

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Revelation Message 28*

*March 10, 2024*



The Four Evangelists by Peter Paul Rubens Cir. 1614

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Revelation Message Twenty-Eight

THE MID TRIBULATION EVENTS

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Revelation chapter ten introduces the reader to the events of the middle of the Tribulation.

1. ~~The Second Worldwide Conflict—Daniel 11:40–45.~~
2. ~~The Antichrist Killed~~
3. ~~Satan Cast Down to the Earth—Revelation 12:7–12~~
4. ~~The Resurrection of the Antichrist—Revelation 13:3~~
5. ~~Three Kings Killed—Seven Submit~~
6. ~~Destruction of Ecclesiastical Babylon—Revelation 17:16~~
7. ~~The Mission and Death of the Two Witnesses—Revelation 11:7–13~~
8. ~~The Worship of the Antichrist—Revelation 13:3–10~~
9. The False Prophet—Revelation 13:11–15
10. ~~666: The Mark of the Beast—Revelation 13:16–18~~
11. ~~The Seven-year Covenant Broken~~
12. The Abomination of Desolation
13. The Persecution of the Jews
14. Midtribulation Announcements
15. The Seventh Trumpet: The Third Woe Judgment—Revelation 11:14–19

## THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION—JEWISH BELIEVER PROTECTION

However, before the Lord returns and ushers in His Kingdom there will be Tribulation such as the world has never before seen. The Jews who will get saved during the Tribulation are here instructed to: *enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.* Deliverance from the Great Tribulation and its fearful punishment will be near for the beleaguered remnant. Because the Lord will soon take His judgment on the ungodly (the worse is yet to come in the vial judgments of Revelation 16:1-21). Closing their doors behind them, God's people will be told to await the issue calmly and confidently. Jesus warns the Jewish dwellers in Judea that when they see the "Abomination of Desolation" - a desecrating idol installed in the Temple's inner room the Holy of Holies of the Temple - to flee to the mountains. The remnant of Israel will find refuge there for three and a half years while God protects them and provides for them (Matthew 24:22, 24, 31). This passage is saying that the moment the Jewish Remnant, the elect sees the event of the abomination of desolation then they are to flee to the Judean hills. The Beast (antichrist) and the False Prophet will be setting up the abomination of desolation in the rebuilt Jewish Temple, The Antichrist goes from protecting Israel to persecuting her. Therefore, the sooner that the Remnant can get out, then the less likely it will be that they will be persecuted. Then according to the Lord's provision, they will be able to flee instantly is because they will be miraculously provided for and protected as they make their way to Petra for three and a half years of safekeeping.

Daniel 9:24–27

*<sup>24</sup>Seventy weeks are decreed upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy. <sup>25</sup>Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the anointed one, the prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times. <sup>26</sup>And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined. <sup>27</sup>And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate (ASV, 1901).*

THE CESSATION OF THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM:

The verse says that in the middle of the seven he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. In the middle of the seven years, that is after 3 ½ years the covenant will be broken. When it is broken, he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. So, there will be a forced cessation of the sacrificial system.

That there will be a Third Temple is certain. When it will be built is uncertain. It could be either before the Tribulation or during the first half.

The Tribulation Temple, which will be the Third Temple, is mentioned in four passages of Scripture. The first is found in Daniel 9:27.

Daniel 9:27

*<sup>27</sup>And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate (ASV, 1901).*

The second passage is Matthew 24:15

Matthew 24:15

*<sup>15</sup>When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) (KJV).*

The third passage is found in II Thessalonians 2:3-4

## II Thessalonians 2:3–4

*<sup>3</sup>Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup>Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God (KJV).*

### THE THIRD TEMPLE OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Several passages of Scripture indicate that the activities of the Antichrist involve a future Jewish Temple:

- Daniel 9:27 - The prince who is to come confirms a covenant for the duration of the 70th Week of Daniel. In the middle of the week, “*he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.*” This implies a preexisting Temple within which sacrifice and offering had been taking place.
- Daniel 12:11 - The daily sacrifice will be taken away and the Abomination of Desolation is set up. The context indicates that this occurs during “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a [Jewish] nation” (Daniel 12:1). A Temple must have been standing in which the daily sacrifices were being offered.
- Matthew 24:15 - Jesus predicted that the Abomination of Desolation would stand “in the holy place.” This refers to a location within the Temple.

II Thessalonians 2:4 - Paul indicated that one of the acts of “the man of sin” would be to exalt himself “above all that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sits as God *in the temple of God*, showing himself that he is God.” [emphasis added]

The pivotal event, which signals the mid-point of the Great Tribulation, is the Antichrist’s takeover of the Jewish Temple. He breaks his covenant with the Jews, and declares himself “The Almighty God”. He also begins a serious persecution of the Jews, which will last for 1,260 days. The False Prophet sets up an inanimate image of the Antichrist in the Temple, and Satan causes it to become alive. The Antichrist is in control of the world for those 1,260 days, and then he will be killed:

Daniel 12:11

*<sup>11</sup>And from the time that the continual burnt-offering shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand and two hundred and ninety days (ASV 1901).*

The image stays in the Temple for additional thirty days (1290-1260). The desecration of the Jewish Temple lasts an additional thirty days beyond the end of the Great Tribulation, then it will be destroyed, which brings the Abomination of Desolation to an end. From this passage it appears that the Tribulation Temple will be finally destroyed after the end of the Great Tribulation.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION-Daniel 9:27; 12:11; Matthew 24:15-16; Revelation 11:1-2; II Thessalonians 2:3-4; 8-12; Revelation 13: 11-15

The first event tied to the breaking of the covenant is the Abomination of Desolation, which is connected to the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. This is an event Christ spoke of in His Olivet Discourse. (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13: 14)

Daniel 9:27

*<sup>27</sup>And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations [shall come] one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall [wrath] be poured out upon the desolate (KJV).*

We saw in an earlier lesson that the covenant began the Tribulation. This verse lets us know exactly how long the Tribulation will last; a total of seven years. Verse says that in the middle of the week (shavua) the Antichrist will cause the sacrificial system to stop. This system will have been reinstated. It has been inoperative since 70 AD, when Titus Vespasian destroyed the Temple. The forced cessation is followed by the statement; upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate. This, the cessation of the sacrifices in conjunction with the breaking of the covenant is followed by an act or acts, which is labeled as "the abomination of desolation." The exact nature of this act or acts is not clearly identified at this point. Exactly what the Abomination of Desolation consists of is not stated here, only that it occurs in the middle of the Tribulation. However, the term wing refers to the pinnacle of the Temple, emphasizing the concept of an "overspreading influence." What begins here will spread elsewhere. The term abomination often refers to an image or an idol.

Another passage, Daniel 12:11, gives the duration of the time that the Abomination of Desolation will last:

Daniel 12:11

*<sup>11</sup>And from the time that the continual [burnt-offering] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand and two hundred and ninety days (KJV).*

As in Daniel 9:27, the starting point is the cessation of the sacrificial system. According to this passage, the Abomination of Desolation will last 1,290 days. This is a full thirty days beyond the end of the Tribulation. No reason is given as to why it is permitted to last this extra thirty days. Again, this passage does not reveal exactly what the Abomination of Desolation will be. But, in Daniel 9:27, the term abomination refers to an image or an idol.

As stated, earlier Christ mentioned this as recorded in Matthew 24:15-16:

Matthew 24:15-16

*<sup>15</sup>When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand), <sup>16</sup>then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains (KJV).*

This passage is merely a reminder of the Daniel prophecy, with no explanation as to what is the Abomination of Desolation. The only clue given is that it will be something standing (like an image or idol) in the Holy Place. This passage helps to verify the futuristic interpretation of the Daniel passage, for it was still considered unfulfilled and future at the time of Christ. The Abomination of Desolation will serve as a warning to the Jews of Israel to flee the land.

Another text dealing with this is in Revelation 11:1-2

Revelation 11:1-2

*<sup>1</sup>And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and one said, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. <sup>2</sup>And the court which is without the temple leave without, and measure it not; for it hath been given unto the nations: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months (KJV).*

This passage also deals with the takeover of the Temple, as well as the City of Jerusalem, particularly the Old City, and connects it with the Times of the Gentiles. This will be the final Gentile control for Jerusalem and it will last 42 months or 3 ½ years.

It will be this Gentile takeover of the city and the Temple that will cause a cessation of the sacrifices. Although Gentile domination over the City of Jerusalem will last 3 ½ years, the Abomination of Desolation will continue an extra month. But there is still not a clear explanation as to what the Abomination is yet.

What, then, is the Abomination of Desolation? There are two elements or stages involved, the first of which is found in II Thessalonians 2:3-4:

II Thessalonians 2:3-4

*<sup>3</sup>let no man beguile you in any wise: for [it will not be,] except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup>he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God (KJV).*

In this passage, the antichrist is described as seating himself in the Temple of God, declaring to the world that he really is God. In all probability he will sit in the very Holy of Holies. Thus, with his initial takeover of Jerusalem in general and the Temple in particular, he will seat himself in the very Temple of God, will claim to be God, and by doing so will set up the second religious system of the Tribulation; the worship of the Antichrist.

His self-declaration of deity will be accompanied with miraculous signs to carry out the work of deception, according to II Thessalonians 2:8-9:

## II Thessalonians 2:8–12

*<sup>8</sup>And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming;<sup>9</sup>[even he], whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,<sup>10</sup>and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.<sup>11</sup>And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie:<sup>12</sup>that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (KJV).*

Here he is said to be energized by Satan, for it is by Satan that he will be brought back to life. His post-resurrection rise to power will be with all power and signs and lying wonders. The aim of these counterfeit miracles, according to verses 10-12 will be to deceive men so that they will worship the Antichrist and accept him as god. These verses have often been interpreted both as those who heard the gospel prior to the rapture and those who fell for the lie during the middle of the Tribulation. So, one says that if an individual clearly heard the gospel and rejected it he or she will not have an opportunity to be saved during the Tribulation. The other interprets this passage to strictly mean that the lie is the “taking the mark of the Beast” which then renders one incapable of turning back and accepting the Gospel preached by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. Some say only one or the other is true and others say both are true. In any event the mark of the beast will surely render one incapable of hearing the Gospel.

Though he will declare his deity with in the Holy of Holies of the Temple, the Antichrist himself is allowed to continue for 1,260 days. Hence, the Abomination of Desolation must include something more than merely the Antichrist’s self-proclamation of deity. Furthermore, the Daniel and Matthew passages imply that an image or idol would be erected in the temple.

This is what gives rise to the comparison to Antiochus Epiphanies slaughtering of a sow in the Holy of Holies in cir 164 B.C.

### BIBLE TYPOLOGY

Antiochus Epiphanies was a great persecutor of the Jewish people. The apocryphal books of I and II Maccabees describe how he tried to stamp out Jewish religion, and in so doing slaughtered thousands of Jewish men, women, and children. In one of the worst acts in Jewish history, Antiochus desecrated the Temple by slaughtering a pig on the altar, forcing the priests to eat pork, and setting up an idol to Zeus. The Jews then abandoned the Temple, not wishing to go into a defiled place. That put a halt to the daily sacrifices until the Jews regained control of the Temple during the Maccabean revolution.

THE SECOND ASPECT OF THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION is in Revelation 13:11-15:

Revelation 13:11–15

*<sup>11</sup> And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, <sup>14</sup> and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. <sup>15</sup> And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed (KJV).*

In the second stage of the Abomination of Desolation, the False Prophet (Beast #2) will be given authority to perform many signs and wonders (v. 13), deceiving mankind in order to cause them to worship the Antichrist (v. 12). These same ideas were evident in II Thessalonians 2:8-12, and both help clarify what the Abomination of Desolation involves. The great deception is climaxed when the image of the Antichrist becomes alive and men are called upon to worship the image (vv.14-15). So, the deification of the Antichrist continues. The image will be set up in the Holy of Holies to carry on the Abomination of Desolation. Jerusalem will become the religious capital of the Antichrist, and the Temple will be the center of the worship of the Antichrist where the living image will be standing. So, while the Antichrist will be deposed of after 1,260 days, the image will remain in the Temple for another thirty days beyond that. It too will then be disposed of.

Thus, the two stages of the Abomination of Desolation, lasting a total of 1, 290 days will be the declaration of deity by the Antichrist in the Holy of Holies followed by the setting up of his image in the same place.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXVIII

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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