THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION

Matthew 24:15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand -”

The First Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 8:9-11 Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. It grew until reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the Lord; it took away the daily sacrifice from the LORD, and his sanctuary was thrown down.

Daniel 8:12-14 Because of rebellion, the LORD’s people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground. Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled – the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, the surrender of the sanctuary and the trampling underfoot of the LORD’s people?” He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.”

This was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes (a little horn) who appointed a high priest from the tribe of Benjamin and later stopped the daily sacrifice, offered a pig on the altar, set up a statue of Zeus and demanded that everyone worship it. The Jews rebelled, led by the Maccabees, and defeated the Syrian armies and reconsecrated the Temple 2,300 days after it was originally defiled. The reconsecration of the Temple is remembered and celebrated by the Jews every year in the feast of Hanukkah.

The Future Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 9:26&27 “After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Daniel 12:1(NASB) “Now at that time, Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”

Daniel 12:7 “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”

Daniel 12:11&12 “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.”

What Is the Abomination That Causes Desolation?

The first “Abomination That Causes Desolation” was a statue of Zeus set up in the temple and people were forced to worship it.

2 Thessalonians 2:1&2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us – whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter – asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

2 Thessalonians 2:3&4 Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

”Rebellion” translates *“apostasia”* from which comes the English word apostasy. However *“apostasia”* is the fourth principle part of the Greek verb *“aphistemi,”* which simply means “depart.” “Unless the departure comes first” is a perfectly possible translation of the phrase, with “the departure” referring to the Rapture.

Revelation 13:11-15 Then I saw a second beast coming out of the earth…Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Three Prophetic Views

Postmillenial: Christ comes back after the 1,000 years of peace and prosperity described in Revelation 20:1-7 (the number 1,000 occurs six times). The Abomination that Causes Desolation happened in the first century.

Amillenial: The millennium is a symbol of God’s kingdom on earth and started with the formation of the church . The Abomination that Causes Desolation happened in the first century and the events of Revelation chapters 6-19 symbolize events that have already happened.

Both postmillenialists and amillenialists usually believe that the church replaced Israel and that modern Israel is not a specific fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Premillenial: Christ comes back to rule and reign (Revelation 19:11-20:6) after a time of incredible tribulation (Revelation 6:1-19:10) that would kill everyone on earth unless it were cut short. Matthew 24:21&22 “For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”

Implications of Believing Jesus Meant Exactly What He Said

“The Times of the Gentiles” have been fulfilled or are very close to being fulfilled (the Temple Mount is still under Palestinian control).

The Jewish people will rebuild the Temple for the second time. Preparations are well underway: The Sanhedrin has been re-established, priests are being trained, red heifers are being bred, architectural plans are being drawn up and materials gathered, etc.

The Muslim world will not be able to stop the rebuilding of the temple.

We cannot be in the last half of the Tribulation. (We cannot be in the first half either because the “ruler who will come” (Daniel 9:26&27), who comes out of the Roman Empire and rules a ten nation confederacy (Daniel 2:31-45; 7:1-27; Revelation 17:7-14), has not yet appeared and made a seven year treaty with Israel.

But we are apparently in the “beginning of birth pains” during which time “great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven” will increase in intensity and frequency.