

# What and When is the Abomination of Desolation

## Matthew 24:15

Matthew 23:37–24:22 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*’ ”

**24** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup> Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. <sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved. <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), <sup>16</sup> “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop

not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

## **Initial Observations**

### **1. This Statement, "Abomination of Desolation" occurs in the context of the 3 questions the disciples ask regarding**

1. The Destruction of the Temple
2. The Sign of the Coming of Christ - the parousia
3. The Sign of the End of the Age.

### **2. By the framing of the questions It is clearly eschatological in nature. What ever this is, it is in**

**the future of the disciples who are asking the question.**

**3. It is found in 2 Gospels specifically.**

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation,*’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

Mark 13:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> “So when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation,*’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing where it ought not**” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

**4. It is noted in Matt 24:15 and Mark 13:14, that this thing called the “Abomination of Desolation” Stands in the the Holy Place**

Stands—Matthew 6:5 (NKJV) Perf. Act Participle. — It was not always there, but is placed there and remains for a period of time.

Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**5. What Luke refers to as “armies surrounding Jerusalem”, some have equated with the Abomination of Desolation, but they are not the same thing.**

The A&D is placed and stands for a period of time in Matt and Mark

The Armies, surround Jerusalem. This is not the same thing.

.Luke 21:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

They may be at the same time but they are not the same thing.

It should be noted, that the A&D and the Armies Surrounding Jerusalem produce the same warning and same results.

But that does not mean one is the other and the the Armies surrounding is the Abomination of Desolation that stands in the Holy Place.

**6. This A&D bring the worst persecution and tribulation the World has ever experienced.**

Matthew 24:16–22 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

Mark 13:19–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation

which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.  
<sup>20</sup> And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

### Luke 21:21–24 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. <sup>24</sup> And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

### **7. The A&D is something that Daniel the Prophet referred to.**

### Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the *‘abomination of desolation,’* spoken of by Daniel the prophet,

standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

Mark 13:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> “So when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation,*’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand),

### **8. The meaning of the word Abomination usually has to do with idolatry**

**βδέλυγμα *bdélugma***; gen. *bdelúgmatos*, neut. noun from *bdelússō* (948), to emit a foul odor, to turn away through loathing or disgust, abhor.

Abomination.

(I) Generally that which is detestable to God (Luke 16:15; Sept.: Prov. 11:1; 15:8, 9; 20:23; 21:27).

(II) That which was unclean in the Jewish tradition and especially of impure idol worship; hence, idolatry, licentiousness, abominable impurity (Rev. 17:4, 5; 21:27; Sept.: 2 Kgs. 16:3; 21:2 [cf. Lev. 18:22; also Lev. 11:10, 12, 13; Jer. 11:15]).

(a fixed phrase derived from Hebrew, literally ‘the detestable thing of desolation’) an abomination (either an object or an event) which defiles a holy place and thus causes it to be abandoned and left desolate—‘an abomination which desolates, a horrible thing which defiles.’ ὅταν οὖν ἴδητε τὸ βδέλυγμα τῆς ἐρημώσεως ... ἐστὸς ἐν τόπῳ ἁγίῳ ‘when you see the desolating abomination ... standing in the holy place’ Mt 24:15. In translating βδέλυγμα, it may be necessary in some languages to use a phrase such as ‘that which God detests’ or ‘that which God hates’ or even ‘that which causes God’s anger.’ The term (for desolate) ἐρημώσεως may then be translated as ‘that which causes people to abandon’ or ‘that which causes something to be deserted.’ The entire phrase may then be translated in some languages as ‘that which God detests and which causes something to be abandoned’ or ‘... left desolate.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 536). United Bible Societies.

### **9. The Abomination of Desolation sets off a series of events that lead to the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 24:15–32 (NKJV)

## The Main Event

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (and since this is going to lead to enormous persecution and death)<sup>6</sup> “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

## The First Event

<sup>21</sup> For then (at the advent of the Abomination of Desolation) there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

## The Second Event

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

## The Final Event

<sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.  
<sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**10. The placement of the Abomination of Desolation in the Holy Place means that it stands Temple and if it is future event, assumes a rebuild temple.**

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

**11. The Abomination of Desolation is Jerusalem centric. It takes place in Jerusalem**

Matthew 24:15–32 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (and since this is going to lead to enormous persecution and death)<sup>6</sup> “then let

those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

**12. Since the reference to the Coming of Christ is his Literal physical bodily Coming in the future, then the Abomination of Desolation spoken of here has to be future also. It is grammatically tied to the Second Coming.**