

have to drop the pretence and make the choice. At this point the "old man" will come to the fore. But there is a real danger that we will make the wrong decision, and that is why brethren and sisters continue to leave the Truth even in these last days. What we need to do is to serve only God at all times. Then, when the time of testing comes, we will not have to make a decision

whom to serve, for we will already have made that decision.

As we continue to see the signs in the earth showing that the return of Christ is near, it is increasingly important that we do not forsake the meetings, on Sundays or during the week. Rather, we should be exhorting each other more and more as we "see the day approaching".

## Your Letters



### Was Zacharias deaf as well as dumb?

I was interested in the article by Sister Joan Lewis, looking at the faith of Elisabeth ([Nov. 2005, p. 410](#)), in which she makes the reasonable assumption that Zacharias was deaf as well as dumb, based presumably on Luke 1:62, "And they made signs to his father" when asking Zacharias what he should call his son. In 1997 my eyes were opened to an alternative understanding. I found myself under medical orders not to speak, and used a pad of paper to communicate. I was astonished at the number of people who made signs to indicate that they would like to have my pen and paper to respond to what I had written. I was not deaf, and although they knew that, they still made signs that they wanted to write their answer down. Since that time I have been able to identify with Zacharias, as human nature has not changed!

Norman Yuile  
Dundee

### The "him" in Daniel 11:40

Whilst thanking Brother Nigel Bernard for his interesting article on Turkey ([Nov. 2005, p. 423](#)), I would like to make brief comment. Brother Bernard refers to the "him" of Daniel 11:40 as being Turkey but does not pause to explain why. I find this difficult to follow when the "him" of verse 40 is obviously the "him" of the context, that is, verses 36-39, which verses are generally accepted as applying to Rome.

In fact we can find nothing in these verses which could possibly apply to the Muslim anti-Catholic Turk. In the outworking purpose of God, the Turks humbled the once mighty Roman Empire in the east, which the Brotherhood's traditional view of Revelation 9:12-21 amply confirms. Whilst the Turks took much of the Roman territory, they never took on Rome's characteristics, descriptions or actions as described in verses 36-39 of Daniel 11. Hence my difficulty in relating the "him" of verse 40 to Turkey.

Raymond Hughes  
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*I thank Brother Hughes for his letter. I would agree that the "him" in verses 36-39 applies to Rome. However, this prophecy relates more to Rome's military power and territorial gain in the east rather than the religious power which was to develop in the city of Rome in the west. In Daniel 7 there is the "little horn" which represents the Roman Catholic system, but in Daniel 8 there is another "little horn". It is this little horn that corresponds to the "king" in Daniel 11:36.*

*This horn, the little horn of the goat, "waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land" (8:9). The little horn of the goat refers to the development of Roman influence in the east. The Times Atlas of World History describes this as follows: "Meanwhile, Rome had been drawn into the eastern Mediterranean. She defeated the Hellenistic monarchs of Macedon (197 BC) and Syria (190 BC), but refrained for half a century from extending her direct rule. At length in 146 she added Macedonia to her provincial system. In 133 BC Attalus of Pergamum bequeathed his kingdom, which became the province of Asia" (p. 87). This power came between, and superseded, the Seleucid king of the north and the Ptolemaic king of the south.*