

Abomination of Desolation: The Primary Sign of the Great Tribulation

Tonight, I was going to share on Daniel 9 but central to Daniel 9 is the subject of the abomination of desolation. That is a very significant topic in the Scriptures related to the end times, and it is the primary sign of the Great Tribulation. I want to give a little overview of what the abomination of desolation is. I think that with this, you will be able to fit different dynamics of the end times together in a way that will make more sense if you are new with this subject.

WHAT IS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION?

Roman numeral I. What is the abomination of desolation? Let's read the passage here in Matthew 24:15-22, as this is Jesus speaking. He said in Matthew 24:15-22: "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

Catch this phrase here: "When you see it standing in the holy place, the abomination of desolation is spoken of as standing in the holy place." It is a statue; it is an idol of the Antichrist that will be erected in the temple in Jerusalem. That temple is not even built yet, but it has to be rebuilt. Right now in Israel, there is a lot of energy about rebuilding the temple. Jesus said that, "you are going to see a statue, or an idol of the Antichrist." He does not say that right here, but when you put all the verses together, that is what He is talking about.

THE IDOL IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

The idol is going to stand in the temple or the holy place. The holy place is one of the departments of the temple in Jerusalem. Then, Matthew inserts this parenthesis here. Matthew says in verse 15, "whoever is reading this, let them understand." In other words, you need to understand what is going on in Daniel 9, Daniel 11, and Daniel 12. So Matthew adds the parenthesis as his little footnote. It is as if Jesus says, "Go study what the abomination of desolation is." For when you see it standing in the temple in Jerusalem, Matthew 24:16, then get out of town. Jesus is speaking to the people who live in Jerusalem or Judea, which is the region right around Jerusalem.

He warns in Matthew 24:15: "When you see this"—He is talking about believers, as believers will be here. Believers will be able to see this with their eyes or hear about it. It will be a huge event. Jesus warned us in Matthew 24:16 that if you are in the area, "flee to the mountains." He warns not to even get a coat but to leave immediately.

When the Antichrist sets his idol or his statue in the temple in Jerusalem, at that time, he is going to change his presentation of himself to the world. Up until that time, he is presenting himself as a prince of peace, as a man of peace who cares for the welfare of the earth. When he sets that statue in there, he is going to then declare that he is God. He is going to demand that the entire world worship him as God, or he will kill them. When he does this, he is immediately going to change the way he is relating to Israel and the whole earth.

Jesus tells those who are around the city of Jerusalem to leave immediately, to not even pack a bag, to flee to the hills, and hide right now. Matthew 24:21: “For then there will be great tribulation, such as he has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Jesus is warning us that when you see the abomination of desolation, then understand the Great Tribulation is right now beginning. He said in verse 22 one of the most dramatic statements that are easily overlooked: Jesus says this, “Unless those days were shortened no flesh—“no human beings—“would be saved.” Jesus is talking about people being saved physically. He is not talking about somebody being born again. He is talking about nobody would physically survive the trauma that is coming to the earth. Those days have been shortened to three and a half years. If they went on for a decade or so, the entire human race would be killed. This is Jesus the prophet who is more than a prophet; He is fully God, but He is speaking in a prophetic way. He says it will be so severe and it all centers on the event of the abomination of desolation.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION WILL SIGNAL THE BEGINNING

Paragraph A. The abomination of desolation clearly signals the beginning of the Great Tribulation. The Church will see this, and the Church will not be raptured and gone. The Church will be on the earth. Therefore, believers in Jesus who are reading the gospels and who believe the gospels will be able to witness this event with their eyes.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION INVOLVES WORLDWIDE PRACTICE

Paragraph B. The abomination of desolation involves a specific worldwide practice that is an abomination to God. The abomination of desolation is multitudes practicing that which is an abomination to God—they are worshiping the Antichrist as God. This abomination will lead to the desolation or the destruction of many people and many nations. The abomination of desolation is an abominable practice that results in the desolation or the destruction of the nations of the earth. It is an abominable practice; it is worshiping the Antichrist. It will lead to the desolation, or you can use the word destruction of the nations of the earth, as well as the people in those nations.

This abomination begins when the Antichrist claims to be God. It will not begin until that happens. This will be a surprising announcement. Up until this point and time, he will appear to have such wisdom. He will appear to be so reasonable. He will have answers to very difficult problems to solve the dilemmas in the world—politically, economically, military, and agriculturally. He will have great wisdom, and it will seem out of character to make this huge statement, but he will make it. Then, he will back it up with miracles. Hundreds of millions and I

would venture to say billions, more than hundreds of millions of people, he will force them by law to worship him. He will legislate this.

THE ABOMINATION BEGINS WHEN THE ANTICHRIST CLAIMS TO BE GOD

The Antichrist will demand, “You must worship me.” It will be a law of which he will seek to enforce worldwide. Because he will seek to enforce this law, many will willingly accept it. Others will accept it reluctantly, but they will accept it. Others will accept it enthusiastically. This will be an abominable practice, or an abomination, which is an evil practice before God that has never ever been equaled in history: hundreds of millions of people will worship the false Christ as the true Messiah.

Paul the apostle talks about this in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. He says in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come”—the Day of the Lord, or the coming of the Lord will not come until two things happen—“unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.”

Number one: the falling away comes first. Number two: the man of sin who is the Antichrist, that is one of his titles, is revealed. Then Paul gives a second name to the man of sin, or the Antichrist. He calls him the son of perdition, which means judgment, the son of eternal judgment. This man will be revealed, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, it describes it now really specific: “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” The Antichrist will oppose, that is a key word, and exalt himself above everything that which is called God. He will oppose everything that is related to God—everything. He will oppose it with force. He will use laws. He will use pressure. He will use deceptive miracles—“power, signs, and lying wonders” is what 2 Thessalonians 2:9 says. He will oppose everything that is called God, or everything that is related to the true God of Israel.

He will oppose everything related to God. He will oppose everything that is worshiped. He will oppose all the false religions of the world as well. He will not tolerate any religion but his own. So that, here Paul says it really clearly: this man will sit as God in the temple, and that is the temple of Jerusalem. He will go to the Jerusalem temple. He will sit in the holy place and declare that he is God before the whole world. It says that he will show himself that he is God, which is saying the same thing in a different way. He will sit in the temple. Remember the temple in Jerusalem right now does not even exist. For 2,000 years, this passage has really confused the theologians because Israel was not even in the land. How can Israel have a temple in Jerusalem if they do not even have a homeland? For 2,000 years, the scholars have tripped over this saying, “we do not know what Paul is talking about. In what sense could the Antichrist sit in the temple of Jerusalem because Israel is not a nation anymore?”

Suddenly after 2,000 years in 1948, they become a nation. Now the context is set for them to build the temple in Jerusalem. Right now, there is a tremendous amount of energy amongst religious authorities in the land to build the temple, and it will be built. This temple will be used in evil ways. The Antichrist will sit in the temple and declare that he is God.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL SET UP AN IDOL OF HIMSELF IN THE TEMPLE

Paragraph C. The Antichrist will set up an idol, or you can use the word image. That is what the book of Revelation calls it, an image—the image of the Beast. It is the same thing as a statue or an idol. It will be an idol of him. Then he will command the nations of the earth to worship him. Multitudes will join into this blasphemy—multitudes. This will be the greatest abomination in God’s eyes in all of human history. Nothing will equal this abomination so much so that it is the called the abomination of desolation. There is only one. Daniel 8:13:

“Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, ‘How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?’” Daniel calls it the “transgression of desolation”—it is the great sin of human history where the masses of the earth will worship fervently the messiah, but it is the false messiah.

THE ABOMINATION OF GOD WILL OCCUR IN TWO WAYS

Paragraph D. I want to say this. This will be the greatest abomination in all of history, but this will be the Church’s greatest hour. I want to make sure that we say that. The Church will be here, and it is our greatest hour. In the greatest hour of the Church; we will reach levels of purity and power in context to the greatest hour of abomination in history before God. It is very dramatic.

God’s answer is as simple as this: Paul even called it the foolishness, the so-called foolishness. He did not mean it in the full sense of the word. He goes it is the foolishness of preaching. He said that God’s answer is going to be human beings saying what God is said, and that is going to release the power and solve the problem. That is 1 Corinthians 1:18-24: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 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. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. It is called the foolishness of preaching.”

God’s answer in this conflict is people like you and me—weak people. The world is in confusion. The Spirit of God is hovering over the earth—I am using the language of Genesis 1—waiting for the Word of God to be spoken. Then He will move in power. He will not move in power except when the Word goes first. The Lord says, “The balance of the whole human race and how they will respond will be dynamically related to the Church proclaiming the truth in that hour. The Church will tell the nations what is actually happening because they are the only ones with understanding. Through the foolishness of preaching or say it differently, the foolishness of proclaiming God’s Word, the power will go forth, and confusion will be broken.”

The question of the hour is, “Who will these messengers be, and will they be prepared?” Well, I assure you God will have a sufficient number of prepared messengers. It will not fail. The question is, “Will you be one of the prepared ones? Will you understand, will you make sense of these things so you can speak them with authority?”

As these events begin to happen, a lot of believers will for the first time be grappling with the ideas; they will be reading these passages saying, “It is all so confusing, I do not get it.” God will have already raised up messengers who have wrestled and came to understanding of these truths with clarity. That is why we want to get clarity now. We do not want to be figuring it out then. We want to have boldness and confidence then; we do not want uncertainty and confusion about these Bible verses.

THE ABOMINATION TO GOD WILL OCCUR IN TWO WAYS

Paragraph D. The abomination will happen in two ways. First, the Antichrist will demand to be received as God. The very fact that he is making this claim is a sign. This demand is one facet of the abomination. That is enough, with signs and wonders to back it up, and he will make it a global legislation. He will seek to enforce this. He will demand that you have to worship this image in every nation by law.

The second thing that makes it an abomination is that hundreds of millions will fully and freely accept it; hundreds of millions, and I actually think it will be several billion. It is the fact that he is claiming, and the fact that multitudes say yes. Those are the two issues that God looks on the earth and says, “This is an abomination before Me.”

THE ANTICHRIST WILL SEEK TO BRING DESOLATION TO ALL

Paragraph E. The Antichrist will bring desolation. For desolation you could put the word “destruction.” He will seek to bring destruction. He will not be successful in all of this because we will be operating in the power of God. We, I mean the Body of Christ worldwide, we will operate in the power of God. There will be many martyrs, but there will be many who are delivered by the power of God. God still has the ability to shut the mouth of lion in the lion’s den. There will be much supernatural deliverance. The Antichrist will not be able to bring desolation on everyone who refuses this. There will be a triumphant victorious Church that the Lord will come and meet in the sky—that is called the rapture, in the time of the second coming He will do that.

Paragraph E. The Antichrist will want to bring desolation to the people who refuse to accept him, and then on the other hand, God will bring desolation on the people who accept the Antichrist as God. This is really going to be a dramatic, difficult time. Everybody on the earth will have to decide. There will be no grey area. You have to accept it or reject it. Even the resisters who have not accepted Jesus at that time, they will be rejecting this claim of the Antichrist. They will be hiding and fleeing. They will be saying “no”—nobody will be left in the balance to just kind of do what they want. Everybody has to choose.

EVERYONE HAS TO CHOOSE WHO THEY WILL WORSHIP

Beloved, I want to say this again. God's mercy is messengers who are declaring in the neighborhoods and in the schools, in the big arenas, in large and small ways, they are declaring what the word of God is saying about these events. So the Antichrist will bring desolation to the people who say no, or he will seek to. He will not be successful 100 percent of the time by any means, but it will be severe.

God will bring desolation to those who say yes to this statue. The Antichrist will claim to be the messiah and that he is the true God. The very claim and acceptance of people, and the rejection of this by people will bring desolation in these two ways. Antichrist will bring some and God will bring the other, but it will bring desolation to the earth.

SATAN DEMANDS WORSHIP FROM THE WHOLE EARTH

Paragraph F. The very thing that Satan wanted from Jesus in Matthew 4 is what he is going to demand from the whole earth. In Matthew 4:9, Satan tried to get Jesus to worship him by saying, "And all these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me." Satan promises to give Jesus all of the kingdoms, as Satan wants worship.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL DEMAND TO BE WORSHIPPED AS AN IDOL

Paragraph G. A very familiar story in Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon made a statue. Most of you are familiar with this story. Nebuchadnezzar made a statue—a golden statue of himself—or that represented him at least. He made everyone in his kingdom come to that statue, bow down, and worship, or he burned them alive in the furnace. You know the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. These three young Jewish men, probably about twenty years old, they said, "No, we are not bowing down. We are slaves in Babylon." As you know Babylon is modern day Iraq. They said, "We are in work camps in Iraq, and we are Jewish boys. We are not worshipping that statue."

They were thrown into the fiery furnace, but Jesus appeared in the furnace. Jesus delivered them. That is a clear picture: it is not an accidental picture. It is an intentional picture of the Antichrist raising up a statue, not just in Babylon, but the statue will be in the Jerusalem temple itself. He will require the whole world to worship it. Many will die, and many will be supernaturally delivered just like Daniel's three friends were.

SUPERNATURAL STATUE OF THE ANTICHRIST AND MARK OF THE BEAST

Roman numeral II. The supernatural image of the Antichrist will breathe. This statue will be different from Nebuchadnezzar's because it will breathe and talk. Can you imagine a statue breathing and talking of its own power? It will be demonic power. This image will be backed up with the mark of the Beast. You have to take the mark of the Beast, which is making a commitment that you will worship the Antichrist before this statue. The mark of the Beast, and the image of the Beast are two components of the abomination of desolation.

Revelation 13:4: "They worshiped the Beast saying, "Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?" This is talking about the nations of the world; they worshiped the

Antichrist. They are basically saying, “Who is like him?” There is nobody on the earth who is as powerful as the Beast. Then they say the next question in Revelation 13:4: “Who is able to make war against him?” Who can resist him effectively? Their answer as far as they are concerned is nobody can resist him effectively.

Revelation 13:5: “He was given authority to continue for forty-two months.” The Antichrist was given authority to continue for forty-two months The Antichrist will be able to move in this tremendous dimension of power for forty-two months, or three and a half years.

Revelation 13:7: “It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.” He is actually able to overcome the saints, which means to kill them. The book of Revelation says several times that the saints overcome him. We overcome him spiritually by refusing to yield in our heart. He overcomes the saints physically, and the saints overcome him spiritually. The Antichrist will say, “If you do not give me your heart, I will kill you, and we will overcome him by refusing.” Again, many saints will be supernaturally delivered, but many saints will be overcome physically, but spiritually they are called overcomers.”

LARGEST WORLDWIDE WORSHIP MOVEMENT OF THE ANTICHRIST

Revelation 13:8: “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life.” All who dwell on the earth who are not born again believers, they worship the Antichrist. Can you imagine how successful this worship movement will appear? It will be the largest worship movement in history up until that time. All of the nations, all of the false religions will disavow their religion and join this one. Of course, he will have a talking, breathing statue, with miracles and economic sanctions. These sanctions will help force the people to worship him. All of the nations, all on the earth will worship him. It will be the largest religious momentum ever in history up until that time. There is another worship movement just around the corner after this that will be bigger because all of the kings of the earth will worship Jesus. The whole thing will be reversed after three-and-a-half years.

Revelation 13:11, John says, “I saw another beast.” Just so you know, and you are not confused, thirty-seven times in the book of Revelation it says “the beast.” In Revelation, it says “the Antichrist” thirty-six times. Revelation 13:11 is the only time the word “beast” is used for the false prophet. Every other time, when the false prophet is the false prophet. Do not get too confused by this verse 11? It is just the only time that the false prophet is called another beast. There is a reason for that, but I do not want to go into that right now.

Revelation 13:12: “And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.” The false prophet exercises all the authority of the Antichrist. He causes the earth to worship the first Beast, or the Antichrist, whose deadly head wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven. He deceives those on the earth by these signs.

Here is what the false prophet does, in Revelation 13:14: “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast.” He tells the people on the earth to make an image to the Beast. I find that interesting. You would think that the

Antichrist would just make it, but the nations of the earth make it because my opinion is that there will be an image of the Beast in Antichrist worship sanctuaries all over the earth. Every local town and village will make one that will be connected to the main one in Jerusalem.

Revelation 13:14: on worldwide communication, the false prophet tells the earth to go make an image of the Beast for your geographic area. That is what I believe that means. I do not think all the nations are making one image; I think they are making one in their area that connects to the main one.

Revelation 13:15, here is where it gets really unusual. Revelation 13:15: “He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” The false prophet gave breath. He like laid hands on it, prayed for it, and it breathed. It is by demonic power, but it is remarkable. The whole earth is absolutely stunned by this. He gave breath to the image of the Beast. The image would both speak, and this statue will do more than speak. The statue would legislate. It would cause people to be killed who did not obey and did not worship. The statue will speak, but it will go beyond just speaking and giving information.

That is dramatic enough that it breathes and speaks. It will be force the people’s of the earth to obey his commands. The statue is giving commands all over the earth. Go kill the people who will not worship. My guess is, knowing how Satan’s kingdom operates; this speaking statue will be an expression in all the local areas of the whole earth—in every little village, in every out of the way place, there will have one of these statues.

THE STATUE WILL BE AN IMAGE OF THE ANTICHRIST AND SPEAK

What will the statue be speaking? I believe the statue will be speaking in false prophecy. I think he will be telling people the dreams that they had the night before. It will be by demons, all of these statues will be speaking by demons. The guy will say, “How did he know my dream?” A demon gave you that dream last night, and that is how come he knows your dream. Demons give dreams, and other demons in the statue will tell them. People will be amazed and think, “This must be God. Nobody knows this about me.”

I believe this statue will even do more. The statues will instruct people, “You must go kill the people, or I will kill you, if you do not.” I think he will threaten and harass even his loyal supporters of the Antichrist. They will be threatened by the Antichrist. That is how Satan’s kingdom works. Whatever it is that this statue is saying, it is causing the worshipers of the Beast to go kill the people who will not worship. Whatever they are hearing, it is convincing them to go kill believers and the resisters. Revelation 13:16: “He causes all, both small and the great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads.” The whole gamut of society will receive a mark, and nobody can buy or sell without the mark. You know that idea.

THE GREAT CATALYTIC EVENT

Paragraph B. The great climatic event that thrust the Antichrist into worldwide prominence is in this passage. He has a deadly head wound and gets healed. That is the event right before the abomination of desolation. When his head wound gets healed, and I do not want to go into that right now, but when his head wound gets healed, the abomination of desolation, the abominable act that causes people to be desolate. The Antichrist will destroy one group that says no to him, and God will destroy the group that says yes to the Antichrist. Desolation will fill the earth.

Right after the catalytic event of the head wound, I mean this will shock the earth because the Antichrist will say ahead of time, “I will die, but I will rise again.” It will be a parody; it will be an intentional mockery of Jesus’ death and resurrection. I have no doubt that he will even appeal to it and say, “Nobody ever saw with their own eyes Jesus die and rise from the dead.” You saw me, you heard my testimony, I told you and it happened. They will say, you know, you are the real one. The Antichrist will say, “Jesus is the counterfeit, He did not really die and come back. I am the real one that the Prophets talked about.” Many believers will fall away. He will be there in the temple of Jerusalem. They are thinking, “Where would the messiah come besides the temple in Jerusalem?” That is the most natural place for the messiah to come.

When Jesus returns in Ezekiel 43, He will set up His throne in the temple in Jerusalem. Ezekiel 43, the real Jesus will rule the earth from the Jerusalem temple, and the Antichrist is doing it ahead of time, but it will create desolation. When Jesus does it, it will bring peace to the whole earth and righteousness. The very fact of him wanting to set up in the temple is a counterfeit of Jesus doing it at the second coming. He is trying to beat Jesus to it, but it will not work. When Jesus does it, it will bring righteousness and peace to the earth; but when the Antichrist does it, it will bring desolation to the earth.

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST IS WHEN THE ANTICHRIST SETS UP AN IDOL

Paragraph C. The image of the Beast speaks of when the Antichrist sets up—and that is the word—set up, that Daniel uses. The angel told Daniel, when the abomination of desolation is set up in the temple because it is an idol that is being set into the temple. It is a statue. Jesus also warned that when you see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, which means that the idol is standing there. That is just different terminology. You can say the abomination of desolation is set up in the holy place, or it is standing. Those are two different terms that point to the same thing, two biblical terminologies about the same event. My guess is that this image will resemble the Antichrist. It might even sound like him when he talks. It will convince the world that they ought to worship the Antichrist.

THE STATUE WILL COMBINE CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY AND DEMONS

Paragraph D. The statue will combine cutting edge technology with a supernatural demonic element causing the image to breathe and speak. I do not believe that will be all demons; there will be demons for sure, but there will also be cutting-edge technology that is far more advanced than what we have right now, or the next couple of decades, if the Lord tarries.

The holograms will be like the Antichrist in real person. The nations will have to make these idols, but demons will empower them. My guess is they are high tech idols. It is not just a piece of wood. There is technology related to it. It will probably have some kind of hologram type thing at a far more sophisticated level than we even know about right now.

The Antichrist will speak, and it will be like he is right there before them talking in person, but it is technology and demons working together. It will be his counterfeit omnipresence. It will be his way of saying, “I am everywhere because I am God. Look, my statue is able to prophesy in all the cities of the earth to the people.”

I cannot say with certainty that he will prophesy, but I think he will because whatever he says causes the nations to worship. The spirit of prophecy is what Jesus uses in Revelation 19:10, to tell His testimony and then people worship Him. Revelation 19:10: “Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.” The Antichrist is counterfeiting so much of what the true Christ is doing. The true Christ is using the spirit of prophecy, and He is pouring out the spirit of prophecy. Revelation 19:10, the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus’ heart. He speaks what is on His heart, and then the people worship Him. I am assuming that the Antichrist is counterfeiting the true Christ in so many dimensions and will counterfeit Him in this as well.

Whatever he is speaking, it is effective. I have here that like in a séance, séances are so deceptive, they get around the table, and they do whatever they do to get it ready; then, the medium sounds like the deceased loved ones. It sounds like their voice, and their medium goes into this trance like state. Then the medium says a secret that only the deceased person, and the person receiving this know. The person says, “It must be my aunt or uncle, brother or whatever. Nobody knows it.” But really it is a demon that is lying, and the demons knew it. It is not their Aunt Susie talking through a medium; it is a demon talking through a medium. The same kind of deception is going to take place. Maybe even the voices will change, and the information will change.

It will be very, very powerful, and many believers will buy into it. They will say, “Well, the Lord said there would be a spirit of prophecy. This guy is in the Jerusalem temple, and he is fulfilling prophecy. He did die and come back. He has an anointing of prophecy on him. How do you know that you have the right Jesus?”

We will say, “Because all of this was foretold in the Scripture, and we have the spirit of truth in us called the Holy Spirit.”

PEOPLE WILL WORSHIP THE IMAGE OR THE STATUE OF THE ANTICHRIST
Paragraph E. It says in Revelation 14:9-12: “A third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of the God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of torment ascends

forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

The image of the Beast is worshiped and not just the Beast. People worship the statue all over the world. They can worship the statue in person, whereas they will not have many occasions to see the Antichrist in person. Again I am assuming this statue or this image has a local expression all around the world in all the little villages and out of the way places. It is kind of the hologram technology at a much more sophisticated level. It will not be just a statue that is purely wood and stone. There will be wood and stone dimensions to it; however, there will be a technological dimension to it as well, I am assuming.

ANTICHRIST WORSHIP SANCTUARIES

Paragraph G. There will be some sort of global network of these high-tech statues and local worship sanctuaries dedicated to the Antichrist just like there are worship sanctuaries for false religions all over the earth. They will all be connected to the Jerusalem temple.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Paragraph H. The mark of the Beast: I will say this about the mark of the Beast, and I have a couple of paragraphs about it on the study notes. You cannot take it accidentally. Young people, when we have the summer intensives here with the teens, they always ask, “Will I be tricked?” They are thinking of it like getting something on their hand before they go to the school dance or something. No, you cannot get tricked.

They ask, “What if I fall asleep, and somebody puts the mark on me, do I go to hell?” It is not like that. You have to make a covenant with your heart to worship the Antichrist. You cannot get accidentally born again, and you cannot accidentally make a covenant with the Antichrist because you feel asleep and somebody gave you the injection or something.

The two big questions that they always ask are “Will somebody sneak up on me and give me the mark? Will I be married in the Millennium?” Those are the two questions I get every time. They are happy about one answer, and not so happy about the other. We explain it to them because it is a good answer.

THE ABOMINATION WILL LEAD TO WORLDWIDE DESOLATION

Paragraph J. This abomination will lead to worldwide desolation. Look at this in Revelation 9:15: “So the four angels who had been prepared for the hour, and day, and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.” A third of the earth is killed. Isaiah 66:16, look what it says here: “The Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many.” All the nations, for the word all flesh put all nations. The slain of the Lord will be many in all of the nations. Jeremiah 25:33: “The slain of the Lord shall be one end of the earth even to the other.”

Isaiah 24:1, 6: “Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste . . . Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.” The Lord makes the earth empty, verse 3, the land

shall be entirely emptied. It is talking about its people—that is what it is talking about. The curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it will be desolate. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

It is the most significant desolation in human history and of human life. The Church will be purified, the harvest will come in, and the earth will get prepared for the return of the Lord and the establishing of the millennial kingdom. When Jesus comes, He is going to bring heaven with Him when He comes. He is going to bring heaven to the earth. The New Jerusalem is coming to the earth. The New Jerusalem is going to descend to the earth. The three-and-a-half-year period before all of this glory breaks out will be a time where all of the nations will be tested, and the Body of Christ will be purified. Obviously, we do not want to wait until then to get dedicated. I am preaching to the choir now because you would not be here if you were not interested in being dedicated.

So much of the Body of Christ says, “Well, I will just kind of do what I do, and when things pick up, I will get serious. I will do an all-nighter. I will do a cram session for the test the next day.” Many with that attitude will be swept away by deception.

DANIEL’S PROPHECIES ABOUT THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

I just wanted to give you those verses, but there are many others to give you the idea that the desolation is really real, and it is global. It is the abomination that leads to worldwide desolation. That is what it means, the abomination that leads to worldwide desolation.

ABOMINATION IS REFERRED TO BY NAME SIX TIMES IN SCRIPTURE

Paragraph A. Daniel’s prophecies about the abomination of desolation are referred to six times in the Scripture. Four times, an angel tells Daniel, but Daniel records it in the book of Daniel. In each of these occasions, an angel is speaking about it being directly to Daniel. Four times it was spoken to Daniel by an angel, and twice the Lord spoke it. It was one occasion, but it is recorded twice.

It is the Olivet Discourse right before Jesus would go to the cross on the Mount of Olives when He is talking about the end times. Six times in the Bible: this phrase, the abomination of desolation, results in worldwide desolation.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION WILL NEED TO BE “SET UP”

Paragraph B. It will need to be set up, look what Daniel 12 says, from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away. The Antichrist will take away the sacrifice in the Jerusalem temple. Again, the Jerusalem temple does not exist yet, and there are no sacrifices, but in a short amount of time, it is going to be built. They are going to reestablish the Old Testament sacrifices in it. The Antichrist will take them away, and he will set up his statue in their place. That is the idea. He will take away the sacrifices, and he will set up, or he will put his idol in the holy place.

EPIPHANES DEFILED THE TEMPLE FORESHADOWING THE ANTICHRIST

Paragraph C. Antiochus Epiphanes, look at your neighbor and say, “Antiochus Epiphanes,” Say it again. OK, this guy in about 175 BC, a Syrian king. He was a picture of the Antichrist in a very elementary way, meaning he only had regional power in the area. He did not have much power, he did not have signs and wonders, but he defiled the Jerusalem temple. He went into the Jerusalem temple, and he removed the sacrifices. Pigs are unclean animals to the Jewish system; he offered a pig on the altar and killed it. He offered a pig on the altar to Zeus and put an idol to Zeus in the holy place. We have a man in history that the angel told Daniel several hundred years before this, about three hundred years ahead of time. He says there is coming a guy who is going to do it, and he is going to give you a picture of it. He is not the fullness of it. He is only a down payment; he is only a shadow of it.

The Antichrist is the full picture of it, and he is the one that will give you the full expression. But we study what Antiochus did, so we get insight into what the Antichrist will do. Here in Daniel 11:31: “And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place the abomination of desolation.” It is talking about Antiochus, but it is also giving us insight specifically and intentionally into what the Antichrist will do.

Here is what Antiochus did: the first thing that he did is that he defiled the sanctuary compound so to speak—the whole temple complex. Put the word, it says fortress, but the whole complex around the temple, he defiled it. We know that Antichrist will defile the entire temple complex after it is built.

Then secondly, he takes away the sacrifices. That is what the Antichrist is going to do, and this is all part of the abomination of desolation. Then, thirdly, Antiochus places there the abomination. The abomination is a name for the statue. It is not the statue itself that is the abomination. It is the claim of the Antichrist behind the statue, and it is the hundreds of millions who accept the claim. All of that is related to the statue. The statue itself is not the issue. It is the response of the people and the claim of the Antichrist. The statue is the abomination. The abomination can be placed and removed in the temple because it is a statue.

It goes on in Daniel 8:13: “Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, ‘How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgressions of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?’” One of the angels is speaking, and the angel says, “How long until all of this stuff happens? How long will this difficulty be prolonged? How long will it be allowed to continue?” This whole issue of the sacrifices defiled.

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF DESOLATION

Here the abomination of desolation is called the “transgression of desolation” in Daniel 8:13. That is an interesting term. It is talking about the abomination. Transgression and sin are the same idea. It is the sinful act that creates desolation for the earth. It is the primary sinful act of history because hundreds of millions are participating in this transgression. It is the transgression

that leads to world desolation. We get a little bit more information on abomination of desolation, or the transgression of desolation. It will trample down the sanctuary, or defile it, and it will trample down the army of Israel or the host. The word host speaks of the army of Israel. Sometimes in the Bible, it is translated host, and sometimes it is translated army.

When the Lord is called the Lord of Host, you could say the Lord of the armies of heaven. The word host and army are the same word. We know that when this transgression of desolation happens, when this great global sin takes place, it will involve trampling the sanctuary, the temple in Jerusalem, and it will involve trampling the host—the arm of the Lord. It could be the army of Israel in the natural, or it could be the army of the Lord. The commentators do not know which host it is talking about; but either way, whether it is the army of the Lord, or the army of Israel, they get trampled, which means killed or persecuted. That gives us a little more insight into what happens. We put all four of the Daniel verses together, and we get an idea of what the abomination of desolation is like; we get the whole picture when we put all the four verses together from Daniel.

JESUS QUOTES DANIEL 12:11: “WHOEVER READS, LET HIM UNDERSTAND”

Paragraph D. Jesus says in Matthew 24:15: “When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place.” When you see the abomination spoken of by Daniel, and you have to look at all four of those Daniel passages, put them together, find the unique elements with each one of those four passages and then we get the whole picture. Put that with Revelation 13 about the image of the Beast and mark of the Beast, we have the mark of the Beast, and we have the biblical picture of what the abomination is.

I want to say this: in the parenthesis I mentioned it earlier. Matthew 24:15: “Whoever reads, let him understand,” In other words, take pain to get understanding. That is what he is saying: when he says, “let him understand,” he is not saying, “If it makes sense, it makes sense, and if it does not, do not worry about it.” It is as if Jesus is saying, “Go out of your way to grasp what the abomination of desolation means.” You would think, this is one of the most dramatic events of all of history, and it is called the transgression that leads to world desolation. It is the major sin of human history, you would think, why wouldn’t the Lord take these four verses in Daniel, and just lay it all out? Why is it a bit cryptic? Why is the language is a little obscure?

It is not that difficult, it really is not. The Lord might say, “It is not that difficult.” I think the reason that the Lord hides it is because He wants the people of God to get it because they are hungry for it. He wants the nations not to understand it except that they hear it through the messengers. He does not want just kind of religious curiosity and people to say, “Well, I think I have got the whole thing.” He wants the spirit of truth in the messengers. He wants those who speak a message of truth because He wants a spirit of truth in us to where our lifestyle has a spirit of truth about it. We are genuine, real, and we are living the message when nobody is watching us. There is a spirit of truth about our life, and we have the information ourselves. The Lord wants the Body of Christ to be the stewards of His mysteries. That is what Paul the apostle said in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2: “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” He says that

we are stewards; we are the ones responsible to declare the mysteries of God. We are the ones who have been entrusted with these messages so that the earth can hear them.

I am not trying to down play this. It is just a little bit obscure, just a little bit of looking at this, and it comes into clarity pretty quick. I remember when I was just a new believer studying all of this, and I thought, “What on earth? I will get around to this just some other day.” It seemed so confusing. Now, just putting the verses together, and there are only a couple of points to them that are unique. You get the whole picture pretty quick. There is not that much to it. I think the Lord would say, “I did not make it that hard. With a little bit of effort, you could have got it. With a little bit of effort, you could have been a messenger to make sense of it to others.”

JESUS QUOTED DANIEL 12:11 AS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT TO THE END TIMES

Paragraph D. Daniel 9:23-25: the angel Gabriel is speaking, and on two occasions, the angel Gabriel say in Daniel 9:23: “At the beginning of your supplications, the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision.” It is as if Gabriel is saying, “Daniel, I want you to understand this,” and he is going to talk about the abomination of desolation. “Daniel, look at me, I am Gabriel, look me in the eyes.” It did not really happen that way. Daniel was terrified, and it is as if Gabriel says, “Daniel, I want you to understand this message that is Daniel 9:23.”

A couple of verses later in Daniel 9:25, he is now talking to the saints through history, and he says, “Know therefore and understand” this message. Matthew comes along and says the same thing in Matthew 24:15: “(whoever reads, let him understand).” Let the reader wrestle with it until it is clear, it is not that hard. Get clarity, so you can make it clear to others. Get understanding of this. He is not saying, “If you get it, you get it, and if you do not, do not worry about it.” It is as if Jesus is saying, “Let the man or woman of God get some understanding on this.”

MINISTRY TIME

Amen, well we will just end with that: the abomination of desolation. Amen, let’s stand. I want to encourage you that are in E12 groups to take these notes, go wrestle with them, and break them down, get the verses, and say, “Wait, he missed this point. Hey, he forgot to say this, or he did not know it to say it. Anyway, add to it, wrestle with these ideas.”

If you are not in an E12 group, then sign up for one. You can do that through the Bible school at this point and time. Anybody can be in an E12 group, as the “e” stands for end times. There are twelve people in a group, everyone is in a group of twelve, and they help lead a group of twelve. That is what that is about. They are in a group of twelve, and they help lead one. Two or three of them get together, and they go lead another group. In one group, they are the students, and in the other, they are the teacher. We got about sixty or seventy of these groups on our missions base.

“Father, we just come before You. God, we ask You for living understanding. We agree with Gabriel, we want to understand this. We agree with Matthew, we want understanding. We want to be messengers of these truths. We say ‘yes;’ we want to wrestle with these truths that are not

so difficult. We want to grasp them. We ask You for that in the name of Jesus. Amen. We are just going to worship for a few minutes.”

As we worship, I am just going to ask the Lord to speak to us. Maybe we will have a ministry time. We are just going to wait on Him, as we are worshiping. We might call people forward, and minister to them. We might not. We will just see what happens, as we are before the Lord.