

DANIEL, JESUS, & THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

The following study will demonstrate that the abomination of desolation in Daniel 11 was typological of the abomination of desolation in Daniel 12 that was to occur at the “time of the end” (the “end of the age”), and was fulfilled in the first century according to the prophecy and promise of Jesus in Mathew 24.

The following chart demonstrates the parallels between Daniel 11 and 12 concerning the abomination of desolation.

DANIEL 11	DANIEL 12
The abomination of desolation (11:31)	The abomination of desolation (12:11)
The people who know their God (11:32)	The sons of your people (12:1)
Desecrate the sanctuary fortress (11:31)	Shattering the power of the holy people (12:7)
Do away with the regular sacrifice (11:31)	The regular sacrifice is abolished (12:11)
Fall by sword, flame, captivity, and plunder for many days (11:33)	A time of great distress such as never occurred (12:2)
Those who have insight... will give understanding to the many (11:33)	Those who have insight... lead many to righteousness (12:3)
Will be refined, purged, and made pure (12:35)	Will be purged, purified, and refined (12:10)

Consider the following:

The abomination of desolation in Daniel 11 is the abomination of desolation in Daniel 12.

But, the abomination of desolation of Daniel 11 was fulfilled through the exploits of Antiochus Epiphanes in the 2nd century BC.

Therefore, one could logically conclude that the abomination of desolation in Daniel 12 was fulfilled through the exploits of Antiochus Epiphanes in the 2nd century BC.

However, there are 2 major problems with this reasoning.

1. Jesus placed the fulfillment of the abomination of desolation (as spoken through the prophet Daniel) in the lifetime of his contemporary generation, not as being historically fulfilled through Antiochus Epiphanes.

2. The text itself states that the visions of Daniel 11 and Daniel 12 referred to different times. The abomination of desolation in Daniel 12 concerned the “time of the end”, the abomination of desolation in Daniel 11 did not.

Regarding point 2, consider the chart below:

DANIEL 11	DANIEL 12
The abomination of desolation (11:31)	The abomination of desolation (12:11)
The people who know their God (11:32)	The sons of your people (12:1)
Desecrate the sanctuary fortress (11:31)	Shattering the power of the holy people (12:7)
Do away with the regular sacrifice (11:31)	The regular sacrifice is abolished (12:11)
Fall by sword, flame, captivity, and plunder for many days (11:33)	A time of great distress such as never occurred (12:2)
Those who have insight... will give understanding to the many (11:33)	Those who have insight... lead many to righteousness (12:3)
Will be refined, purged, and made pure (12:35)	Will be purged, purified, and refined (12:10)
The vision did not concern the “end” -the “end” was not yet (11:35)	The vision concerned the time of the “end” (12:4,9,13)

Notice the bottom line of the above chart. As we already said, the abomination of desolation in Daniel 12 concerned the “time of the end”, the abomination of desolation in Daniel 11 did not. In other words, the abomination of desolation in Daniel 11 was fulfilled through Antiochus Epiphanes, and was typological of Daniel 12 which was to be fulfilled at the “time of the end”. More on this below.

Regarding point 1 and the fact that Jesus placed the fulfillment of the abomination of desolation (as spoken through the prophet Daniel) in the lifetime of his contemporary generation, consider the chart below:

DANIEL 12	MATHEW 24
The abomination of desolation (12:11)	The abomination of desolation (24:15)
The sons of your people (12:1)	The elect (24:22,24)
A time of great distress such as never occurred since there was a nation – the great tribulation (12:2)	A great tribulation such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world (24:21)
The vision/prophecy concerned the time of the “end” (12:4,9,13)	The prophecy concerned the “end” – the end of the age (24:3,13-14)
Many of those who sleep will awake to everlasting life – resurrection (12:2)	They will gather together his elect – resurrection (24:31)
The “others” will awake to everlasting contempt – judgment (12:2)	The flood came and took them all away – judgment (24:39)
Shattering the power of the holy people (12:7)	Not one stone will be left upon another... the powers of the heavens will be shaken (24:2,29)
Fulfilled when the power of the holy people was completely shattered – the “end” (12:7)	Fulfilled in the lifetime of Jesus’ first century generation – the “end of the age” (24:34)

The abomination of desolation of Daniel 12 is the abomination of desolation of Mathew 24 (Jesus specifically quotes “Daniel the prophet”).

But, the abomination of desolation of Daniel 24 was “seen” by Jesus’ first century disciples (24:15), and was fulfilled in the first century generation.

Therefore, the abomination of desolation of Daniel 12 was “seen” by Jesus’ first century disciples (24:15), and was fulfilled in their lifetime.

Jesus’ words agree perfectly with the book of Daniel which states that when the power (the strength/ authority) of the holy people (Israel) was completely shattered (destroyed), “all these wonders” (including the abomination of desolation) would be fulfilled (12:5-7). The covenantal power and authority of Israel was forever broken and destroyed at the judgement and destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 – in the first century generation. Therefore, both Jesus and Daniel agree on a 1st century fulfillment of the abomination of desolation.

The last chart demonstrates that all references to the abomination of desolation from the book of Daniel were fulfilled no later than the fall of Jerusalem and the end of the Old Covenant age in AD70, according to the prophecy of Jesus in Mathew 24.

DANIEL 9	DANIEL 11	DANIEL 12	MATHEW 24
The abomination of desolation (9:27)	The abomination of desolation (11:31)	The abomination of desolation (12:11)	The abomination of desolation (24:15)
Your people, your holy city (9:24)	People who know their God (11:32)	Sons of your people (12:1)	The elect (24:22,24)
War and desolations to the “end” (9:26)	Fall by sword, flame, captivity, for many days (11:33)	Great distress such as never occurred (12:2)	Great tribulation such as has not occurred (24:21)
Sacrifice and grain offering stop (9:27)	Do away with the regular sacrifice (11:31)	The regular sacrifice is abolished (12:11)	
Bring in everlasting righteousness (9:24)	Refined, purged, and made pure (12:35)	Many who sleep will awake to everlasting life (12:2)	They will gather together his elect (24:31)
Will destroy the city and the sanctuary (9:26)	Desecrate the sanctuary fortress (11:31)	Power of the holy people shattered (12:7)	Not one stone left upon another (24:2,29)
The vision concerned the “end” of the 70 th week (9:24,26)	The vision was typological of the appointed “end” (11:35)	The vision concerned the time of the “end” (12:4,9,13)	Prophecy concerned the “end” of the age (24:3,13-14)
Fulfilled at the “end” of the 70 th week (9:24)		Fulfilled when the power of the holy people shattered (12:7)	Fulfilled at the “end” of the age, in the first century generation (24:34)

Therefore, the abomination of desolation was fulfilled no later than the end of the Old Covenant age in AD70, when the power of Israel was destroyed and everlasting righteousness forever received. The abomination of desolation was a sign that the end of the age (Judaism) had come (24:2-3,13-15).