

Session 13 Abomination of Desolation: Primary Sign of the Tribulation

I. WHAT IS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION?

- A. The Abomination of Desolation is a series of evil or abominable events that will occur in the final 3½ years before Jesus returns. They will be an abomination to God and will result in great worldwide desolation (destruction). Thus, it will be an abomination that leads to great desolation.
¹⁵ *When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 Let him who is in the field not go back...21 For there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time... (Mt. 24:15-21)*
- B. The abomination will center around an image (statue) of the Antichrist standing in the holy place in the Jerusalem Temple (to be rebuilt). It will be the primary sign that the Great Tribulation has begun. Jesus prophesied that believers would “see” it and would understand its significance. Those in Judea must flee to the mountains because the next 3½ years will be very difficult.
- C. Paul described the abomination of desolation as requiring a rebuilt Temple with a sacrifice system re-established (2 Thes. 2:3-4). The Antichrist will enter the Temple to stop the sacrifices.
³ *For that Day (Rapture) will not come unless...the man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed...4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called (associated with) God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thes. 2:3-4)*

II. THE COMING ABOMINATION: FOUR MAIN EVIL ACTIVITIES

- A. First, the abomination begins when the Antichrist sits in the Temple claiming to be God (2 Thes. 2:3-4). Antichrist is a counterfeit to Jesus ruling from the Temple (Ezek. 43:5-7; Zech. 6:12-13).
- B. Second, the False Prophet will tell people to make an image (statue/idol) that is associated with the Antichrist. By combining Jesus’ and Paul’s information we know that the Antichrist will sit in the Temple (2 Thes. 2:4) and that an idol will stand there (Mt. 24:15). Therefore, we can safely assume that the “primary” idol related to the Antichrist will be in the Jerusalem Temple.
¹⁴ *And he (False Prophet) deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs...telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast (Antichrist). (Rev. 13:14)*
- C. Third, the False Prophet will tell the leaders in the nations to make an image to the Antichrist. I believe that many local leaders will have a duplicate image of the Antichrist that is demonically and technologically connected to the “primary” image in Jerusalem. The result will be a global network of local “Antichrist worship sanctuaries” that include high-tech images (holograms?) of the Antichrist. Men will make these idols out of materials of different economic value.
²⁰ *The rest of mankind...did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood... (Rev. 9:20)*

- D. Fourth, the False Prophet will cause (command/force) all the nations to worship the Antichrist as God. All will be required by law to worship the Antichrist as God. These laws will also empower the wicked to kill the righteous. These laws and the response to them will be an abomination.

¹² *And he (False Prophet) exercises all the authority of the first Beast (Antichrist)...and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast...15 He was granted power to...cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:12, 15)*

⁸ *All who dwell on the earth will worship him (Antichrist), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)*

- E. People will worship the Antichrist's image itself.

⁹ *If anyone worships the Beast (Antichrist) and his image...10 shall be tormented... (Rev. 14:9)*

III. THE DESOLATION OF THE NATIONS: 2 SOURCES OF DESTRUCTION

- A. The consequences of the coming abominations will result in great desolation (destruction) coming to many nations from two totally different sources, from Jesus and the Antichrist. There will be 3½ years of global desolation that will threaten the life of the majority of the earth.

²² *And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (physically saved from death) but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Mt. 24:22)*

¹ *The LORD makes the earth empty (of people)...3. The land shall be entirely emptied...6. The inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left. (Isa. 24:1-6)*

⁹ *The day of the LORD comes...to lay the land desolate; He will destroy its sinners from it...11 I will punish the world...12 I will make a mortal more rare than gold... (Isa. 13:9-12)*

- B. First, Jesus will destroy the people and places who worship the Antichrist and/or his image. Jesus will open the scroll to release the plagues in book of Revelation (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls).

⁸ *Power was given to them over a fourth of the earth.... (Rev. 6:8)*

¹⁵ *The four angels...were released to kill a third of mankind. (Rev. 9:15)*

¹⁶ *The LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many. (Isa 66:16)*

³³ *The slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other... (Jer 25:33)*

- C. Second, the Antichrist will use his unprecedented political, military and economic power to seek to destroy those refuse to worship him.

¹⁵ *To cause as many as would not worship...the Beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:12, 15)*

³ *The man of sin (Antichrist) is revealed, the son of perdition (destruction) (2 Thes. 2:3)*

²⁷ *On the wing of abominations shall be one (Antichrist) who makes desolate... (Dan. 9:27)*

IV. ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION: THE IMAGE AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST

- A. The image of the Beast is one of the most significant prophetic signs in the End-Times. John emphasized this statue ten times (Rev. 13:14, 15 [three times]; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). This will occur in the middle of the last 7-year period.
- B. The Abomination of Desolation will be convincing to many because of demonic miracles.
⁹ *The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist) is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception... (2 Thes. 2:9-10)*
²⁴ *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:24)*
- C. The image of the Beast that breathes and talks and the mark of the Beast will be two components of the Abomination of Desolation that deceives the world into worshipping the Antichrist.
¹³ *He (False Prophet) performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven...¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs...¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should speak... ¹⁶ He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark... ¹⁸ His number is 666. (Rev. 13:13-18)*
- D. The mark of the Beast (Antichrist) is a key component of the Abomination of Desolation system. It will be a public mark on people's right hand or forehead (Rev. 13:16-17).
- E. The Antichrist's image will combine cutting edge technology (or holograms?) and supernatural demonic elements causing this image to breathe and speak. The image will probably resemble the Antichrist. It may even speak like him so that it represents him in a personal way.
- F. What will the Antichrist's image say? It was granted power to give breath to the image or to give a false "appearance" of life. By speaking, it will appear to think freely as it makes laws that cause people to be killed who refuse to worship the Antichrist. It may speak on others issues.
- G. I believe the image will speak to the people in personal ways by prophesying by demonic power about private matters. It may relate the dreams or private conversations with a deceased person (séance) as a counterfeit to the End-Time worship and prophetic movement.
¹⁷ *It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... (Acts 2:17)*
- H. A global network of local "Antichrist worship sanctuaries" that prophesy would be a counterfeit claim to the Antichrist's omnipresence. These demonic local outposts will be the focal points of spiritual warfare as the true houses of prayer fill the earth at that time. Daniel revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2:19, 26-28). This caused Nebuchadnezzar to worship Daniel's God.

V. THE END-TIME SATANIC COUNTERFEIT WORSHIP MOVEMENT

- A. The Holy Spirit is raising up a End-Time prophetic worship movement (Rev. 22:17; 5:8; 8:4; Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 25:1-13; Isa. 62:6-7; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Jer. 31:7; Mic. 5:3-4; Zeph. 2:1-3; Ps. 102:17-20; Zech. 12:10).
- B. Hundreds of millions will accept the Antichrist's claims and thus, participate in Satan worship.
⁴ *They worshiped the dragon (Satan) who gave authority to the Beast (Antichrist); and they worshiped the Beast saying, "Who is like the Beast?..." (Rev. 13:4)*
⁸ *All who dwell on the earth will worship him (Antichrist), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)*
- C. The very thing that Satan wanted from Jesus in Matt. 4 is what he demands from the whole earth.
⁸ *The devil...showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (Matt. 4:8-9)*
- D. The Antichrist will demand to be worshipped before an idol as Nebuchadnezzar did (Dan. 3:1-6).
¹ *Nebuchadnezzar...made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits (90 feet) and its width six cubits (9 feet)...4 Then a herald cried aloud, "...You shall... worship the gold image ...6 whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into...fiery furnace." (Dan. 3:1-6)*

VI. UNDERSTANDING MORE ABOUT THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

- A. Scripture exhorts us to understand the vision (which included the Abomination of Desolation).
²³ *Therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision... (Dan. 9:23)*
²⁵ *Know therefore and understand... (Dan. 9:25)*
- B. We are exhorted "read and understand" or to take the necessary efforts to understand.
¹⁵ *The abomination of desolation...whoever reads, let him understand... (Mt. 24:15)*
- C. The Abomination of Desolation is directly referred to by name 6 times in Scripture, 4 times by Daniel (Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11) and twice by Jesus (Matt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14). The Abomination of Desolation is the scriptural name for the Antichrist's image that is placed in the Temple. The Abomination of Desolation is described without using the name 4 more times in Scripture (Rev. 13:11-18; 14:9-11; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Dan. 3:1-30)

- D. The Abomination of Desolation cannot occur unless Israel rebuilds the Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. For the Antichrist to stop the daily sacrifices in the Temple, the Tribulation Temple must exist. The Temple does not currently exist, but we know that it must be rebuilt (Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2; 13:12-18; Dan. 9:26, 27; 11:31; 12:11). Even now plans to rebuild the Third Temple are being pursued aggressively in Israel. This may occur just before the beginning of the final 7-year period.
- E. The Abomination of Desolation will need to be “set up”. In other words, the whole system needs to be “set up”. This will involve setting up the statue of the Antichrist in the Jerusalem Temple and setting up a worldwide infrastructure so that all can worship the image (Rev. 14:9-11). The Abomination involves stopping the animal sacrifices to replace them with the image of the Beast. It is referred to in the singular as “the” Abomination of Desolation.
- ¹¹ And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the Abomination of Desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. (Dan 12:11)***
1. Jesus spoke of the statue of the Antichrist ‘standing in’ in the Temple.
¹⁵ The Abomination of Desolation...standing in the holy place... (Mt. 24:15)
 2. The Antichrist’s armies will take the statue and ‘place it there’ in the Temple.
³¹ They shall...place there the Abomination of Desolation. (Dan 11:31)
- F. Daniel 8:13 gives us details to give us insight into what the Antichrist will do.
- ¹³ I heard a holy one (angel) 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 (army of Israel) to be trampled under foot?” (Dan 8:13)***
1. The Antichrist will act in a way that concerns the daily sacrifices.
 2. He will lead the nations into “the transgression” that leads to the desolation of nations.
 3. Someone or a group of people will “give” the sanctuary and the host to be trampled. Does this refer to God, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, or another person or group?
 4. The transgression will involve giving the sanctuary to be trampled under foot or to be degraded or defiled. The sanctuary or Temple will not be torn down, but the furniture and activities will be defiled and degraded. The Abomination involves desolating the Temple with the image of the Beast and stopping the animal sacrifices offered there.
 5. The transgression will involve giving the host (army of Israel or army of the Lord) to be trampled under foot. This speaks of persecuting the host. The army of Israel will be small yet it will be anointed of the Lord at the end of the conflict (Zech. 12:5-8).

- G. Antiochus Epiphanes (Antiochus IV; 175-163 BC) defiled the Temple in a way that would prophetically foretell how the Antichrist will defile it in the End-Times. Daniel 11:31 gives us details from Antiochus' example to give us insight into what the Antichrist will do. Antiochus' forces defiled the sanctuary fortress or the Temple complex. Antiochus' forces took away the daily sacrifices. Antiochus' forces placed the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple.
- ³¹ ***They shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the Abomination of Desolation. (Dan 11:31)***
- H. The sacrifices will be taken away. This was emphasized three out of the four times that Daniel referred to the Abomination of Desolation (Dan 8:13; 11:31; 12:11). The sacrifices are "daily" showing us Israel's commitment to host "daily" sacrifices.
- I. The Antichrist will operate on the wing (pinnacle or extreme expression) of abominations.
- ²⁷ ***On the wing of abominations shall be one (Antichrist) who makes desolate ... (Dan 9:27)***
- J. Daniel 11 provides us a picture from history of the abomination of desolation which is such a significant End-Times event that an entire chapter was needed to give us an adequate historical context to make the picture clear. Antiochus Epiphanes slaughtered thousands of Jews and desecrated Israel's temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar and setting up a statue of a Greek god in it, then he stopped the daily temple sacrifices (Dan. 11:31).
- K. The Third Temple is NOT the same as the Millennial Temple. There are two distinct Jerusalem Temples prophesied in Scriptures i.e. the Tribulation Temple (Third Temple) which will be built by unbelieving Jews and then desecrated by the Antichrist. The Millennial Temple will be built by Jesus (Isa. 2:3; 60:6, 10, 13; Ezek. 37:26-28; 40-48; Zech. 2:11; 6:12-15; 14:16-21).