



The Ottoman Empire and the God of Forces

Study guide # 6

Description	Verse	Details
<p>The Ottoman Empire described</p>	<p>Vs. 37 - 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.</p>	<p>Considering the fall of the Papacy occurred in verse 36, we see a new power being introduced. The Ottoman Empire is here being announced as the power that simultaneously existed during the Papacy’s reign but would outlast the Catholic regime by 124 years. The Ottoman Empire arose from Turkey—a country that was historically called Asia Minor. This <i>Asia</i> was the same place where the Seven Churches that John the Revelator wrote letters to. Thus, we understand that Jehovah was the “God of their fathers.” The “desire of women” may be better interpreted as the <i>Desired Woman</i> or the <i>Blessed Woman</i>. This refers to Mary, the woman whom the Papacy venerated as the <i>Mother of God</i>.</p> <p>History reveals that the Ottomans adopted the millet system allowing the people in the territories it conquered to retain their own religions. Since the Ottoman’s didn’t force religious conversions, the Bible accurately describes them as having no regard for Jehovah, the Virgin Mary, or any other god.</p>
<p>The religion of the Ottoman Empire</p>	<p>Vs. 38 - 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.</p>	<p>While the Ottoman Empire had no religious requirements for those whom it conquered, in its home territory (Turkey) it honored the god of forces. Forces here is often interpreted as a <i>fortress, fortified, or stronghold</i>. This word is often related to cities that needed to be fortified for times of war. Thus, the god of forces is the god of the Ottoman’s fortress—Allah. This Muslim deity is the god who was unknown to the ancestors of the Turkish because they were worshippers of Jehovah. Although Islam was born in the 7th century, the Ottoman’s honored Allah in their mosques with gold, silver, precious stones, and pleasant things.</p>
<p>1922: The final fall and dismantling of the Ottoman Empire</p>	<p>Vs. 39 - 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.</p>	<p>The “strongholds” most likely represents the original Turkish territories; and here, “strange” means foreign.</p> <p>To those living during the Dark Ages, Allah would be considered as a foreign god.</p> <p>The second half of verse 39 reveals the final fall of the Ottoman Empire. This fall occurred in 1922 when the Ottoman Empire was divided amongst the major powers of Europe for their benefit.</p>



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Study and Discussion

Many suggests that verses 37-39 refer to the Papacy or France. What do you believe and why?
