

Lesson 10: *The Abomination of Desolation*

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

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¹⁴ “So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. ¹⁶ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁷ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ¹⁸ And pray that your flight may not be in winter. —

Mark 13:14-18

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. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. —**Matthew 24:15-20**

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 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. —

Luke 21:20-24

(Note) The abomination of desolation is something you can **see**, it is **not the destruction itself** because if it was the destruction, how could you flee? There is something which those who are inside the holy city **can see** and which **becomes a sign** to flee.

⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."—
Luke 19:41-44

(Note) Josephus mentions that Titus built "a wall round about the whole city"—
Wars of the Jews

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.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."—**Daniel 9:26, 27**

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁴ And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."—**Matthew 21:42-44**

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate—
Matthew 23:37, 38

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.”—**Daniel 9:27**

*“When the **idolatrous standards of the Romans** should be set up in the **holy ground**, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would **escape must make no delay.**”—**The Great Controversy, p. 26***

*“It [the gospel] penetrated into regions that were inaccessible even to the **eagles of Rome.**”—**The Great Controversy, p. 41***

(Note) The official standard of the **Roman legions** when Jerusalem was surrounded was the **eagle**.

In the **year 63** these standards were **deified** by the Roman general **Pompeii**. The eagle standard was in honor of the **sun-god Mithra**, a god whom Pompeii adopted during a military campaign in **Asia Minor**.

This was the god whom **Constantine** the Great worshipped as well. Constantine called this god **Deus Sol Invictus**. The eagle standard became a symbol of the **invincibility of Rome**. As the sun **defeated darkness**, so Rome defeated their enemies.

The Abomination of Desolation—Past and Future

“The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize.”—

Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, pp. 464, 465

(Note) National apostasy led to national ruin. They thought that by getting rid of Jesus and His followers they would save Jerusalem but instead by slaying Jesus and his followers they brought destruction upon Jerusalem.