

## THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

(Dan 9:27; 11:31; Mat 24:15) 04-26-20

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

Pastor Daryl Hilbert

### I. EXPLANATION OF ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

#### A. Lexical Definitions

1. In Mat 24:15 the Greek word for “**abomination**” is *bdelugma* and can mean: 1) something that is *extremely hated, abhorred, or detested*; 2) *anything connected with idolatry (Rev 17:4-5)*; 3) *that which is connected with the worship of the Antichrist* (Friberg).
2. “**Desolation**” (*erēmōsis, erēmos - desert*) can mean an action of desolation, devastation, destruction (Luk 21:20). Particularly, it is a *Hebraism meaning the detestable thing that causes desolation of abandonment [especially in regard to the Temple] (Mat 24:15)* [Friberg].

#### B. Theological Definitions

1. Warren Wiersbe says, *What is the abomination of desolation? It is the image of the beast, set up in the temple in Israel in Jerusalem. An idol is bad enough; but setting it up in the temple is the height of all blasphemy. Since Satan could not command worship in heaven, he will go to the next best place the Jewish temple in the Holy City.*
2. It ultimately refers to the act of the Antichrist whereby he sets up himself and his image in God’s holy sanctuary, causing Israel to forsake the Temple for worship. This was prophesied by Daniel (Dan 9:27), confirmed by Jesus (Mat 24:15), and reiterated by Paul (2Th 2:3-4).

C. Scriptural Usage - The phrase is used various times in Scripture (Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Mat 24:15; Mar 13:14) and is implied numerous other times (2Th 2:3-4; “image” - Rev 13:14-15; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).

### II. ANTIOCHUS’ ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Dan 11:31)

#### A. Antiochus IV Epiphanes

1. Historical Figure - There is a very clear historical figure in the book of Daniel, though he is not mentioned specifically by name. His name is Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
2. Detailed Prophecy - Daniel gave some of the most detailed facts in his prophecy (Dan 8:9-14, 23-25; 11:21-35) that leave little doubt among the majority of scholars as to his identity.
3. Greek Rulers - Dan 11 gives an incredibly detailed description of the history and background of the rulers in the Greek Empire: Alexander the Great (Dan 11:3), His Four Generals (Dan 11:4-9), Antiochus III (Dan 11:10-20), Antiochus IV Epiphanes (Dan 11:21-35).
4. Not Antichrist - Since Antiochus is one of the last Greek rulers, he cannot be confused with the Antichrist who will come from the Revived Roman Empire.
5. Type of Antichrist - Antiochus will be a type of Antichrist by his ruthless character described by Daniel as “insolent,” an “extraordinary” destroyer, deceitful, one who “magnifies himself,” and one who “opposes the Prince of princes” (Dan 8:23-25). **He will especially be a type of Antichrist when he commits the “Abomination of Desolation.”**
6. Antiochus IV in Daniel and History
  - a. He persecuted the Jews after failing to get all of Egypt’s riches (Dan 11:24-28).
  - b. He killed over 80,000 Jews after a Hellenistic priest’s conspiracy against him.
  - c. He brought his most fierce persecution on the Jews after Rome caused him to make peace with Egypt (“drew a line in the sand” - Dan 11:29-30).

#### B. Abomination of Desolation (Dan 11:31)

1. Dan 11:30-31 not only describes some of the evil actions of Antiochus Epiphanes but also uses the phrase “abomination of desolation.”
2. Antiochus took out his military frustrations upon the Jewish people and killed those who would not **forsake** God’s **holy covenant** (Mosaic System, v. 30 cf. Dan 8:10).
3. Antiochus ordered his **forces** (soldiers) to carry out his sacrilegious plans (v. 31).

4. The soldier's presence **desecrated** the sanctuary fortress, where Gentiles were forbidden entrance by penalty of death.
5. Antiochus forbade the Jews to make **regular sacrifices** to Yahweh (cf. Dan 8:11).
6. Antiochus committed the "**abomination of desolation**" by setting up an image of Zeus in the Temple, sacrificing a pig on the altar (cf. Lev 7:21; 11:7-8; Deu 14:8), and pouring its broth on the altar Temple (cf. 1Mac 1:41-50; 2Mac 6:2 cf. Antiquities of the Jews 12:253).
7. Daniel prophesied about Antiochus IV and made him a prefigure of the future Antichrist.

### III. ANTICHRIST'S ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Dan 9:27)

- A. Antichrist - The great prophecy of Dan 9:27 does not refer to Antiochus but to a more notorious figure in the future, i.e. the Antichrist.
- B. Seventieth Week - The "seventy weeks" decreed for Daniel's people (Jews) have almost all been fulfilled (69 weeks - Dan 9:24-26). The seventieth week ("**one week**") will be fulfilled in the 7-year Tribulation, during which time the Antichrist will not only rule but also commit the "abomination of desolation" (Dan 9:27).
  1. The Antichrist will make a covenant with "**the many**" (Jews) for "one week" (7 yrs.).
  2. The **covenant** will allow Israel to build a Temple and carry out sacrifices.
  3. In the **middle** of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will break the covenant and come to power.
  4. The broken covenant will forbid the Jews from **sacrifices** and **offerings** to Yahweh.
  5. It is then that the Antichrist will commit the **abomination of desolation**.
- C. Abomination of Desolation (Dan 9:27)
  1. Antichrist's Image - The abomination will be two-fold. First, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will set up an image of Antichrist in the Temple (Rev 13:14-15; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4 - 8vv.).
    - a. Antichrist's followers will make the image because he was raised from the dead (Rev 13:14).
    - b. Antichrist's image will be placed in the Temple. This is probably what is meant by "**on the wing**" (i.e. on the wing of the Temple, cf. Dan 8:11; Mat 24:15).
    - c. Antichrist's image will breathe, speak, and kill non-worshippers (Rev 13:15).
    - d. Antichrist's image will be "worshipped" (Rev 13:15; 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).
    - e. Antichrist's plan will be to desecrate the Temple for Jewish worshippers so that the Temple becomes **desolate** or abandoned from Jewish worship of Yahweh.
  2. Antichrist's Throne - The second abominable action of the Antichrist will be to sit upon a throne in the Temple (2Th 2:3-4).
    - a. Antichrist will take his **seat in the Temple**. When he is not in the Temple on his throne his followers will worship his image in the Temple.
    - b. Antichrist will exalt himself above all other **objects of worship** (Rev 17:16)
    - c. Antichrist will magnify himself and proclaim himself as **being God**.
    - d. Antichrist will seek to be worshipped by the world (Rev 13:8; 14:9, 11; 19:20; 20:4)

### IV. CHRIST'S PROPHECY OF ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Mat 24:15)

- A. Timing of Fulfillment (Mat 24:15)
  1. Great Tribulation - There is a controversy over the timing of the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy about the "abomination of desolation." Jesus stated that the timing of the abomination of desolation will be during the time of a "great tribulation" (i.e. Tribulation - Mat 24:21 cf. "birth pangs - Mat 24:8).
  2. Unparalleled in History - He described that future time as the worst time of tribulation that the world will ever experience. As horrific as the destruction of Jerusalem was in A.D. 70, it does not fit Jesus' description.
  3. Precursor to Second Coming - Jesus mentioned the "abomination of desolation" in an answer to the disciples' question concerning the sign of His coming (Mat 24:3). Jesus gave

several signs that will be precursors to His coming, and the “abomination of desolation” was one of them (Mat 24:27, 30). That does not describe the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

4. Not Fulfilled by Titus - If the “abomination of desolation” happened in A.D. 70, then that necessarily means that Titus was the Antichrist. However, Titus does not fit the characteristics of the Antichrist according to Josephus’ account. Nor does Titus fit the timeline of the Antichrist’s destruction after the “abomination of desolation.” Titus lived until A.D. 81, which was much longer than “1,290 days.” (Dan 12:11 cf. Dan 7:25; 9:27 cf. Rev 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

B. Results of Fulfillment

1. The Abomination of Desolation will be a catalyst to forsake all other religions (Rev 17:16).
2. The world will worship the beast and his image (Rev 13:8, 14-15).
3. Israel will go into hiding until Christ returns (Mat 24:16 cf. Rev 12:6).
4. The Abomination of Desolation will be a sign of Christ’s return (Mat 24:27, 30; Rev 19:11).
5. The Antichrist will be seized and thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev 19:20).
6. Worshipers of the beast and his image will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev 14:9-11).
7. Only believers will be victorious over the beast, his image, and number (Rev 15:2; 20:4).

V. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

- A. Abhorrent Pandemic (Abortion)
- B. Dominion of Darkness (Col 1:13; 1Joh 3:8)

QUOTES

**SACRIFICED SWINE ON THE ALTAR - JOSEPHUS**

JOE Antiquities of the Jews 12:253 *And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the Law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day...*

**TITUS - JOSEPHUS**

Wars of the Jews 1:10 *for that it was a seditious temper of our own that destroyed it; and that they were the tyrants among the Jews who brought the Roman power upon us, who unwillingly attacked us, and occasioned the burning of our holy temple; Titus Caesar, who destroyed it, is himself a witness, who, during the entire war, pitied the people who were kept under by the seditious, and did often voluntarily delay the taking of the city, and allowed time for the siege, in order to let the authors have opportunity for repentance.*

**DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE - JOSEPHUS**

War of the Jews 6:241 *But Titus said, that “although the Jews should get upon that holy house, and fight us from there, yet ought we not to revenge ourselves on things that are inanimate, instead of the men themselves;” and that he was not in any case for burning down so vast a work as that was, because this would be a mischief to the Romans themselves, as it would be an ornament to their government while it continued.*

War of the Jews 6:252 At which time one of the soldiers, without waiting for any orders, and without any concern or dread upon him at so great an undertaking, and being hurried on by a certain divine fury, snatched something out of the materials that were on fire, and being lifted up by another soldier, he set fire to a golden window, through which there was a passage to the rooms that were around the holy house, on the north side of it.

War of the Jews 6:254 And now a certain person came running to Titus, and told him of this fire, as he was resting himself in his tent after the last battle; whereupon he rose up in great haste, and, as he was, ran to the holy house, in order to have a stop put to the fire;

**MACARTHUR ON MAT 24:15**

*... Jesus clearly was looking toward a yet-future “abomination of desolation.” Some suggest that this prophecy was fulfilled in a.d. 70 when Titus invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the temple (see note on v. 2). However, the Apostle Paul saw a still-future fulfillment (2 Thess. 2:3, 4), as did John (Rev. 13:14, 15)—when the Antichrist sets up an image in the temple during the future tribulation. Christ’s words here therefore look beyond the events of a.d. 70 to a time of even greater global cataclysm that will immediately precede His coming (cf. vv. 29–31). MSB Mat 24:15*













An illustration of a temple with a golden statue, a devil-like figure, and a stone tablet. The scene is set in a grand, classical-style building with columns and a large staircase. A golden statue with a horned head stands in the center. To the left, a figure with a red devil-like face and horns sits on a ledge. To the right, a stone tablet with a white object on it sits on a ledge. The sky is a mix of green and yellow, suggesting a hazy or dramatic atmosphere.

**THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**  
**(Dan 9:27; 11:31; Mat 24:15)**

**THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**  
**(Dan 9:27; 11:31; Mat 24:15) 04-26-20**

- I. EXPLANATION OF ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**
- II. ANTIOCHUS' ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Dan 11:31)**
- III. ANTICHRIST'S ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Dan 9:27)**
- IV. CHRIST'S PROPHECY OF ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Mat 24:15)**



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream		Dan 2:37-45	7:1-8	8:3-11
	<b>GOLD</b>	<b>BABYLONIAN (605-539 B.C.)</b> (Dan 2:32, 37-38; 7:4) (King Nebuchadnezzar)		
	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>MEDO-PERSIAN (539-331 B.C.)</b> (Dan 2:32, 39a; 5:31; 6:28; 7:5) (Cyrus the Great)		
	<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>GREEK (331 - 63 B.C.)</b> (Dan 2:32, 39b; 7:6) (Alexander the Great)		
	<b>IRON</b>	<b>ROMAN (63 B.C. - A.D. 476)</b> (Dan 2:33, 40; 7:7a) (Caesars)		  Antiochus Epiphanes (Type of Antichrist)
	<b>IRON /CLAY</b>	<b>REVIVED EMPIRE OF 10 KINGS</b> (Dan 2:33, 41-43; 7:7b-8, 11, 19-21, 23-25; 9:26; Rev 12:3; 13:1) (Little Horn - Antichrist)		
	<b>STONE</b>	<b>CHRIST'S MILLENN. KINGDOM</b> (Dan 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; Rev 20:4) (The Lord Jesus Christ)		

## 3½ Years occurs 5X's in Revelation!

Clustered together in 3 consecutive chapters at Rev 11, 12 & 13!

$$3\frac{1}{2} \text{ Years} \times 2 = 7$$

### In Daniel (3 times)

- 1) "time, times, and a half time" (Dan 7:25)
- 2) "middle of the week" (Dan 9:27)
- 3) "1,290 days" (1,260 + 30 days of preparation) (Dan 12:11)

### In Revelation

- 1) Gentile Occupation- 42 months (Rev 11:2)
- 2) Two Witnesses - 1260 days (Rev 11:3)
- 3) Israel in Wilderness - 1260 days (Rev 12:6)
- 4) Israel in Wilderness - Time, Times, ½ (Rev 12:14)
- 5) Antichrist's blasphemy - 42 months (Rev 13:5)

Its all the same amount of time expressed in different ways!

$$3\frac{1}{2} \text{ Years} = 42 \text{ Months} = 1,260 \text{ Days} = \text{Time Times \& } \frac{1}{2} \text{ a Time.}$$