

ABATT
From Here to Eternity Part 3
 Christian Life Assembly
 Jim Hoffman

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From Here to Eternity

- “And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.”
- It is not in my purview to tell you who is, and who is not a false prophet – all I will say is that Jesus said many false prophets will arise.
- The measure for one claiming to have heard from God is found in their words – if they say, “God told me” and what they say proves to be false, they are a false prophet.

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- There were false prophets in Jeremiah’s day who spoke pleasant words to the Jews who were captives.
- Jer 29:8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord. ESV
- They were “prophesying” that God would release them quickly from the Babylonians – it would not be 70 years. ☹

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- “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”
- As it becomes more and more acceptable to persecute Christians, fewer and fewer of us will have the courage to minister to others, pray, worship, etc
- It is one thing to wear a cross, say “I’m a Christian”, and affirm the God of the bible when it costs nothing – it **may** become much more rare when it costs something. 4

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Like all generations of believers before us we could see severe persecution, and many in our world already have.

“Seducers are more dangerous enemies to the church than persecutors.”

Matthew Henry

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- Matt 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. ESV
- There are degrees of “the gospel being preached” – in other words, this may have happened already in our day to a certain degree.
- But the uninhibited preaching of the 2 witnesses, the 144,000, and the sky angel thoroughly fulfill this. 6

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- Remember, Matt 24 ignores the rapture, so whether the gospel has been preached throughout the world, or not, is irrelevant to it.
- However, it is not irrelevant to the Great Tribulation because Jesus said this gospel must be preached throughout the world prior to his 2nd coming.
- Is it not interesting that he says, "this gospel" meaning that he expected the gospel not be malleable?

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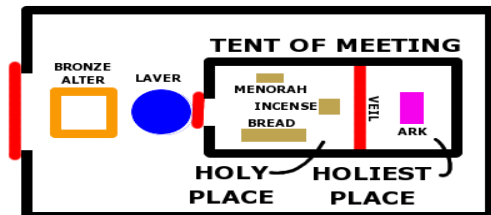
- Matt 24:15 "So when you see **the abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the **holy place** (let the reader understand)." ESV
- The NIV adds clarity here, "**the abomination that causes desolation**," – to make desolate is to make something empty and meaningless.
- The place is the "holy place" – this is a clear reference to at least the place of daily sacrifice in the temple. (maybe even the holy of holies)

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THE TABERNACLE



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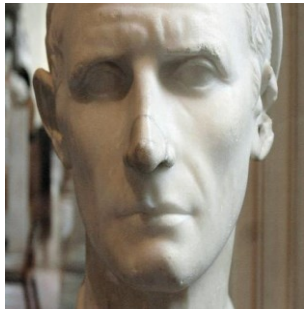
From Here to Eternity

- This sign is almost a one-of-a-kind sign – other signs like wars, earthquakes, and famines are way too common to rely on as an explicit sign of Jesus’ 2nd coming.
- But something that renders the holy place a desolate (empty and meaningless) place is much more rare – in fact, it had only happened once before in history.
- Daniel tells us of it in chapter 11 of his prophecy – a prophecy that pointed to Antiochus Epiphanes.

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Antiochus IV Epiphanes was a Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC. He was a son of King Antiochus III the Great. His original name was Mithradates; he assumed the name Antiochus Epiphanes after he ascended to the throne.



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- If we understand what Antiochus Epiphanes did we should know for certain what to expect in Daniel’s 70th week.
- In short, Antiochus Epiphanes wanted to make a name for himself, afterall, he gave himself the nickname of “Epiphanes” which means “the god-man”.
- And there are parallels between what Antiochus Epiphanes did and what Antichrist will do.

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- Around 168 B.C. Antiochus had a close relationship with the Jews that was mostly for his own advantage – the Jews trusted him. ✓
- He pretends to be the defender of Jerusalem – he does so by buying influence with the Jewish leadership. ✓
- One day, at a time when it was least expected, on a sabbath when most of Israel was resting, Antiochus attacks Israel with 250,000 men and seizes control. ✓

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- Then he replaces all of the existing Jewish leadership in Jerusalem with men who, “who forsake the holy covenant” (Dan 11:30) – secular Jews. ✓
- Antiochus demands that sacrifices to Jehovah cease and that all sacrifices should be made to him instead. ✓
- He wanted just one religion to be practiced and at the center of the new religion was he, himself – the self proclaimed god-man. ✓

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- In the temple he setup an image of Zeus on the altar which abominated it – a pagan god in the holy place. ✓
- Dan 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. ESV
- So now when we read of “abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel” we know exactly what is meant. ✓

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• Matt 24:16 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 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. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 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. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ESV

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- Some split Daniel's 70th week into 2 equal parts of 3.5 years each and label the 1st as the Tribulation and the 2nd as the Great Tribulation.
- It is hard to find fault with this approach because from the time the beast demands worship the Trumpets and Bowls intensify the judgments.
- So, when we see the verbs in verses 16-22, we understand why Jesus seems to accelerate his warnings. 17

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- Flee, don't go back for your cloak, and pray that your flight is not in the winter, signal a new level of danger.
- "And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."
- The judgments are so severe that if they are not cut short no one will survive – but some will make it through because God wants a population of humans for the millennial kingdom. 18

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• Matt 24:23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. ESV

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- "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it".
- There will times in the tribulation period where Christians will be hunted very much like the Nazis hunted the Jews who were hiding.
- Don't come out of hiding until something like lightning shines from the east – this is how you will know Jesus has returned in his glory.

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• Matt 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ESV

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- Sun darkened, moon dimmed, stars falling, and the heavens shaken are all evidence of the Trumpet and Bowl judgments in the Tribulation.
- “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” – this is not pointing to the rapture, but to the 2nd coming.
- Verse #31 has a trumpet, but the previous verses already set the context and it’s not the rapture.

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- Matt 24:32 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” ESV
- Those who say Matthew 24 was all fulfilled in AD 70, ignore – “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory”.

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Questions?

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