

Matthew Chapter 24-25 – The Olivet Discourse – Part 8
Matthew 24:15 – The Abomination of Desolation

Matthew 24:4-14

In the first section, Jesus gives a very general run-through of the end times, specifically, the time of Jacob's trouble.

Verses 4-8 state that there will be many false Christs, there will be wars and reports of wars, and there will be (supernatural) disasters. But this is not yet the end of the age. Each of these statements is tied to the time of Jacob's trouble and can be found in both the Prophets and Revelation, specifically the seal judgments in Revelation 6.

Verses 9-14 provide what is going to happen nearer to the end of the age. Jesus tells them that there will be great persecution, many will "fall away" (deception, self-interest, and betrayal), the love for others will be nearly non-existent, and this gospel of the kingdom will reach all nations. This section deals with events of the second half of the time of Jacob's trouble. In Matthew, the focus is not on the wrath of God but on the peril of the persecution.

The gospel of the kingdom will be spread to all the world by the 144,000, the two witnesses, and a heavenly angel in the sky. Then the end of the age will come, that is the return of the Messiah.

Matthew 24:15

Therefore is the first word of verse 15. οὕτως οὖν – is a postpositive conjunction. It is an inferential particle that develops conclusions while looking back at the previous information.

Verses 15-28 provide further details about verses 9-14. Jesus is going to provide the details about how one can endure to the end. Jesus begins with a reference to the abomination of desolation. To understand what Jesus is referring to, we must go back to Daniel.

Daniel 9

In verses 1-19, Daniel was reading Jeremiah and realized that the time of their departure was at hand. Daniel prays a prayer of contrition on behalf of all the people of Israel. Daniel is not the one who sinned, but he prays for all the sins of the nation as a whole (Daniel 9:17-19).

Daniel receives a visitor while he is praying (Daniel 9:20-23). Gabriel comes to Daniel and, as he has done before, gives further information and understanding about the visions Daniel has seen with precise details about what will happen in the future. Now, we have the most significant part of Israel's prophetic history, and it is this part that Jesus refers to in Matthew 24:15-28.

Daniel 9:24-27

Verse 24 – 70 weeks (sets of seven) have been decreed for Israel until the New Covenant is established.

The 70 sets of seven are understood as 70 sets of seven-year periods. Thus, this is 490 years.

Verse 25 – The countdown begins with the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. There will be 69 sets of seven until the Messiah. This is further broken down into 7 and 62 sets of seven. It is believed that it

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will take 7 sets of seven (49 years) until Jerusalem is finished, and then there will be 62 sets of seven (434 years) until Messiah.

Verse 26 – After the 62 sets of seven (a total of 69 sets of seven or 483 years), the Messiah will be cut off. We understand this as the Messiah being rejected and crucified. Then, the people of the prince who is to come will destroy/corrupt/ruin the city and the sanctuary.

The normal understating of the second half of verse 26 is that of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. However, I will propose a different understanding. I think this is talking about the prophecy of the people who will come and corrupt the temple and Jerusalem during the final seven years. Once the people come in to corrupt the city and the temple, then there will be war and desolations.

Verse 27 – The prince that is to come (false messiah) will come and make a covenant for one set of seven (seven years). In the middle of the seven-year period (@ 3.5 years), the people of the prince will come in and make Jerusalem and the temple corrupt.

The prince will stop offerings and sacrifice and will make abominations and desolations. God decrees that all involved in this desolation, complete destruction will be poured out.

This passage gives the timing of the Messiah and provides timing for the end of the age – the age of Israel until the New Covenant is established.

Daniel 11

The message of Daniel continues about this prince, the king who does as he pleases, the false messiah. We will pick up this information in verses 29-45.

Verses 29-31 – This false messiah will be confronted by ships from Kittim, and he will be enraged and violate the covenant (we already know the when – 3.5 years into the final set of seven). The false messiah will bring his people and invade Israel and Jerusalem; then they will set up the abomination of desolation.

Verse 32 – The false messiah will convince the Nation of Israel to turn to godlessness. But there will be some who will recognize what is happening (the Remnant) and oppose him.

Verse 33-35 – The people who know (the Remnant) will try to convince the many (Nation of Israel), but they will be martyred. All this is happening to refine Israel until only the Remnant remains.

Verses 36-39 – The passage describes what happens during the time of the abomination of desolation. The false messiah sets himself up as god; he is the epitome of an idolator, an immoral person beyond all measure. He causes all to honor and worship him and will kill those who oppose him. He will parcel out Israel and Jerusalem for a price.

Daniel 12

Daniel's vision concludes with the messenger giving Daniel more details and assuring him.

Verses 5-13 – The refining of the Nation of Israel will occur. The Remnant needs to be aware of these details so that they can endure until the end. Once they see the abomination of desolation, there will be 1290 days, then there will be another 45 days until Jesus inaugurates His kingdom.