

The Abomination of Desolation

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&
Friends

The Abomination of Desolation

The First Commandment:

Ex. 20:3 says, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Isa. 44:6-10 says, “Thus saith the Lord . . . I am the first and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”

7A BC 155 says, “The Lord urges His supremacy. But Satan well knows that the worship of the living God elevates, ennobles, and exalts a nation.”

The Second Commandment:

Ex. 20:4 says, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image....”

“image”=idol, representative figure (Strong’s **Hb. 6754**)..²

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The Second Commandment: (cont)

... **Ps. 115:4-9** says, “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:...They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them. O Israel, trust thou in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.”

“idol”=image (Strong's **Hb. 6091**)

“idol”=good for nothing, thing of naught (Strong's **Hb. 457**)

7A BC 155: “He [Satan] knows that idol-worship does not elevate, but it degrades mans ideas, by associating with worship that which is base and corrupt.”

Idol worship is not only an insult to us but especially to God.

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Two kinds of man-made gods:

1. The false god that is exactly like themselves.

Example:

Romans 1:22 says, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,”

7A BC 155 says, “Let not selfish pride be lifted up and served as a god. Let not money be made a god. If sensuality is not kept under the control of the higher powers of the mind, base passion will rule the being.”

2. A god that is totally unknown to man:

Thought: All idols are unknown. How could they be otherwise, they can't speak.

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Two kinds of man-made gods: (cont)

ACTS 17:22-23 says, “Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO THE UNKNOWN GOD’. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you.”

EX. 20:5 says, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them ...“for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God,...”

Of all the many elements of the Daniel prophecies, the abomination of desolation is the only one that Christ himself singles out for special consideration.

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Matt. 24:15: Jesus says, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet...”

In one form or another, it appears in **Dan. 8:13; 11:31; 12:11**. And in each of these prophecies the abomination of desolation is foundational.

As we begin our search for deeper meaning, we will now read from **2 Kings 21**. Speaking about King Manasseh, the most wicked king in Jerusalem years ago: history tells us that the French excavated right down into the library of Manasseh and found that he had put sexual idols in the house of God (Temple)....

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...**vs. 4-7** tell us “And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house,...”

vs. 11 states, “Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly...and hath made Judah also to sin...:”, **vs.12** God would destroy Jerusalem and Judah (by Assyria).

Consequently the king was taken captive with a hook in his nose.

2 Chron. 33:11 “thorn”=nose ring (Strong’s **Hb.2336**)₇

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Their abomination of desolation came in the form of desecrating what God Himself established, by putting something in its place.

From the beginning of time the abomination of desolation has always revolved around false worship. **Keep in mind this abomination was committed within the temple of God!**

Now, be careful as to what you think about this King Manasseh.

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Question: Individually, are we capable of committing an abomination?

Answer:

Deut. 27:15 says, “Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place [Physical]...”

1 Cor. 6:19 states “...know ye not that your body is the temple of Holy Ghost?...”

Thought Question: Do we commit an abomination in this temple by intemperate habits?

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Eze. 7:22 states, “My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute My secret place: for robbers shall enter into it, and defile it.”

Thought: Just as we see the “secret place” being defiled by robbers, we also see the temple in **Matt. 21:12** being defiled by robbers as well.

Question: What is the “secret place”?

Notice Ps. 51:6 tells us, “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the **hidden part** thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

“inward”=inmost thought [mind] (Strong’s **Hb. 2910**)

“hidden”=kept secret (Strong’s **Hb. 5640**)

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The following text represents Ezekiel visiting Jerusalem in spirit.

Eze. 8:5, We first notice Ezekiel beholding, this image of jealousy, at the gate of the altar.

vs. 7, Ezekiel is brought to the door of the court, and “...when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.”

vs. 8-9: “Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.

vs. 12 says, “Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not;...” ...

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“imagery”=imagination (Strong’s **Hb. 4906**)

“chamber”=an apartment–bed (rest) (Strong’s **Hb. 2315**)

A bed is for resting.

Question: Are you resting in the Lord, is your mind at peace?

Eccl. 12:14 says, “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, ...” (Good or Evil).

7A BC 155 says, “Anything that is made the subject of **undue thought** and **admiration**, absorbing the mind, is a god chosen **before** the Lord.”

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In the story of Manasseh the abomination of desolation was a fearful sin. It was the crowning and ultimate act of apostasy, shortly followed by judgments against those guilty. A nation or a church may be, for many years, in a condition of apostasy but that does not mean that they have committed the abomination that makes them desolate.

It comes as the final and climatic rejection of truth. This final act of abomination marks the day when the destiny of the nation, church or individual committing it is forever fixed. Once this sin is committed, there is no turning back. Probation is closed, and judgment follows.

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Much can be learned about the abomination of desolation simply by noting when it occurs. And one of the most revealing details concerning the abomination of desolation is the fact that it occurs simultaneously with the removal of the “**DAILY.**”

Like Laodiceans, the priests of Baal were strangers to the refining fire, to the gold tried in the furnace.

The difference, then, between the True, and the apostates (the priests of Baal), was the difference between the Lord’s goat and the scapegoat: the one is committed to the flames and the other is not. These two competing systems of atonement were put to the test.

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This is clearly brought to view at Mount Carmel as recorded in **1 Kg. 17**.

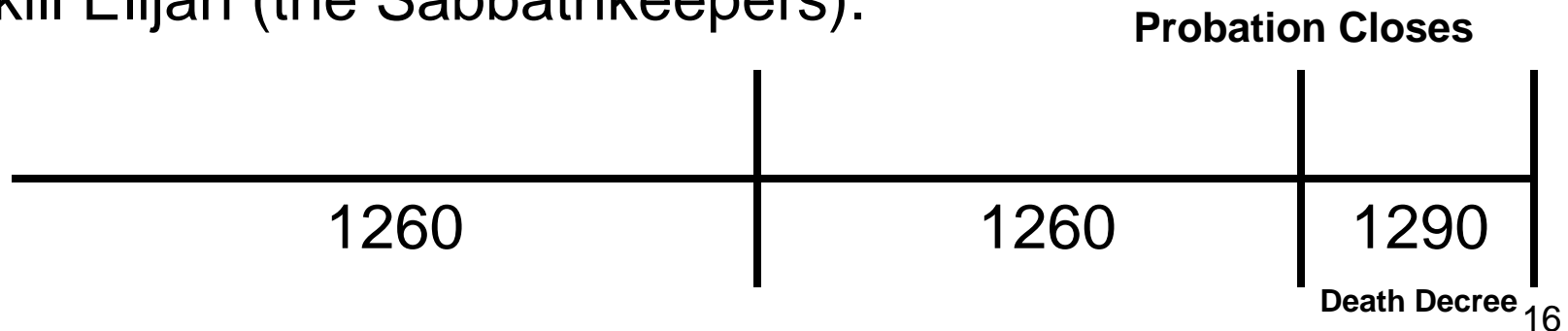
The abomination of desolation at the conclusion of a 1260 day period of drought is the scene upon Mount Carmel. In this instance, the abomination of desolation is more symbolic than literally depicted, here taking the form of a sacrifice to Baal. This sacrifice representing a false system of atonement, is followed up by a death decree.

Moreover, in this sacrifice is seen an unprecedented degree of defiance against God. Now, as never before, the sacrifices to Baal are enlisted in direct and deliberate warfare against the sacrifice to God.

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Looking at the “Last Day Event” Chart:

At the end of the 1260 days, as Satan personates Christ, he will at the end take command of his church—Catholicism, along with her daughters—the apostate churches and the religions of the world. They will stand arrayed against this little band of Sabbathkeepers. Like Elijah, these two opposing views will have come to a head: thus Jezebel’s (Satan and his churches) decree to kill Elijah (the Sabbathkeepers).



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NOTE: They [apostate churches] were warring against the Holy Covenant of God, as in **Dan. 11**.

Beneath the symbolism we can see in the sacrifice of Baal a frenzied attempt of apostasy to overthrow the truth of the atonement.

Though the priests of Baal wounded themselves, these wounds are more on the order of the rending of garments than the rending of heart.

Joel 2:13 says, “And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God:...”

In these wounds is seen the pretense which all false...

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...religion substitutes, for the true affliction of the soul required on the **Day of Atonement**.

Significantly, their sacrifice remains unconsumed.

Lev. 23:29 tells us, that if you didn't afflict your soul on the **Day of Atonement**, you would be **cut off!** It is the **DAILY** that draws you to, and prepares you for, this affliction of soul.

During the Sunday Law, the Christian world will be advocating an easier faith. As a result (in Elijah's time), truth was vindicated; judgment came upon the priests of Baal, who were slain. Such is always the outcome of the abomination of desolation.

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During the first half of the week, we will see the abomination of desolation take place within our own church just as it did 2,000 years ago by the apostates during Christ's time. It too, will come in the form of a rejection of the New Covenant message, and a continuing to embrace the Old.

The abomination of desolation committed by the apostates within our church will be tantamount to a Sunday Law. It will later be followed with a hatred for and a desire to kill their brother, though it will, in all probability, not involve the abandonment of the seventh day at first. Still, many within the church will reject the truth of this day with many of the same arguments. Just as the Jews didn't want to let go of the Laws of Moses (Ceremonial Laws), so our people are afraid to let go of the Old Covenant and advance with the New.

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Isa. 66:3 says, “He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog’s neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine’s blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways and their souls delighteth in their abominations.” By feeling rich enough already with substitutionary atonement, they end up prostituting the Old Covenant beyond its time. (Abusing grace)....

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...They believe in their heart that they can have the world and heaven both. And it saddens them when they hear differently.

Remember: To Eve, Satan promised a richer, fuller life than could be obtained through strict obedience. So he will do in his last deception. He will say that a religion allowing for continued sin is far more rewarding than a religion offering and requiring perfection.

After the apostates' final rejection of truth, the test will at that time go to the world. The Christian world today really doesn't know what to make of us; we are a complete enigma to them.

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ChS 155 states, “Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice; but a change will come. The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence.” (Give thought to the fact: that we are **protestants** in the **truest sense** of the word).

ChS 158 continues, “The protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate.”

Esther 2-7

Sometime after Esther’s inauguration, cousin Mordecai revealed to her, two gatekeepers’ plot, to kill the King.

vs. 22, “Esther certified the king...in Mordecai’s name.” ²²

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A few years later, Ahasuerus honored a man named Haman who was a descendant of the Amalikite King Agag whom Saul had killed. The king made Haman prime minister in charge of all the other nobles in the empire – which would include Mordecai. At Haman's inauguration the king ordered that everyone under Haman to bow down to him – whenever he passed through the city gate. They all carried out the King's order except Mordecai, the Jew. Mordecai refused to show him reverence which belongs only to God (**5 T 450**). This enraged Haman and when he learned that Mordecai was a Jew, he decided to have all the Jews throughout the empire executed.

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When Mordecai heard the order read and “perceived all that was done” (**Es. 4:1**) and learned that it was all Haman’s idea, he tore his robe, dressed in sackcloth, sprinkled ashes on his head and walked through the streets, crying. There was great mourning among the Jews. They dressed in sackcloth, fasted, put ashes on their heads, tore their robes and wept. **The tearing of their robes is significant, a symbol that God had abandoned them.**

1 SG 202: Ellen White says that during the time of Jacob’s trouble, “Some [saints] began to fear that God had left [abandoned] them to perish at the hands of the wicked.”

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ChS 155 says, “It is on the Law of God that the last great struggle of controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels will come, and it will be decisive for all the world....Men in responsible positions will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but from the sacred desk will urge upon the people the observance of the first day of the week, pleading tradition and custom in behalf of this man-made institution. They will point to calamities on land and sea – to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire – as judgments indicating God’s displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed...

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“...These calamities will increase more and more, one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; and those who make void the Law of God will point to the few who are keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as the ones who are bringing wrath upon the world.”

GC 589 says, “It is God that shields His creatures, and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would – He will withdraw His blessings from the earth, and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same.”

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Because of this they will bring about events that will compel the world to force a counterfeit religion. The apostate protestants will be the movers in this matter. They will by force make the world to worship the Beast. And force is the last act of every false religion.

They will do so by enacting a Sunday Law, which pays homage to that power. By doing this they think they will be repairers of the breach.

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Rev. 13:16 says that Babylon will cause “all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:” This is a law to be enforced upon all, regardless of religious preference. But if it is enforced upon all, it is still for the purpose of singling out the few.

Such was the decree that the Persian ministers secured from King Darius against Daniel.

Remember:

Dan. 12:11-12 especially associates this thirty-day decree with Jerusalem’s abomination of desolation and so it will be repeated in the world.

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Dan. 6:7 affirms that this decree was in fact to be universally enforced through the Persian empire. But its one real target was Daniel (or Sabbathkeepers).

As the Roman standard was a sign to the Jewish nation to flee so shall the **Death Decree** be our sign, just as it was in the days of Elijah when he fled from Jezebel **under the death decree**. Earlier, **1 Kg. 18:17,18** says, King Ahab asked him, "...Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have **not** troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have **forsaken the commandments** of the Lord,..."

In our day, you [apostates] have forsaken the commandments [New Covenant] of the Lord.