

# **UNDERSTANDING THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**

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## **I. OVERVIEW OF THE ANTICHRIST: DANIEL 7**

- a. A false Christ is going to be raised up in the earth and we need to understand him in order to prepare others. God cared enough about this man that he told an aged prophet 2500 years ago about him in great detail. Daniel was a prophetic intercessor for the nation of Israel and the revelation of the Antichrist was essential for him.
- b. His kingdom will have the strengths of all the historic empires that persecuted Israel (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome). His kingdom will be the most terrible kingdom of all time. There will be an obvious ten nation confederation with the Antichrist. The Antichrist will carry the same arrogance, deception and rage that Satan carries in his heart. It is Satan's nature to lie, steal, kill and destroy and the Antichrist will carry those same things in his heart. He will have the strength of the previous empires and he will have the strength of the demonic realm fully behind him. He will be much more fierce than all the other empires because he will be like his father the Devil. There will be no mercy in his heart. His motives will be purely selfish.
- c. There is an appointed time period for the Antichrist to rule the earth and an appointed time for his destruction and the coming of Jesus' kingdom. The Antichrist will be an imitation of the Man who is called to rule the earth.
- d. Jesus will partner with His Bride in an eternal kingdom.
- e. The Antichrist will be raised up by the Lord to judge the nations of the earth, to judge Israel and to purify the Church. Babylon is an example of a wicked empire that was raised up to judge many nations in the earth, including the nation of Israel.
- f. We need to understand the intensity of oppression that is coming through this man so that we can rightly prepare and we need clarity about what God is doing so that we can be messengers of truth in that hour.

## **II. ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**

***"The man of sin is revealed the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*** (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

***"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 wings of abominations shall be one who makes desolate."*** (Daniel 9:27)

- a. He will exalt himself as God in the Jerusalem temple and demand the worship of the nations. His activities will revolve around this temple. He will help establish a treaty in the Middle East that allows Israel to build a temple and continue their animal sacrifices. He will then bring an abrupt end to their sacrifices, declare himself God and set up his image. This is where he will proclaim himself to be God and this is where his image will be. He will oppose every other religion in the earth. He will show Himself to be God by his supernatural power, presence and wisdom.

**“And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.” (Revelation 13:5-6)**

**“There, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words...I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking...that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words...he shall speak pompous words against the Most High.” (Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25)**

**“He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. Because of transgression an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground...How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?” (Daniel 8:11-13)**

**“And forces shall be mustered by him and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation...Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished...He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.” (Daniel 11:31, 36-37)**

- b. One of the major characteristics of the Antichrist is the power of his speech and his blasphemy against God. He will bring great deception to the nations concerning the truth of God’s nature and power. He will proclaim himself to be God. He will speak incredible lies about heaven and about the Church.

**“So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” (Revelation 17:3)**

- c. God will give him a mouth to speak these lies in order to bring the nations into deeper agreement with the Antichrist. One of the primary ways that he will exalt himself as God will be through his declarations concerning himself. He will be as deceived as Satan was when he rebelled against God in heaven. He will truly be deceived. He will cause many in the nations to blaspheme God as well.

**“And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues.” (Revelation 16:9)**

**“They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent.” (Revelation 16:11)**

**“Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.” (Revelation 16:21)**

- d. He will speak great things (Revelation 13:5). This could refer to him making great promises and great plans or making great boasts about his abilities.

**“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.” (Revelation 13:14)**

- e. Daniel received multiple open visions concerning the image of the beast, Jesus and Paul referenced Daniel's revelation and John saw the same image in his vision. This will be the primary sign of the times along with the Antichrist declaring he is God and the removal of Jewish sacrifices in the temple.
- f. He will set up an image that looks like him in the Jerusalem temple. This image will be the center of all Antichrist worship in the earth. The false prophet will convince people at the heart level to create an image for the beast.
- g. What does the title "abomination of desolation" mean? The deeds of the Antichrist are abominable and they shall lead to destruction or desolation. His image will be an abomination before God and the worship it receives from the nations will be an abomination to God. The Antichrist will bring desolation to those that do not worship the image and God will bring desolation on the people that worship the image. Most references to God's judgments after Revelation 13 are upon those that "worship the image and take his mark." This abomination will bring much desolation.

**"He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed." (Revelation 13:15)**

- h. The image will be demonically empowered to speak, prophesy and give leadership to the nations. People will come to the image for personal and corporate direction. What kinds of things will this image speak? What are all the implications of the image "causing as many as would not worship the beast to be killed?"

### **III. GLOBAL ALLEGIANCE: WORSHIP AND ECONOMICS**

- a. The Antichrist will seek the worship of all the nations. He will want what Satan wanted in heaven, the worship that God deserved. The image of the beast will be the establishment of a global religion that will be backed up by political laws and military force. Many will choose to worship him out of reverence and devotion and many will choose to worship him out of fear.

**"He causes all both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead." (Revelation 13:16)**

- b. The Lord calls believers to resist all the deceptions and pressures of worshiping the image of the beast. The "Falling Away" will be connected to the image of the beast and will also be a key sign of the times. Even in all of this deception, we must remember that the greatest revival in history is going to happen at the same time as the falling away and the setting up of the image.

**"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God." (Revelation 14:9-10)**

**"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition." (2 Thessalonians 2:3)**

- c. The abomination of desolation will be the center of the worship and economic systems of the Antichrist. Entire systems will be set up around the world to orchestrate the worship of the image. Many nations will have their entire economy tied to the image of the beast. What kind of system will need to be in place to enforce his law that nobody can buy or sell unless they worship him and have his mark? These systems could take lots of time to put in place.

d. References to the abomination of desolation.

*“How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?” (Daniel 8:13)*

*“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)*

*“And forces shall be mustered by him and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation... Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished... He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.” (Daniel 11:31, 36-37)*

*“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.” (Daniel 12:11)*

*“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (Matthew 24:15)*

*“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.” (Mark 13:14)*

e. References to the image in the book of Revelation.

*“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” (Revelation 13:14-15)*

*“Those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name...” (Revelation 15:2)*

*“So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.” (Revelation 16:2)*

*“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.” (Revelation 19:20)*

*“Did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols (images of the beast) of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts (sins connected to worshiping the image).” (Revelation 9:20-21)*

*“Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.” (Revelation 20:4)*