

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

I. Abomination of Desolation (14)

- 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.*

- 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)

- 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 (19-23)

- 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