

Ottoman Conferences Hit #7,142 [Adventist Pioneer Library CD]

The second Second-advent Conference was held in the city of Lowell, Mass., June 15 - 17, 1841. At this meeting was present Bro. Josiah Litch, of Boston, Mass. Bro. L., in the year 1838, sent out his exposition of the ninth chapter of Revelation, predicting the fall of the Ottoman empire, at the close of the prophetic period, "an hour and a day and a month and a year," which would expire August 11, 1840, when the sixth angel would cease to sound, and the second woe be past. Having obtained official accounts of the revolution that had then just closed in the Ottoman empire, he came to this meeting prepared to prove the accomplishment of his prediction, to which tens of thousands with intense anxiety had been looking. The mass of evidence in the official accounts connected [Page 258] with the prophecy of his interesting discourse, proved that the Ottoman Supremacy did cease on the 11th day of August, 1840. "And the second woe was passed, and behold the third woe cometh quickly." This wonderfully aroused the people of God, and gave a mighty impulse to the Advent movement.

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Chapter No 23

Fall of the Ottoman Empire in August, 1840 - Passing of the Second Woe - Quickly - Space of time to proclaim the First Angel's Message, Rev.xiv,6,7 - Conferences - Trials on leaving the Church - Moral Reform Societies - Boston Conference in 1842 - 1843 Charts - First Camp-Meeting - Camp-Meetings in the Summer and Fall of 1842 - In Littleton, Mass., in August - Taunton, Mass., in September - Salem, Mass., in October - Power and work of the First Angel's Message.

CHAPTER twenty-two closed with the Conference in the city of Lowell, Mass. The history of the fall of the Ottoman Supremacy will be found in J. Litch's Prophetic Expositions, Vol. ii, pages 181 - 200. On pages 198 and 199 is the summing up of his conclusive argument, showing how clearly the prophecy in Rev 9:13-15 was fulfilled on the 11th of August 1840. On pages 189 and 190 will be found the reliable testimony of an eyewitness, who states facts to prove the same point, seemingly without any knowledge of the prophecy, or Litch's exposition of it. Here it is:

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"The following is from Rev. Mr. Goodell, missionary of the American Board at Constantinople, addressed to the Board, and by them published in the Missionary Herald, for April 1841, p. 160.

"The power of Islamism is broken forever; and there is no concealing the fact even from themselves. They exist now by mere sufferance. And though there is a mighty effort made by the Christian governments to sustain them, yet at every step they sink lower and lower with fearful velocity. And though there is a great endeavor made to graft the institutions of civilized and Christian countries upon the decayed trunk, yet the very root itself is fast wasting away by the venom of its own poison. How wonderful it is, that, when all Christendom combined together to check the progress of Mohammedan power, it waxed exceedingly great in spite of every opposition; and now when all the mighty potentates of Christian Europe, who feel fully competent to settle all the quarrels, and arrange the affairs of the whole world, are leagued together for its protection and defense, down it comes, in spite of all their fostering care."

These astounding facts prove that the prophecy of the sounding of the sixth angel for three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days, ended on the 11th day of August, 1840, and at the same time the second woe passed, and behold the third woe cometh quickly.

Mark, this short space of time called "quickly," is the whole period of time from the passing of the second woe and sixth angel, to the commencing of the third woe, and sounding of the seventh angel. [This is the view held then and has resulted in the misunderstanding of the 3rd Woe and 7th Trumpet being put at the second coming, added by Stephen Dickie] (Sketch of hand pointing right) This space of time called quickly, defines the time to announce to every nation and kindred and tongue and people that Christ is coming, by the proclamation of the angel's message in Rev.xiv,6,7. This is in accordance with the testimony of the Saviour. Matt.xxiv,3,14.

No marvel, then, that those who had been looking with intense anxiety for the passing away of the Ottoman Supremacy, saw with such clearness that the time had come for a body of people to [Page 260] proclaim the message in question from thence down to the ending of the prophetic periods of Daniel's vision. And that the time had then come for this message to go to every nation, was still further demonstrated by a call for a Second-advent Conference to be held in Boston about the time the Ottoman empire lost its supremacy, and many weeks before the news of its fall reached the United States. At the close of this Conference, which was convened a few weeks after the call, in October, 1840, an address of the Conference setting forth their views respecting the second advent of our Lord, was sent forth to the world, and from thence the work continued until the message ended in the autumn of 1844.

Opposition from various quarters was now being made manifest, nevertheless, the cause was hourly increasing. In October 1841, the third Conference was held in Portland, Maine, which gave a new impulse to the cause in that section of country. Conferences were held in other places during the winter, particularly in New York city, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont. Early in the spring of this year Elders Himes and Fitch held a Conference in Providence, R.I. Here, for the first time, I became acquainted with Bro. Fitch. His clear exposition of the prophecies relative to the second coming of our Lord, were listened to with deep interest. In connection with Elder Himes, their preaching deeply affected the hearts of the people, and a great many professed strong faith in the near coming of the Lord. {The Autobiography of Elder Joseph Bates Chapter 23, page 260}