Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome as we grow in understanding by examining the Word of God. Today we learn about the Abomination of Desolation. I believe this message will move you from one spiritual level to another. It is good to have your Bible with you to follow the passages we will reference.

To begin, we must understand the meaning of “the abomination of desolation.” Simply put, it means an abomination that causes desolation, or an abomination that brings destruction. There are two components: ABOMINATION and DESOLATION.

ABOMINATION (according to Scripture)

Biblically, an abomination means something that provokes God to anger, especially in matters relating to idolatry or sexual immorality. Any practice done by God’s people contrary to His laws—such as worshiping other gods, crafting idols, sorcery—was known as an abomination before the Lord.

For example, God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy 18:9–13:

> *“9 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you,*

> *do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.*
> *10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,*
> *11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.*
> *12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.*
> *13 You must be blameless before the Lord your God.”*

We see that the practices of the Canaanite nations were so abominable that they brought destruction upon themselves. God warned Israel not to imitate those ways, lest the same destruction come upon them.

DESOLATION

The reason those nations were destroyed was not that God simply hated them or loved Israel more. Their abominations became so severe that destruction was the only consequence. This establishes a divine principle: repeated abomination leads to

desolation.

God further warned Israel in Leviticus 18:24–30, showing that if they practiced the same abominations, the land would “vomit” them out just as it did the nations before them.

Thus, abominations inevitably lead to desolation—whether for nations or individuals.

Yet Scripture reveals **one particular abomination**, greater than all others, prophesied by Jesus and Daniel, which would stand in the holy place and bring unprecedented destruction.

Historical Background of the Abomination

When the Israelites entered Canaan, God had not yet chosen a specific place for His name. Their abominations led to temporary punishments, as God gave them into the hands of enemies such as the Philistines. But when God finally chose Jerusalem during the time of King David, and when Solomon built the Temple, holiness was elevated. Any abomination committed at the holy place itself would bring far greater judgment.

Thus, in 1 Kings 9:6–9 God warned Solomon that if Israel turned to other gods, the Temple itself would be rejected and Israel uprooted from the land.

Historically, Israel did just that. Despite prophetic warnings, they adopted idolatry within the Temple. This resulted in destruction by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon—Jerusalem burned, the Temple destroyed, Israelites killed, and many taken captive.

2 Chronicles 36:14–20 describes this vividly.

This event devastated Israel for generations; the nation did not regain independence until 1948—a span of about 2500 years.

Later, after returning from Babylon and rebuilding the second Temple, God again warned them through prophets like Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Yet Israel drifted again. Under foreign rulers, a new abomination was prophesied.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IN DANIEL

Daniel foresaw a king who would desecrate the Holy Place.

History identifies this as **Antiochus IV Epiphanes**, who invaded Jerusalem, stopped daily sacrifices, erected a statue of Zeus inside the Temple, and sacrificed swine on the altar (168 BC). This fulfilled Daniel 11:31:

> *“His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.”*

This was a historical foreshadowing—a partial fulfillment pointing to a greater future abomination.

Later, the second Temple was again destroyed in 70 AD by the Roman general Titus. Jesus had prophesied this in Luke 19:41–44 and Luke 21:20–24. This judgment came because Israel rejected prophets, then John the Baptist, and ultimately the Messiah Himself. Their cry, “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15), sealed their fate.

Jesus told His followers: when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, flee. The Christians obeyed and were spared; those who

remained in the city perished.

Thus, the destruction of the second Temple was **the second major “abomination-desolation” cycle**, a consequence of rejecting the Messiah.

THE FUTURE AND FINAL ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Israel was scattered among the nations, yet God promised restoration. In 1948 Israel became a nation again, and preparations for a third Temple are already underway. Scripture indicates sacrifices will resume.

But the enemy is always active. Just as past abominations were shadows, Jesus said a final abomination will occur in the last days.

Matthew 24:15–21:

> *“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel...*
> *Then there will be great distress unequaled from the*

> *beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.”*

Daniel 9:27 reveals that the Antichrist will make a seven-year covenant with Israel, but halfway through (3½ years), he will break it, stop sacrifices, and set up the final abomination in the holy place.

Paul expands this in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–10, stating that the “man of lawlessness” will exalt himself above God and sit in God’s temple, declaring himself to be God. This reveals blasphemous self-deification. Many theologians identify this final manifestation with the Antichrist empowered by Satan.

This will trigger the Great Tribulation. Revelation 7 describes 144,000 sealed Jews who will be protected. Revelation 11 describes two witnesses who will minister during this period.

Daniel 12:11 gives the prophetic timeline: 1290 days from the removal of daily sacrifice to the setting up of the abomination.

THE ABOMINATION ALSO APPLIES TO THE CHURCH TODAY

The Church is now the Temple of God: “For you are the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19). Any false worship—idolatry, elevating human leaders above Christ, or blending truth with deception—is a spiritual abomination that invites desolation.

> *Revelation 18:4 warns believers to separate from Babylon’s sins lest they share in her judgments.*

CALL TO REPENTANCE

We are living in perilous times. Are you ready if the Lord comes today? Are you saved and baptized? Have you become one of the saints? If not, this is the time. Prepare now—do not wait for the day to come upon you like a thief.

Blessings to you.

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