The sixth trumpet
WHAT HAPPENED ON AUGUST 11TH 1840
Many take this statement as an endorsement from Ellen White of hard core evidence that the trumpets were fulfilled (at least the first six) in the past. Is she giving an inspired statement about the interpretation of the trumpets, or was she merely recounting a notable incident in the history of the millerite movement?

Let us take a look at what Josiah Litch actually said in relation to this event in its context:

"In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown "in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August," and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: "Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days, commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case."--Josiah Litch, in Signs of the Times, and Expositor of Prophecy, Aug. 1, 1840.

At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. (See Appendix.) When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended."
The Probability of the Second Coming of Christ about A.D. 1843
Josiah Litch.

"...But when will this power be overthrown? [the Turks or the Ottoman Empire] According to the calculations already made, that the five months ended 1449, the hour, fifteen days, the day, one year, the month, thirty years, and the year, three hundred and sixty years; in all, three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days, will end in A. D. 1840, some time in the month of August. The prophecy is the most remarkable and definite, (even descending to the days) of any in the Bible, relating to these great events. It is as singular as the record [158] of the time when the empire rose... [Revelation 10:1-7 are quoted] There shall be time no longer. This scene is to take place immediately after the end of the three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days, or the drying up of the great river Euphrates. There [159] shall be no more season of mercy; for in the days of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished. The great mystery of salvation by faith shall be ended, and the year of his redeemed will come.

This is available on the Ellen White research edition that has the pioneers writings on it.
Note: This was written by Josiah Litch in 1838 he had not specified the actual day at this point, and he predicts two major events that are going to happen
What were Litch’s predictions

- Turkey or the Ottoman Empire would come to its end sometime in the month of August 1840.

- Immediately upon the close of the 6th trumpet mercy would be no more. Probation would close for all mankind.

- Just a few days before in the month of August 1840 he predicted the date and once again announced his prediction.
Here again just a few days before on August the first he published the exact date he expected the 6th trumpet to end. Also confirming his prediction that the fall of the Turkish empire would bring the 6th trumpet to a conclusion. This same event that was now predicted to happen on Aug 11 would usher in the close of probation and the end of the 6th plague on the same day.
The events that he predicted weren’t just the downfall of the ottoman empire. All of those events were predicted to happen on August 11th 1840. We need to ask ourselves. Is this what Ellen White was referring to when she said that the “event exactly fulfilled the prediction.” I believe that God allowed this to happen. The Millerite understanding on prophecy was not 100% correct and we are told that God held his hand over some mistakes in their understanding, and this is a pretty big one. I do not for one moment think that Ellen White was giving us a divine inspired endorsement of Josiah Litch’s prophetic interpretation. She did no more than simply recount this incident involving Josiah Litch that occurred during that time.

Now lets carry on with Litch’s statement
Remember this was written on August 1st 1840 the way that history has been presented we are led to believe that Josiah Litch was confident putting his neck on the line but he here is giving himself a back door to escape from in case nothing happened on that day. Allowing himself a number of months calculated error.

*Here he is saying that there is no positive evidence to prove that the dates he is using are correct. This reference is to the date July 27th 1299 which was used as the beginning date for the beginning of the ottoman empire. In 1838 he said it was a most remarkable prophecy even determining down to not just years but days. Two*
years later on August 1st he has some doubts. Even so he pushed on confident that his prediction would be true.
August 11th came and went. There is no evidence that Turkey fell, and there was no evidence that probation had closed and the issues were not addressed for nearly 3 months until November in the Signs of the Times
This is what William Miller believed. He believed that the end of the sixth trumpet would utterly completely destroy the Ottoman empire ushering in the 7th trumpet. Continuing
The following remarks of BRO. LITCH, on this question will be read with interest.

DEAR BROTHER HIMES—I seize a few moments to say the news, from the east is most thrilling on the public mind, so far as I have opportunity of witnessing.

What a prospect! nothing short of one universal blaze of war all over the old world can be anticipated. It must and will come, and for it the nations are mustering. Well, so be it.....

The world have, since the 11th of August, had a strong disposition to triumph, as though they were past all danger, and could give full scope to their opposition to the doctrine of Christ's near approach. But what will they say now? The calculation on the prophetic periods of Revelation, 9th chapter, were, that they would end August 11th, and that up to that period the Ottoman power would stand; but that that time would seal its doom.

This was published in November 1 1840
Josiah Litch on the 1st of November was now predicting an all out universal world war that was already on its way. Still with the November signs
Here Josiah Litch is admitting to the fact that nothing happened on Aug 11th but is now looking at an event that happened 4 days later on the 15th of August. And we are going to see the most destructive war the world has ever witnessed. Let's continue.
Hang on a minute. Josiah originally predicted that Turkey would be in ruins on the 11th of August and now here in November he is saying that the destruction of turkey is still a future event. The destruction of Turkey is now no longer the fulfillment of the 6th trumpet on August 11th 1840 that date has now been extended to the 15th of August at which time the Sultan, by his ambassador, presented to the Pacha of Egypt the ultimatum of the four powers. Yet he has the daring to say that it is a very striking fulfillment of the calculation because
after all it was only 4 days off predicted mark. Even saying that there is no other prophetic period in the Bible that is that accurate. Amazing how the mind works when it wants to justify something that doesn’t happen as it is supposed to But now listen to the rest of what was said in the signs of the Times of Nov 1 1840
I thought that politicians made a lot of spin. This is the best spin I have seen in ages. Previously Litch had written “The prophecy is the most remarkable and definite, (even descending to the days) of any in the Bible, relating to these great events. This prophecy was predicted to be so specific that it predicted the very day on which it would be fulfilled. But what is being said now? John was not specific enough because he was four days off he got down to the hour but not the minutes. Could John have been more specific if he needed to be? Of course. God could have told him to write. 16 minutes, An hour, a day, a month, and a year. But he didn’t. Previously it was predicted very specifically to the very day. And now in November it is okay to be 4 days off the mark because it is close enough as John couldn’t make it any more specific. This is just crazy talk.
Really did he just do that? The fulfillment of the sixth trumpet is no longer the total destruction of Turkey. It has been changed to an ultimatum presented to the Pacha of Egypt. And it didn’t even happen of the predicted date it was 4 days late. But that’s ok because John the revelator forgot to mention that there was an extra 16 minutes of prophetic time that should have been in the calculation. **This is some serious damage control.** Josiah not only changed the time of the prophecy but also the event of its fulfillment. This is serious stuff.
This was supposed to be a remarkable fulfillment of prophecy. It was supposed to be calculated specifically right down to the very day.
There are two time prophecies here.
1 There is 5 months which ended in 1449. This is reference to the 5 month period of the 5th trumpet in Revelation 9:10. Notice he does not specify an ending date in 1449.
2 There is reference to a time period of 391 years and 15 days from the 6th trumpet. If as was suggested that John should have been more specific and added 16 minutes of prophetic time to his prophecy the
calculation should have been 391 years and 19 days.
These are the two time periods that Josiah used to reach the date of August 11 1840. One belongs to the 5th trumpet and the other belongs to the 6th trumpet.
These are the two time periods that Josiah used to reach the date of August 11 1840. One belongs to the 5th trumpet and the other belongs to the 6th trumpet.
To calculate a specific prophecy to end on a specific date you must have a specific date from which to begin otherwise it doesn’t work.

How was the dates all calculated
It was given them after the rise of the Ottoman empire, to torment or harass and weaken men (the Roman empire in the east) five months. If these are prophetic months as is probable, it would be one hundred and fifty years. But when did that empire rise? Mr. Miller has fixed on A. D. 1298. Others, among whom is Gibbon, in his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, 1299. He says-Othman first invaded the territory of Nicomedia on the 27th of July, 1299. He also remarks on the singular accuracy of the date, a circumstance not often found in the history of those times. He says-"The singular accuracy with which this event, is given, seems to indicate some foresight of the rapid growth of the monster."

If we date the origin of this empire in 1299, the hundred and fifty years would end 1449. [1838 JoL, PSC 153.1]
5th trumpet - 5 months / 150 years
July 27th 1299 – July 27th 1449

6th trumpet - an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, = 391 years 15 days
July 27th 1449 – August 11 1840

Total span
541 years 15 days.
All of these dates need to have specific events that happened exactly on each and every date to make this work.

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<th>Event Duration</th>
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For the 391 years 15 days to end on August 11th 1840 specifically; it cannot begin on any other day except 27th of August 1449. This means that if Josiah Litch changed the end date by 4 days to the 15th of August then all of the other dates become absolutely useless. The whole thing unravels.
Instead of accepting a mistake it is often the case that we go into denial and try to prop it up somehow. Is it reasonable to say that something is so remarkable that it could be predicted even to the very day and then change it by 4 days while still claiming it to be a remarkable fulfillment because it was only 4 days off. Is that sensible? If we also accept that are we being rational?

Is God accurate or not?
Something went wrong. A mistake in interpretation was made and the mistake was never corrected.

God tried to warn the millerites of their mistake but the warning wasn’t heeded therefore the mistake has unwittingly been repeated by our pioneers all through the 19th century and has been handed down right even to our day uncorrected.

How did God try to warn the millerites of their mistaken interpretation.
Who was that prophet?
Who was that prophet?
Who was William Foy? When most people hear the name Foy they immediately think that he refused to declare what God told him and then the gift was taken from him and given to Ellen White. This is a mistaken identity with Hazen Foss. William Foy did declare his messages and Ellen White makes mention of Him.
E. G. White also gives clear witness to the fact that Foy was an active lecturer. She writes that as a girl of 15 or 16, she often heard him speak at assemblies in the Beethoven Hall in Portland, Maine.
E. G. White also gives clear witness to the fact that Foy was an active lecturer. She writes that as a girl of 15 or 16, she often heard him speak at assemblies in the Beethoven Hall in Portland, Maine. She writes:

“We went over to Cape Elizabeth to hear him lecture. Father always took me with him when he went, and he would be going in a sleigh, and he would invite me to get in, and I would ride with them. That was before I got anywhere acquainted with him. (William Foy).”

The Unknown Prophet, Backer p123

17 MR 95.4 Then another time, there was Foy that had had visions. He had had four visions. He was in a large congregation, very large. He fell right to the floor. I do not know what they were doing in there, whether they were listening to preaching or not. But at any rate he fell to the floor. I do not know how long he was [down]—about three quarters of an hour, I think—and he had all these [visions] before I had them. They were written out and published, and it is queer that I cannot find them in any of my books. But we have moved so many times. He had four.

Clearly Ellen White went to hear him and she declares that he was given the visions before she was given them. There is a lot of good information in the book called “The unknown prophet by Delbert Baker. It is available from the Adventist Book Centers. So can we know what his visions were? Yes they are published on the pioneers CD
That is a strange thing to say. The sixth angel hath not yet done sounding. What does it mean? It means that their conclusions about August 11th 1840 cannot be correct. Their interpretation of the 5th and 6th trumpet was wrong and if that was wrong then the whole tenner of the trumpets is most likely wrong as well. God was trying to give a message to the millerites through William Foy that their interpretation of the trumpets was not correct. But that did not happen and God allowed them to make the mistake which cemented their destiny for the great disappointment. But we should not continue to keep on making the same mistake.
For some reason the pioneers were able to drop Josiah's predictions about the close of probation and the plagues but were not able to correct the interpretation of the trumpets. I think that they just could not understand because they were not for their day. It is for our generation to understand. Let's look at what some of the pioneers were saying many decades latter.
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Uriah Smith
It is apparent that just as soon as this ultimatum should be put by the sultan into the hands of Mehemet Ali, the matter would be forever beyond the control of the former, and the disposal of his affairs would, from that moment, be in the hands of foreign powers. The sultan despatched 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 and ninety-one years and fifteen days, allotted to the continuance of the Ottoman power, ended; and where was the sultan’s independence? – GONE! Who had the supremacy of the Ottoman empire in their hands? – The four great powers; and that empire has existed ever since only by the sufferance of these Christian powers. Thus was the prophecy fulfilled to the very letter. {1897 UrS, DAR 516.1}
The power which came on the stage of action July 27, 1449, was to bear sway for an hour and a day and a month and a year, three hundred ninety-one years and fifteen days, literally speaking.

This is a wonderful prophecy, the only one in the Bible where the time of the fulfillment is given to the very day. At the end of this period, Turkey would cease to be an independent power. Three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days from July 27, 1449, brings us to August 11, 1840. There are four great waymarks in the world’s history connected with Constantinople. First, when it was founded in 330 a.d. second, its capture by the Turks July 27, 1449; third, when the sultan of Turkey signed away his independence August 11, 1840. There is no date given for the fourth great waymark; namely, when the capital of Turkey will be removed from Constantinople to Jerusalem "between the seas in the glorious holy mountain."
This treaty was signed, and the ultimatum was officially put in the power of Mehemet Ali on August 11, 1840. Since that time Turkey has been known everywhere as the "Sick Man of the East." Daniel prophesied concerning him, saying, "He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." At any moment, when the jealous powers of Europe can decide, either peaceably, or in battle, which one of them shall occupy Constantinople, the "Sick Man" will speedily take his departure from Europe. That movement, for which nations are now on the Margin alert, will be the sign of still more important changes in the heavenly court.

The importance of the prophecy, and the exactness with which it was fulfilled, to the very day, should lead to a careful investigation of that divine history, which circles about the years 1840 to 1844. {1905 SNH, SSP 178.1}
Source Book for Bible Students Containing Valuable Quotations Relating to the History, Doctrines, and Prophecies of the Scriptures
Book Code: SBBS
Date of Publication: 1919
Eastern Question, Negotiations with Egypt.—The news of the conclusion of the treaty of July had reached Constantinople, and despite some dissensions in the interior of the divan, and some objections by his mother, the sultana Valide, the sultan, always under the influence of Redschid Pasha, hastened to accept it, and forwarded the ratification to London, instructing Rifat Bey to carry to Alexandria the successive summonses, which, in the terms of the treaty, the Porte was to address to the pasha. Rifat Bey arrived at Alexandria on the 11th of August; BUT FOUND NO MEHEMET ALI THERE. He had been for some days on a tour in lower Egypt, under the pretext of visiting the canals of the Nile, but in reality to gain time, and prepare his means of defense.

This is serious. This is from our own publications available on the pioneers library. There is no way that Rifat Bey could have delivered the ultimatum on the 11th of August as the man himself was not even in Alexandria on that day. He did not even return until the 14th and then did not give an audience to Rifat Bey until the 16th.
Having returned to Alexandria on the 14th, he received Rifat Bey on the 16th, and without entering into discussion with him-scarcely giving him time to speak—he rejected the first summons prescribed by the treaty. On the following day (the 17th), the consuls of the four subscribing powers asked an audience, and remonstrated with him on his refusal. He repulsed them sharply, cut short Colonel Hodges, the English consul, and persevered in his remonstrance, saying, "I shall only yield to the saber what I have won by the saber."—"The Life and Times of Viscount Palmerston," James Ewing Richie, Division II, p. 529. The London Printing and Publishing Company, 1866. {1919, SBBS 152.7}
Eastern Question, Rifat Bey’s First Interview with Mehemet Ali.—Constantinople, Aug. 27, 1840: By
the French steamer of the 24th [of August], we have
advices from Egypt to the 16th, but they show no
alteration in the resolution of the pasha. Confiding in
the valor of his Arab army, and in the strength of the
fortifications which defended his capital, he seems
determined to abide by the last alternative; and as
recourse to this is, therefore, now inevitable, all
hope may be considered at an end of a termination
of the affair without bloodshed. **Immediately on the
arrival of the Cyclops steamer with the news of
the convention with the four powers, Mehemet
Ali, it is stated, had quitted Alexandria to make a
short tour through lower Egypt:**
the object of his absenting himself at such a moment being partly to avoid conferences with the European consuls, but principally to endeavor by his own presence to rouse the fanaticism of the Bedouin tribes, and facilitate the raising of his new levies. **During the interval of this absence, the Turkish government steamer, which had reached Alexandria on the 11th, with the envoy, Rifat Bey, on board, had been by his orders placed in quarantine, and she was not released from it till the 16th. . . .** {1919, SBBS 153.1}
On the very day on which he had been admitted to pratique [certificate of permission to land passenger and crew], the above named functionary had had an audience of the pasha, and had communicated to him the commands of the sultan with respect to the evacuation of the Syrian provinces, appointing another audience for the following day, when, in the presence of the consuls of the European powers, he would receive from him his definitive answer, and inform him of the alternative of his refusing to obey, giving him the ten days which have been allotted him by the convention to decide on the course he shall think fit to adopt.—London Morning Chronicle, Sept. 18, 1840. {1919, SBBS 153.2}

Note- the words in brackets are in the original. The facts of the matter are. Rafet Bey was in quarantine from the time they arrived on the 11th until the 16th of August and when they received their certificate of permission to land he had an audience with the pasha. He did not have any audience with the pasha prior to the 16th of August.
Therefore on the 16th of August when
Colonel Hodges to Viscount Ponsonby


On the arrival of Rifat Bey in Alexandria, Mehemet Ali was absent from thence on a tour of the Delta.

The Pasha returned to this city on the afternoon of the 14th instant. The same evening he was visited by the French Consul-General.

Early this morning, Rifat Bey was liberated from quarantine, and at half past eight o'clock, a.m., he had his first audience with the Pasha. This was private, as had been arranged between Rifat Bey and the consuls-general of the four powers.
It appears that the reception of the sultan’s envoy was anything but gracious or favorable; but the results of that interview are fully related by Rifat Bey himself, in minutes which I have the honor to inclose.

Discouraged by want of his success, Rifat Bey at first proposed an immediate return to Constantinople; but in conjunction with my colleagues, I represented to him the propriety of awaiting the expiration of the first and second periods of ten days specified in the Convention, and at the termination of which it will be proper to make new and formal summonses of compliance. With these suggestions Rifat Bey has fully concurred, and we have exerted our joint efforts to encourage the envoy, and to console him for his recent check.—Id., p. 149.

{1919, SBBS 154.7}
Suzerainty (/ˈsjuːzərənti/ or /ˈsjuːzərɛnti/) is a situation in which a powerful region or people controls the foreign policy and international relations of a tributary vassal state while allowing the subservient nation internal autonomy.

TU'TELAGE, n. [from L. tutela, protection, from tueor, to defend.]

1. Guardianship; protection; applied to the person protecting; as, the king's right of seignory and tutelage.

2. State of being under a guardian.
According to the above statement Turkey was placed under guardianship for the first time by a treaty Dated July 13, 1841.