

Transgression of Desolation/Abomination of Desolation

Two people in Scripture are connected to these two very similar phrases “**Transgression of Desolation**” and “**Abomination of Desolation.**” They are **Antiochus IV Epiphanes** and a man we know only as **the Anti-Christ**. Both phrases are used in conjunction with the desecration of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem so that it cannot be used for sacrifices to a Holy God. These phrases introduce the intense persecution of the Jews by both of these men named above.

The phrase “**Transgression of Desolation**” was first brought to our attention in **Daniel chapter 8 verse 13**, *Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, “How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the **transgression of desolation**, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?”*

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

Daniel chapter 8 is much about the **Grecian Empire** and the “**little Horn**” who appears in this Empire. The kings of this Empire ruled most of the known world from 333 BC to 63 BC. We know the **little horn** in chapter 8 is referring to **Antiochus IV Epiphanes** who ruled as the **King of the North (Seleucid Empire)** and was the most antagonistic of all the Kings of the North toward the Jews and the nation Israel.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes is identified as the King of the North in **Daniel chapter 11 verses 21-35**. The phrase “**Transgression of Desolation**” is brought to our attention again in verse 31. The angel explains to Daniel in greater detail how Antiochus will treat the Jews during his rule as the King of the North from 175 to 165 BC.

Daniel chapter 11 verses 21-35, ²¹*And in his place shall arise **a vile person**, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue.* ²²*With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.* ²³*And after the league is made with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a*

small number of people. ²⁴He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but only for a time.

²⁵“He shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the South with a great army. And the king of the South shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for they shall devise plans against him. ²⁶Yes, those who eat of the portion of his delicacies shall destroy him; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. ²⁷Both these kings’ hearts shall be bent on evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper, for the end will still be at the appointed time. ²⁸While returning to his land with great riches, his heart shall be moved against the holy covenant; so he shall do damage and return to his own land.

²⁹“At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. ³⁰For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do damage.

“So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. ³¹And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the **abomination of desolation**. ³²Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people [the Maccabees] who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. ³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. ³⁴Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. ³⁵And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes is referred to in verse 21 as **a vile person** and from verse 21 to verse 32 the angel is describing this man in great detail. Verses 32-35 describe the revolt by the **Maccabees** who take control of Jerusalem and the temple and cleanse the temple in 165 BC so it can be used for sacrifices and offerings once again.

The Anti-Christ

In Daniel chapter 7 Daniel describes a vision of four beasts rising up out of the sea. These four beasts represent four world empires that will rule nations including the nation of Israel. Each of these world empires will have a great effect on the nation Israel and the Jewish people. These empires are: The Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire and the Roman Empire.

In **Daniel chapter 7 verses 7-11** Daniel describes this fourth beast, representing the **Roman Empire**, and a **little horn** that came up among the ten horns on the head of this beast. In these verses Daniel will describe how this **little horn** is destroyed. This **little horn** is a representation of the **Anti-Christ** who Daniel will describe in some detail in verses 24-27 of this chapter.

Daniel 7:7-11, ⁷*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. ⁸I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

⁹*I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. ¹⁰A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. ¹¹I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which **the [little] horn** spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*

In **Daniel chapter 7 verses 23-27** Daniel reveals the **Anti-Christ** to us and also the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, **Jesus Christ**, who will destroy the **Anti-Christ** during the battle of Armageddon.

Verses 24-27, ²³“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. ²⁴‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; **and another will arise after them, and he** will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. ²⁵‘**He** will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and **he** will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into **his** hand for a time, times, and half a time. ²⁶‘But the court will sit for judgment, and **his** dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. ²⁷‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the **Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.**’

Daniel chapter 7 gives us the first glimpse of the Anti-Christ and then again in **chapter 9 verses 26-27** he will give us more information about the Anti-Christ. In verse 26 we see a reference of a **prince to come**. This is a reference to the **Anti-Christ** and again in verse 27 the “**he**” refers to the **Anti-Christ** who will make a covenant with the Jewish people and allow the Jews to perform their sacrifices and offerings on the altar of the temple once again. This peace or covenant with the Jews is for seven years. However, in the middle of the seven years he breaks that peace or covenant with Israel.

Daniel chapter 9 verses 26-27, ²⁶“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of **the prince who is to come** will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷“And **he** will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week **he** will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

Notice in verse 26 and in verse 27 the words **desolations** and **abominations**. These are the words that describe the actions of the similar phrases, “**Transgression of Desolation**” and “**Abomination of Desolation**” The desecration of the temple was an **abomination** to God and these abominations left the temple **desolate** and unusable for worship to a Holy God.

In **Revelation chapter 13 verses 14-15** the apostle John describes the actions of the **Anti-Christ** as he performs the “**Transgression of Desolation**” in the temple as the Anti-Christ places a statue of him in the temple to be worshipped by everyone.

Revelation 13:14-15, ¹⁴*And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to **make an image to the beast** who had* the wound of the sword and has come to life. ¹⁵And it was given to him to give breath **to the image of the beast**, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

This action of the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet is what Jesus refers to in Matthew chapter 24 as Jesus explains that “when we see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** standing where it should not be then flee from Jerusalem.”

Matthew 24:15-21, ¹⁵*“Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, **standing in the holy place** (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains; ¹⁷Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. ¹⁸Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. ¹⁹“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰“But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be a **great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.*

Jesus is pointing back in Scripture to what Daniel prophesied in chapter 9 verses 26 and 27 when He uses the words, **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**.