

## The Abomination of Desolation

Matthew 24:15-28

### Introduction: Context/review

- The nature of **prophetic oracles**
  - Cyclical **diversity**
  - Chronological **compression**
  - Poetic **ambiguity**
- The frequency of **multiple/archetypical** fulfillments...with changing degrees of literalness
  - i.e. Psalm 22 (David/Jesus); Isaiah 7:10-14 (virgin)
  - Repeated...but not copied

### Example in v.14

- The Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed...
- **The whole world?**
  - “Local” - Acts 2:5; Rom 10:18 16:26; Col 1:6, 23
  - “Global” - reality of unknown continents, 2nd Coming
- **The end?**
  - End of **Old Covenant age** and its framework - the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD (local)
  - End of **this present age** and its framework - the destruction of the world at Christ’s return (global)
- Without this perspective, there are *significant* difficulties

### The Abomination of Desolation - v.15

So when you see  
the abomination of desolation  
spoken of by the prophet Daniel,<sup>[9:24-27; 11:31; 12:11]</sup>  
standing in *the holy place*  
(let the reader understand),

### **An Urgency of Response to the AoD - v.16-20**

then let those who are *in Judea*  
flee to the mountains.  
Let the one who is on the *housetop*  
not go down to take what is in his house,  
and let the one who is in *the field*  
not turn back to take his cloak.  
And alas for women who are *pregnant*  
and for those who are *nursing infants* in those days!  
*Pray* that your flight may not be in *winter*  
or on a *Sabbath*.

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### **The Context of the AoD - v.21-22**

For *then* there will be *great tribulation*,  
such as has not been from the beginning of the  
world until now, no, and never will be.  
And if those days had not been *cut short*,  
no human being would be saved.  
But for the sake of *the elect*  
those days will be cut short.

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### **Warning Against False Christs - v.23-26**

*Then* if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!'  
or 'There he is!' *do not believe it*.  
For false christs and false prophets will arise  
and perform great signs and wonders,  
so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.  
See, I have told you beforehand.  
So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,'  
*do not go out*. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner  
rooms,' do not believe it.

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### **The Coming of the Christ - v.27-28**

For as the lightning comes from the east  
and shines as far as the west,  
so will be *the coming of the Son of Man*.  
Wherever the corpse is,  
there the vultures [or eagles] will gather.

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### Conclusions/Applications

- The *reality* of the historical and climactic abrogation of the Mosaic Covenant by God in the fall of Jerusalem in 70AD
- The *possibility* of both an initial fulfillment as well as another later - for that, the rest of the Scriptures need to be consulted
- The *warning* against following after false prophets and Christs by secret knowledge and special leaders
- The *culmination* of all things in the personal, visible, and glorious return of Jesus
- The *promise* of God's preservation of His elect through the greatest of tribulations

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