

# The Abomination of Desolation

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Daniel sees a “little horn” come up in the vision of the ram and the he goat in Daniel, chapter 8. This “little horn” is the Antichrist, who will set up the abomination of desolation.

We begin reading in **Daniel 8 (KJV)**:9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered. 13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. 15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

In verses 11 to 13, we have the first mention of the cessation of the “daily sacrifice” and the “transgression of desolation” in the book of Daniel.

Daniel did not understand the vision, so he prayed for understanding, and the Lord told the angel Gabriel to explain it to him, as we continue reading in **Daniel 8 (KJV)**:17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. 20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

The “little horn” mentioned in verse 9 above is the “king of fierce countenance” mentioned here in verse 23. He will arise “in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full”. So he will arise in the “latter time” of the kingdom of Greece, that is in the end, or in the great tribulation. So there is a gap of time between the kingdom of Greece, and the time when the “little horn”, the “king of fierce countenance”, that

is, the Antichrist, appears.

We continue reading in **Daniel 8 (KJV):25** And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. 26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. 27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business, and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

The “Prince of princes” refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The next mention of the cessation of the “daily sacrifice” and the “transgression of desolation” in Daniel 8:13, is referred to in **Daniel 9 (KJV):24** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: 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 unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

In this Scripture the timing of the cessation of the “daily sacrifice” and the “transgression of desolation” is given to us. It is in the middle of the week, the last week of the 70 determined for Israel, Daniel’s people.

Now we have another mention of this event in **Daniel 11 (KJV):30** For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. 31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

In this chapter we are also given a description as to what this “abomination that maketh desolate” is about, as we now read in **Daniel 11 (KJV):35** And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. 36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

And his end is mentioned in **Daniel 11 (KJV):45** And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and

none shall help him.

Now there is yet one more mention of this event in **Daniel 12 (KJV):10** Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

As Clarence Larkin has noted in *The Book of Daniel*, by Clarence Larkin, chapters 10 to 12 of Daniel all relate to one vision that Daniel had, beginning in chapter 10. It is stated in **Daniel 10 (KJV):14** Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

Now remember that in Daniel, chapter 8, in the angel Gabriel's explanation of the vision, the ram was the kings of Media and Persia, and the he goat was the king of Greece, as we read again in **Daniel 8 (KJV):20** The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

The "great horn" in verse 21 was Alexander the Great, who died after conquering Media and Persia, and his empire was then divided into four kingdoms in verse 22. Then there is a gap of time of unknown duration when the "king of fierce countenance" shall appear, which is the Antichrist.

This same theme is reiterated in Daniel 9:24-27 where 70 weeks are determined upon Israel, and 69 of the 70 elapsed when Christ died on the cross in verse 26. Then in the same verse, "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 unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D., and "unto the end desolations are determined". One such desolation was done by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who was was a Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC. He sacrificed a pig on the altar in the temple in Jerusalem. However, though this was a desolation, this was not the "abomination of desolation" spoken by Daniel.

The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel is done by the Antichrist, who will declare himself to be God, as Paul also reveals in **2 Thessalonians 2 (KJV):4** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 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; 4 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.

Then we read in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

This beast was like a leopard, which represents Greece, and like a bear, which represents Media and Persia, and like a lion, which represents Babylon. The beast represents a kingdom, the revived Roman empire which are the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's statue in Daniel 2, and a king, who will be the Antichrist.