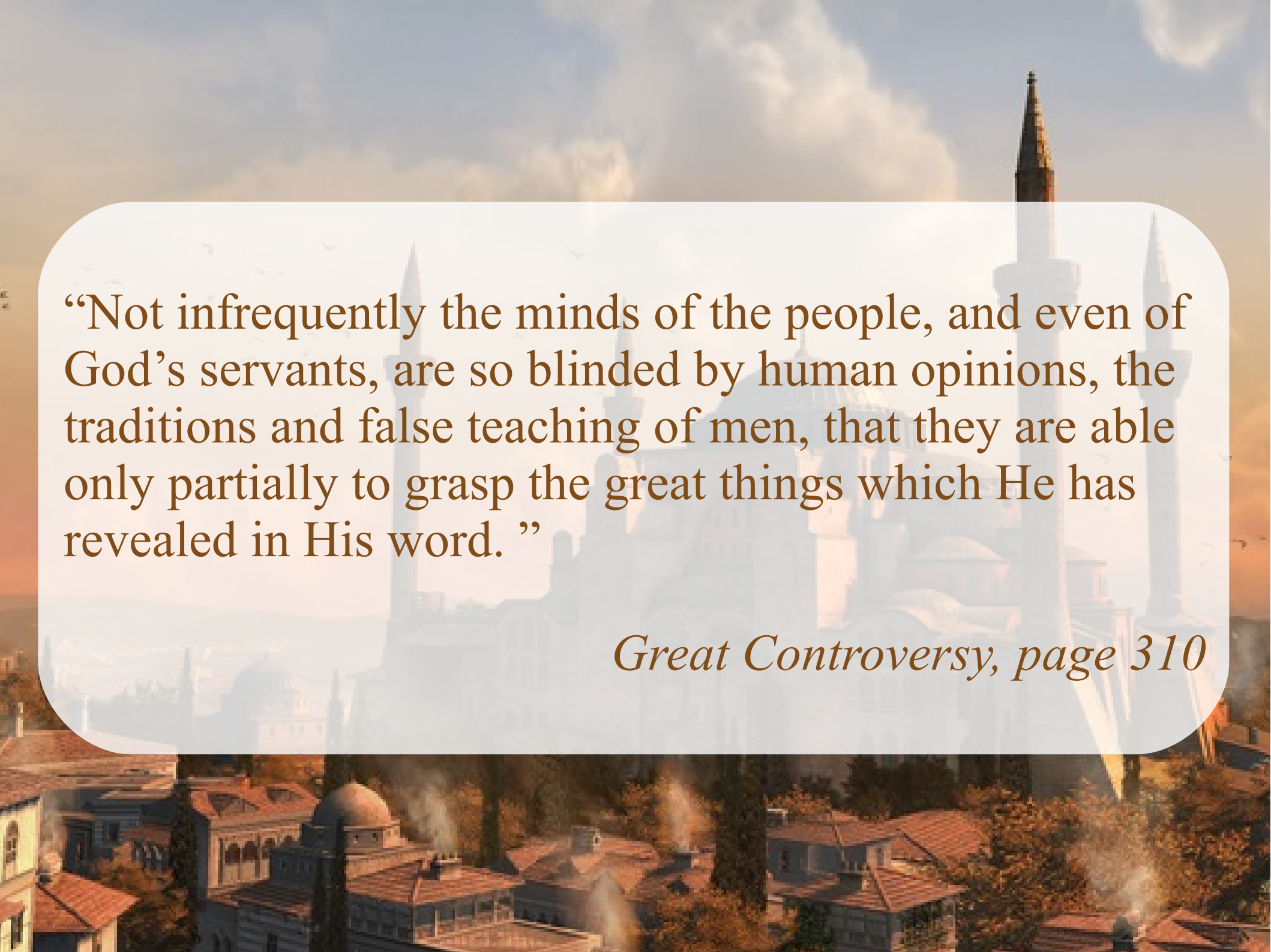
Caught Unprepared

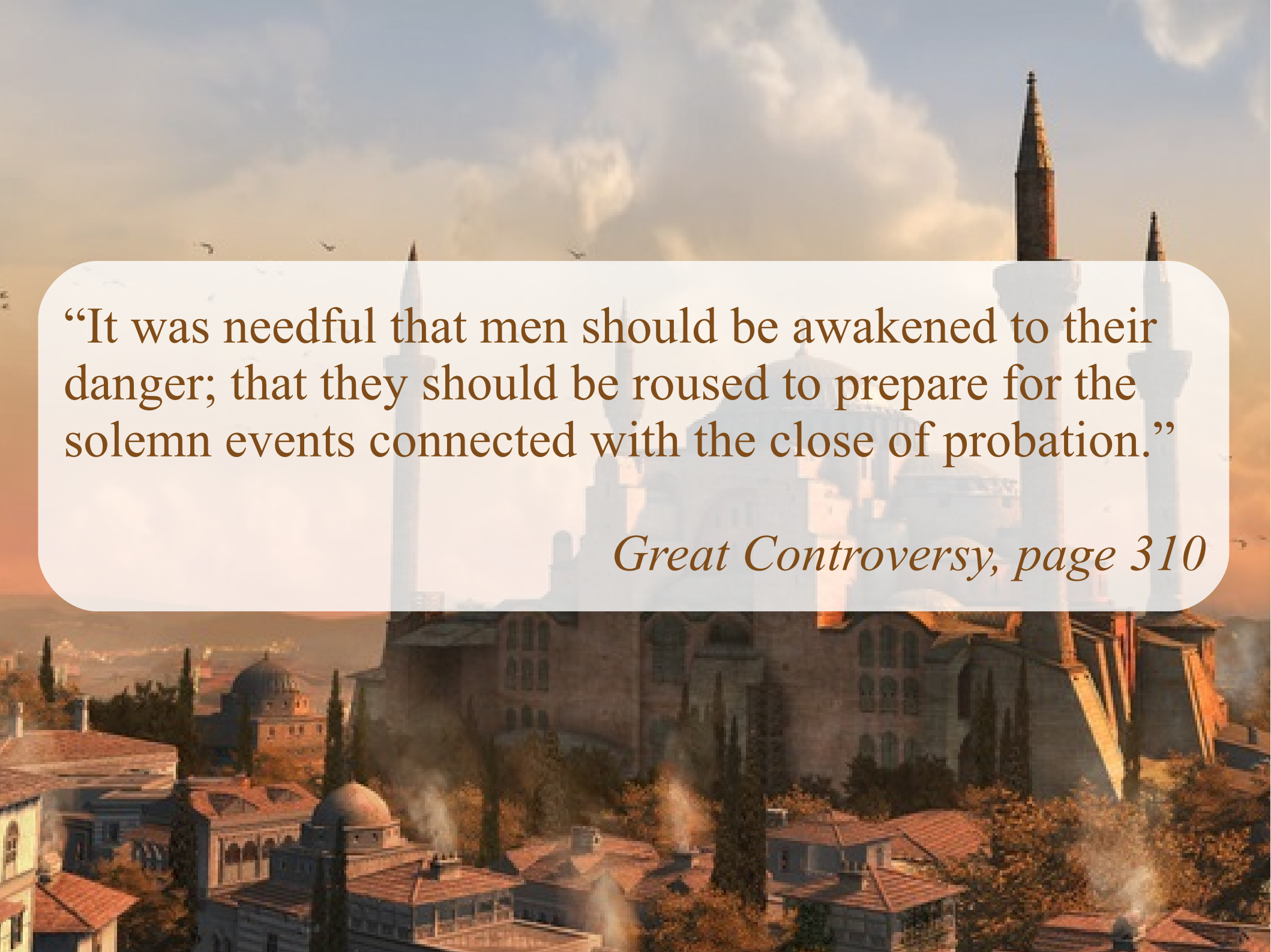
Part 5

The Papacy or France?



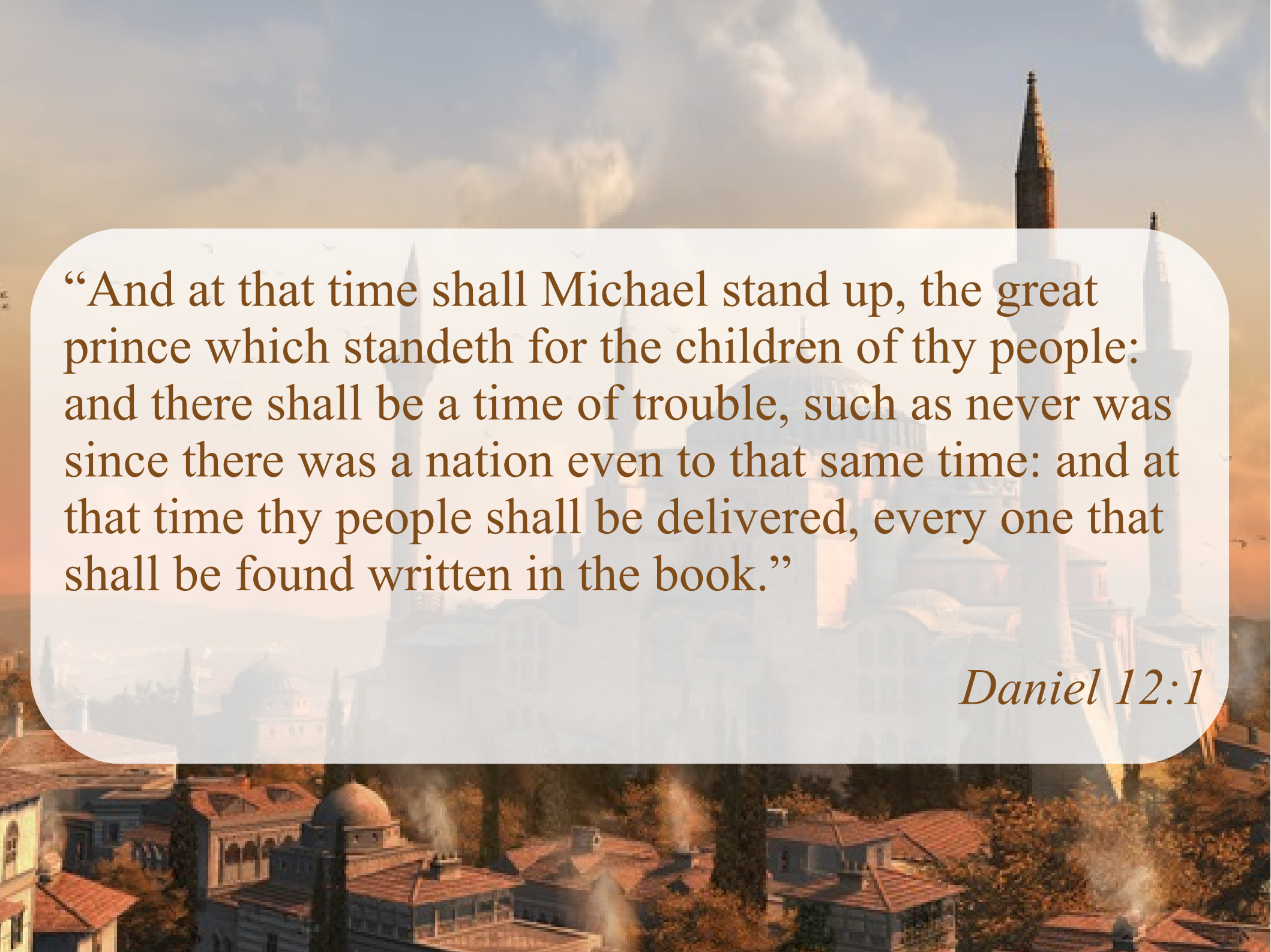
“Not infrequently the minds of the people, and even of God’s servants, are so blinded by human opinions, the traditions and false teaching of men, that they are able only partially to grasp the great things which He has revealed in His word. ”

Great Controversy, page 310



"It was needful that men should be awakened to their danger; that they should be roused to prepare for the solemn events connected with the close of probation."

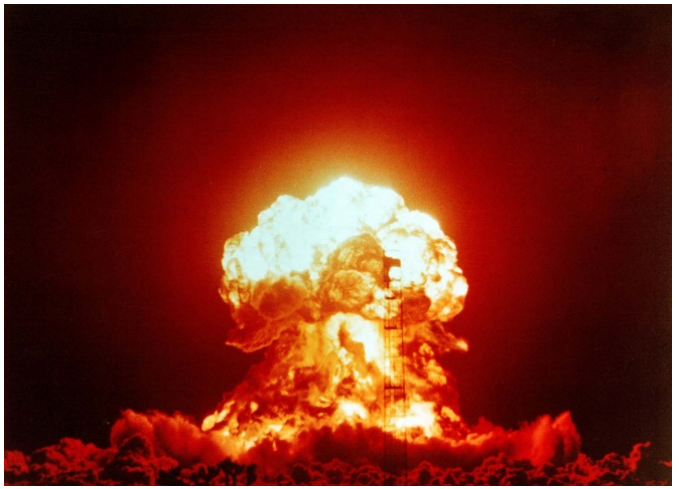
Great Controversy, page 310

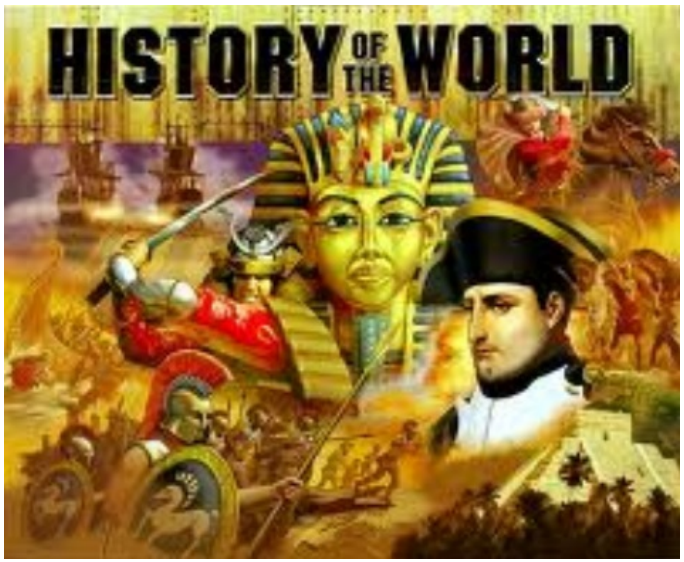


“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

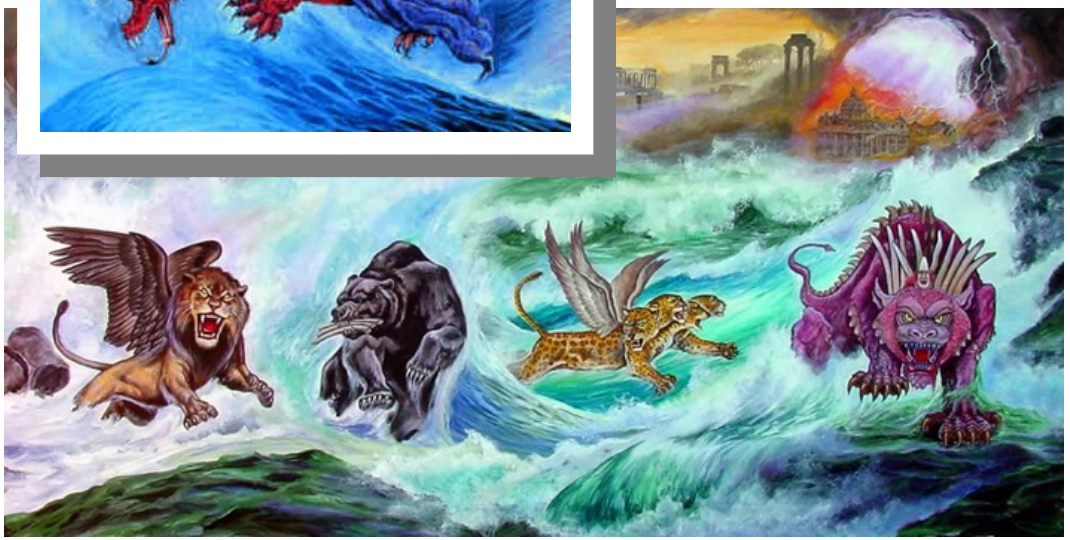
Daniel 12:1

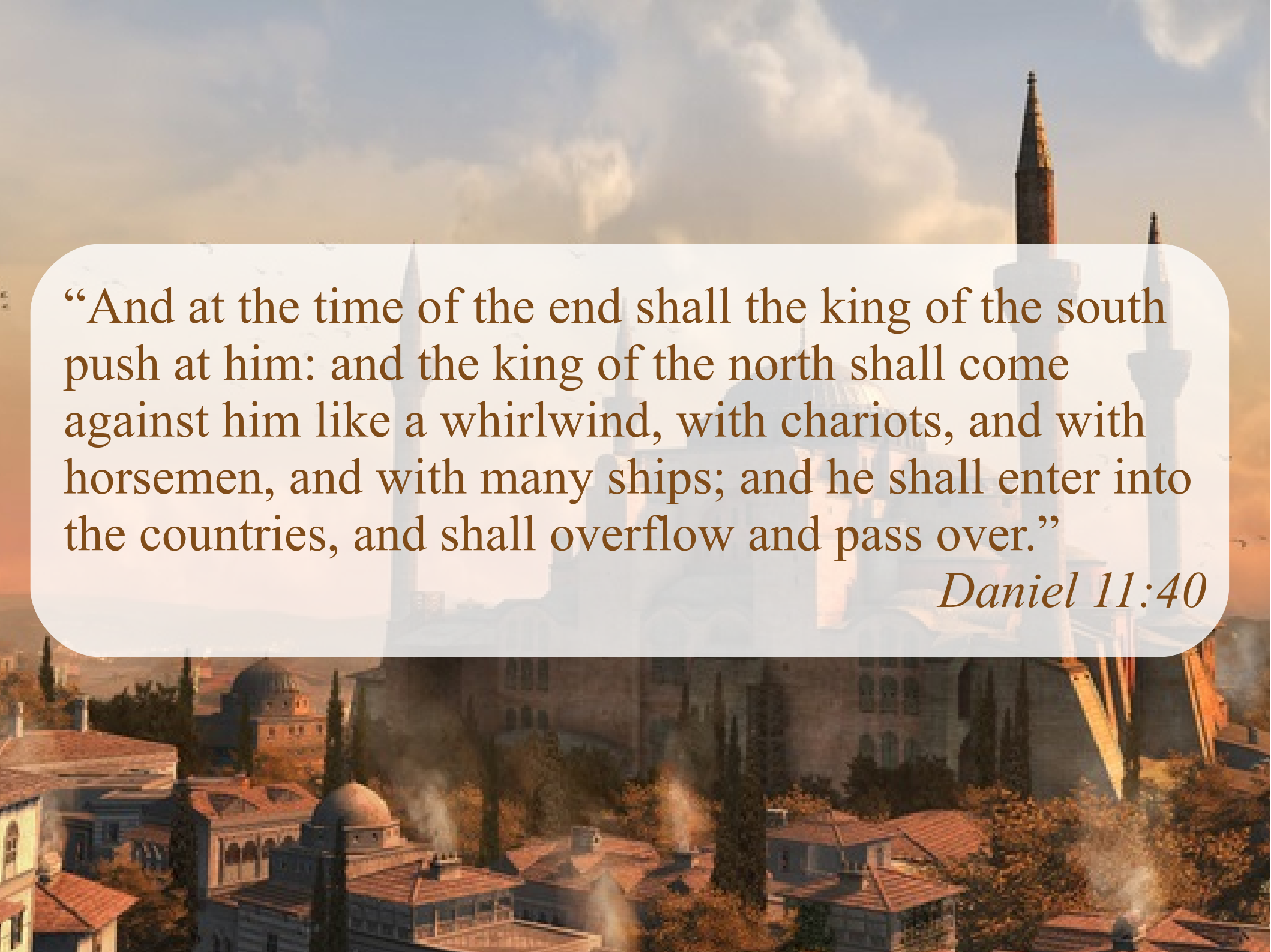
This verse is the only one in the Bible that pinpoints the time of trouble and close of probation. It tells us that after very specific political events occur, there will follow a time of national trouble, so horrendous that the world has never seen anything like it before. Our goal is to identify the political events that precede this time in order to understand better where we are in relation to the close of probation.





In order to identify this time period we must go back to chapter 11 and identify the events foretold in the preceding verses. In our last presentation we discussed how Daniel 11 is different than other prophecies in that it is presented in plain language instead of in symbols. The angel says "And now will I show thee the truth..." *Daniel 11:2.*





"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and 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

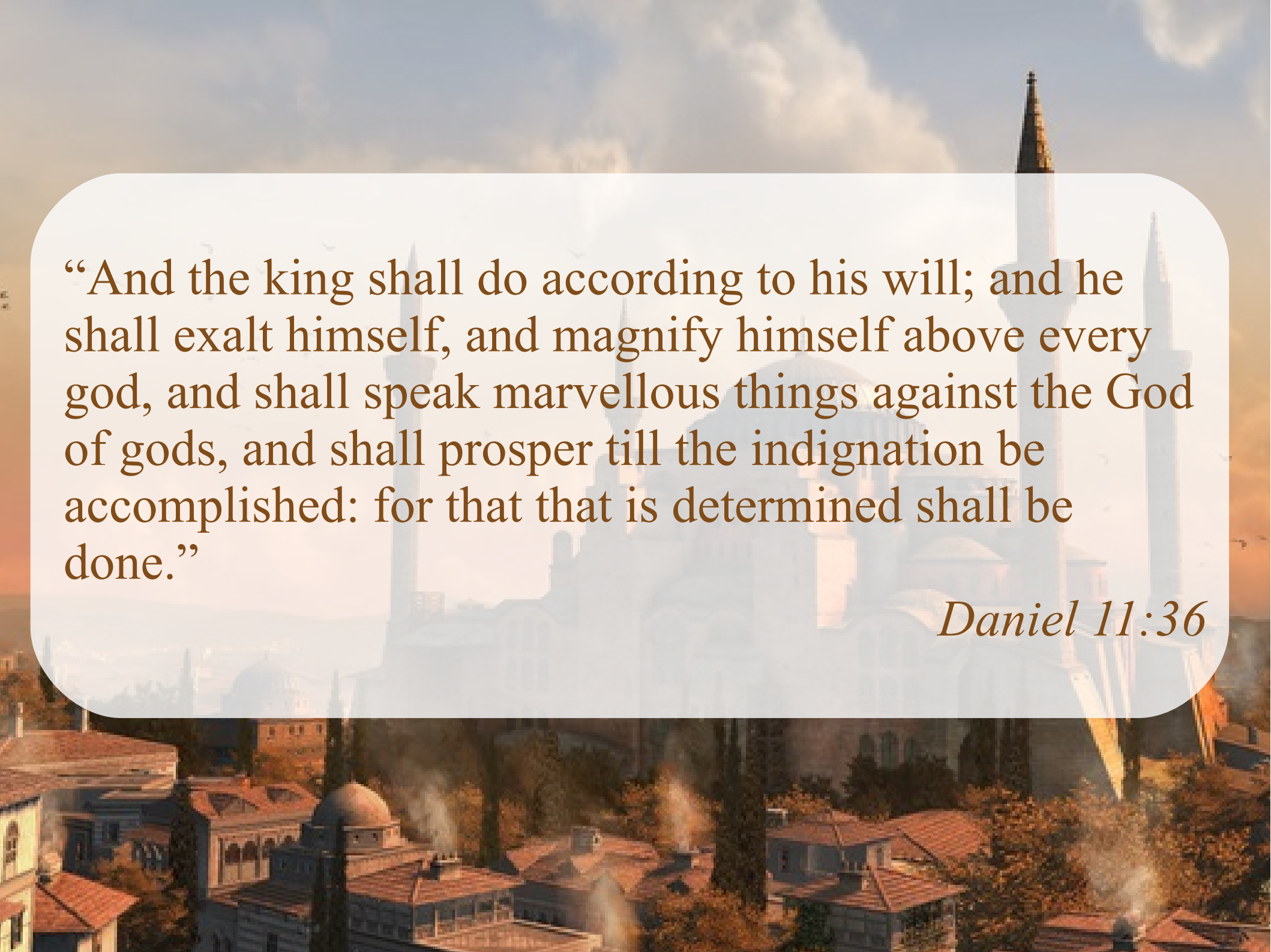
So far we have positively identified the time of the end as 1798, the king of the south as Egypt, and him (the willful king) as France. Now we are going to look closely at verses 36-39 to see if France really does match every specification of the willful king. As William Miller once said "If one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development." *Views of the Prophetic Chronology, Selected from the Manuscripts of William Miller With a Memoir of His Life by Joshua V. Himes, 1841, page 22*

So let's see if France really does fulfill this prophecy of the willful king.

French taking the Pope captive - 1798

French Revolution - 1798

Egyptian Sphinx



"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

Daniel 11:36

The king that does according to his will would be a new, conquering power. We know this from the other times in the prophecy that this phrase "do according to his will" is used. It has been used twice before in this prophecy. The first time it is referring to Alexander. "And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will." *Daniel 11:3*. The second time it is referring to Rome. "But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed." *Daniel 11:16*.

Alexander the Great – 356-323 BC

Julius Caesar – 100 – 44 BC

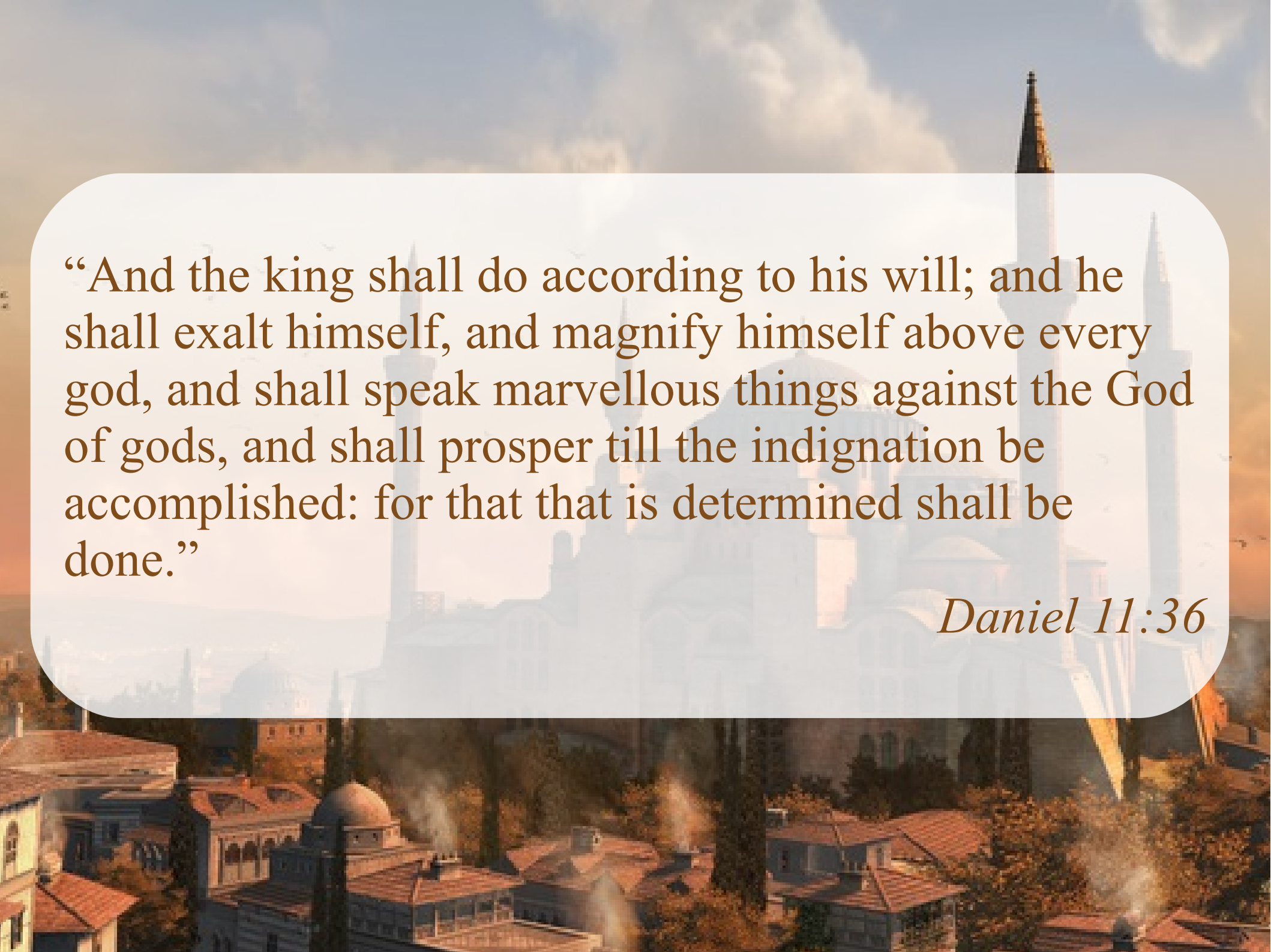
Napoleon Bonaparte - 1769-1821

French Revolution - 1798

Napoleon Bonaparte - 1769-1821

Pope Pius VI - 1798

Also notice from verse 35 that this power would appear near the time of the end. "And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed." *Daniel 11:35*. Was the papacy a new conquering power at the end of the 1260 years? No, but France was. While the kingdom of France had existed for centuries, Republican France was something new, never seen before, and the directory determined to spread their form of revolution and republicanism by the force of arms and conquest. They appointed Napoleon Bonaparte to lead the conquest of the rest of Europe.



"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

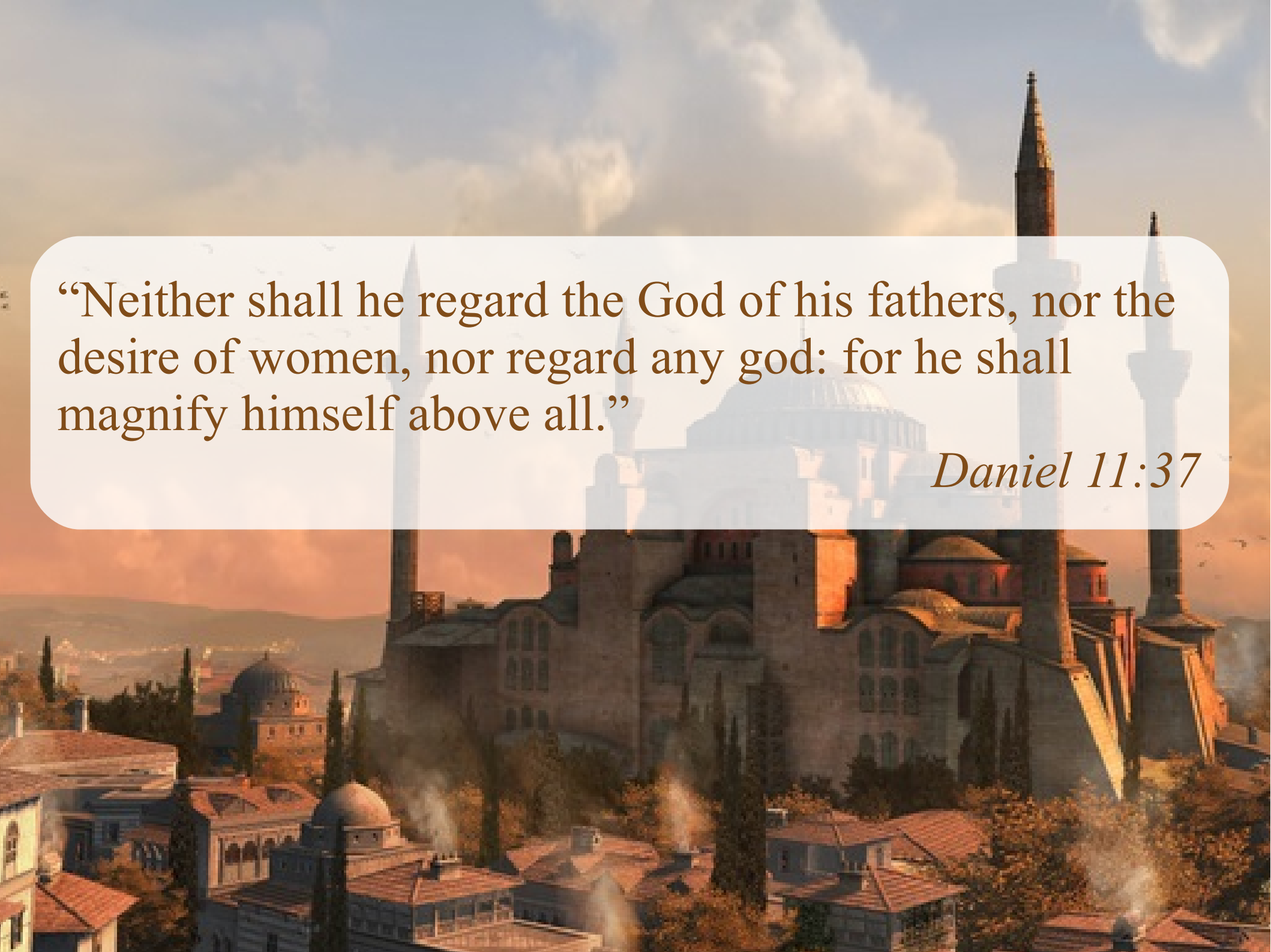
Daniel 11:36

Did the papacy exalt itself above God? Yes, it undoubtedly did, but what of France? Remember, France was the nation that most supported and upheld the papacy throughout the dark ages. By compelling men to worship at the dictates of the church, France exalted itself above God and put itself in the place of God, for only God can dictate who and what man should worship. "But blackest in the black catalogue of crime, most horrible among the fiendish deeds of all the dreadful centuries, was the St. Bartholomew Massacre. The world still recalls with shuddering horror the scenes of that most cowardly and cruel onslaught. The king of France, urged on by Romish priests and prelates, lent his sanction to the dreadful work." *The Great Controversy, page 272.* Yes, the French king was just as guilty of fulfilling this verse as the papacy was. The king exalted himself above God and usurped the power that only God can have.

French Revolution - 1798

The French, Burning Bibles

Louis the 16th
Last King of France


“Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.”
Daniel 11:37

Here we find a very interesting coupling of ideas. First, this king disregards the God of his fathers. France, in 1793, did exactly this. It abolished the worship of God, the God his fathers had claimed to worship through the papacy. Second, he disregards the desire of women and disregards all gods.

Scene from the French Revolution, 1793

Is this fulfilled in the doctrine of priestly celibacy? Perhaps. But does the church really disregard the desire of women? While they claimed celibacy, the monasteries and convents were often connected by underground tunnels. During the reformation and after, mass infant burial grounds were discovered under the convents. I have heard testimony that even today, many nuns have babies who are never permitted to live. These babies are fathered by monks and priests. Does this state of affairs really sound like the disregard of the desire of Women?

Catholic Nuns

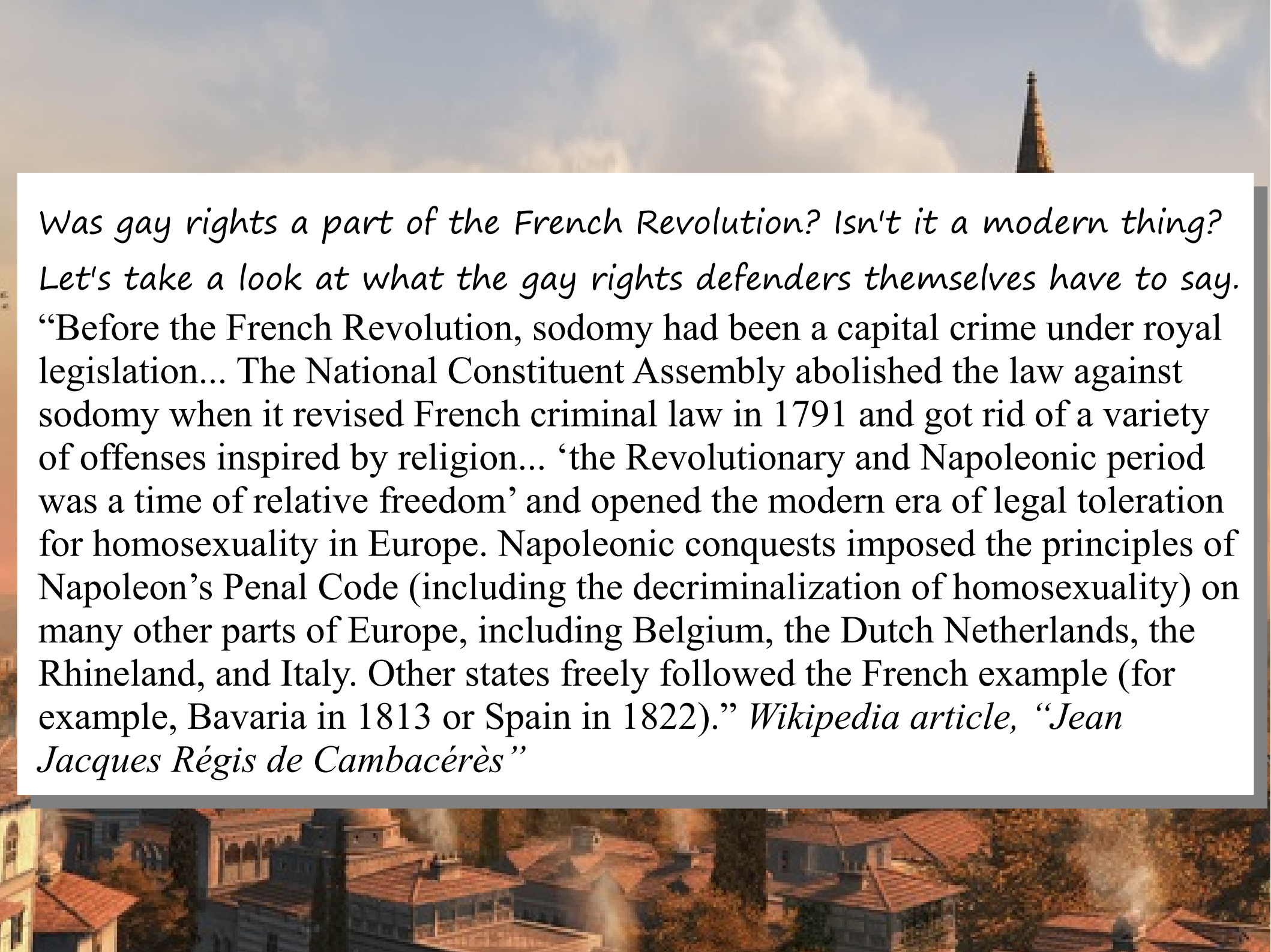
Catholic Ordination

But, what of France? According to Smith this was fulfilled when France reduced the marriage contract to a mere civil union. But this seems to fit worse than the priestly celibacy. But let's look at this from another angle. Paul says:

"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly."

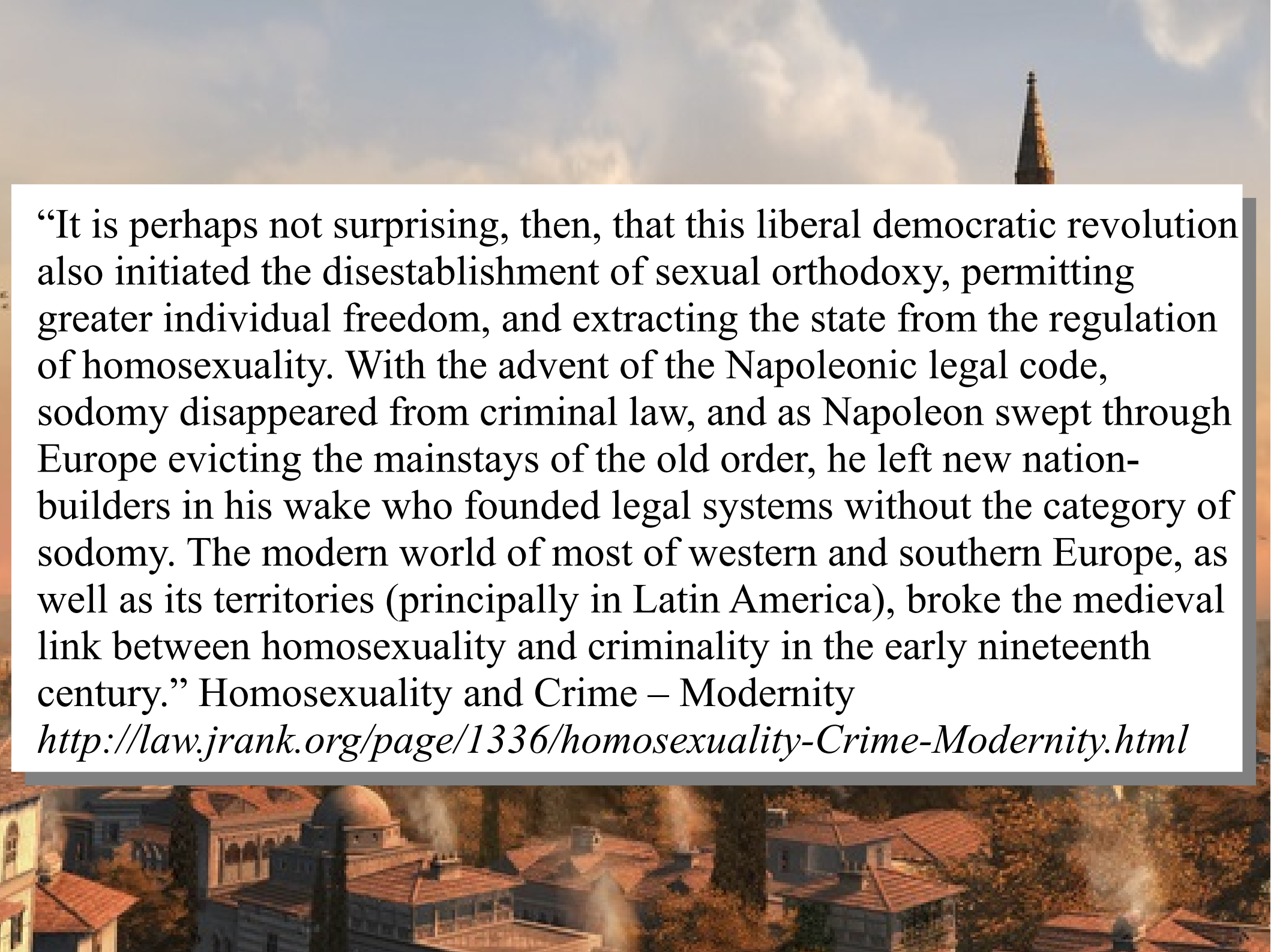
Romans 1:27

Who disregards the desire of women more truly than the gays? If gay rights was a part of France at this time, what could more perfectly fit this description? Some will say that there are gay priests among the Catholic clergy. Yes, this is true. But homosexuality has never been a tenet of the church. In fact, the church burned men at the stake who were caught in homosexual acts.



Was gay rights a part of the French Revolution? Isn't it a modern thing? Let's take a look at what the gay rights defenders themselves have to say.

"Before the French Revolution, sodomy had been a capital crime under royal legislation... The National Constituent Assembly abolished the law against sodomy when it revised French criminal law in 1791 and got rid of a variety of offenses inspired by religion... 'the Revolutionary and Napoleonic period was a time of relative freedom' and opened the modern era of legal toleration for homosexuality in Europe. Napoleonic conquests imposed the principles of Napoleon's Penal Code (including the decriminalization of homosexuality) on many other parts of Europe, including Belgium, the Dutch Netherlands, the Rhineland, and Italy. Other states freely followed the French example (for example, Bavaria in 1813 or Spain in 1822)." *Wikipedia article, "Jean Jacques Régis de Cambacérès"*



“It is perhaps not surprising, then, that this liberal democratic revolution also initiated the disestablishment of sexual orthodoxy, permitting greater individual freedom, and extracting the state from the regulation of homosexuality. With the advent of the Napoleonic legal code, sodomy disappeared from criminal law, and as Napoleon swept through Europe evicting the mainstays of the old order, he left new nation-builders in his wake who founded legal systems without the category of sodomy. The modern world of most of western and southern Europe, as well as its territories (principally in Latin America), broke the medieval link between homosexuality and criminality in the early nineteenth century.” Homosexuality and Crime – Modernity *http://law.jrank.org/page/1336/homosexuality-Crime-Modernity.html*

So, France legalized Sodomy and then what? "Nor regard any God." Here we see atheism and sodomy coupled together. Revelation puts these two together in exactly the same way in speaking of the French Revolution.

"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."

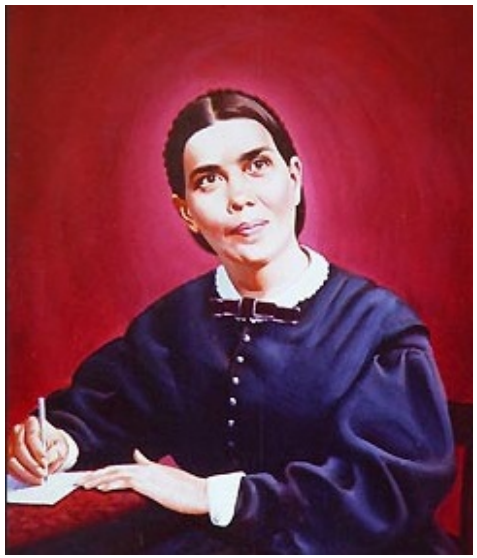
Revelation 11:8

Pharaoh of Old

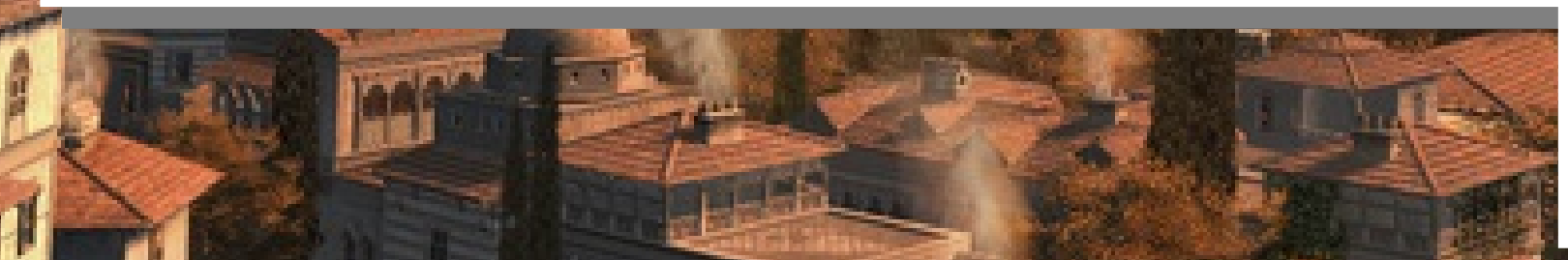
The French, Burning Bibles

"'The great city' in whose streets the witnesses are slain, and where their dead bodies lie, is 'spiritually' Egypt. Of all nations presented in Bible history, Egypt most boldly denied the existence of the living God and resisted His commands. No monarch ever ventured upon more open and highhanded rebellion against the authority of Heaven than did the king of Egypt. When the message was brought him by Moses, in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh proudly answered: 'Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto His voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, and moreover I will not let Israel go.' Exodus 5:2, A.R.V. This is atheism, and the nation represented by Egypt would give voice to a similar denial of the claims of the living God and would manifest a like spirit of unbelief and defiance. 'The great city' is also compared, 'spiritually,' to Sodom. The corruption of Sodom in breaking the law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness. And this sin was also to be a preeminent characteristic of the nation that should fulfill the specifications of this scripture."

The Great Controversy, page 269

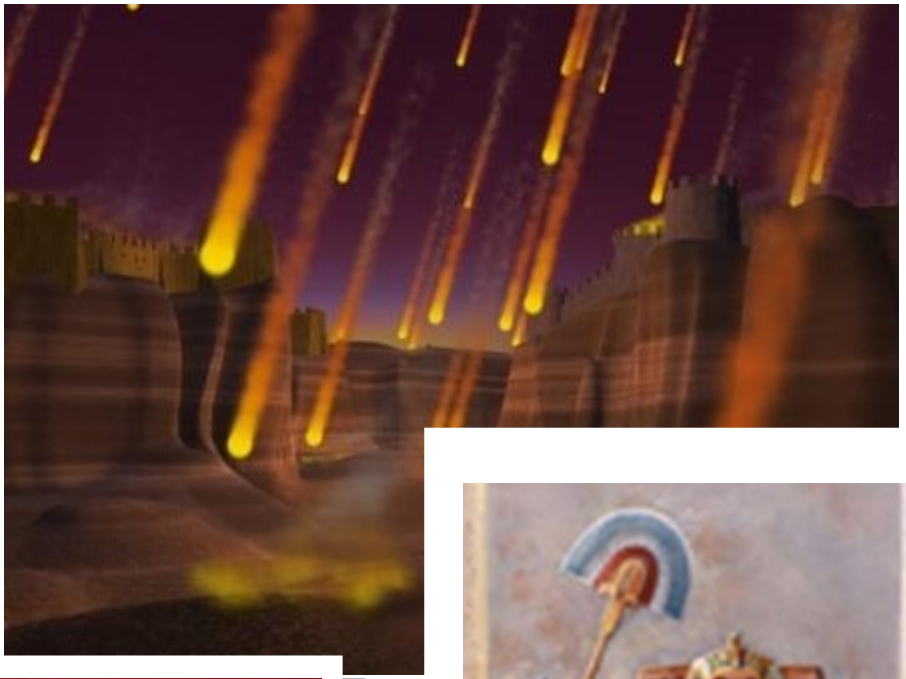


Ellen G. White - 1827-1915

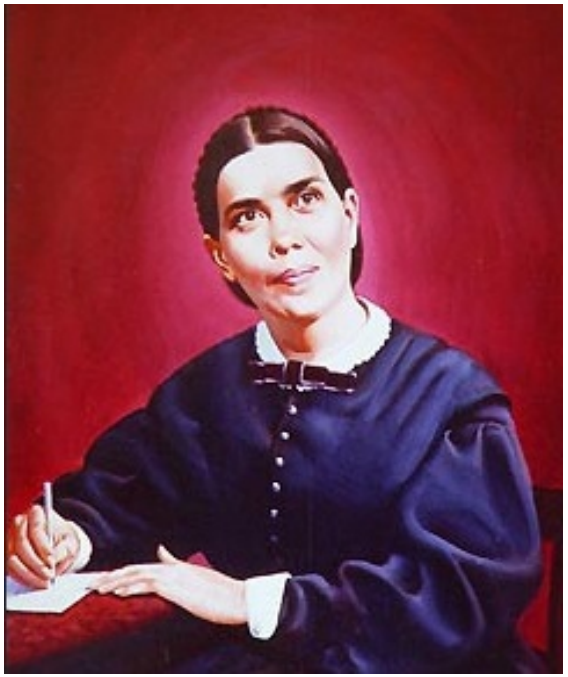


"According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the Pharaoh and the licentiousness of Sodom." *The Great Controversy, page 269*

Burning of Sodom



Pharaoh of Old



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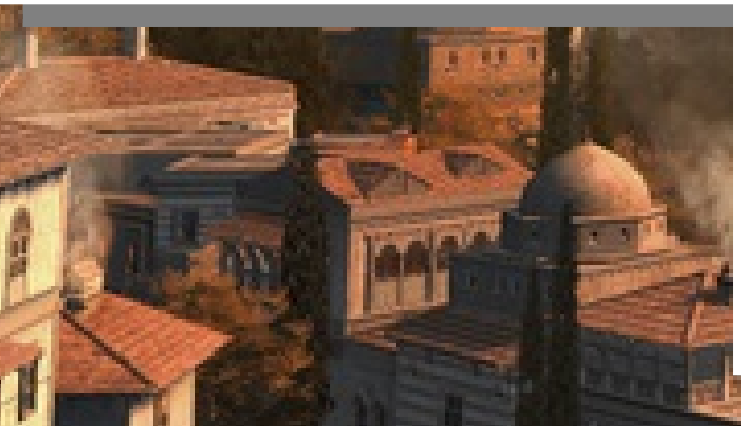


“This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France. During the Revolution, in 1793, ‘the world for the first time heard an assembly of men, born and educated in civilization, and assuming the right to govern one of the finest of the European nations, uplift their united voice to deny the most solemn truth which man’s soul receives, and renounce unanimously the belief and worship of a Deity.’—Sir Walter Scott, Life of Napoleon, vol. 1, ch. 17. ‘France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives, that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe. Plenty of blasphemers, plenty of infidels, there have been, and still continue to be, in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere; but France stands apart in the world’s history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement.’—Blackwood’s Magazine, November, 1870.”

Great Controversy, page 269

Catholic Ordination

French Revolution - 1798

Even today homosexuality is called sodomy, the exact description that Revelation gives to this period and a perfect fulfillment of Daniel, that the willful king would disregard "the desire of women." So we see in both Daniel 11 and Revelation 11 a coupling of atheism and homosexuality. This cannot be speaking of the papacy for they have always claimed to worship God and have claimed purity and chastity. They even put homosexuals to death, outwardly considering sodomy a base crime (while often practicing it in secret). But France, the defender of the church, abolished God entirely and legalized sodomy, just as this verse says the willful king would. But the Great Controversy also mentions the French Revolution as the natural result of the repression of the scriptures by the papacy in France.

"It was popery that had begun the work which atheism was completing. The policy of Rome had wrought out those conditions, social, political, and religious, that were hurrying France on to ruin. Writers, in referring to the horrors of the Revolution, say that these excesses are to be charged upon the throne and the church. In strict justice they are to be charged upon the church. Popery had poisoned the minds of kings against the Reformation, as an enemy to the crown, an element of discord that would be fatal to the peace and harmony of the nation. It was the genius of Rome that by this means inspired the direst cruelty and the most galling oppression which proceeded from the throne."

Great Controversy, page 276.

Pope Julius II - 1487-1555

Louis the 16th
Last King of France

Notice the way Sister White makes the seamless transition from popery to the atheism of the revolution. We see this exact transition in the willful king between verses 36 and 37.

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all."

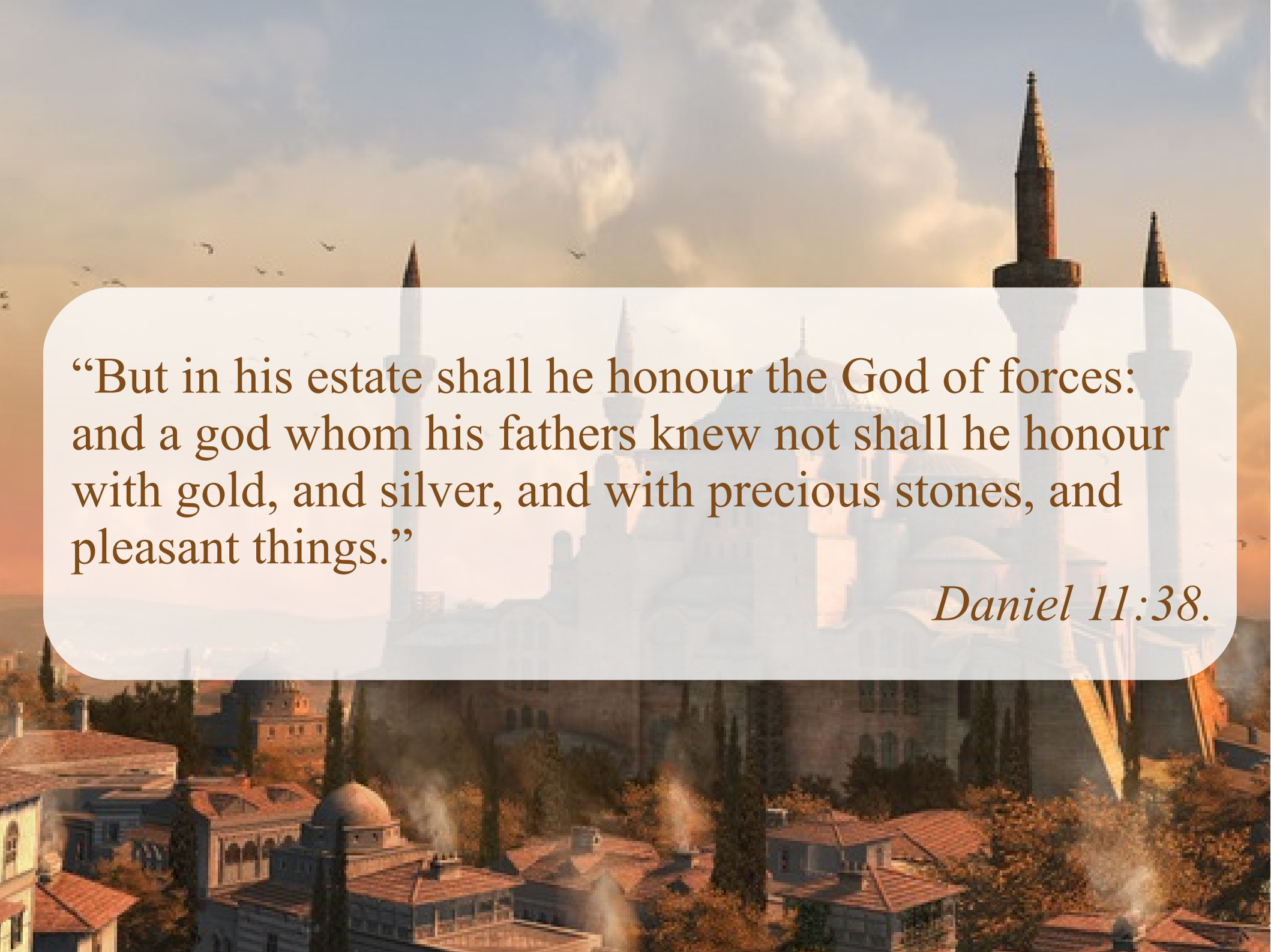
Daniel 11:36-37

This willful king starts out by exalting himself above God (France forced men to follow the papacy, placing the king and pope above God). The king (or nation) then abandons the God of his fathers (renouncing the Catholic religion, that it had before supported) and disregards the desire of women (legalizes homosexuality) and then disregards all gods (declares atheism to be the national religion). Nowhere in the history of the papacy do we find this smooth transition, but it is clearly there in the history of France. Even though verse 36 can be made to fit the papacy does not in any way change the fact that it perfectly fits France while it supported the papacy. But verse 37 does not fit the papacy.

Catholic Ordination

Scene from the French Revolution, 1793

Louis the 16th
Last King of France



"But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things."

Daniel 11:38.

France honored their armed forces and tried to spread the revolution throughout the world by the force of arms. They put Napoleon Bonaparte at the head of their army. Someone talking in Napoleon's presence said, "We'll win because God is on our side." Napoleon's retort was, "God is on the side of the big battalions." This quote from Napoleon has become famous and also illustrates the French honor to the god of forces.

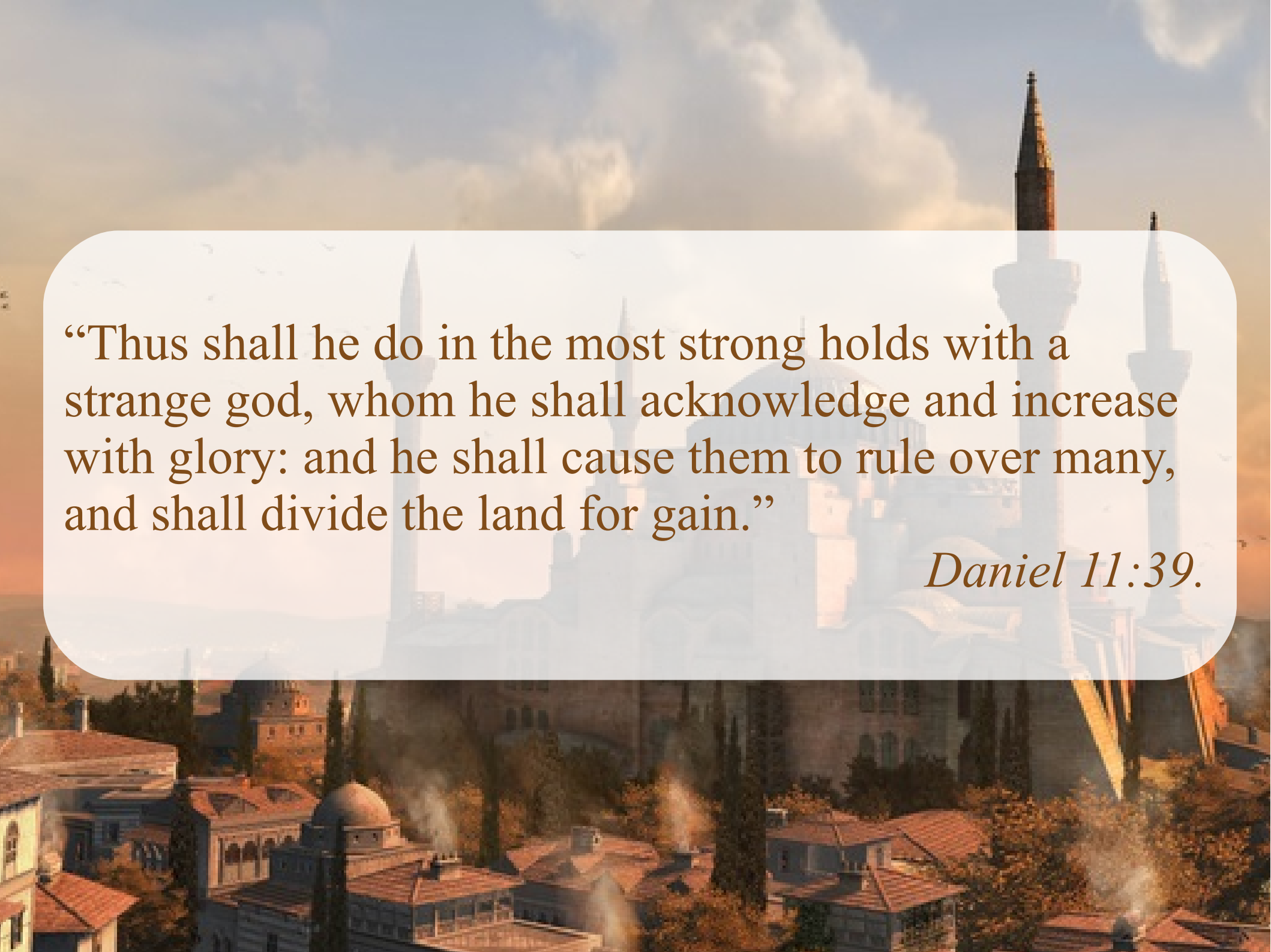
Napoleon and his Generals

On the other hand, while the papacy has always resorted to force, it has never had a standing army of it's own, but has always used the arms of the state to support it.

The next phrase is "a god whom his fathers knew not." This does not fit either the saints of the catholic church, nor their images that they worship. Because when you study into their history you find that the saints are really the Greek and Roman gods renamed and the images are the actual images of these same gods with new names. These are not gods that their fathers knew not. But in the French Revolution they definitely honored a god that had never before been heard of. It was the goddess of reason. This was a god that even the pagans did not know. If you would like to see a statue of this god, just look to the New York harbor and you will see the Statue of Liberty. This statue was give to the United States by France. It is called liberty, but is really a representation of the goddess of reason and millions visit her to this day.

Exalting the Goddess of Reason

Statue of Liberty,
Sent to the US by the French



“Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.”

Daniel 11:39.

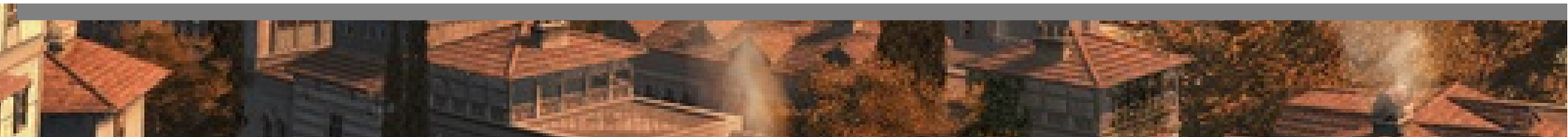
While some say that this is fulfilled by the pope's division of the new world between Spain and Portugal, it perfectly fits what the directory did with the lands confiscated from the nobles. This land included most of the land of France. The right thing would have been to divide it equally among the common people, but this was not done. Instead it was broken up into small pieces and sold to the highest bidders, thus enriching the directory.

France Before 1793
Most Land Belonged to
The Nobles

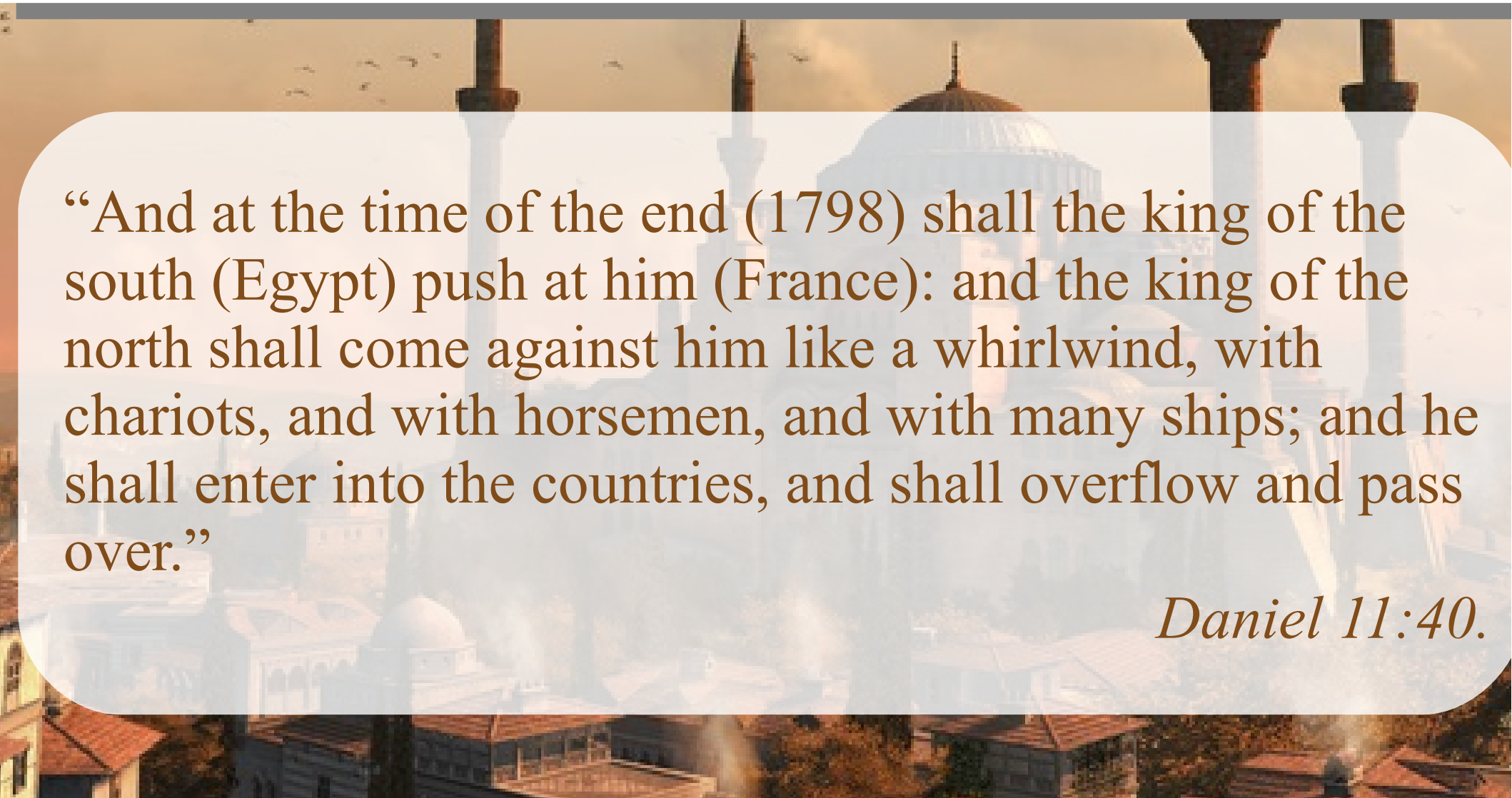
Willful King	France	Papacy
1. A conquering power at the end of the 1260 years.	Yes	No
2. Comes on the scene at the end of the 1260 years.	Yes	No
3. Exalts himself.	Yes	Yes
4. Speaks great things against God.	Yes	Yes
5. Atheistic and Sodomizing.	Yes	No`
6. Introduces a strange god his fathers did not know.	Yes	No
7. Honors the god of forces.	Yes	Maybe
8. Divides the land for gain.	Yes	Maybe

As you can see from the chart, while the papacy possibly fits four of the eight specifications, the French nation, in the 1790's, fits all eight perfectly.

If the papacy is the willful king, then verse 40 has not happened yet and parts of verses 36-39 are also yet to be fulfilled. This leaves a gap of more than 200 years between the end of verse 39 and verse 40. This gap is continuing to widen as time passes and we don't see the fulfillment of verse 40. Does it make sense to insert this gap of years between these verses, when this period has been the most momentous in history? During the last 200 hundred years we have seen the worst, most destructive, wars in the history of the world, as well as unprecedented calamities, both natural and man made. When you consider that wars of less consequence and less destruction are mentioned in Daniel 11, it does not make any sense to insert a gap here that leaves out World Wars I and II. But none of these problems exist if France is the willful king. Every word is fulfilled and, as William Miller said "If you find every word of the prophecy ... is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event." *Views of the Prophetic Chronology, Selected from the Manuscripts of William Miller With a Memoir of His Life by Joshua V. Himes, 1841, page 22*



We have positively identified 1798 as the time of the end, the king of the south as Egypt and "him," the willful king, is definitely France. Now all we have to do is see if there are historical events that fit the description of verse 40 and that can help us identify the remaining player in this prophecy.



"And at the time of the end (1798) shall the king of the south (Egypt) push at him (France): and 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.

In the very year specified, 1798, Egypt gave France a reason to send Napoleon to invade it. Egypt offered only slight resistance, and Napoleon, representing revolutionary France, conquered the country and shot off the nose of the Sphinx. But who is the king of the north? This power who comes like a whirlwind? According to history, there is only one power that came against France at this time and amazingly it was the power that controlled the geographic region the king of north always controlled in the earlier portions of the prophecy.

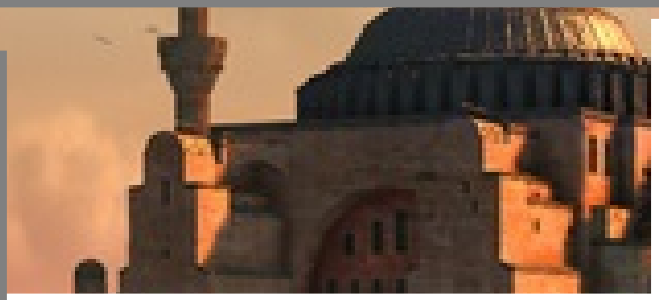
Seleucid Empire – King of the North

This power was the Ottoman Empire. It ruled all the land once ruled by the Seleucid Emperors of Greek times.

Triangular War 1798
France, Egypt, Ottoman Empire

Was there any kind of battle between the papacy and Egypt at the time of the end? No there wasn't. The papacy lost all its power in this year and this wound wasn't healed till 1929. The conflict between the papacy and the king of the south cannot even be invented until 1917 and then it isn't a conflict with Egypt but with Russia, who is not south, but north of the papacy. Even then the atheistic communists did not go after the papacy but after the orthodox church, which the papacy wanted to get rid of anyway.

French taking the Pope captive - 1798



Egyptian Sphinx

Vladimir Lenin - 1917

But does the Ottoman Empire fulfill every detail of the remainder of the prophecy?
We will consider this in the next presentation, so this is not really...

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