

TWO SIGNS PRECEDING CHRIST'S 2ND ADVENT

In Session #1, we learned that the Olivet Discourse is Jesus' answer to two questions posed by His disciples (24:3). We looked at the first part of Jesus' answer (24:4-14); it dealt with general predictions before **the end of the age**, the "Times of the Gentiles."

In the next paragraph (Mt. 24:15-31), Jesus highlights two specific signs that precede His 2nd Advent.

Sign #1 that precedes the 2nd Advent:

Matthew 25:15

**"THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION"
SPOKEN OF BY DANIEL, THE PROPHET**

"The Abomination of Desolation" is used 3 times in Daniel. Jesus had to be referring to the prophecy of Daniel _____ and _____.

1. Dan. 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 [one]."*

When? "In the middle of _____" (lit. "70th 7")
Who? The Prince, the Antichrist, who covenants with Israel
What? He will cause the sacrifice to cease; he will make _____ the Temple by demanding worship of himself, 2Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:4-8
How long? "Until the consummation," "the full end" of the Desolater

2. Dan. 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.*

When? Same as 9:27: the middle of Dan.'s 70th Week
 -"the time of the end," Dan. 12:4,6,8,9: same as Mt. 24: 6,13,14,15!
Who? The Antichrist, the "Willful King" of Dan. 11:36-45.

3. The third use of this term is in **Dan. 11:31**, which happened in 167 BC). *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.*

Who? Antiochus Epiphanes & his armies
When? _____ BC
What? Erects a statue of Zeus in the Temple: sacrifices a pig on the altar

Sign #2 that precedes the 2nd Advent:

Matthew 24:21
“THE GREAT TRIBULATION”

Note that the “_____” of v.15 is associated with the “_____” of v.21.

v.21 Lit. “then shall be a _____, a great one”

Qualified by Jesus: “such as NEVER _____ OR EVER _____!”
Rev. 7:14 is a direct reference to this event!

v.22 “Except those days be _____ [lit.], no flesh, no _____ would survive (but they will be terminated and the _____ will survive).”

v.23-25 “Do not listen to the false prophets of those days: I warned you many times of them.”

v.26-28 “You will not have to look for the real Messiah nor go to Him; He is coming to you in a most apparent way, not in secret.”

v.29-31 JESUS TIES THE ENTIRE PASSAGE DIRECTLY TO HIS _____ ADVENT, HIS COMING IN _____!

Observations and Conclusions about Mt. 24:15-31

- ❖ In no way can the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD fulfill the demands of these prophecies.
- ❖ Jesus associates the “when” of Mt. 24:15 with the “then” of v.21, which tells of a tribulation so disastrous that it is unparalleled in the history and future of the earth (it is the 2nd major sign of His 2nd Advent in this context).
- ❖ Jesus associates these events with the rise of pseudo-Messiah’s (false-Christ), no doubt associated with the Anti-Christ himself, and a proliferation of false prophets, 24:23-26.
- ❖ Jesus clearly states that His 2nd Advent in great power and glory will follow on the heels of “the tribulation of those days,” 24:29-31. Did this happen at the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD?!? This is the coup-de-grace for Preterist interpretations of Mt. 24.
- ❖ Jesus nowhere in Matthew’s record of the Olivet Discourse refers to the destruction of Jerusalem. Why? Because He addresses the main concerns of the disciples’ questions – the “when” and the “signs” of the 2nd Advent and the end of the age – and the destruction of Jerusalem simply does not relate to these prophesied events.

Conclusion: JESUS EMPAHTICALLY SAW THE “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION” SPOKEN BY DANIEL THE PROPHET AS YET FUTURE FROM HIS DAY AND AS A DRAMATIC SIGN OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY PREDEDE HIS 2ND ADVENT IN POWER AND GREAT GLORY. IT IS THEREFORE YET FUTURE TO OUR DAY. IN NO WAY DOES IT RELATE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN 70 AD.