

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, November 12, 2023
Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew
Message 110. “The Abomination of Desolation” – Matthew 24:15-35
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In Matthew 24 we find Jesus explaining the signs of the times for the end of the Old Testament Era and the inauguration of His Kingdom as He is soon to be enthroned as King of kings and vindicated in Israel. His predictions were true and came to pass, as Jerusalem was besieged and the Temple destroyed in 70 AD, just as He said it would be.

- I. See, Flee! – vs. 15-28
 - A. Therefore – vs. 1-14
 1. Then – vs. 16, 21, 23, 29, 30
 2. Those days – vs. 19, 22
 3. When you see – vs. 15, 33
 4. This generation – vs. 34
 - B. “The Devastating Pollution” – vs. 15
 1. The Abomination – Dan. 9:27; 11:31 – multiple fulfillments
 - a. Antiochus Epiphanes IV – Daniel 11:28 – BC 167
 - b. Killed 80,000 Jews, Enslaved 40,000 more
 - c. Sacrificed a pig on the altar and set up an idol of Zeus in the Temple
 - d. Maccabean Revolt won Jewish independence – BC 164 until BC 63
 2. The Jewish Revolt against Rome – 66-74 AD
 - a. Vespasian began conquering the territory – 66-68 AD
 - b. Roman Civil War – 68-69 AD
 - c. Jewish Civil War – 69 AD
 - 1) Zealots took over the Temple
 - 2) Killing Romans and Jewish Conspirators
 - d. Roman attack renewed – 69 AD
 - e. Vespasian returned to Rome to be Emperor – 70 AD
 - f. His son Titus began a 5 month siege of Jerusalem – 70 AD
 - g. Jerusalem fell and the Temple was desecrated in the fall of 70 AD
 - h. Fighting continued until the final Jewish defeat at Masada – 74 AD
 3. Let the Reader Understand – Daniel 12:10; Luke 21:20
 - C. Flee to the Mountains – vs. 16-22
 1. Great Tribulation – vs. 19-22
 - a. Covenant Curses – Deut. 28:52-68; Lam. 2:20
 - b. Second Coming vs. Judgment? – fleeing to the mountains does no good in the Day of the Lord – Rev. 6:15-17
 - c. One million + Jews killed
 2. Get Out
 - a. The church escaped to Pella – Eusebius Quote
 - b. Cut Short for the sake of the Elect, so God’s people could survive
 - D. Great Deception – vs. 23-25 – False Christs, False Signs and Wonders
 - E. Don’t Believe It! – vs. 26-28
 1. This is NOT the Second Coming
 - a. Christ’s coming will be Unmistakable

- b. Christ's coming will be Universal
 - c. Christ's coming will be Undeniable
 - 2. Vultures/Eagles – Job 39:29-30 – just as vultures circle in the sky around a dead animal//body, when you see Romans standards surrounding Jerusalem everyone is about to die
- II. The Sign of the Son of Man – vs. 29-31
 - A. Cosmic Catastrophe – vs. 29
 - 1. Immediately after “those days”
 - 2. Apocalyptic Language – literal or literary?
 - a. “Earth-Shattering” – Jer. 4:23
 - 1) Judging Edom and Babylon – Isaiah 13:9-10; 34:4 (Jesus quotes these from the LXX)
 - 2) Judging Egypt – Ezek. 32:6-8
 - 3) Judging Judah and Israel – Amos 8:9; Joel 2:10, 30-31; 3:15
 - b. “Lights Out”
 - 1) The center of religious and civil power in Israel will be destroyed
 - 2) When one power is demised another rises to take its place – Nebuchadnezzar's Statute
 - B. The Son of Man Coming – vs. 30
 - 1. Jesus coming on the clouds with power and great glory
 - a. Universal Dominion over All Nations – Dan. 7:13-14
 - b. Coming, not from heaven to earth, but from earth to the heavens – Matt. 26:64
 - 1) The Sign of the Son of Man in Heaven sitting in Power – Luke 22:66-71; Acts 7:55-56; 1 Cor. 15:21-28; Phil. 2:9-11; Col. 3:1-3; Eph. 1:20-21
 - 2) Coming on the clouds – Isa. 19:1; Psa. 18:7-12; Nah. 1:3; Ezek. 30:3; Joel 2:1-2
 - c. The destruction of the Temple vindicates the Son of Man – Zech. 11:4-14
 - 2. Israel mourns their destruction – Zech. 13:7-9; Matt. 26:31
 - C. Angels, Trumpet, the Elect, and Evangelism – vs. 31
 - 1. Angels – Messengers – Matt. 11:10
 - 2. A Great Trumpet – voices sounding forth the gospel call – Isa. 27:13; Rev. 1:10-11; 4:1; Matt. 3:3; 1 Cor. 1:21-24; 1 Thess. 1:8
 - 3. Gathering the Elect from Every Nation – Deut. 30:4; Matt. 28:18-20
- III. When Will These Things Happen? – vs. 32-35
 - A. The Seasons Change – vs. 32
 - B. Pay Attention – vs. 33
 - C. This Generation will See – vs. 34 – Luke 21:29-32; Matt. 10:23; 16:28; 26:62-64
 - D. We can trust King Jesus! – vs. 35

Quote

Eusebius – “The people of the church in Jerusalem, in accordance with a certain oracle that was given through revelation to those who were worthy in the place, were commanded to migrate from the city before the war and to settle in a certain city of Perea—Pella it was called—to which those who believed in Christ migrated from Jerusalem, so that when holy men had completely abandoned the royal capital of the Jews and the whole land of Judea, the judgment of God might at last overtake them for all their crimes against the Christ and his apostles, utterly blotting out that very generation of the wicked from among humankind.”

Cross References

Daniel 9:27

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

Daniel 11:31

31 And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 11:28

28 While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.

Daniel 12:10

10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

Luke 21:20

20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

Deuteronomy 28:52-68

52 “They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you. 53 You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the Lord your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. 54 The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, 55 so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. 56 The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, 57 her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. 58 “If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, 59 then the Lord will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses. 60 Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. 61 Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed. 62 You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God. 63 And it shall be, that just as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess. 64 “Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. 65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the

sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. 66 Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. 67 In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see. 68 "And the Lord will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."

Lamentations 2:20

20 "See, O Lord, and consider! To whom have You done this? Should the women eat their offspring, The children they have cuddled? Should the priest and prophet be slain In the sanctuary of the Lord?"

Revelation 6:15-17

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Job 39:29-30

29 From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar. 30 Its young ones suck up blood; And where the slain are, there it is."

Jeremiah 4:23

23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.

Isaiah 13:9-10

9 Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

Isaiah 34:4

4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.

Ezekiel 32:6-8

6 "I will also water the land with the flow of your blood, Even to the mountains; And the riverbeds will be full of you. 7 When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light. 8 All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land," Says the Lord God.

Amos 8:9

9 "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord God, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;

Joel 2:10

10 The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.

Joel 2:30-31

30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

Joel 3:15

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 26:64

64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Luke 22:66-71

66 As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, 67 “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will by no means believe. 68 And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. 69 Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.” 70 Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So He said to them, “You rightly say that I am.” 71 And they said, “What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”

Acts 7:55-56

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

1 Corinthians 15:21-28

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 3:1-3

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Ephesians 1:20-21

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Isaiah 19:1

19 The burden against Egypt. Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.

Psalms 18:7-12

7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies. 12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire.

Nahum 1:3

3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The Lord has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.

Ezekiel 30:3

3 For the day is near, Even the day of the Lord is near; It will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles.

Joel 2:1-2

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: 2 A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

Zechariah 11:4-14

4 Thus says the Lord my God, "Feed the flock for slaughter, 5 whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich'; and their shepherds do not pity them. 6 For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land," says the Lord. "But indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor's hand and into the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand." 7 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staves: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock. 8 I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me. 9 Then I said, "I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh." 10 And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two, that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples. 11 So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew

that it was the word of the Lord. 12 Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter. 14 Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

Zechariah 13:7-9

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the Lord of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones. 8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the Lord, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”

Matthew 26:31

31 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

Matthew 11:10

10 For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’

Isaiah 27:13

13 So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Revelation 1:10-11

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

Revelation 4:1

4 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

Matthew 3:3

3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ”

1 Corinthians 1:21-24

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the

Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:8

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

Deuteronomy 30:4

4 If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Luke 21:29-32

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

Matthew 10:23

23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Matthew 16:28

28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Matthew 26:62-64

62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" 64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."