



SAVED TO SERVE

Pastor Andrew Henriques

www.prophecyagain.com

WHO IS THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will identify who the abomination of desolation is in scripture.

Current Event: What is the abomination of desolation? What is the battle of Armageddon? | Got Questions Ministries 6/25/2025
https://youtu.be/sxcioCdmRh0?si=Lg_PcLEYSfUHv6w0

2. Matthew 24 had an application in the days of the apostles and it also has a prophetic/future application (see Matthew 24:1-3). What were the apostles to see as the sign for them to flee to the mountains? Matthew 24:15-16
-

3. The abomination of desolation and various phrasings of it are found in Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31, and Daniel 8:13 respectively. Although many Christian teachers and theologians believe the last seven years of the 70 week prophecy are yet future, they actually represent the years 27 A.D. to 34 A.D. Read Daniel 9:27. This portion of the 70 weeks prophecy is in part referring to the crucifixion of Jesus. What does the verse say was to take place "in the midst of the week"?
-

4. The crucifixion of Christ (31 A.D.) brought the significance of the earthly sanctuary services to an end because Jesus, our sacrificial lamb, was slain for us, and when he died, the veil of the temple was rent in two (1 Corinthians 5:7; Matthew 27:51). Daniel 9:27 goes on to say "and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it (the sanctuary) desolate." Because the Jews rejected Jesus as their Savior, what was going to be desolate? Matthew 23:37-38; 24:1-2
-

5. Which nation did God allow to desolate Jerusalem and its sanctuary in A.D. 70?
-

"After the destruction of the temple, the whole city soon fell into the hands of the Romans. The leaders of the Jews forsook their impregnable towers, and Titus found them solitary. He gazed upon them with amazement, and declared that God had given them into his hands; for no engines, however powerful, could have prevailed against those stupendous battlements. Both the city and the temple were razed to their foundations, and the ground upon which the holy house had stood was "plowed like a field." Jeremiah 26:18. In the siege and the slaughter that followed, more than a million of the people perished; the survivors were carried away as captives, sold as slaves, dragged to Rome to grace the conqueror's triumph, thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheaters, or scattered as homeless wanderers throughout the earth." {GC 35.2}

"After the settlement of the Hebrews in Canaan, the tabernacle was replaced by the temple of Solomon, which, though a permanent structure and upon a larger scale, observed the same proportions, and was similarly furnished. In this form the sanctuary existed—except while it lay in ruins in Daniel's time—**until its destruction by the Romans, in A.D. 70.**" {GC 412.3}

6. **Note:** When Cestius surrounded Jerusalem in 66 A.D. and then Titus destroyed it in 70 A.D., that was one part of the fulfillment of Matthew 24:15-16. There is yet an application for the abomination of desolation in these last days.

Read Daniel 11:31. It says "take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." We see similar language in Daniel 8:11-13, where the daily is taken away to make room for the abomination that maketh desolate. Notice that the word abomination means transgression and sin (see 2 Chronicles 36:14; 1 John 3:4). Let us study Daniel 8 to see who the abomination of desolation is.

7. **IMPORTANT RECAP:** Read Daniel 8:8-9. After the four kings of Greece, the Bible says that a "little horn" came forth. This little horn initially represents the Pagan Roman Empire. However, we saw that the little horn of Daniel 7 was a representation of the Papacy. Is the interpretation of the little horn in Daniel 7 contradicting the interpretation in Daniel 8? No! In Daniel 8, the Bible is showing us Rome in its two phases - Pagan Rome and Papal Rome. The little horn as described in Daniel 8, represents BOTH phases, beginning with Pagan Rome.

8. Read the first phrase of Daniel 8:11. Who is the "he" referring to which "magnified himself"? Daniel 8:9-10
-

9. Now we will identify who the little horn represents in Daniel 8:11. Notice that the first portion of Daniel 8 is the prophecy and the latter portion is the interpretation. Daniel 8:24, 25 gives us a clearer description as to who the little horn in Daniel 8:11 represents. What things does this power do according to Daniel 8:25?
-

10. Notice who citizens and world leaders call the “Man of Peace.” See the following articles.

(Former Secretary-General of the United Nations) Ban Ki-moon: Pope Francis a man of peace and purpose

<http://www.archivioradiovaticana.va/storico/2013/04/09/ban-ki-moon-pope-francis-a-man-of-peace-and-purpose/en1-681164>

(Obama Administration) White House scrapped 21-gun salute because Pope Francis is ‘man of peace’

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/sep/23/white-house-scrapped-21-gun-salute-because-pope-fr/>

(Former Israeli President) Shimon Peres: Francis is a more powerful peace advocate than UN

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/shimon-peres-pope-francis-is-a-more-powerful-peace-advocate-than-un/>

11. Here is more proof to confirm that Daniel 8:11, 24-25 is speaking about the Papacy. Daniel 8:25 says that this power would be “broken without hand.” In Daniel 2:41-45, it says that the stone cut out of the mountain without hands will smite the image at the feet. What materials were the feet of the image made of? Who have we previously discovered, the iron in the feet represented?
-

12. Daniel 8:11 says that “he magnified himself even to the prince of the host.” This same entity, the Papacy, is spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

a) What is another name given to the Papacy? 2 Thessalonians 2:3

b) What words are similar to “magnified himself” or “speak great words against the most High”? 2 Thessalonians 2:4

13. We will now address the phrase in Daniel 8:11 which says, “and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away.” Again, using the context of the passages, who is the “him” which took away the “daily sacrifice”? Daniel 8:11 **Answer: The Little Horn which for this application represents the Papacy**

14. **Note:** Read the following quotations to learn why the word “sacrifice” in the text is italicized.

“Then I saw in relation to the “daily” (Daniel 8:12) that the word “sacrifice” was supplied by man's wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the “daily”; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed. Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test.” {EW 74.2}

“In fact, the words in *italics* in the King James Bible are words that were added by the translators to help the reader. This is usually necessary when translating from one language to another because a word in one language may not have a corollary word in English and idiomatic expressions often do not easily move from one language to another. Hence, the words in *italics* are words which do not have any equivalence in the Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek text. By adding these words, the translators’ goal was to make the meaning of the sentence clearer and produce a more readable translation that read smoothly, yet was true to the original. However, to make sure that the reader understood that these words were not in the manuscripts, they set them in *italics*.”
<https://kjvrc.org/the-use-of-italics-in-the-king-james-bible/>

15. Who is the “daily” that was “taken away” by the Papacy? Daniel 2:33, 40-41; Daniel 7:7-8 (Hint: Following the prophetic formula of Daniel 2 & 7, which nation ruled before the Papacy rose to power?)
-

16. **Note:** It was the Pagan Roman Empire that ruled the world right before the Papacy. In Daniel 7:7-8, the little horn arose among 10 others horns/nations. However, in Daniel 7:20, it is described as “more stout than his fellows.” The “fellows” in verse 20, represent the other nations that comprised the Roman Empire. Here it is clear that the Papacy became the ruler of the world since it was more stout.

17. Let us confirm that the Papacy succeeded Pagan Rome from 2 Thessalonians 2:2-8. What phrase is similar in Daniel 8:11 and 2 Thessalonians 2:7?
-
18. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:7, what name does Paul call the power that “leteth” or was “restraining” another power, until it was taken out of the way?
-
19. Paul says that the “the mystery of iniquity” was already working in his day. What iniquitous power was ruling in Paul’s day? Acts 23:11; 25:10-11
-
20. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8. Who then does “that Wicked,” “man of sin,” “son of perdition” point to which was **revealed** after the fall of Pagan Rome (the mystery of iniquity)?
-

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come, “except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that “the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.” {GC 49.1}

“Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, “the mystery of iniquity” carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. The spirit of compromise and conformity was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism...” {GC 49.2}

“This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of “the man of sin” foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. **That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.” {GC 50.1}**

21. **Note:** The mystery of iniquity also points to paganism (pagan religions and practices). As we just proved, the Roman Empire is also called the mystery of iniquity because it embodied paganism - hence, it is commonly referred to as Pagan Rome. See the following quotation for confirmation that paganism was the religion of Rome.

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. **But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.” {GC 438.2}**

22. Read Daniel 8:11 and focus on the last phrase. It is clear from the context that “the place of his sanctuary” which was cast down is referring to the “daily” and not God’s sanctuary. We just saw that the religion of Rome was paganism. Pagans, like God’s people, also had sanctuaries or places of worship. Let us confirm this now from scripture. What did the Philistines do to worship their god Dagon? Judges 16:23
-

a) Where did the Philistines keep their god, Dagon? 1 Samuel 5:1-2

b) What is another term used interchangeable with “house” in the context of worship? 1 Chronicles 22:19; 28:10; Ezekiel 9:6

c) Notice that false religions are counterfeits of the true religion. Why would the Philistines be going into the ‘sanctuary’ of Dagon early in the morning? 1 Samuel 5:3-4; Mark 1:35; Acts 5:21; John 8:2

23. **Note:** Daniel 8:11 says that the Papacy cast down the place of his (“the daily”) sanctuary. Does this mean that when the Papacy rose to power it forsook all the pagan rituals of the Roman Empire? No. Popery or Roman Catholicism is nothing but disguised paganism mixed with Christianity. Notice from the following article that the god Dagon also had roots in Babylon. Now, by connecting the dots, it is clear that many pagan traditions have flown down through the ages - from Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and now to the Papacy because the Pope wears a mitre resembling the pagan fish god, Dagon.

“Dagon (or “Dagan” as spelled in some historical writings) was originally a Babylonian fertility god who evolved into a major Northwest Semitic god, reportedly of fish and/or fishing (as a symbol of multiplying). He was worshiped by the early Amorites, founders of the city of Babylon. He was also a major member, or perhaps head, of the pantheon of the Philistines, descendants of the Babylonians, and he was an important god of the maritime Canaanites, the Phoenicians.”

<https://www.dagonfishing.com/pages/dagon-the-fish-god>



“...The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.” {GC 49.2}

24. Read Daniel 8:12. It says that the “him,” which represents the Papacy, practiced and prospered. What is also said about the Papacy in Daniel 8:24?

25. In Daniel 8:12, the “host” was given to “him (Papacy) against the daily.” Who does the host represent in the Bible? Judges 7:15; 1 Samuel 28:19; 2 Samuel 20:23. Read the following statement below to understand the historical context of the host that was given to the Papacy against the Roman Empire.

“A host was given him (the little horn) against the daily. The barbarians that subverted the Roman empire in the changes, attritions, and transformations of those times, became converts to the Catholic faith, and the instruments of the dethronement of their former religion. Though conquering Rome politically, they were themselves vanquished religiously by the theology of Rome, and became the perpetrators of the same empire in another phase. And this was brought about by reason of “transgression;” that is, by the working of the mystery of iniquity. The papacy is the most cunningly contrived, false ecclesiastical system ever devised; and it may be called a system of iniquity because it has committed its abominations and practiced its orgies of superstition in the garb, and under the pretense, of pure and undefiled religion.” {DAR1909 177.1}

26. Read Daniel 8:13. This scripture clearly shows us the two phases of Rome.

- a) What entity did we identify as the “daily”? **Answer: Pagan Rome.**
- b) Then, who does “the transgression of desolation” represent?

27. To find out who “the transgression of desolation is,” which trod down God’s sanctuary and people, let us read Revelation 11:2. What Gentile power trod under foot God’s temple and people for 42 prophetic months? Revelation 13:4-6

28. **Note:** How did the transgression of desolation or Papal Rome (The Papacy), tread under foot God’s sanctuary? Daniel 8:12-13 tells us that it did this by casting down the truth and bringing in false doctrines. The Papacy also persecuted God’s sanctuary or church during the time of its reign from A.D. 538 - A.D. 1798. Also, by its blasphemous words and actions, it tread under foot God’s sanctuary (Revelation 13:5-6; John 10:30-33; Mark 2:5-7).

29. **Note:** Read Daniel 8:13 again. Notice that the “daily” and the “transgression of desolation” are BOTH desolating powers against God’s truth and His people. Both Pagan Rome and Papal Rome warred against God’s saints and cast God’s truth to the ground. Therefore, we can now call them “the daily desolation” and “the transgression of desolation.” For confirmation that “the daily” is also a desolating power, review numbers 3-5 of this handout again.

30. Let us read Daniel 8:11 again. Notice that “the daily” was taken away and was replaced by what we now understand to be - Papal Rome. With that in mind, let us close by focusing on what Jesus promises to take away from us, and what He will replace it with when we surrender our lives to Him.

a) Genesis 30:23; 1 John 5:14

b) Exodus 23:25; Jeremiah 30:17

c) Exodus 10:17; 1 John 5:11

d) Exodus 33:22-23; 1 John 3:2

e) Numbers 21:7 w/ Revelation 12:9; Ezekiel 36:26

f) Zechariah 3:3, 4; Zechariah 3:5, 7
