of Turkish Independence**

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 131 paragraph 3 "The sultan dispatched Rifat Bey on a government steamer to Alexandria, to communicate the ultimatum to the pasha. It was put into his hands, and by him taken in charge, on the eleventh day of August, 1840! On the same day a note was addressed by the sultan to the ambassadors of the four powers, inquiring what plan was to be adopted in case the pasha should refuse to comply with the terms of the ultimatum; to which they made answer that provision had been made, and there was no necessity of his alarming himself about any contingency that might arise. This day the period of three hundred ninety-one years and fifteen days allotted to the continuance of the Ottoman power ended; and where was the sultan's independence?- Gone!"<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, pp., 497, 498. [Page 132]

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 132 paragraph 1 From that day to this the sultan has had to move under the dictation of the powers, and watch the dismemberment of his kingdom, as slice by slice it has been appropriated to their own use.

### **Public Interest in Prophecy Aroused**

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 132 paragraph 2 This striking fulfillment of the prophecy had a tremendous effect upon the public mind. It intensified the interest of the people to hear upon the subject of fulfilled and fulfilling prophecy. Dr. Litch said that within a few months after August 11, 1840, he had received letters from more than one thousand prominent infidels, some of them leaders of infidel clubs, in which they stated that they had given up the battle against the Bible, and had accepted it as God's revelation to man. Some of these were fully converted to God, and a number of them became able speakers in the great Second Advent movement. Some expressed themselves to Dr. Litch on this wise: "We have said that expositors of prophecy quote from the musty pages of history to substantiate their claims of prophetic fulfillments; but in this case we have the living facts right before our eyes."

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 132 paragraph 3 To illustrate how, just at the close of the sixth trumpet, the advent message began to go "with a loud voice," I will note a case as related to me by one of the actors in this message.

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 132 paragraph 4 In the year 1840, E. C. Williams, an extensive tent and sail maker, of Rochester, N.Y., accepted the message, and invited Elders Miller and Himes to come to Rochester and speak to the thousands of that city. They replied that they lacked the money necessary to secure a hall of sufficient size to accommodate the people. He replied, "I have a circular tent 120 feet in diameter. I will pitch it, seat it, and care for it, free. Come on and proclaim the message." "They came," he said to me, "and the tent did not half hold those who came to hear, so I put in a forty-foot splice, making a tent 160 x 120 feet in size. This tent was filled with people daily, [Page 133] and hundreds crowded near on the outside, all eager to hear the word."

### **Hundreds Proclaiming the Message**

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 133 paragraph 1 To meet the growing interest, large tents were used, and grove meetings were held in the summer season. Some of the largest church buildings and public halls were used in the winter, and all were packed to their utmost capacity with interested listeners. Instead of Elder Miller now standing, as he had previous to 1840, "almost alone" in declaring the message, about three hundred joined him in publicly proclaiming the termination of the twenty-three-hundred-day period, and in giving the cry, "There shall be time no longer," and, "The hour of his judgment is come." Thus we see how, when the Lord's time came for the message to make its world-wide advancement, his word was fulfilled, and the millions were moved with a desire to hear the call.

JNL GSAM CHAPTER VII THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF THE MESSAGE page 133 paragraph 2 What was true of the movement in America was true in other countries. From the year 1840, instead of a few individuals scattering their publications, scores sprang, as it were, to the front to proclaim the cry. In England there were seven hundred ministers of the Church of England alone proclaiming the message, to say naught of the scores of others engaged in the same work. In more than a score of the different leading nations of the earth a message was going with that zeal which led the looker-on to say, "This people are terribly in earnest."

### **WILLIAM MILLER'S WORK PRIOR TO 1840**

JNL JNLLDT07 LOUD VOICE OF THE TIME MESSAGE page 0152 paragraph 2 Elder Himes, in a letter dated at McConnellsville, Ohio, speaks of his first joining Elder Miller in his work in the year 1840, and says that up to that time "Brother Miller stood almost alone, but his labors had been incessant and effectual in awakening professors of religion to the true hope of God's people, and the necessary preparation for the advent of the Lord; as also the awakening of all classes of the unconverted to a sense of their [page

153] lost condition, and the duty of immediate repentance and conversion to God, as a preparation to meet the Bridegroom in peace at His coming."

JNL JNLLDT07 LOUD VOICE OF THE TIME MESSAGE page 0153 paragraph 1

To show the increasing interest in the work from that time to the close of the prophetic period in 1844, more than three hundred ministers joined Brother Miller in his work in the northern portion of the United States. In like proportion did the interest increase in other countries. In Great Britain, seven hundred ministers of the Church of England enlisted in giving the message for that time.

JNL JNLLDT07 LOUD VOICE OF THE TIME MESSAGE page 0153 paragraph 2

The fall of the Ottoman Empire on the very day predicted, demonstrating so clearly that the "year-day" theory was true, aroused intense interest everywhere to hear the advent message. To meet the growing interest to hear on this subject, some of the largest church buildings were occupied; but these being too small in the summer season to accommodate the vast crowds that assembled, tents were employed, capable of seating thousands. E. C. Williams, a tent-and sail-maker, of Rochester, N. Y., embraced the doctrine, and furnished, gratis, a large tent, which was used in such cities as Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, etc. Thus the message was brought to the attention of many thousands.

JNL JNLLDT07 LOUD VOICE OF THE TIME MESSAGE page 0153 paragraph 3

When, in the year 1855, Mr. Williams was making a tent for the Seventh-day Adventists of the state of New York, he said to the writer: "This reminds me of the work of Brethren Miller and Himes. [page 154] I had a circular tent one hundred and twenty feet in diameter, and I said to them, 'I will erect this tent, and seat it, and care for it; now come on, and preach the message.' And so they came. The tent being too small to seat the people who came to hear, we put in a forty-foot splice, using two center poles. I made a nice bunting banner for them, with a motto, reading, 'Thy kingdom come,' which was placed above the tent between the two center poles."

JNL JNLLDT07 LOUD VOICE OF THE TIME MESSAGE page 0154 paragraph 1

With this mammoth tent, the message was proclaimed in many of the large cities in the United States until the fall of 1844.