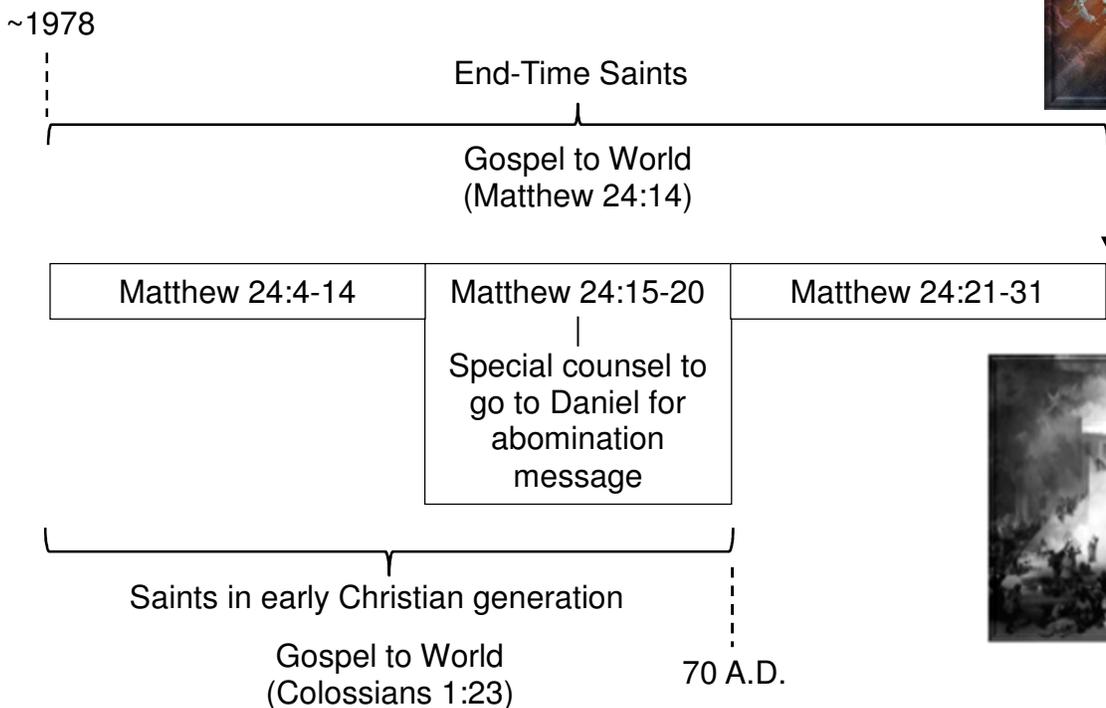


Jesus said: “Go to Daniel” for the “Abomination Story!”

Introduction

Graph: Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 17, 19 and 21.



Right in the middle of that apocalyptic prophecy of Matthew 24, duplicated in Mark 13, is one of the most important statements in Christ’s discourse:

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” (Matthew 24:15).

- “When ye shall see” – there is a sign that must be unmistakably clear, which is a warning.
- “When ye shall see” an **abomination** that the prophet Daniel talks about –
 1. **Standing** where it shouldn’t be (Mark 13:14) –
 2. **Stand** in the holy place (Matthew 24:15).

- The immediate question: “Is this the antichrist that has taken over a sacred place that is committing an abominable sin?” Since Daniel says that it will be destroyed (made desolate), it represents an evil being or power, **the end-time antichrist**, that does something terrible!

Something very important is “bothering” Jesus. The word “*abomination*” is an emotional word from God. There is some sin or evil that is **so bad**, so painful, He is saying: “It is an abomination to me!” He doesn’t stop there:

- If you engage in this sin
- You will be involved with a curse
- You will be part of earth’s **desolation** (destruction), where nothing is left!

He never wants us to say: “I didn’t know about that!” or “I never heard about that!”

This is how he emphasized this information concern:

“But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand.)”
(Mark 13:14).

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”
(Matthew 24:15).

What did Jesus say? ***We should understand it!***

Let’s analyze what we just read:

1. We can “see” or observe it – some abomination.
2. God hates it.
3. It is talked about and described in Daniel.
4. The “*abomination*” enters a “*holy place*” – understood to be the Christian world or church.
5. It is threatening – because we are told to “*flee*” in follow-up verses.
 - Get out of Judea – first application
 - Get out of Babylon – last-day application

There are two key texts that Christ referred us to in Daniel

1. “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**” (Daniel 11:31).
 - “his” – antichrist
 - “they” – his (antichrist) followers/“army”
 - “sanctuary” – God’s church
 - “daily” and “abomination” – we’ll deal with later
 - “will place” – will make a law
2. “And from the **time** that the daily [~~sacrifice~~] shall be taken away, and **the abomination that maketh desolate set up** [a law!], there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Daniel 12:11).

Interestingly, something the antichrist does:

1. Pollutes the sanctuary – God’s church
2. Is related to “the time of the end” (*es qes* – H) (Daniel 11:35, 12:4, 9)
3. Commits an abomination by some law, which effectively lasts 1290 days
4. Removes the “daily.”

There are many approaches to the Daniel study – but the best for our purpose is:

- Overview of the antichrist in Daniel 11:30–12:4
- Deeper study of Daniel 12:5-12

Overview of Daniel 11:30–12:4 (the seer’s final prophecy of the antichrist)

1. He rejects God’s covenant of grace (vs 30).
2. He sets up that “abomination” (vs 31).
3. God’s people will be witnessing during that time in earth’s last gospel call (vss 32b-33)!
4. Yet, that antichrist (called now the “king of the north”) persecutes them as they work for God.
5. This whole period is called the “time of the end” (vs 40) or the “appointed time” (vs 35).
6. That antichrist develops bitterness towards the success of God’s people and finally tries to destroy them (vs 44).

7. But God intervenes and brings him to his end (vs 45).

Please note: The first four verses of chapter 12, which we will now study, really belong to chapter 11! The final division of chapters and verses was not added to our Bibles until around 1550–1555 A.D.

- There were many division formats before then.
- The final KJV structure was retained – yet it is not totally perfect in those divisions.

Let's now pick up our story from chapter 12.

Daniel 12 (his final chapter)

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1).

“At that time” – when the antichrist is coming to his end (11:45), Michael, called ***“that great Prince,”*** comes on the scene once again.

- ***“Michael”*** (H) means ***“who is like God.”***
- Daniel 9 introduced us to ***“Messiah the Prince”*** (vs 25).
- Daniel 10 says, ***“Michael your prince”*** (Gabriel talking to Daniel) (vs 21).
- Here, Michael is ***“the great Prince”*** (12:1).
- Jude calls Michael ***“the archangel”*** (vs 9).
- Paul notes that the voice of ***“the archangel”*** raises the dead when Jesus comes (I Thessalonians 4:16). That's Jesus.

Michael is Christ! When He ***“stands up,”*** something dramatic ***changes*** in His function or His role.

- ***What has Jesus been doing?***
 - He's our High Priest (Hebrews 2:17, 3:1, 4:14) – our Mediator (I Timothy 2:5).
 - He's acting as our attorney (advocate) (I John 2:1).
 - He's interceding for us (Hebrews 7:25).
 - He's sitting on the right side of God's throne (Hebrews 8:1).

- ***But, here,*** Jesus stands up. His role as our representative ceases. He is about to come the second time (Hebrews 9:28). The great tribulation, which is shortly before the Second Coming of Jesus (Matthew 24:21 ff), now occurs.

Michael stands up to deliver His people, to bring them home (they have now all been identified).

How does Daniel describe those people Michael comes to deliver?

- “every one that shall be found written in the book” (12:1)
- That’s God’s ***Book of Life***.
- *“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life [meaning eternal life], but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels”* (Revelation 3:5).

No wonder, suddenly, everything now on planet earth turns for the worse!

- *“There shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time”* (12:1).
- This is the same **“great tribulation”** that Matthew talks about (Matthew 24:21, 29).

The next verse “rounds out” what God does at this time:

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).

That’s called by some the “special resurrection” we talked about in our last study.

Daniel’s curiosity to know more is about to ***explode!***

But – Gabriel cautions:

“O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (12:4).

- Daniel wasn’t permitted to understand what he wrote! ***Seal those words!***
- When would the *“time of the end”* begin? When the words were to be unsealed.
- Matthew 24 suggests that it began about 1978, when Christ’s five signs began trending collectively.
- It has only been after that time that knowledge has been increased ***regarding*** these prophecies (12:4).

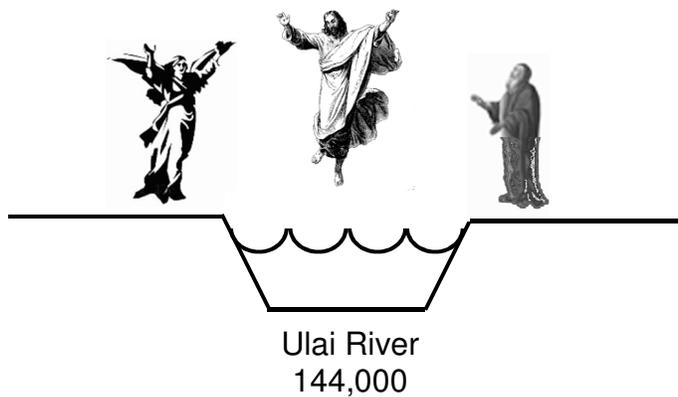
When Michael stood up, the end had come. ***We are now going to briefly see how that end came during that antichrist era!***

Daniel's Final Vision – Story of the Time the Antichrist is in Power!

Daniel now has a vision or dream:

“Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen,” (12:5-6a – NIV).

- He is seeing a river (the Ulai, we assume), which prophetically represents people (Revelation 17:15). It is far to the east of all the rivers in prophecy.
- A person is on each bank. A legal or judicial setting is suggested, where two witnesses overseeing suffice (Deuteronomy 19:15).
- A “man” totally clothed in fine linen is above the waters of the river. That dress is a High Priest garment used only on the ***Day of Atonement***. Jesus is that “man”!



Courtroom scene – two witnesses
Same as in Revelation 11

The Day of Atonement was judicially man’s ***last chance***. It was observed once a year in Israel. If all his sins weren’t forgiven, the individual was eternally lost (Leviticus 23:29)! It was a time of judgment.

- Whatever now happens is in this legal Atonement context. Whatever He says is binding – judicially fixed.
- It becomes a warning, because by verse 10 all decisions will have been made (it shows when Michael – Jesus – stands up)!

“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” (12:10).

Jesus above waters
in prophesy
(waters = people –
Rev. 17:15, Dan.
12:6)

Last period of
earth’s history to
“overcome” or
gain the victory

All decisions are
made (no more
chance to repent)
(Dan. 12:10)

Focus of His
prophecy

Michael stands up
(Dan. 12:1).

Daniel is now given the privilege of talking with Jesus in this vision.

Timing Prophecy Begins – Daniel Questions Jesus

“And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?” (Daniel 12:6).

- “How long” (discuss)
- “Wonders” (*pelaot* – H) is a Hebrew word, meaning something dramatic that God does or the antichrist tries to duplicate.
- ***What did God just do?***
 1. Delivered God’s people (from all harm, all sin)
 2. Resurrected the dead

Daniel’s concern: When will these events end? (draw/board)

This is how Jesus answered Daniel:

“The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, ‘It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed’” (Daniel 12:7 – NIV).

- Daniel sees and hears this amazing imagery of the “man” Jesus.

What does he see High Priest Jesus do?

- Lift up both hands.
- The right hand is a courtroom oath to tell “nothing but the truth.”

- The left hand raised is a pledge of His blood, guaranteeing His words will occur!

In Revelation 10:5 Jesus takes another oath – but raises only one hand. Why? He had already shed His blood!

- Can you see the importance of these prophecies?
- He is pledging His blood to assure us that Daniel 12 is true and will come true.
- In Revelation 10 He announces that the fulfilment of this Daniel 12 prophecy is about to begin!!!

Note – Jesus takes an oath by His Father’s name!

- This is a solemn prophecy. The divine affirmation can’t be more complete!

This is how Jesus responds to Daniel’s question:

- “It shall be for a time, times and an half” (12:7).
 “Time,” here, is *moed* – H. *Moed* alludes to a sacred time – here, a Day of Atonement.

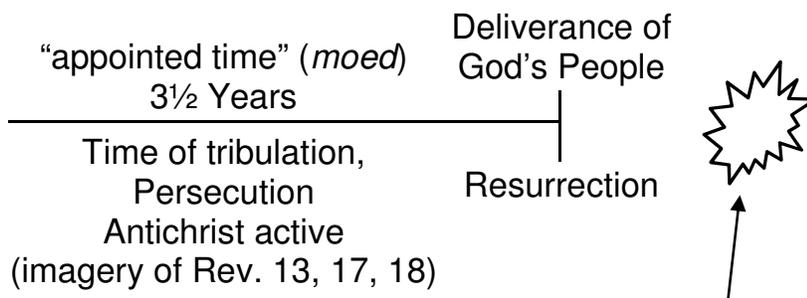
How often did the Day of Atonement occur?

- Once a year in the fall – therefore:
- One year – two years – half a year = **3½ years**
 (time) (times) (half)

Now Jesus adds details:

“It shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.” (vs 12:7b)

- When **he, the antichrist** (*king of the north*), finishes persecuting God’s people (11:33-34, 45)
- “all these things shall be finished.”
- Wow – did you catch that?



That means Jesus comes soon thereafter.

But we are missing something! Even Daniel is confused, and he asked Jesus for more clarification:

- *“And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”* (12:8).
- *“And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end”* (12:9). [Just like Gabriel said: it was not for Daniel.]

What is missing in the answer Christ gave to Daniel?

- There is no beginning event.
- If that is all Jesus gave, it would be: “Someday – by and by – there will be a 3½-year period.”
- God simply is not like that!

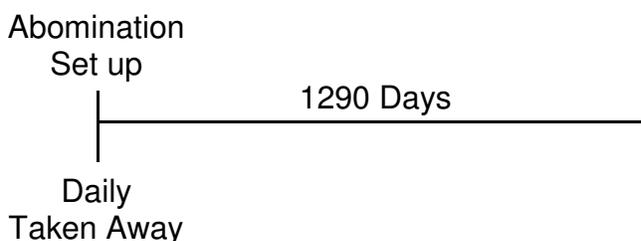
The Missing Puzzle Pieces

“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” (Daniel 12:11).

- *“From the time”* means –
- A beginning point

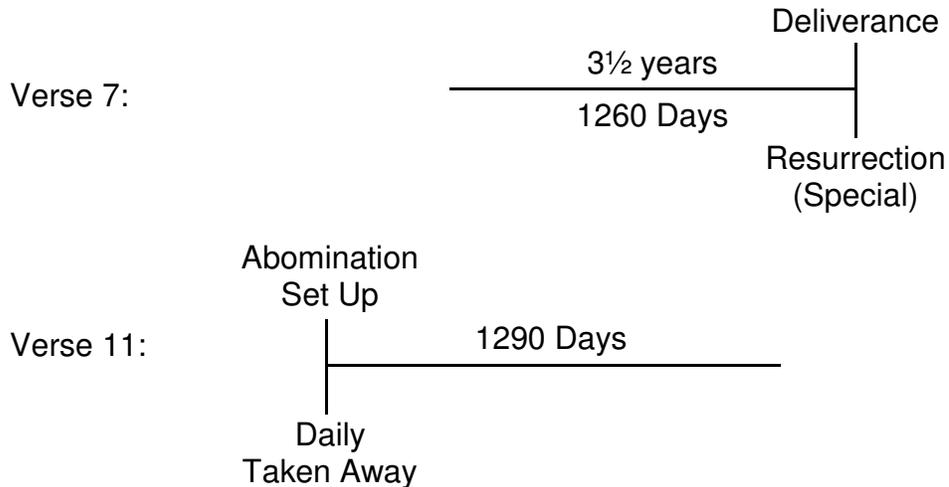
That is our “missing link!” ***What begins a 1290-day period?***

- An “abomination” is *“set up”* – a law enforcing that sin. That’s what Jesus asked us to study in Matthew 24 and Mark 13. It has entered the church.
- The “daily” is *“taken away”* (verb is causative) – is part of that law. That is something God established, which is clearly the opposite of the abomination.



Does Jesus give an ending in this verse?

- No – just a beginning
- Why?
- The ending was given in verse 7!



We have another problem. **How far apart are they?**

- To this point we don't know.
- The next verse gives us the answer.

“Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days” (Daniel 12:12).

He (an individual) who comes to and through (implied in the Hebrew) is blessed. It has to be literal time.

That's how far the beginning and the ending are apart.

