

## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ [www.preceptsforlife.com](http://www.preceptsforlife.com)

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**SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)**

**TITLE: Program 42 – The Sign Of His Coming**

### **TUESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

I'm on the Southern Steps, the place where the Jews would enter the Temple, where they would go in through the holy gates to worship. It's here that Jesus is talking about, where the **"...Abomination of Desolation..."**[will stand] **in the holy place...."** (Matthew 24:15)

#### **PART ONE**

In Matthew chapter 24, in the first 14 verses, He has talked about the time of the end. Now He is going to answer for them, **"...What [is] the sign of your coming...?"** (Matthew 24:3) The sign of the coming [will be this time of tribulation, such as has never been.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:21) It is a sign that is marked by the beginning of the **"...Abomination of Desolation...standing in the holy place..."** (Matthew 24:15) In Matthew chapter 24, verse 15, it says, **"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), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things...that are in [the] house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those [that] are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be winter, [nor] on a Sabbath. For then...,” (Matthew 24:15-21) when that “...Abomination of Desolation...[stands] in the holy place...,” (Matthew 24:15) “...Then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.” (Matthew 24:21) This Abomination of Desolation that stands in the holy place was told to us by Daniel, the prophet. I want us to go to Daniel chapter 9. In Daniel chapter 9 we have the first mention of the Abomination of Desolation. It’s talking about the time when one will come, “And...make a firm covenant with the many for one week...” (Daniel 9:27) It’s the final seven years. And this is what it says, “...In the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering...” (Daniel 9:27) Now what’s going to be happening is, the Jews are going to be going in and out of this temple. They’re going to come to a rebuilt temple, and there they will be making sacrifices, there they will be making offerings. “...But in the middle of [that] week...,” (Daniel 9:27) after three and a half years, because that’s the middle of seven, it says that, “...On the wing of abominations...He will put a stop to [sacrificing]...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.” (Daniel 9:27) Now here we don’t have the word, the Abomination of Desolation, but here we have the word, “makes desolate.” Now let’s go to Daniel chapter 11. In Daniel chapter 11, he’s taking us to the times of Antiochus Epiphanes and he’s going to use Antiochus Epiphanes as a testimony of what is going to happen. Let me read it to you and it says in verse 31 that, “Forces from him will arise,

**desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.” (Daniel 11:31)** Now the Abomination of Desolation in that time was the statue of Zeus that they took and they put in the holy of holies. They put that statue of Zeus, it was an Abomination of Desolation. This is not what Jesus is talking about in Matthew, but it is like a forerunner, it is like a picture of what is going to happen. So in Daniel chapter 12, then we have this Abomination of Desolation referred to in Daniel chapter 12, in verse 11. It says, **“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished..., (Daniel 12:11)** and the regular sacrifice, remember, is abolished in the middle of that last seven years, in the middle of the week, leaving three and one half years to follow. (See Daniel 9:27) It’s very important that you understand this. And this is what he says, **“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished..., it says “...and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.” (Daniel 12:11)** Now 1,260 days, according to Jewish reckoning, is three and one half years. So this is an extra thirty days. But He’s telling us how long it will be, how long that Abomination of Desolation will be standing in the holy place. Now let’s go back to Matthew chapter 24. Follow me carefully, Beloved, because I truly want you to understand what Jesus is telling them. He’s telling them that when they see, in verse 15, **“...The Abomination of Desolation...spoken of [by] Daniel the prophet....” (Matthew 24:15)** Well we’ve seen that there are three times that desolation is used; or two times when Abomination of Desolation is used. **“...When you see [him]...standing in the holy place...then [they are to flee, they are to] flee to the mountains....” (Matthew 24:15-16)** He is talking about the mountains of Judea. He’s saying, **“...Pray that your flight [be] not in...winter....” (Matthew 24:20)** Why? Because those mountains in the winter, all of a sudden, that they can be filled with water. The water comes crashing down in the winter, because this is the time of winter rain, and it comes down flooding the wadis, and the wadis are where they would be

walking. Wadis are those dry places between the mountains where you see the vegetation. And so He says, **“...Pray that your flight...[be not] in the winter....” (Matthew 24:20)** He says, “Pray that it’s not when you’re pregnant. Woe to those who are with child.” **“...Woe...to those [that] are nursing babes....” (Matthew 24:19)** And pray that it’s not on the Sabbath. (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:20) Why? Because Orthodox Jews will only walk a certain distance on the Sabbath. You can go to through the Jewish neighborhoods here, and you can see wires up marking the distance that they can walk on a Sabbath so they don’t break the law. He says that all of this, all of this is going to come about because, **“For then...,”** verse 21, **“...there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.” (Matthew 24:21)** This is a time like the world has not seen. This is a time, Beloved, that is worse than the holocaust. Listen to what He says in verse 22: **“Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved...,”** no life would have been saved! **(Matthew 24:22)** That’s how bad it is. **“...But for the sake of the elect...,” (Matthew 24:22)** for the sake of those chosen Jews, for the sake of those that are going to believe on Jesus Christ, as their Messiah, **“...those days will be cut short,”** because it’s going to be such a horrific time. **(Matthew 24:22)** Now, it’s so important at this point, Beloved, to compare scripture with scripture. So what I want us to do is I want us to look at three places where this is repeated in the Word of God besides in Matthew, and once again, I want to take you back to Daniel chapter 12 and it’s talking about the final period of the king, the final king, the final ruler, and as it talks about that final period, and that begins in Daniel 11, verse 36, and moves all the way into Daniel 12. It tells us in Daniel 11 that this final ruler, that this man of lawlessness, that this Abomination of Desolation that is set up by this man, that, **“He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain...,”** between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea, **“...yet he will come to his end, and no one will**

help him.” (Daniel 11:45) It says, “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people will arise. And there will be a time of distress....,” (Daniel 12:1) listen carefully, this is the verse “...A time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time...at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book will be rescued.” (Daniel 12:1) Now who were those people? Well those are the elect, for which the time will be cut short. So as we listen to this, and even maybe in the background you are hearing the Muslim call to prayer, remember that this is the final holocaust, the final time when all of the nations will pour out their wrath against this city and against this place. (See Matthew 24:9) This is the time when the ruler of the world that rules the whole earth, as Daniel chapter 7 says, and brings the whole world under his subjection. (See Daniel 7:23) This is the time when all the venom of all the ages of those that hate God will be poured out on God’s people. (See Revelation 13:7) This is the time that Revelation 12 is talking about when the woman, Israel, will flee into the wilderness, to a place prepared for her. (See Revelation 12:14-17) It all fits. It’s taking all the scriptures, Beloved, and putting them all together, and Jesus is doing this teaching based on what Daniel said, and based on everything that is going to happen. Well the next place that I want you to look at is Joel chapter 2, because what I want us to do is I want us to see in Joel chapter 2, verses 1 and 2, what Jesus says about this time. “**Blow a trumpet in Zion....**,” blow a trumpet, and He’s talking about Jerusalem, “**...and sound an alarm on My holy mountain...!**” (Joel 2:1) Jerusalem is God’s “holy mountain.” “**...Let all the inhabitants of the [earth] tremble....**” Tremble! “**...For the day of the Lord is coming; surely it is near....**” (Joel 2:1) What is that like? “[It is] a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people; there has never been anything like it....” (Joel 2:2) This day of darkness, this day of gloom, this day of clouds, this day of the

Lord, there is nothing like it. **“...Nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations.” (Joel 2:2)** So this is the second place that He mentions this. The third place is Mark chapter 13, verse 19, and I’m not going to go there because it is the very same, word for word what Jesus says in Matthew chapter 24. But I want to take you to one other place. We’ll look at it when I come back.

## **PART TWO**

I’m sitting by the Holy Gate where the Jews would come and go in and out of the Temple. As I sit here, we’re talking about the Great Tribulation, a time such as never been and never will be again. I want us to go to Jeremiah the prophet, to Jeremiah chapter 30. In verse 5 it says, **“For thus says the Lord, I have heard a sound of terror, of dread, and there is no peace. Ask now and see [can] a male give birth...? (Jeremiah 30:5-6)** That man is sitting there; he is down on his haunches, so to speak. He’s got his knees grabbed and he’s wailing and he’s groaning like a woman in position of a childbirth. And this is what it says, **“...[Can a man] give birth. Why do I see every man with his hands on his loins as a woman in childbirth...why have all faces turned pale? Alas! for [the] day is great...,”** and listen to what he says, **“...there is none like it...it is the time of Jacob’s distress, but he will be saved [out of ] it.” (Jeremiah 30:6-7)** **“...It is the time of Jacob’s distress, but he will be saved [out of] it.” (Jeremiah 30:7)** Now let’s go back to Matthew chapter 24. This “time of Jacob’s distress” is the [“time of tribulation such as has never been nor ever will be after.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:21) It is the time that has been prophesied, and it is going to come to pass. (See Daniel 12:1) Now listen to me very carefully. This has not happened yet. This scripture is not fulfilled, it has yet to come to pass, and when you look at prophesy, every detail has to be in place, otherwise it’s not the time. It may look like it, but it’s not the time. In verse 23 He says, **“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is**

**the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him....”** Even if they would say “Go through the holy gates, go through the gates, there’s the Christ!” He says **“...Do not believe him....” (Matthew 24:23)** He says, **“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.” (Matthew 24:24-25)** He is saying, “I’m telling you what is going to come to pass.” (See Matthew 24:25) Now did this come to pass during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Oh no! Oh no. And it didn’t come to pass because what I’m about to read you did not happen. Listen to what it says, **“So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened...the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.” (24:26-30)** And when He comes, what will He do? It says, **“And He will send forth His angels [and] with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect [even] from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” (Matthew 24:31)** This is the coming of the Son of Man. [And when He was pointing out the stones in the wall on the Temple] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:1) And He was saying there’s a day coming when **“...not one stone...will be left upon another.” (Matthew 24:2)** Remember He left them. He went and He sat on the Mount of Olives. (See Matthew 24:1) And when He sat on the Mount of Olives, this is what they asked Him: **“...Tell us, when will these things happen...what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3)** So

what He did was, up to verse 14, He gave them an overview of the **“...sign...of the end of the age.” (Matthew 24:3)** And then, He tells them about the **“...sign of His coming....” (Matthew 24:3)** Now let’s go over it, let’s review it, because I don’t want you to miss it. The sign that He is about to come is when they take the Abomination of Desolation and put it in the holy place. **“...When you see the Abomination of Desolation...standing in the holy place...,”** then you know the time has come. **(Matthew 24:25)** **“...[There’s going to] be a great tribulation, such as has [never been]...nor ever will [be].” (Matthew 24:21)** In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, He talks about this time. In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, He talks about the man of lawlessness who is going to be revealed. And when that man of lawlessness is revealed, he takes his seat, 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, and let me read it to you. It says, **“Let no one in any way deceive you...,”** the day of the Lord, **“...will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)** Now that’s **“...The Abomination of Desolation...standing in the holy place....” (Matthew 24:15)** This man walks into the Temple, he walks into the holy of holies, he has forbidden sacrifice, he has forbidden grain offering, why? Because he is **“...displaying himself as being God,”** and he doesn’t want the Jews sacrificing to another god. **(2 Thessalonians 2:4)** He doesn’t want them giving grain offerings to another god. So he abolishes the sacrifices. When he abolishes the sacrifices he goes and he takes his seat in the Temple and he proclaims that he is God. This is the time, Beloved, when you study Revelation of the mark of the beast. This is the time when people won’t be able to buy or sell unless they receive the mark of the beast. [This is the time of a tribulation, such as has never been, nor will ever be after that.] (PARAPHASE, Matthew 24:21) What is God’s Word to you today, to you who are living at this time, to you



who are living before this time of Great Tribulation. Well I'm sure you're wondering, Where am I? If I'm a child of God, Where am I? Well I believe, Beloved, that if you are truly a child of God that you will not be here for this time. I believe that it is a time that belongs to Israel. It is a time that belongs to the time of Israel's salvation when "...[A] deliverer..." as Romans 11 says, **"...will come from Zion..."**, from the heavenly Zion, and will save those Jews that are living at that time. **(Romans 11:26)** I believe that Revelation chapter 3 tells us in verse 10 that we're not going to be part of this hour, this time of "Great Tribulation" that is going to come on all the earth. Let me read it to you, in Revelation chapter 3, verse 10, this is what he says, **"Because you have kept the word of My perseverance..."**, in other words because you have remained steadfast in your faith, **"I [will also] keep you from the hour of testing..."**, now listen carefully, **"...that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell [upon] the earth."** **(Revelation 3:10)** Now what happened? Well when we go back to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, He says at the beginning of this passage, **"Let no one in any way deceive you...it will not come unless the apostasy comes first..."**, the departure from the faith which we've talked about, **"...and the man of lawlessness is revealed..."** **(2 Thessalonians 2:3)** Well He taught them in 1 Thessalonians that He was going to leave the heavens, He was going to [catch them up and then we would be with the Lord.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Thessalonians 4:17) And then when He comes in His power and His glory as the lightning comes from the east to the west, we will be with Him. (See Matthew 24:30, 27, 31) Just remember, Beloved, **"...Your redemption [draws] near."** **(Luke 21:28)** So what are you to do? You are to purify yourself **"...even as He is pure."** **(1 John 3:3)** Be ready. Be ready! Walk in obedience to Him. [Love Him with all your heart, your soul, your mind,] your body and your spirit, and you'll be ready. (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 22:37)