



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The King's Perfect Prediction: Final Signs

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Matthew 24:15-28 *“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath; for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance. If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold He is in the wilderness,’ do not go forth, or ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the East, and flashes even to the West, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather”* (NASB)

Daniel, the great statesman and prophet, had predicted in context with the Abomination of Desolation that first there would be “seven weeks and sixty-two weeks” “until Messiah the Prince” (Dan. 9:25). It has been calculated (69 weeks=483 years) from the decree issued (Neh. 2:5-6) by King Artaxerxes “to restore and rebuild Jerusalem,” that exactly 483 years elapsed until Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Sunday.¹ In the next verse, Daniel said that “Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself, and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood and till the end of the war desolations are determined” (Dan. 9:26). Therefore when Jesus said, “There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down” (Mt. 24:2), He was clarifying what had already been predicted by Daniel. Jesus’ future leaders quietly approach Him on the Mount of Olives wanting to know when this catastrophe will occur as well as the sign of Jesus’ coming and the end of the age. Christ warned them against deceivers using His name, wars, famines, earthquakes, worldwide persecution of Christians, apostasy, false prophets, lawlessness and the quenching of love. But the end will come when “this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations” (Mt. 24:14). The judgment of God would wait on His great mercy in the Gospel!

“FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED. LET IT BE SO IN OUR CASE.” C. H. SPURGEON

“THE WORLD IS TO THE CHURCH LIKE A SCAFFOLD TO A BUILDING. WHEN THE CHURCH IS BUILT, THE SCAFFOLD WILL BE TAKEN DOWN; THE WORLD MUST REMAIN UNTIL THE LAST ELECT ONE IS SAVED.” SPURGEON

What is the Abomination of Desolation? Where are the five imperatives of our passage? What are the two primary warnings here? How were they heeded?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > FEBRUARY 10: MATTHEW 24:29-35 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: THE END
- > FEBRUARY 17: MATTHEW 24:36-51 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: READY OR NOT

I. THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION MT. 24:15

The early church must have wisely compared all three synoptic Gospels (Mk. 13:14ff, Lk. 21:20ff) and assumed that because in the place of “the Abomination of Desolation” Jesus said in Luke “when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand,” they were to “flee to the mountains.” Eusebius,

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM – INTERCESSORY PRAYER – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
 THURSDAY @ 7:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
 THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON – BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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an early church pastor around 325 A.D., confirms their flight from Jerusalem. "But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella" (History of the Church 3:5:3). Yet there is another fulfillment at the end of the age as Daniel continues his prophecy, "*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*" (Dan. 9:27). Precisely the same timing is given in Revelation 12:6 with Israel pictured as a woman, "*And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God so that she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*" The precise timing is given again in 12:14 as "*time and times and half a time,*" and in 13:5 as "*forty-two months.*" This all points to the Antichrist who will make a covenant to protect Israel for seven years, but halfway through, after 3 ½ years, he turns against Israel, commits the Abomination of Desolation and begins the period referred to as the "*Great Tribulation.*" The Abomination of Desolation will include the cessation of the sacrifices and the worship of another as God on the Temple Mount (Daniel 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11).

"THE TRIBULATION WILL ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE WORLD BUT WILL FOCUS ON THE NATION AND PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. IT WILL MARK THE END OF MAN'S DAY AND THE COMING OF GOD'S." JOHN MACARTHUR

II. THE COMMANDS TO FLEE MT. 24:15B-20

With the first imperative Jesus requires the reader to understand the Abomination of Desolation so that they will know when to flee. The three imperatives that follow all emphasize the necessity of haste in their flight. They must "*flee into the mountains,*" "*not come*

down to take the things out of his house," and "*not turn back behind to take his garment.*" The slightest hesitation will probably cost them their life. Those who are pregnant or nursing have a pitiful "*woe*" because they probably won't escape in time. Prayer is commanded that this might not happen in winter or on the Sabbath because both will impede their ability to flee. The people who are fleeing soon will witness unparalleled suffering as God will protect them supernaturally.

"HIS ADMONITION TO 'PRAY' REGARDING THE PRECISE TIME OF THE FLIGHT PROVES THAT EVEN IN TIMES OF CALAMITY THE CHILD OF GOD, THROUGH PRAYER, MAY ALLEVIATE SUFFERING AND MISFORTUNE, AND SOFTEN THE HARSH WINDS OF ADVERSITY." COFFMAN

III. THE CALAMITY BEFORE HIS COMING MT.24:21-28

The suffering experienced in those days will exceed all previous calamity to the degree that Christ gives the strongest negation available in the Greek language revealing that it is not even possible that greater suffering exists. According to Revelation, the days will be supernaturally shortened for the sake of the elect so that their enemies will be hampered in their search for them. The greatest emphasis in this warning for God's people in these circumstances is against deception. But thankfully all the false information from all the false Christs and false prophets, even giving "*great signs and wonders,*" will not be sufficient to deceive the elect so that they turn away from Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word. They will try to lure the elect from their safety by saying that Jesus' coming is secret, either in the desert or some secret room. But the elect will know that Jesus' coming will be gloriously visible as lightning and powerful in His deliverance. The greatest armies of the world will be destroyed by His rescue of His people and the vultures will have a feast (Job 39:30).

¹ See Sir Robert Anderson's *The Coming Prince* [Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1954] and Harold Hoehner's *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977].

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you busy spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom to those around you?
- 2) Do you live in anticipation of the coming of Jesus Christ at any time?
- 3) Is your life characterized by prayer no matter what the circumstances?