**10/25/2026**
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**MATTHEW**

**Chapter 24:15-21**
**THE SIGNS OF JESUS' RETURN - PART 2**

## I. INTRODUCTION

A. Last week in our study of the book of Matthew, the disciples asked Jesus **Mat 24:3 …what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**

1. And Jesus began to tell them what those signs would be:
   a) **Matthew 24:4–6 (NKJV) — 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**
   b) He said: **Matthew 24:7–8 (NKJV) — 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.**
   c) He said: **Matthew 24:9–10 (NKJV) — 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.**
   d) And lastly in our study, He said: **Matthew 24:11–14 (NKJV) — 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**
      (1) But the time will come when the Gospel has been preached "in the whole world" and "then the end will come."
         (a) But Jesus is not finished answering the disciples' questions. He is going to give them even more detail about His second coming.

## II. MATTHEW 24:15–18 (NKJV) — 15 "THEREFORE WHEN YOU SEE THE *'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,'* SPOKEN OF BY DANIEL THE PROPHET, STANDING IN THE HOLY PLACE" (WHOEVER READS, LET HIM UNDERSTAND), 16 "THEN LET THOSE WHO ARE IN JUDEA FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS. 17 LET HIM WHO IS ON THE HOUSETOP NOT GO DOWN TO TAKE ANYTHING OUT OF HIS HOUSE. 18 AND LET HIM WHO IS IN THE FIELD NOT GO BACK TO GET HIS CLOTHES.

A. To understand what the Lord is telling the disciples, we must first attempt to understand what He means by "**The Abomination of Desolation**" that Daniel spoke of.

1. I believe Daniel speaks of 3 such events – two past and one yet future. And yet the dialog of **Daniel chapter 11** seems like one long narrative.
   a) In other words, the way it is written, seems to be referring to one event.
      (1) Yet it has been fulfilled at least twice and will be yet again.

b) The first one was when a Syrian by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes destroyed Jerusalem in 170 B.C.

(1) **Daniel 11:13–16 (NKJV) — 13 For the king of the North will return and muster a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come at the end of some years with a great army and much equipment. 14 "Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall. 15 So the king of the North shall come and build a siege mound, and take a fortified city; and the forces of the South shall not withstand *him*. Even his choice troops *shall have* no strength to resist. 16 But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and no one shall stand against him. He shall stand in the Glorious Land with destruction in his power.**

(a) *History bears out the fact that Antiochus Epiphanes came against Jerusalem in 170 B.C., at which time over one hundred thousand Jews were slain. He took away the daily sacrifice from the temple, offered the blood and broth of a swine upon the altar, and set up an image of Jupiter to be worshiped in the holy place.[1] (J. Vernon McGee)*

c) The second event I think is referenced in Daniel in the same chapter (11) of Daniel, but I believe it takes a turn in verse 31:

(1) **Daniel 11:31–36 (NKJV) — 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. 32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. 33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet *for many* days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. 34 Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. 35 And *some* of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify *them,* and make *them* white, *until* the time of the end; because *it is* still for the appointed time. 36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.**

(2) Luke considered this abomination to be the Roman army:

(a) **Luke 21:20–22 (NKJV) — 20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 For these are the days of vengeance, that**

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1McGee, J. Vernon, *Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 2000, c1981.

**all things which are written may be fulfilled.**

(i) Again: Josephus tells us that 40 years after Jesus said it, Rome was destroyed by Titus in AD 70.

(ii) Which by the way, *Josephus relates that when the city was taken, the Romans brought their idols into the temple, and placed them over the eastern gate, and sacrificed to them there*, "Jewish Wars," b. 6 chapter 6, section 1. (E-Sword – Barnes Notes)

(iii) *It is said that at the fall of Jerusalem, the last surviving Jews of the city fled to the temple, because it was the strongest and most secure building in the city. Roman soldiers surrounded it, and one drunken soldier started a fire that soon engulfed the whole building. Ornate gold detail work in the roof melted down in the cracks between the stone walls of the temple, and to retrieve the gold, the Roman commander ordered that the temple be dismantled stone by stone. The destruction was so complete that today they have true difficulty learning exactly where the foundation of the temple was.*[2]

d) But I believe Daniel speaks of another "abomination of desolation" yet future.

(1) **Daniel 12:8–13 (NKJV) — 8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things?*" 9 And he said, "Go *your way,* Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. 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.** (3 ½ years) **12 Blessed *is* he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.** (a little over 45 days later) **13 "But you, go *your way* till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.**

*(a) "It is quite possible that this period of judgment of those that have lived through the tribulation period and have survived somehow during this holocaust when God's judgment will be poured out upon the earth, when they are brought to stand before Jesus at this judgment, that this judgment of the Lord will take a forty-five day period." (Smith)*[3] *(David Guzik)*

(b) You see down through the years Antiochus Epiphanes has been looked upon as a type of Antichrist!

(c) And though **Mat 24:5 "…many will come in** (His) **name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.** And

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[2] Guzik, D. (2013) *Matthew*. Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible), pp. Mt 24:1-2.

[3] Guzik, D. (2013) *Daniel*. Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik (David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible), pp. Da 12:9-13.

**Mat 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many:** there will be yet another that will set up his own image to be worshipped in the Temple!

(i) During that Great Tribulation, the temple will be rebuilt, and it will once again be profaned by the last antichrist!

(ii) And there will be a war like earth has never seen, as pure evil comes against God Himself.

(a) And I think you can see why Jesus said.

**III. MATTHEW 24:16–21 (NKJV) — 16 "THEN LET THOSE WHO ARE IN JUDEA FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS. 17 LET HIM WHO IS ON THE HOUSETOP NOT GO DOWN TO TAKE ANYTHING OUT OF HIS HOUSE. 18 AND LET HIM WHO IS IN THE FIELD NOT GO BACK TO GET HIS CLOTHES. 19 BUT WOE TO THOSE WHO ARE PREGNANT AND TO THOSE WHO ARE NURSING BABIES IN THOSE DAYS! 20 AND PRAY THAT YOUR FLIGHT MAY NOT BE IN WINTER OR ON THE SABBATH. 21 FOR THEN THERE WILL BE GREAT TRIBULATION, SUCH AS HAS NOT BEEN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL THIS TIME, NO, NOR EVER SHALL BE.**

A. But guess what folks, we won't be here! God's children do not look for the "Abomination of Desolation. We are **Titus 2:13 (NKJV) — 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

1. **1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV) — 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**
2. So evil is and has been around for a long time! And evil will continue to circle - and even "land" once in a while - but will ultimately be destroyed by Jesus.