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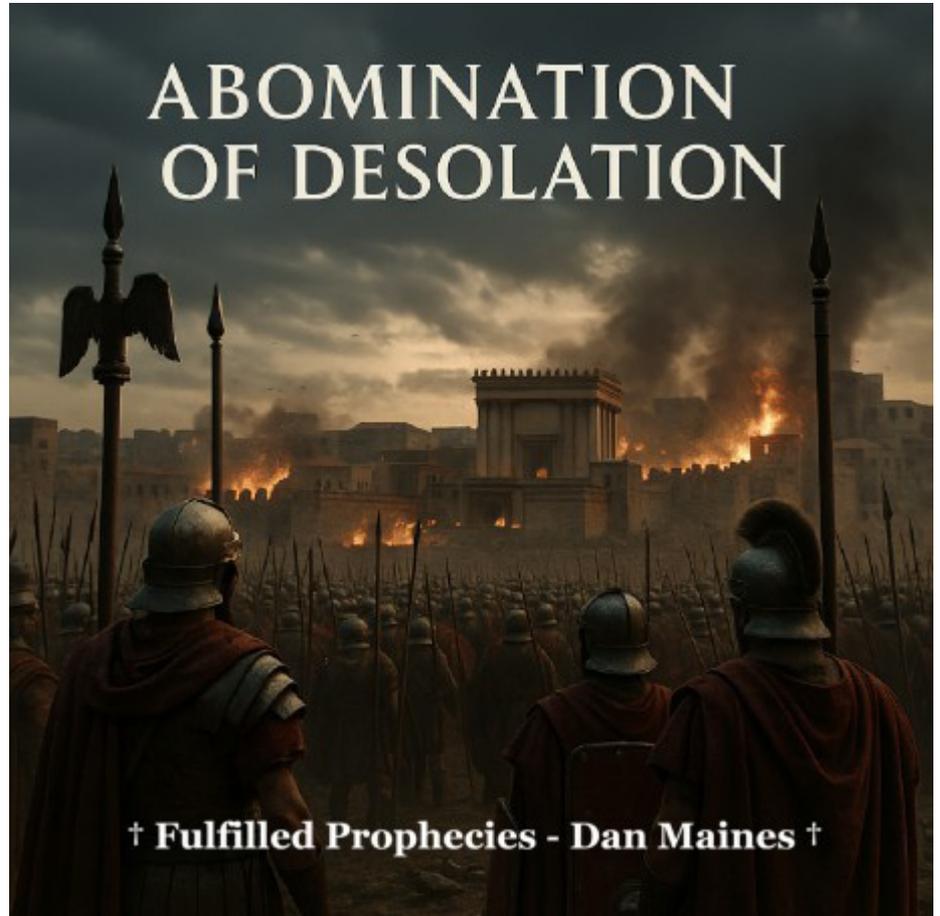
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## Abomination of Desolation



By Dan Maines

### **Abomination of Desolation**

The Abomination of Desolation is one of the most misunderstood prophecies in the entire Bible. Futurism has turned it into an end of the world prediction, a rebuilt temple, a political antichrist, and a worldwide tribulation. But Jesus grounded it firmly in the prophecy of Daniel, tied it to the end of Old Covenant Israel, and declared that all of it would happen in His generation. The Abomination of Desolation is not a prophecy waiting for fulfillment. It is a fulfilled historical reality connected to the judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70. Jesus

warned His disciples so they could escape, showing that this was not symbolic speculation. It was real, imminent, and devastating to the world of the Old Covenant.

### **Matthew 24:15-18**

† Jesus said therefore when you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains (Matthew 24:15-16). Jesus applied Daniel's prophecy to His own generation.

† Jesus limited the warning to Judea, proving it was a local covenantal judgment on Old Covenant Israel, not a worldwide event (Matthew 24:16).

† Jesus told the disciples to flee immediately because the danger was real, physical, and imminent. He said whoever is on the housetop must not go down, and whoever is in the field must not turn back (Matthew 24:17-18).

† Jesus placed the fulfillment within that generation. He said truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place (Matthew 24:34).

† Jesus said not one stone would be left upon another, confirming that the Abomination of Desolation would end with the total destruction of the temple (Matthew 24:2).

### **Luke 21:20**

† Luke records the same event with clearer historical detail. Jesus said when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near (Luke 21:20).

† The Abomination of Desolation was not a mystical event. It was the Roman legions surrounding the city, the sign the disciples were told to watch for.

† Jesus said Jerusalem would be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled, which happened in the same generation during Rome's conquest (Luke 21:24).

† Early Christians escaped before the siege, proving that

Jesus's prophecy was immediate, literal, and meant for them, not us.

### **Daniel 9:26-27**

† Daniel revealed that the culmination of the seventy weeks would lead to the destruction of the city and the sanctuary. He wrote the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary, and he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering, and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate (Daniel 9:26-27).

† Daniel said these things would be completed when the power of the holy people was completely shattered, which happened in AD 70 when Jerusalem fell (Daniel 12:7).

† Daniel described earlier abominations during the time of Antiochus, showing a pattern that pointed forward to the final desolation fulfilled in AD 70 (Daniel 11:31).

† The Romans halted sacrifice when they encircled Jerusalem. Josephus records that the daily sacrifices ended before the final siege, fulfilling Daniel with precision.

† Daniel's prophecy tied the desolation to covenantal rebellion. Jesus declared the same when He said behold, your house is being left to you desolate (Matthew 23:38).

### **Matthew 22:7**

† Jesus said the king would send his armies and destroy those murderers and burn their city, a prophecy of Jerusalem's judgment that matches the Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 22:7).

### **Deuteronomy 28:49-52**

† Moses warned Israel that a foreign nation would swoop down like an eagle, besiege their cities, and leave them desolate when they broke the covenant (Deuteronomy 28:49-52).

† Jesus identified the same covenantal judgment unfolding in

His generation.

## **2 Corinthians 3:11**

† Paul said the Old Covenant was already fading and becoming obsolete, showing that the final removal was close at hand even before Jerusalem fell (2 Corinthians 3:11).

## **Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 12:25-28**

† The desolation marked the final end of temple worship. Hebrews declares that what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away (Hebrews 8:13).

† That vanishing happened with the desolation of AD 70, not a future event.

† The Abomination of Desolation is not a future world crisis. It is the historical termination of the Old Covenant world, which was replaced by the unshakable kingdom of Christ (Hebrews 12:25-28).

## **Matthew 21:43**

† Jesus declared the kingdom would be taken from the Old Covenant leaders and given to a people producing fruit, the same leaders who were judged in the desolation (Matthew 21:43).

## **Revelation 11:2**

† John saw the holy city being trampled for forty two months, matching Jesus's timeline and Daniel's final week, fulfilled in the Roman siege (Revelation 11:2).

## **How We Know It Was Fulfilled**

† When the disciples saw the Roman armies encircle Jerusalem, they knew the prophetic signs were being fulfilled

before their eyes.

† This was the mercy of God preserving the faithful remnant.

† The fulfilled perspective is the only view that honors Jesus's time statements.

† Nothing in Daniel's prophecy remains unfulfilled.

## **What was the actual Abomination of Desolation**

† The actual Abomination of Desolation was not something placed inside the temple. It was the arrival of the Roman armies, their standards, and the surrounding of Jerusalem that signaled the coming desolation.

† Jesus already defined it in plain terms. Luke interprets Matthew.

† Matthew said

when you see the Abomination of Desolation standing in the holy place (Matthew 24:15).

† Luke records the same prophecy with inspired clarity when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near (Luke 21:20).

† The holy place in this context was Jerusalem itself, the covenant land, not the inner sanctuary. In the Old Testament, God repeatedly called the entire city His holy place. When foreign armies entered that land, they defiled it, fulfilling Daniel.

† The Romans brought their standards, which carried idolatrous images the Jews considered abominations. When those armies stood on Jerusalem's holy ground and halted sacrifice, Daniel's prophecy came to pass.

† Josephus confirms that the daily sacrifices ended before the final siege and that Roman standards were set up near the temple after the conquest. But the Abomination itself was not something set up inside the temple. It was the foreign armies invading the covenant land and bringing the destruction Daniel foretold.

† So the Abomination of Desolation was the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem, their idolatrous standards standing on holy ground, the cessation of sacrifice,

and the arrival of covenant judgment in AD 70.

† It was not an object placed inside the physical temple. The prophecy was fulfilled exactly as Jesus said, in their generation, through the Roman siege of Jerusalem.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus recorded the events surrounding the siege of Jerusalem with striking accuracy. He describes how the Roman standards, which the Jews considered abominations, were planted in the temple area after the city fell. He records that the daily sacrifices ceased before the temple's destruction, perfectly matching Daniel's prediction that sacrifice would end before the final desolation. Early Christian historians like Eusebius testify that believers in Jerusalem remembered the Lord's warning, fled to Pella, and escaped the destruction. This proves the early church understood the Abomination of Desolation as fulfilled in their time and not a prophecy for a distant generation.

## **How it applies to us today**

† We live in the kingdom that came after the desolation of the Old Covenant age. We are not waiting for tribulation signs, antichrist figures, rebuilt temples, or prophetic countdowns. The Abomination of Desolation stands as a completed act of covenant judgment that vindicated Christ's words and established His unshakable kingdom. Because the prophecy is fulfilled, we rest in a kingdom not defined by temples, sacrifices, rituals, or shadows. We live in direct access to the Father through Christ. The destruction of the old world opened the way for the eternal world of the New Covenant, and we live in that world today. The Abomination of Desolation is a reminder that God keeps His promises, judges covenant breakers, and rescues His faithful ones. It confirms the reliability of Scripture and the certainty of the fulfilled kingdom we enjoy every day.

# † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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## Source Index

† Matthew 23:36, Matthew 23:38, Matthew 24:2, Matthew 24:15-18, Matthew 24:34

† Luke 21:20, Luke 21:24

† Daniel 9:26-27, Daniel 11:31, Daniel 12:7

† Deuteronomy 28:49-52, Matthew 22:7, Matthew 21:43

† 2 Corinthians 3:11, Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 12:25-28

† Revelation 11:2

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6

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