

Matthew 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.

Matthew 24:2 But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

- In other words, the Temple will be destroyed.

Matthew 24:3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

[Picture: Jerusalem from Mount of Olives]

Matthew 24:3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us,

- when will these things be,
- and what will be the sign of your coming
- and of the end of the age?"

Then Jesus tells them that there will be a delay. The end of the age will not happen immediately.

Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

Matthew 24:8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

So they asked about the temple,

- when it would be destroyed (Jesus had said “there will not be left here one stone upon another”)

And they asked about

- the sign of his coming
- and of the end of the age

Jesus doesn't start by answering about the Temple.

First he says his coming will be delayed.

- It will not be immediate.
- Even though many false prophets will come in his name, claiming to be him (If you read all the verses between 4 and 14 you'll see that)

Now that Jesus has explained that his coming will be delayed, he turns to another subject and he introduces the abomination of desolation.

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

- He says “when you see”
- Remember, they are sitting on the Mount of Olives looking at the Temple across the valley in Jerusalem
  - “when you see”
  - “in the holy place”
  - then “flee”
- Jesus expects them to “see” this event.
- The “holy place” is the Temple they are looking at,
  - The Temple that the disciples asked about.
- Jesus says something called the abomination of desolation will happen in that Temple, and when you see that you are to flee.

Matthew 24:17-18 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.

- So the danger will be so great and so urgent that you must flee immediately.
  - Like Lot and his wife and 2 daughters fleeing Sodom
  - Don't even look back

Last week we also looked at the Gospel of Luke.

Luke records this same conversation that Jesus has with his disciples on the Mount of Olives but Luke tells it a little differently.

- Matthew mentions the “abomination of desolation”

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

It is generally agreed that Matthew is writing to more of a Jewish-Christian audience, while Luke is writing to a Gentile-Christian audience.

- So, where Matthew speaks of the abomination of desolation in the book of Daniel, Luke tells us more directly what would happen.

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

Luke 21:20 "But when you see **Jerusalem surrounded by armies**, then know that its desolation has come near.

- Matthew says “when you see the abomination of desolation”
- Luke says “when you see **Jerusalem surrounded by armies**”
- The abomination of desolation is the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem to destroy it and destroy the Temple.

And Luke continues with the same details that we saw in Matthew.

Luke 21:21-22 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

- Notice also the last words here
  - “to fulfill all that is written”
- The destruction of Jerusalem and its temple,
  - which happened 40 years after Jesus in 70AD
  - was predicted in the Old Testament
- It happened to “fulfill all that is written”

Now at this point I want to put this on a diagram because it can get confusing because we are talking about different events that happened in history at different times and it's important that we keep it straight in our minds if we want to understand what Jesus was telling his disciples and if we want to understand the signs he has given us about his return and the end of the age.

[explain timeline...]

Now, returning to our verse in Luke.

Luke 21:21-22 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

- Luke says the destruction of Jerusalem was “to fulfill all that is written”
- Where was it written?

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

[Show Daniel on the timeline]

Daniel 9:27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

Daniel 11:31 Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

Daniel 12:11 And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

So Daniel talks about the abomination of desolation, but here's the thing, when Jesus was talking about it, the event had already happened.

- A Greek ruler named Antiochus IV, had set up this abomination of desolation and desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem in 167 BC.
- When Jesus was speaking this event had already happened and every Jew knew that.
- They even had a holiday that marked it, called Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the celebration of the rededication of the Temple about 4 years later after the Jews rebelled and kicked the Greeks out.

[Show timeline with 167 BC]

But Daniel also said that the Temple would be restored to its rightful state and the offerings would continue again.

There is too much to explain in Daniel right now but here is one verse.

Daniel 8:13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?"

Daniel 8:14 And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

So it 167 BC the Temple wasn't destroyed.

- It was profaned but then rededicated about 4 years later.
- In 70 AD the Temple was destroyed (as well as desecrated) and it has not been rebuilt since. Judaism has had no sacrifices for the last 2000 years.

So what do we see so far?

- Daniel predicts an abomination of desolation in 167 BC.
- Jesus says Daniel's prediction is also about 70 AD.
- The events are not identical but they are similar.

Here's how I understand what is going on.

- God has set aside certain significant events in history and designed them so that one event is a picture of an event that is still to come in the future.
- The Tribulation that the Jews, especially in Jerusalem, experienced under the Greeks in 167 BC was terrible.
- The Tribulation that the Jews, especially in Jerusalem, experienced under the Romans in 70 AD was terrible.
- In fact, In Matthew 24 Jesus says the following:

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

- When is he talking about?
- Is Jesus saying 70 AD will be the great tribulation
- or is he talking about a future tribulation?

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

- He says there will never be one greater than this.
- Is this just a figure of speech or it is literal?
- In Luke, it's clear that the abomination of desolation that Jesus is talking about is the "armies surrounding Jerusalem."

Luke 21:24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

- In 70 AD Jerusalem fell

- The Jews were scattered all over the world and have been for the last 2000 years
- Jerusalem was ruled by Gentiles and has been for 2000 years
- Not until 1948 did Jews have a country again
- And it was not until 1967 that they regained Jerusalem
- And even as it stands today they allow the Moslem authorities to administrate the Temple Mount even though the Jews actually control it
- Are the times of the Gentiles over or close to it?
- This is why people look at Israel today, in the news, and say we are near the end.
- Are they right?

[Show full timelines]

Was Jesus talking about 70 AD or the future?

Was Daniel talking about 167 BC, or 70 AD or the future?

{explain apocalyptic}

- I think the earlier events are types of later events
- We are told to learn from the earlier events in order to recognize the later events when they happen

There is one other important passage that is important to look at here because it can only be talking about the future return of Jesus and not 70 AD and yet it sounds very much like the abomination of desolation.

Read 2 Thess 2:1-12

Before Jesus comes

- the rebellion comes first (v3)
- the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (v3)

- he opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship (v4)
- he takes his seat in the temple of God (v4)
- proclaiming himself to be God (v4)
- 
- coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan (v9) with all power and false signs and wonders, (v9)
- the lawless one will be revealed (v8)
- the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming (v8)

What is the Temple of God?

- Church or Jewish Temple?

## Lessons

- Jesus is coming back
  - In real history, not just in a spiritual sense people's hearts
- We do not know the day or the hour but we know some things that have to happen before Jesus returns
  - gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed throughout the whole world (Matt 24:14)
    - Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
  - A great apostasy/rebellion comes first (2 Thess 2:3)
  - The man of lawlessness is revealed (2 Thess 2:3)
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
- We don't know the exact details
  - We can't know the exact details until they happen
  - But if we listen to what God has told us we will recognize these events when they happen
- These events could happen very quickly