

The Olivet Discourse (2)

The Abomination of Desolation

Discussion Questions:

(Summary) – Jesus described the true sign of the end as the abomination of desolation. This is referring to an extreme act of desecration (abomination) which leaves God's Holy place unserviceable and empty (desolation). We can confidently say that Jesus intended this phrase to both point back to the abomination of desolation set up by Antiochus IV (which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet) and to point forward to another abomination of desolation soon to come by Rome in 70AD (which was evident in Jesus' prediction that Jerusalem would be destroyed).

Beyond this, however, are other fascinating questions about this sign that we are less certain about...

1. *Was this sign completely fulfilled in 70AD? Or is there a future fulfillment to come prior to Christ's return? Why?*
2. *If there is a future abomination of desolation to come what might it look like? How will we recognize it? (Hint – Stick to the image Jesus already described: an extreme act of desecration that leaves God's Holy place unserviceable and empty). How might this work if there is no temple standing to desecrate?*
3. *(In preparation for next study) How does this passage teach us to respond when we see the abomination of desolation (v. 14b-20)? Why? What does this teach us about the tribulation to come? Is it "escapable" by some other means than rapture?*