

WHEN IS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION?

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We have been spending quite some time in the Book of Daniel. We will spend some more time in it today!

Remember Jesus' key sign of His return.

Matthew 24:3, 15-16

3 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?**" (*What do we look for?*)

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.**

This is a clear sign — you can't miss it! "When you see" — per Daniel.

Matthew 24:21-22

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.

22 **And unless those days were shortened**, no flesh would be saved; **but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

The Great Tribulation corresponds to Daniel 12:1.

If we are to "understand" ... we need to be familiar with Daniel's passages on the Abomination. It's the key. It's the sign. Daniel spoke about the Abomination in four of those passages.

All include reference to the daily sacrifices being stopped.

We saw last week that **this requires the daily sacrifices to start.** It also requires an altar for burnt offerings.

And ... since all potential Jewish priests are ceremonially unclean — it also needs a red heifer — and its ashes — to produce water of purification from the ashes (Numbers 19).

Currently there are 3 possible red heifers. We will have to wait and see! And no doubt there'll be some “politics” involved too!! ☺

Today we will move on to 2 other other passages that mention the Abomination of Desolation.

Daniel 8:1-4

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar (*the last King of Babylon*) a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.

2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.

4 I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

The Ram — Iran.

Iran launching a war to the north — to the south — and to the west.

Then a counter attack.

Daniel 8:5-8

5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

6 Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to

withstand him, **but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.**

8 **Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.**

The Goat — Javan.

Major conflict in the Middle East — between Iran ... and a successful counter attack from Turkey. Shia (Iran) versus Sunni (the majority of the rest of the Muslims). One of the mysteries here or puzzles is —the absence of the USA is curious (and worrying). Perhaps — the USA has major domestic problems to sort out?

Daniel 8:9

9 **And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.**

Daniel 8:10-12

10 **And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.**

11 **He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.**

12 **Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground.** He did all this and prospered. *(He got away with it!)*

The rise of the Antichrist? From “Javan” therefore Islamic. The Islamic Saviour — the Mahdi.

See the illustration below.

He sees himself equal to Jesus?! He takes away the daily sacrifices.

Daniel 8:13

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "**How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?**"

The daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation (Abomination of Desolation). The sanctuary trampled underfoot.

Daniel 8:14

14 And he said to me, "**For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.**"

2,300 evenings—mornings. (The two-a-days).

Once again ... daily sacrifices. So at some point ... they must start! "Sanctuary" is the temple — so at some point it must be built.

See some proposed Temple architectural illustrations below.

The whole vision might cover 2,300 days (just over 6 years) ... so there might be a hint of how long the sacrifices continue — before they are stopped?

Yet Jesus' sign is the Abomination being set up ... not the "start" of the sacrifices.

Daniel 8:15-19

15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.

16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "**Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.**"

17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "**Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.**"

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

19 And he said, "**Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.**

It's end time!

Daniel 8:23-26

23 "And in **the latter time** of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who understands sinister schemes.

24 **His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power;
He shall destroy fearfully,
And shall prosper and thrive;
He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.**

25 "Through his cunning (*shrewdness*)
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;
And he shall exalt himself in his heart.

He shall destroy many in their prosperity.

**He shall even rise against the Prince of princes;
But he shall be broken without human means.**

26 "**And the vision of the evenings and mornings
Which was told is true;
Therefore seal up the vision,
For it refers to many days in the future.**"

A further description of the Antichrist.

With this in mind ... Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians may be clearer?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, **we ask you,**

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

End-time.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

4 **who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

Apostasy. The Man of Sin ... in the Temple of God. (The little horn)

2 Thessalonians 2:5

5 **Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?**

In his short time in Thessalonica ... Paul had fully explained these things to them! How? Paul has to be referring to the scriptures in the Old Testament — The Book of Daniel!

2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 **For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.**

8 **And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.**

9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

10 **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth,** that they might be saved.

11 **And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**

12 **that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

This lawless one is right at the end-time ... and Jesus will destroy him when He returns.

Daniel 9:1-2

1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—

2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah's Prophecy of 70 years.

Daniel realises that the time is almost up ... and intercedes for the restoration of the Jews to Israel and a new temple (the temple didn't exist in Daniel's day — even though it's mentioned in his visions!)

Gabriel brings a vision — the full solution isn't 70 years ... but 70 x 7 years!

Daniel 9:24

24 "Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.

We use "decades" — God uses 7's.

The Hebrew word for week is Shabua (seven).

So ... 70 x 7 = 490 years — till "everlasting righteousness".

But not a continuous 490 years. Broken into 3 segments — 7 (re-building of Jerusalem) ... 62 ... 1.

Daniel 9:25

25 "Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;

The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

From a specific decree — till Messiah — will be $69 \times 7 = 483$ years. That's quite handy — it tells you when Christ will come.

Some dispute over the specific decree (of course) ... but the best candidate is probably 457 BC. Brings us to 27 AD ... and the year of Jesus' baptism and the official start of His public ministry.

According to historians ... it seems that many Jews of that day were looking out for the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy about the Messiah.

Daniel 9:26

26 **"And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.**

The end of it shall be with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

The Messiah cut off!

Daniel 9:27

27 **Then he shall confirm (strengthen) a covenant with many for one week; (1
x 7 year period)**

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."**

He shall confirm (strengthen) a covenant/treaty. For a seven-year period (often referred to as Daniel's "70th week) right at the end.

"In the middle of the week" ... bring an end — cause to cease — the sacrifices. Commences the final 3½ year period ... and the Great Tribulation.

The latter part of verse 27 seems to cause problems for translators! So here are a couple of other translations:

Daniel 9:27 (Septuagint)

27 **and upon the temple shall be an abomination of desolations.** And at the end of time and end shall be put to the desolation.

Daniel 9:27 (NIV)

27 **And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation,** until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

So ... again — we have an Abomination that makes desolate ... stopping of sacrifices ... 3½ years before everlasting righteousness.

There’s a 7-year period here when a covenant is strengthened. Might we spot the beginning? Perhaps ... but not what Jesus told us to look for. “When you see the Abomination ... flee!” The Abomination is at the mid-way point.

Very little about Daniel 9:27 in any Church of God literature. HWA avoided it as he wasn’t convinced he understood it.

The traditional view in the Worldwide Church of God circles was that Jesus would be the “he” who would “confirm” the New Covenant.

First part of the week for Jesus’ 3½ year earthly ministry — then He’d die at “mid-week” (Wednesday) ... with a further 3½ year of “confirming” yet to come.

There are various views of when the second 3½ year period would be ... the first few years of the Apostles going out preaching — up to the death of Stephen ... or 3½ years in the Place of Safety ... or the first 3½ years in the Millennium. Wild guesses.

We’re talking about the Abomination of Desolation. Apart from the Antichrist sitting in the temple — what might the term “desolation” include?

Leviticus 26:21-22

21 'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, **I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.**

22 **I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.**

Highways desolate.

Leviticus 26:31-35

31 **I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation,** and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas.

32 **I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.**

33 **I will scatter you among the nations** and draw out a sword after you; **your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.**

34 Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land;

then the land shall rest and enjoy its sabbaths.

35 **As long as it lies desolate it shall rest—**

for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.

Sanctuaries and land desolate. God will curse the people.

Same Hebrew word as Abomination of Desolation: "Desolate".

Luke 21:20-24

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, **then know that its desolation is near.** *(This is the Abomination of Desolation)*

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 all things which are written may be fulfilled.**

23 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.**

24 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.**

Land desolate. Great distress. Slain and captive.

It will be an awful time. Ruin!

Zechariah 13:7 - 14:4, 9

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,
Against the Man who is My Companion,”
Says the LORD of hosts.

“Strike the Shepherd,

And the sheep will be scattered; (a reference to Jesus)

Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,”

Says the LORD,

“That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die,

But one-third shall be left in it:

9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, *(only 1/3rd of the Jews today will survive — and they will go into captivity)*

Will refine them as silver is refined,

And test them as gold is tested.

They will call on My name,

And I will answer them.

I will say, ‘This is My people’;

And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”

Chapter 14

1 **Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,**

And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 **For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;**

The city shall be taken,

The houses rifled,

And the women ravished.

Half of the city shall go into captivity,

But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth

And fight against those nations,

As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, ...

9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.

In that day it shall be—
“The LORD is one,”
And His name one.

Two-thirds of Jews in Israel killed in the end-time!

This is the desolation prophesied!

Hence Jesus’ command in Matthew 24. “If you’re in Judea — flee. Urgent!
Don’t go back home to collect anything. Get out now”!

It won’t be pretty!

So ... it seems that we can watch out for red heifers ... ashes ... daily sacrifices ...
physical temple — **but the “Big One” — the pivotal prophecy that sets the
world on fire — is the Abomination of Desolation — spoken of by Daniel the
Prophet — standing in the Holy Place.**

We’ve looked at 4 places in appears in Daniel ... so hopefully we are better
prepared than those around us who haven’t even heard of it!

NEWS UPDATES

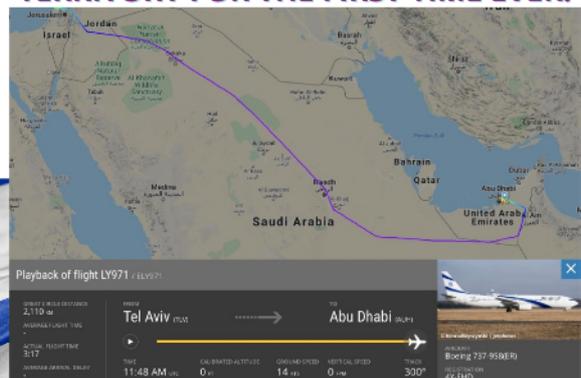
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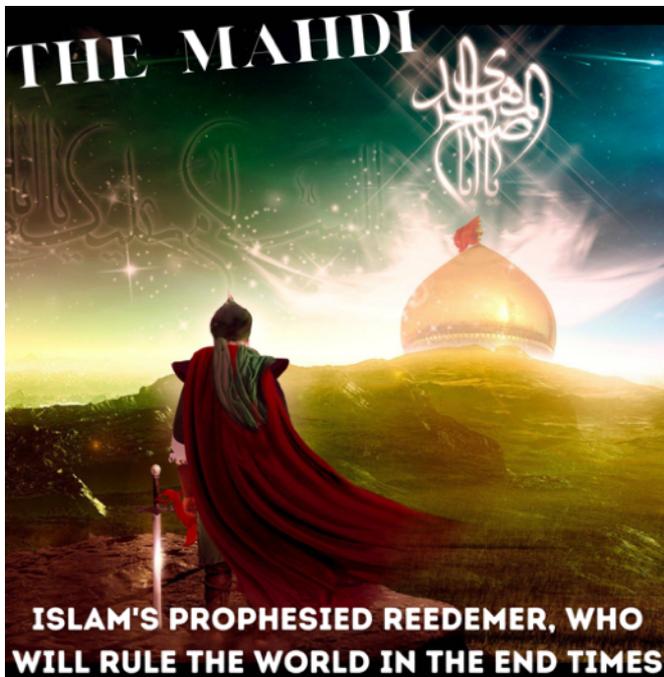
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Plan of the Third Temple

West

Main Temple Building

