

Doctrine of Abomination of Desolation

Matthew 24:15-16

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.

1. The Lord's reference to "the abomination of desolation" comes from Daniel 12:11.
 - *Daniel 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*
2. The appeal of the Lord to "*the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet*" sounds strange to modern ears, but the Jews to whom the Lord spoke, including His close disciples, knew exactly what the Lord had reference, just as surely as many Americans immediately know the meaning of November 22, 1963.
3. The Lord was referring historically to Antiochus Epiphanes (IV) who was the ruler of Syria from 175-164 BC.
4. Antiochus was the "little horn" of Daniel 8:9.
 - *Daniel 8:9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.*
5. In a vain attempt to influence the Jews with Greek culture, Antiochus captured the city of Jerusalem, erected an altar to Olympian Zeus in the Court Temple, and proceeded to perform an abomination of desolation when he offered a pig on the altar of the sacred Temple in Jerusalem to Zeus, thereby desecrating the holy altar.
6. With that historical allusion in mind, Jesus, in Matthew 24:15, tells the Jews that the same type of thing will happen again in their generation. The Lord had in mind the destruction of the Temple by the Romans.
7. The destruction of the Holy Temple would have happened soon after the death of Christ except for one fact. While He was on the Cross Jesus prayed for the people, and God delayed the execution of His judgment until AD 70.
 - *Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*
8. In AD 70, Israel was made even more desolate, for there did come one upon the wings of abominations in the person of the ruthless Roman general Titus. In AD 70, Rome was weary of the Jewish revolts.

9. For about three and one-half years Rome laid siege to Jerusalem, and finally conquered the city completely. The Holy Temple was destroyed, and the prophecy of Christ in Matthew 24:15, using a previous typology provided by Daniel in the form of Antiochus, was finally fulfilled.
10. It is important to note that when prophecy has a “near” and a “far” fulfillment, the Scriptures indicate that. Two examples should suffice to establish this principle.

Near Fulfillment. *Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:*

Far Fulfillment. *Matthew 17:12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.*

Near Fulfillment. *Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

Far Fulfillment. *Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Proposition. God the Holy Spirit has a right to interpret Scripture as He sees fit. Therefore, when the New Testament says something in the Old Testament is accomplished, believe it, and look for no more fulfillment. It is enough.

Proposition. Unless a modern day prophetic teacher is under the influence of God the Holy Spirit to the same degree the Biblical prophets and apostles were, he, or she, has no right to speak about modern nations, or events, being the fulfillment of ancient prophecies.

Special Note.

Many modern day prophetic teachers are taking far too much liberty in saying that ancient texts of Scripture find modern fulfillment. One trick is to take ancient prophecies given to nations such as Edom, Moab, and Ammon, lay a modern day map over the Middle East, identify current nations, and then proceed to teach some prophetic scheme of their own vain imagination. While it is sensational and entertaining, it is wrong. Scriptures are not to be twisted for personal profit or promotion. Hal Lindsey is perhaps one of the best examples of finding modern nations in ancient Biblical prophecies. Mr. Lindsey has certainly influenced countless individuals, such as Steven Collins, who wrote:

Finding Ancient Nations in the Modern World:

“Obviously, we will not find the name “United States of America” in biblical prophecies, and the above clues are found in a variety of scriptures and prophecies. We will have to discern what ancient terms are used to describe the modern USA in “latter day” prophecies. This is the same method used by many Christians in identifying other nations in latter day prophecies.”

The problem with this sensationalization of Scripture is that it makes God look silly. God knows the future, and He knows how to spell. Nearly 150 years before Cyrus was born, his birth was foretold, and his name was given by the prophet Isaiah. The same was true of John the Baptist, and of Jesus.

Cyrus. Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

John the Baptist. Luke 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Jesus. Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.