

Daniel



Lesson 21-Corruption and the Abomination that Desolates

Focus: Daniel 11:23-31

- ❖ Let's summarize our journey through the Prophecy of Daniel 11 once again: (keeping things in perspective is always so helpful)
 - **Medo-Persia** (v.1,2); **Greece** (v.3); **Greece divided up into four parts** (v.4); **Conflicts arose among the Divided Greek Kingdoms** (especially the Seleucid Kingdom in the North, and the Ptolemaic Kingdom in the South) (v.5-15).
 - **The Roman Empire** crushes the other Kingdoms and takes possession of the holy land (v.16). Rome "consumes" everyone and "stands in the glorious holy land". **Cleopatra, and the Caesars** (including Octavius and Tiberius) are mentioned (v.17-22). **The "Prince of the covenant" (v.22) –Jesus—**gets "broken" by this power. Christ dies for our sins.
- ❖ **Today we're going to be looking at...**(we'll look over our handout for extra details)
 - **Struggles and victories within the Roman Empire** (v.23-27). Rome worked "deceitfully" and "peacefully" at times (comp. v.23,24 w/8:23-25).
 - **Rome's opposition to "the Holy Covenant" (v.28-31)** Pagan Rome itself had some "indignation against the holy covenant" and they had "...intelligence with those who forsook the holy covenant..." (v.30). **This verse explains about the corruption that took place during the time of Constantine. (4th Century Rome—300s) Corrupt Roman Church leaders** (Bishops) and the Pagan Roman Emperor Constantine got things really mixed up in the church.
- ❖ **Rome's forsaking of the Holy Covenant is described in verses 30,31. Daniel 7:25 and 8:9-12** describe this same struggle. "Truth was cast to the ground..." (8:12) and some "thought to change the set times and laws..." of God. **Paganism entered the large Roman Church.**
 - **What does the Bible say about Christ's covenant? (Hebrews 8:10; 12:24; 9:22-24)** Jesus forgives and cleanses us by His blood. Then He wants to write His holy law in our hearts and minds, so that we know and love to do His perfect will.
 - **Jesus is both the Lamb, and the only intercessor between God and man** (John 1:29; Hebrews 8:1,2,5,6; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- ❖ **Huge compromises were made from the 4th Century forward...**They made **intercessors** like "the saints", Mary the Mother of Jesus, the Pope, the Church, and the priests; along with their confessional booths and **penances** (some kind of works to receive grace, which entirely ignores the gospel truth in Ephesians 2:8,9). **The truth about Jesus as our fully paying Lamb, and as our one and only intercessor was cast down.** Christ's work in the Heavenly Sanctuary was obscured! They "polluted the sanctuary of strength..." (Dan. 11:31).
 - **Idols and images** were brought into the church. **The 2nd Commandment was dropped** from the list of 10, while the 10th one was split in half to make up the difference (in the Catholic Catechism).

- **The Seventh day Sabbath of the commandments was changed over to the first day:**
(notice) **Council Laodicea - A.D.365**
"Canon 16-On Saturday the Gospels and other portions of the Scripture shall be read aloud."
"Canon 29-Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor, and as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day." Hefele's "Councils," Vol. 2, b. 6. [**Laws were made to war against those Christians who were still regularly keeping the Bible Sabbath of the Commandments**]
- The "daily" (v.31) refers to the work of intercession that Christ regularly does for us in heaven (this can be compared with Hebrews 9:6, 7). That was obscured by Mary, etc.
- ❖ **What about the "abomination that makes desolate" (v.31) There are TWO such events that are mentioned in Daniel. An "abomination" is something that is really offensive to God!**
 - **The first one is mentioned in Daniel 9:26,27:** This one happened in the first Century (near the time of Christ/Messiah/Anointed One) **Jesus comments about this one (Matthew 24:1,2, 15,16; Luke 21:20,21,24)** This is when the **Roman armies** under the leadership of General Titus came into Jerusalem and **destroyed the Hebrew Temple (AD 70)**. Jesus' prophetic words were exactly fulfilled 29 years after he left this world in 31AD
 - **The Second one is mentioned in Daniel 8:11,13; 11:31 and 12:11:** This one is described in connection with the "corruption of the covenant" of Christ—some terrible pollution of the Christian faith which happened much later than just the first Century AD. This event was taking place after the time when the Pagan Roman government would "...have intelligence with those [people and church leaders] that forsook the holy covenant" (Dan. 11:30). **This was from the church counsels of men polluting the faith along with the Pagan/professed Christian Emperor Constantine (4th Century)**. "...Arms shall stand on his part...and they shall pollute...and shall place the Abomination that makes desolate [empty; vain; useless; void of glory]" (v.31). The Roman church received state power [backing] and she had compromised and turned away from the truth. She had "unequally yoked" herself forever with the Pagan world [clearly forbidden by God—2 Corinthians 6:14-18]. **In the year 508 AD she received a great boost in military support and backing** [that date is then given for this middle-ages Abomination of Desolation event]. Thirty years later [in 538 AD] the Roman church received her unparalleled state power as the Ostrogoth nation was destroyed...the last of the "three horns uprooted" by her (7:8).
 - **What do these two events have in common?** Daniel 9 and Jesus' comments foretold of the Pagan Roman armies destroying the Earthly Sanctuary three decades after they had dishonored, shamed, and put to death Jesus on the Cross. Pagan Rome had defiled the Savior and the earthly sanctuary. Shortly after, Pagan Rome persecuted the saints of God. **Centuries later, Daniel 11 tells of the "abomination" of Papal Rome (the church) casting down the truth of Jesus by uplifted the Pope and other substitutes in His place. They defiled/dishonored the heavenly sanctuary and Christ's work there by completely ignoring the work of Jesus there for us, while putting up corrupt, erroneous, and man-made substitutes. They took state and military power upon themselves, and then persecuted the saints of God for 1260 years! Jesus' words in Matthew 24, in some ways, have a dual application. He blended together his statements which referred to things in the first century along with other things which were sure to happen in later centuries.**

Question (s) for the Heart:

Are Jesus' words and commands more important to you than the erroneous traditions and counsels of men? _____ Will you choose to follow Jesus' commands instead of man-made religious compromises? _____ Jesus said, "...If you know these things, happy are you if you do them" (John 13:17).