

Victory Over Sermon Notes
Lesson 17: The Abomination of Desolation Part 1
 Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

What unimaginable prophecy did Jesus reveal to his disciples concerning Jerusalem?

Matthew 24:1, 2

1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said unto them, **See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

The temple of Jerusalem at the time of Christ was beautiful and formidable. Herod the Great and the Roman empire added to the beauty and splendor of the temple. Romans as well as the Jews loved the beauty of the temple. They could not even imagine its destruction. In verse 2, Jesus prophesied that it was going to be totally destroyed! The disciples were shocked! They believed that if the temple was going to be destroyed that had to be at the end of the world!

So what did the disciples ask Jesus next?

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the **sign of thy coming**, and of the **end of the world**?

From verses 4 through 14 Jesus give us specific signs that the last generation (us) must watch for to know that the end of the world and Jesus is soon to come so we can be ready; increasing great deception, terrorism, wars, famine, plagues of diseases, earthquakes in many places, persecution and the everlasting gospel preached to the whole world. As we get closer to the end of time, these things will happen with great frequency and intensity. We see that NOW!

But starting from verse 15 through 22 Jesus reveals specific prophetic signs that God's people of Jerusalem must watch and act upon in order to escape the coming doom. Verses 15 through 22 prophetic application not only applies to the literal Jerusalem, but it also applies spiritually to God's people in the last days in order to know the nearness of the coming of Jesus and the end of the world.

What was the literal prophetic application in which God's people were given as signs to physically get out of Jerusalem before its complete destruction?

Matthew 24:15 - 16

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Look from Mark's and Luke's prospective for more details.

Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Luke is even more specific

Luke 21:20, 21

20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

This gives us more specifics – When you put it all together, God's people inside Jerusalem were warned by Jesus himself that when they see the abomination of desolation standing on holy ground, in the area where they ought not to be and surrounding the city of Jerusalem that was a sign for them that destruction was coming very soon and when given an opportunity ALL who believed in Jesus and His word where to flee Jerusalem into the mountains without delay.

Who is the the Abomination of Desolation that literally surrounded Jerusalem and eventually destroyed the city and temple?

Desolation = to make waste, desolate, or empty

Abomination / abominable [Greek] bdelugma [bde'l'-oog-mah] 1) a *detestation*, that is, (specifically) *idolatry*.

2) (*to stink*); to be *disgusted*, that is, (by implication) *detest* (especially of idolatry): - abhor.

Abominations are sins that absolutely disgust God, especially idol worship. They are sins that give a very distinct very foul putrid smell to God. Abominations are sins that not only destroy individuals, but nations and God's people. They undermine the unity of God's purpose us – to glorify God!

At the time before the destruction of Jerusalem, the Pagan Roman Empire still had rulership over Israel. The official religion for the empire was paganism, which is idol worship to false gods. As an empire, they rejected Christ and accepted the Jewish leaders demand to murder Jesus on the cross. The actions and false idol worship of Pagan Roman was an abomination to God. Because Rome was an idolatrous nation and soon to reject Christ, Jesus revealed to His people that Pagan Roman was the abomination of desolation that would surround Jerusalem, right before destruction. The land surrounding Jerusalem for several yards was known as sacred and holy ground. **Jesus prophesied that Pagan Roman would set up its army with it idolatrous practices on that holy ground, in an area they ought not to be around the city of Jerusalem.** This was a clear sign of the people of God to get ready to get out and to get out when opportunity comes to escape before the Roman siege.

66 AD: Abomination of Desolation surrounds Jerusalem

In 66 AD during the war between Israel and Rome, the Roman soldiers led by Cestius Gaius surrounded the city of Jerusalem, the ABOMINATION of DESOLATION as prophesied by Christ. They saw the clear sign that this was time to flee to the mountain, when the army retreated. Those NT christian leaders who compromised God truth begin to mock at it and believed that God would protect Jerusalem and that they had nothing to worry about. Some believed them and stayed, but the remnant held on by faith to the Law and the testimonies. They believed the prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction, and when **Cestius Gaius** and army suddenly retreated ALL the true NT Christians got out and fled to the mountains! Those who were influenced by the apostate NT leadership stayed behind. For a moment it appeared that Israel would actually win its independence from Rome. When Cestius retreated, Israel chased them and killed many Roman soldiers. Israel thought that they were victorious! They and many of the apostate Christians were celebrating.

70 AD: Destruction of Jerusalem

About four years later, the Roman army came back to Jerusalem in full force under a new army general by the name of Titus. They surrounded the city with no intentions of retreating. Their main goal was to take the capital city of Israel and stop Israel's rebellion once and for ALL. When the signal was given Roman attacked the city with no intentions of destroying the temple, but it was completely destroyed in the fight. History reveals that over 1 million Jews lost their lives in the fight and another 97,000 were taken as captives.

What is the spiritual application of Matthew 24:15, 16 for the last days? Let's go back and understand this in the context of our day

Matthew 24:15, 16

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

What are the two scriptures in Daniel that Jesus is referring to that gives us a clue Matthew 24:15 has a last day application?

Daniel 11:31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and **they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate**.

Daniel 11:31 described how the Papal Rome came into power taking the empirical control from Pagan Rome.

In the last days, Papal Rome is "the abomination that maketh desolate" Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:15.

Papal Rome during its reign of 1260 years until this day "stand in the holy place", doing abominable things that make desolate the holy things of God. As we learned from our prophecy studies, one of the great desolation and abominable thing that Papal Rome did was its claim to have authority over the Bible and change the seventh-day Bible Sabbath to Sunday.

What is the second text in Daniel that Jesus is referring to?

Daniel 12:11 And from the time *that* the daily (power, seat, and authority) *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Papal Rome was prophesied to rule again as the seventh empire in which the Pope is the head of a one world government. This same religious-political power that reigned from 538 AD to 1798 AD would rule again.

Papal Rome as they did in the past push their abominable ways upon the world especially the legal establishment of the false Sunday sabbath.

Remember "Desolate" means to devastate. Papal Rome will devastate the people of God who will not bow down to the enforcement of the Sunday Sabbath worship which is the Mark of the Beast. This will be the major enactment of his rulership.

Jesus says in Matthew 24:15 that only those who dig deep and study will understand in the last days. When Papal Rome has been successful in enforcing Sunday worship know that the end is upon us and God's people should be physically out of the cities of great population. Papal Rome will "surround" the world and stand in the "holy place". God's people, as in the days before the destruction of Jerusalem, will see this as a sign that it is time to escape to "mountains" or more secluded places away from the cities. Why? Because there will be great devastation in the cities and God's people will go through great persecution as they give the Loud Cry, the Bible truth. But God's people should not wait to that time to get away from the great centers of sin, before the passage of the Sunday law.

Before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Pagan Rome was the abomination of desolation and before the end to the world in our time Papal Rome is the abomination of desolation.

Not only does Papal Rome have a history of murdering millions of God's people, but they are also a system of clergy who have sexually abused hundreds and thousands of children.

New report details the massive scope of sex abuse within the French Catholic church

Jane Clayson, Here and Now broadcast, NPR, aired October 6, 2021

"A new report finds more than [330,000 children](#) were abused by priests and others in the French Catholic church over the past 70 years."

Yet another major sex abuse scandal report that exposes the abomination of desolation that has a large clergy of pedophiles!

Remember the holy place is where Jesus dwells.

What solemn message did Jesus give to the leaders of the people as a result of their rejection of Jesus Christ?

Matthew 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate (empty).

Jesus left!

The holy place where Jesus once stood was replaced. But by who?

Matthew 12:43, 44

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it **empty (desolate)**, swept, and garnished.

Even though the house was empty, it was not filled with the love of Jesus, His truth, and the Holy Spirit. As a result verse 45.

Matthew 12:45

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

When Jesus Christ leaves the “house” it becomes empty and the devil takes control. It becomes a habitation of devils.

Why does Jesus leave?

Because of the Abominations in the house of God! Remember “abominations” are detestable sins that God greatly hates because it undermines the unity and mission of God's church.

In the context of Matthew 24:15 spiritually Jesus reveals to His last day people that when we see the abomination of desolation in the professed “houses and places” of Jesus, this is a major sign of the last day that we need to “flee into the mountains” (Matthew 24:16) and get out of Babylon.

In the spiritual context Matthew 24:16 what does “mountain” represent that God's people MUST flee to when they see the abomination of desolation in the stand in the holy place?

Micah 4:1, 2

1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the **mountain of the house of the LORD** shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he **will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**

The “mountain” spiritually is the Bible truth and God's holy commandments. Jesus is the Word.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

The mountain of the house of the Lord is God's true church in the last days. We must flee the places, in which the abomination of desolation is allowed to take place in and take the higher ground of TRUTH only based on the Word of God.

(We already know who the abomination of desolation is) **What are the specific abominations of desolation that have not only swept through our professed Christian nation but found in Papal Rome, many modern churches and the world?** When we see these things know that destruction will soon take place.

To be continued.

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