

“The Olivet Discourse Part 4: Israel’s Darkest Hour”
Matthew 24:15-20

I. The Abomination of Desolation will be fulfilled by Antichrist (v. 15).

- A. The abomination of desolation will reveal who the antichrist is.
- B. The abomination of desolation will be an act of betrayal toward Israel.

(Daniel 9:26-27; 12:11-12; Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:1-2; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20; Acts 21:28; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5)

II. The Abomination of Desolation will be a time of horror for Israel (vs. 16-20).

- A. Two-thirds of the Jews living in Israel will perish.
- B. Those in Judea who see the abomination of desolation must flee with haste.

(Isaiah 10:20-23; Hosea 13:16; Zechariah 13:8-14:9)

III. The Abomination of Desolation will mark the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

Scripture References and Notes

Daniel 9:26-27

²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷ And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

Daniel 12:11-12

¹¹ From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days. ¹² How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

Abomination of desolation (βδέλυγμα τῆς ἐρημώσεως)

ABOMINATION (βδέλυγμα [bdelugma])

1. something disgusting that arouses wrath, *loathsome thing*
2. something that is totally defiling, *abomination, pollutant*
- an abominable thing, an accursed thing

- (from *bdelyssō*, derived from *bdēō*, "to reek with stench") – properly, what emits a foul odor and hence is *disgustingly abhorrent* (*abominable, detestable*); (figuratively) *moral horror* as a *stench to God* (like when people refuse to hear and obey His voice).

OF DESOLATION (ἐρήμωσις [erémōsis])

- state of being made uninhabitable, *devastation, destruction, depopulation*
- (from *erēmōō*, "lay waste, make destitute, barren") – *desolation* (desecration) that results from being cut off (isolated).

NLT: "The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about--the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place." (Reader, pay attention!)

ISV: "So when you see the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand)...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5

³Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Mark 13:14

“But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Acts 21:28

crying out, “Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

Luke 21:20

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

Zechariah 14:1-2

¹ Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

Zechariah 12:1-3

¹ The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. *Thus* declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, ² “Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. ³ It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

Isaiah 10:20-23

²⁰ Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. ²¹ A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. ²² For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, *Only* a remnant within them will return; A destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness. ²³ For a complete destruction, one that is decreed, the Lord GOD of hosts will execute in the midst of the whole land.

Zechariah 13:8-14:9

⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it. ⁹“And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

¹ Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. ⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. ⁵ You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, *and* all the holy ones with Him! ⁶ In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. ⁷ For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. ⁸ And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. ⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one.

Hosea 13:16

Samaria will be held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword, Their little ones will be dashed in pieces, And their pregnant women will be ripped open.