

Audio Teaching Sermon    Message #47    Desolation is Coming

[ A    Intro – Pastor Jefferson    0:00 thru 1:14 ]

Hey folks. I'm pastor Jefferson and you are listening to the **47<sup>th</sup> message** in the **Audio Teaching Sermon Series**. We've been talking about the 3 prophecies associated with the parable of the **Fig Tree**. Within the last couple of messages, I've been giving the details for the 3<sup>rd</sup> prophecy, which I refer to as "**the imminent.**" As we previously covered, Jesus was asked by His disciples **3 questions**. We just finished answering the first one, "**When will these things start happening?**" by listing the applicable signs Jesus mentioned in **Matthew 24: 4-8**. I want to point out that of the questions the disciples asked Jesus, each one covers a different period of the end times. They are, however, not mutually exclusive, in the sense that the periods share *some* overlap with the others. Generally speaking, the **1<sup>st</sup> question** includes the period starting with the establishment of the **nation of Israel**, [in 1948] and runs until the start of the **Tribulation** which will be in November of 2033.

[ B    Answers to Three Questions    1:14 thru 2:46 ]

The next question the disciples asked Jesus, we see in **Matthew 24:3**. It reads, <sup>1</sup> "**What will be the sign** <sup>2</sup> **of Your coming?**" Before we get too deep into this discussion, I want to clearly point out that Jesus did not answer the **3 questions** His disciples asked of Him in the order they were stated in Scripture. When we read the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter from start to finish, we see that Jesus answered **question 1** first, as we just covered, in **verses 4 thru 8**. He then answered the **3<sup>rd</sup> question** in **verses 9 thru 14** and **verses 23 thru 26**. And we are now looking for His answer to the **2<sup>nd</sup> question**, which Jesus actually answers in **verses 15 thru 21**. Our first clue that we know this to be true, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> question itself. Look at **T-1**. They asked Him what will be the sign? The *Greek* word for **sign** is **sem-MY-on** and is a commonly used word in Scripture. It means '**a miracle, a supernatural sign or an eerie or unnerving wonder.**' It is a specific prophetic event given to us for the express reason of confirming, corroborating or authenticating something.

[ C    Definition of the Coming of the LORD    2:46 thru 4:02 ]

Notice also that the word itself is *singular*—so we are looking for the mention of just one sign. When we review **chapter 24**, there is only one verse which fulfills that requirement, and it is found in **verse 15**. Before we go there, let's finish with **verse 3**.

When we look at T-2, we see the Greek word for coming is [6] *pah-roo-SEE-as* and it means **'to be present, to be near, or to arrive into a situation.'** It especially brings the idea of the arrival of the owner, who alone is the only one able to deal with that situation. In the east, it is used as a technical term for the royal visit of a king or emperor. The word visit implies **'a limited or temporary time and not an arrival with the intent to remain.'** The 6 times this word appears; it is only associated with the coming of the LORD. So, we are looking for a surefire sign which cannot be missed. An unmistakable signal which will herald the arrival of Jesus to earth.

[ D The Word Abomination 4:02 thru 5:22 ]

Look now at verse 15. It reads: <sup>1</sup> "Therefore when you see <sup>2</sup> the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION <sup>3</sup> which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, <sup>4</sup> standing in the holy place <sup>5</sup> (let the reader understand)." If you are unaware of Biblical teaching regarding end times prophecy, there is a good chance you have no idea of what "the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**" mentioned in T-2 even means." If so, you are not alone. The simple truth is most people get the answer wrong when asked to define what it is. When we look up the word abomination it means **'something regarded with disgust or hatred.'** While most of us know well what hatred is, disgust is defined as **'aversion aroused by something highly distasteful.'** Thus, the word "abomination" Jesus mentioned is talking about the creation of intense feelings of repugnance and abhorrence at the mere thought of seeing the object. And by using the word *hatred*, it is showing us that the introduction of the object is not only intentional but designed to ignite God's wrath.

[ E What Desolation Means 5:22 thru 6:49 ]

The word desolation means **'the result of making something desolate.'** And the word desolate means **'depriving something of inhabitants and laying waste to it.'** As we go through the verse, you will see that the place Jesus is talking about is the **Holy of Holies**, which will be inside the newly rebuilt Hebrew Temple. The man who will become the **Antichrist** will place a statue—an idol—on the inside the **Holy of Holies** and will drive out all the Hebrew priests. He will then destroy all the implements of worship located within the Temple. His goal will be to violate the first 3 of the **10 commandments**. If you want to quickly anger and provoke God into taking action, in my opinion—that's the best and fastest way to it. As they say in the South, Satan wants to **'git 'er done!'** Let's take a closer

look. When we read **Exodus 20:2** it says, <sup>1</sup> “I am the LORD your God, <sup>2</sup> who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>3</sup> out of the house of bondage.” T-1 is what I call a **Master’s Statement**—which is defined as **‘a declaration which is both unassailable and incontrovertible.’** Which clearly this one most certainly is.

[ **F** God Conducted a Jailbreak 6:49 thru 8:19 ]

Looking at T-1 we see the *Hebrew* word for **LORD** is **YAH-veh**. It literally translates to **“I AM.”** It was the name God told Moses, when Moses asked Him, “Who should I say you are?” It is by far the most often repeated name for God in the Bible, appearing over 6200 times. The word for **your God** is **el-lo-HIGH-kah**, and comes from the *Hebrew* word for **God**, **el-oh-HEEM**. In alignment with the theology of the **Trinity**, this word is *plural*. So, God is laying claim to the ultimate high ground, informing them that He is their only Sovereign. Next, in T-2 He reminds the Hebrews that it was He who brought them out of the land of Egypt. The *Hebrew* word for **brought you** is [3] **how-SEH-tea-kah** and means **‘to break out.’** It brings the idea of **deliverance** from emancipation, which means **‘to free from restraint, control or the power of another.’** Think of a jail break, where someone comes and frees you from a place of physical confinement. That’s what this word means. The land of **Egypt** is representative of **‘being in bondage, living a life of oppression and existing in a state of spiritual darkness.’**

[ **G** Out of the House of Slavery 8:19 thru 9:43 ]

Which clearly the Hebrew people were, until after being freed by God, Who used Moses as His agent to go before Pharaoh. They were now standing at the foot of Mount Sinai and God was on the verge of giving them the **10 Commandments**. The definition of the *Hebrew* word **how-SEH-tea-kah** is in total agreement with T-3, as it was God who brought the Israelites out of the **house of bondage**. The *Hebrew* word we see for **out of the house** is **MIB-bet**. It means house in an ordinary sense, as **‘those belonging to the same family.’** It was the basis for how a person would be identified. The house would contain a family, whose patriarch would be the father of the offspring. As such, they would then say they were out of the house of their patriarch’s name. For example, **Jesus** was out of the house of **David**, who was himself out of the house of **Judah**. The word we see for **of bondage** is **AH-bah-dim** and means **‘a servant, a slave or a bondservant.’** Thus, God Almighty was telling them that they were out of the house of slavery and that

the Hebrew people had been slaves to the powers of darkness.

[ **H** Physical and Spiritual Freedom 9:43 thru 11:15 ]

In the Bible, **slavery** is equivalent to being in bondage to sin; and being taken out of the house of **Egypt** meant God gave the Hebrews the choice of **physical freedom**. They were given the opportunity to pick between following **Yahweh** across the reed sea or remaining in Egypt. What God brought to the Hebrew people was a choice. He heard their cries and came to rescue them. God then made a way for the Hebrews to escape the bondage in Egypt. God offered them their physical freedom. They now had 2 clear choices. The first was to stay in Egypt. Any of the Hebrews could have elected to remain in Egypt had they wanted to. We don't know for certain, but maybe some did. The second option was to follow God out of there—to a better place, where their lives would be saved. Moses led a rescue operation. In the same way, **Jesus** with His death on the cross brought us **spiritual** freedom. We all now get to make a choice as well. We can elect to remain in our current state of sin, or we can choose to follow Jesus. His death purchased our freedom, by offering to bring us out of the *spiritual* house of bondage. Jesus gave us the option for everlasting life. Whether we follow or not Him is entirely our choice.

[ **I** No Other Gods Before Yahweh 11:15 thru 12:49 ]

Look now at **Exodus 20:3**. This is the **1<sup>st</sup> commandment**. It reads, *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”* God the Father knew that He'd just purchased the Hebrew people's physical freedom, and likely preserved all of their lives. Had they remained in Egypt, where things weren't going so well, they just might have all wound up in an Egyptian **holocaust**. At the end of the age, the **Antichrist** will attempt a **nuclear holocaust** against the Hebrew people. And thankfully, God will once again protect their physical freedom. So, yes He had every right to make the demand that there be no other gods before Him. God knew there were no other **Gods**—*with a capital G*, so no one apart from Him would have ever be able to save the Hebrew race. Therefore, His was not an unreasonable requirement. The *Hebrew* word for **gods** is the same word we see in **Genesis 1:1**: *“In the beginning Gods created the Heavens and the Earth.”* The word is **el-oh-HEEM** and means **'gods,'** plural, in a clear mention of the Holy Trinity. The word for **god** singular is **el-oh-WAH**. As I said earlier, the Antichrist will insert a huge statue in the Holy of Holies and demand that everyone worship it as **God**. That will be a clear violation

of the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment.

[ **J** No Graven Images 12:49 thru 14:11 ]

Now read **Exodus 20:4**, for yourself. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Commandment**. It's lengthy, but it basically says, *"Don't make a graven image out of anything in the universe!"* Yeah, that's what it says. The word we see for **graven image** is [6] **PEH-sel** and means '**a carved (graven) image set up for religious veneration, an idol.**' In the 6 times it appears in Scripture, the object being mentioned is framed as a rival to the living God. It represents humanity's attempt to localize, manipulate or replace divine presence. Which again is precisely what Satan via the Antichrist will seek to achieve. We will study this in much greater detail in the future, but by placing the statue in the Temple, Satan will **localize** God. Revelation tells us he will **manipulate** the statue by having it appear to come to life. And using it, he will **replace** God's divine presence in the Holy of Holies. Some have suggested that any item we have which becomes more important to us is automatically an idol. No, that's simply true.

[ **K** Bowing Down is the Key 14:11 thru 15:32 ]

We see both **Exodus 20:5** & **Deuteronomy 5:9** contain the same exact command. They add the prohibition of bowing down to the self-created idol. I have never seen anyone ever bow down to something they own. So, right from the start, the Biblical idea of idolatry is framed not merely as a misguided ritual but a covenant infidelity—which here is what the words of Jesus are describing. For example, the **Muslims** will tell you that their ritual of praying 5 times per day towards **Mecca** is *not* idol worship. They will tell you it is symbolic of everyone pointing in the same direction as a sign of unity. Well, what they are praying towards is a physical object, called the **Kaaba**. The **Kaaba** is '**a cube-shaped building located at the center of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and is considered the holiest site in Islam.**' It serves as the focal point for Muslim prayer and pilgrimage (Hajj and Umrah). Muslims around the world pray facing the Kaaba, and it is the central structure around which pilgrims circumambulate during the Hajj.

[ **L** If it Quacks Like a Duck 15:32 thru 16:42 ]

Go back and read the full definition for the word **PEH-sel** in [Biblehub.com](http://Biblehub.com). They can deny what they are doing is *not* a form of idol worship all they want. But when the **Antichrist** makes everyone who takes his mark do the exact same thing—what will they

all call it then? I'll just say, if it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck and walks like a duck... Well, you get the idea. And just in case you didn't know, the Muslim religion does not consider **Jesus Christ** anything other than another prophet, on an even lesser level than Mohammed. Go and Google what verses of the Koran are written on the walls of the **Dome of the Rock**. Every verse there denies that God had a Son. Go ahead and check me out. Then make your own decision. As I've said many times, Satan can't alter the plays in his playbook. What he's done already, he will repeat again in the future. It will be the same with the Antichrist and his demand that those who take his mark worship the beast.

[ **M** **Vain Worship is Deceit** **16:42 thru 17:47** ]

The **3<sup>rd</sup> commandment** is found in **Exodus 20:7**. God says, *"You shall not take the LORD's name in vain."* As we previously discussed, the Hebrew word for **vain** is **las-SAW**. It means **'to act deceitfully, to make use of falsehood, or emptiness of speech.'** When we falsely associate ourselves with God Almighty we practice worship that lacks **truth**, by engaging in pursuits which prove to be **fruitless** and give testimony that destroys His **legitimacy**. When we worship any other god, we profane His character and turn our covenant relationship with Him into an empty formality. This is actually what the **desolation** Jesus mentioned actually looks like in practice. This is the goal of Satan. To drive us completely away from the path that leads to holiness. To drive us from the Truth.

[ **Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **17:47 thru 19:08** ]

And we know that the Bible says **Jesus** is the **Truth**. He is also the **Way**. And He is also the **Life**. [**John 14:16**] The words of Christ—the bible gives us the truth. The teachings of Jesus shows us the way. And upon His recommendation—the indorsement of Jesus on our behalf to His Father gives us eternal life. Satan and the Antichrist will make every attempt to derail that Gospel. Their demonic goal is to get people to swear allegiance to the Antichrist and then willingly accept his mark. This act guarantees that person will go first to Hell and then eventually into the Lake of Fire. These words of Christ are serious business—the most serious business possible. We need to not take them lightly. We will pick up in **lesson 48** where we left off today. May God richly bless you my friends! **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**