

History of the Future
Great Tribulation
Mark 13:14-23
February 23, 2014

Introduction

As we said in our last study that the Tribulation is the last 7 years before Jesus comes. The Great Tribulation is in the last 3 ½ year of that time period. I want to focus today about what Jesus means about the Abomination of Desolation

I. Abomination of Desolation (14)

14 "When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong

- Abomination
 - Something hateful—totally disgusting
 - Something God hates
 - Idolatry

***Jeremiah 44:4** Again and again I sent My servants the prophets, who said, 'Do not do this detestable (abominable) thing that I hate!'*

- Desolation
 - destruction
- Abomination that causes desolation
 - Idolatry that God hates that leads to destruction
 - When you see this
 - This is an event
 - Reference to the Antichrist in the middle of the 7 years
 - Reference to Daniel

II. Daniel's Abomination of Desolation

***Daniel 9:27** 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.*

***Daniel 11:31** And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.*

***Daniel 12:11** And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

- **9:27** (from **9:24-27**)
 - God gives Daniel a message about the future (to the Second Coming)
 - Antichrist will make a treaty with the Jews for 7 years
 - In middle of treaty, he will break it and cause destruction
- **12:11** (from **12:8-13**)
 - God answers Daniel's question about when the end shall happen
 - God does not tell him when, but tells him of the signs at the end
- **11:31**
 - This is not the Second Coming prophecy
 - This is actually 400 years after Daniel's death (~167 BC)
 - Purpose of this prophecy
 - This is a near prophecy to validate the far prophecy (2nd coming)

- This is the same as what Jesus did with the prophecy of the Temple...His words are validated and then He gives the events to the Second Coming
- To explain what is the abomination that causes desolation—how do we identify this
- Summary
 - This is all in Chapter **11:1-35**
 - After the death of Alexander the Great, Greek is split into 4 provinces (**4**)
 - Daniel focuses on two: Ptolemy and Seleucid
 - North King = Seleucid and South King = Ptolemy
 - This is a history of alliance, betrayals, jealousy etc (very complicated situation)
 - God gives Daniel exact details about what is going to happen 400 years later
 - Ptolemy give his daughter (Bernice) to marry the Seleucid king (**6**)
 - Seleucid king divorces his wife to marry Bernice
 - The ex-wife kills the king, Bernice and her children
 - Bernice's brother invades the north and loots the temples and become rich (**7-8**)
 - Antiochus III takes power in Seleucid and grows in power (**10-13**)
 - Antiochus III battles the Ptolemaic Province in Egypt and defeats them (**14-16**)
 - Antiochus III has Empire aspirations and encounters Rome (**18**)
 - Rome defeats and humiliates the king (**18**)
 - Antiochus III has to pay tribute to Rome and hires a tax collector who will poison the king (**20**)
 - Antiochus IV takes over as king and is Israel's enemy (**21**)
 - He kills 80,000 men in Israel (**28**)
 - He invades Egypt the third time and is defeated because Rome helps Egypt (**28-30**)
 - Defeated, Antiochus IV turns his anger against Israel (**30**)
 - He enters the Temple and sacrificed pigs in it and sets up statue of Zeus for worship (**31-32**)
 - Daniel says that this is the abomination of desolation

Note: The resistance in **verse 32** is recorded in 1 & 2 Maccabees. This is the time period when Hanukkah was started.

III. Meaning of Abomination of Desolation

Luke 21:20 *But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.*

Note: Jesus is not talking about AD 70. He uses the word “armies” not army—Rome had one army. This is the Antichrist’s army.

- Antichrist’s army will surround Jerusalem and attack it
- Antichrist takes over the Temple and declares himself to be God

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. 4 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.*

- Antichrist will come and set himself as God in the middle of the Tribulation and have people worship him
 - He is the man of sin that blaspheme God

Daniel 7:8, 24-25 *While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. 25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his*

saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

- What is holding Satan back?
 - The Holy Spirit

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 *And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the One who now holds it back will continue to do so till He is taken out of the way.*

Note: Holy Spirit restrains evil of men. **Genesis 6:3** says that God's Spirit will not strive against men any longer. The Holy Spirit will restrain Satan from unleashing his Antichrist until the right time of God's choosing, and that choosing is the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

IV. Response to the Abomination of Desolation (14-18)

let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the roof of his house go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter,

- Flee
 - Do not stop for anything
 - This is a different strategy from our Lord—Do not be a martyr here
- Why flee?
 - God is going to save a third of His people for the Millennium

Zechariah 13:8-9 *"In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. 9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. 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 our God.' "*

Revelation 12:1-6 *A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. 4 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her Child the moment it was born. 5 She gave birth to a Son, a male Child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her Child was snatched up to God and to His throne. 6 The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.*

- God is going to make a safe haven for His people to hide and survive for 3 ½ years
- Jesus' warning is to the future believers who are in Jerusalem
- His warning is not for the AD 70 believers

V. Elect's Security

19 *because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now-and never to be equaled again. 20 If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom He has chosen, He has shortened them. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. 22 For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect-if that were possible. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time."*

- Elect

- Chosen saved people
- God's chosen people—Jews and Gentiles
- God's sovereign choice
- Most comforting words in Scripture
- God shortens the days
 - Much speculation about this part
 - One plausible interpretation

Revelation 6:12-13 *I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, **13** and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.*

Revelation 8:12 *The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.*

- Days are shortened and nights longer
- Easier to escape in darkness from the Antichrist's army
- Elect cannot be fooled
 - "if that were possible"
 - False prophets and christs will perform signs and wonders in attempt to deceive everyone
 - Elect are not fooled

John 10:4-5 *When He has brought out all His own, He goes on ahead of them, and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

- The elect will obey God's command
- He is not going to allow His people to apostate

Conclusion

The whole point of the prophecy is that God is in control. Nothing happens without His permission or happens outside His control. He is in control of the future and He is in control of the present. As His elect, we follow His voice and never leave Him and follow some stranger. Jesus understood the horror of the situation, but He then adds that God will save His elect people. This is a comforting thought.

Are you one of the elect? How do you know that you are elect? The Bible simply says to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and repent from your sins. When you respond to His calling and believe that Jesus is Lord and Master, then you are the elect of God, chosen before the foundation of the world. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our Paraclete, the One who walks beside us. As an elect, you live a life of obedience to His word, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins and helps us to come to a place where we confess our sins before the Lord.

Today is the Lord's Supper in which we remember what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

Lord's Supper

David

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Bread plates served

Norman—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (111) Verse 1 and 2

Allen

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Allen-Pray

Cup plates served

Norman—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (111) Verse 3 and 4

Jonathan

1 Corinthians 23-24

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread,

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Jonathan—Pray

Norman leads us with Lord's Prayer