

The Olivet Discourse—Part 5
“The Great Tribulation”
Matthew 24:15-22

Church Age Ends with the Rapture (cf. Rom. 11:25; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)
Israel Makes a Covenant with the Antichrist (cf. Dan. 9:26-27)
Jesus Opens First 5 Seal Judgments (cf. Matt. 24:4-10; Rev. 6:1-11)
Antichrist Takes Control of Israel (cf. Dan. 11:45)
Abomination of Desolation (cf. Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; Rev. 12:6-17)
The Great Tribulation (cf. Dan. 12:1; Jer. 30:5-9; Zech. 13:8-14:2; Isa. 7:18-25; 2:12; 13:6, 9; 61:2; Ezek. 13:5, 30:3; 38:2-6; Dan. 11:40-45; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 15; Zeph. 1:7, 14; Malachi 4:5; Matt. 24:16-28; Rev. 6-18)

I. The Abomination of D_____ (v. 15)

- a. Jesus refers directly to the angel Gabriel's Prophecy in Dan. 9:24-27
- b. **weeks** or **sevens** = a week of years = 7 years
- c. **Seventy weeks (sevens)** = 70 weeks of years = 490 years
- d. **issuing a decree** = King Artaxerxes = March 5th _____ BC (cf. Neh. 2:1-8; Ezra 6-7)
 - i. **seven weeks** = **rebuild Jerusalem** = 49 years
 - ii. **sixty-two weeks** = **until Messiah the Prince** = Jesus' Triumphant Entry = March 30th _____ AD
- e. 360-day Schematic/Prophetic Years (Flinders Petrie; cf. Dan. 7:25; 12:7, 11-12; Rev. 13:5; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6)
 - i. 483 years x 360 days = 173,880 days = 476 years and 25 days (Gregorian 365-day year)

- f. **but in the middle of the week** = 3 ½ years into the Tribulation
- g. **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** = **βδέλυγμα τῆς ἐρημώσεως** = “a fixed phrase derived from Hebrew, literally ‘the detestable thing of desolation’”
 - i. **bdelygma** (**βδέλυγμα**) = “a horrible thing which defiles”
 - ii. **erēmōsis** (**ἐρήμωσις**) = “desolation, devastation, destruction”
- h. Near Fulfillment = Antiochus IV Epiphanes (168 BC)
- i. Far Fulfillment = Antichrist (cf. 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:14-15ff)

II. A W_____ to Flee Judea (vs. 16-21)

- a. Jews who returned to **Judea must flee to the mountains** (cf. 1 Sam. 23:29)
- b. **housetop & field** = nothing is worth your life
- c. **pregnant, nursing, winter, or Sabbath** = will slow down escaping (cf. Hosea 13:16)
- d. **a great tribulation** (cf. Zech. 13:8; Isa. 10:20; Rev. 7:9)

III. A P_____ to Preserve Life (v. 22)

- a. **Unless those days had been cut short** = God's predetermined plan to limit the length of the Great Tribulation
 - i. **"given to him"** = God's sovereignty, even over Satan (cf. Rev. 6:2; 9:3; 13:5, 7, 14, 15)
- b. Mercy!!! (cf. Zech. 13:9)