

**The King's Return
“The Great Tribulation”
Matthew 24:15-25
Pastor John Miller**

Introduction: We have begun a series in what has been called “The Olivet Discourse.”

- (v. 3) The setting- the three questions
- Last Sunday- v.v. 4-14- “The Birth Pains”

* Today Jesus moves from “The Birth Pains” to a very specific sign that will happen at a very specific time.

- The sign is in verse 15
- The time is in verse 21
- Remember, Jesus is answering the disciple’s question in verse 3
 - 1) “What shall be the sign of your coming?”
 - 2) “And of the end of the age?”

* Remember, we can trust what Jesus says (v. 2)

I. The Sign of the Abomination of Desolation (v. 15)

* What is The Abomination of Desolation?

- (v. 15) “...spoken of by Daniel the prophet.”
- Its three times:
 - 1) Daniel 9:27- Future
 - 2) Daniel 11:31- Past
 - 3) Daniel 12:11- Timing
- It was first fulfilled in history
 - 1) The Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes (168 BC)
 - 2) It will be fulfilled as future prophecy
 - Daniel 9:27- “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate.”
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:4- “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”
 - Illustration- Satan- Isaiah 14; Daniel 3
 - Revelation 13

1. First the Rapture
2. Antichrist revealed and makes covenant with Israel for seven years
3. 3 ½ years- The Abomination of Desolation

II. The Response to the Abomination of Desolation (v.v. 16-20)

* Revelation 6:12-17- “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand.”

III. The Sign of the Great Tribulation (v.v. 21-25)

- A. (v. 21) “Tribulation” versus “The Great Tribulation”
 - a. Jesus said in John 16:33- “In this world...”
 - b. Revelation chapters 6-19- God’s wrath
 - c. Illustration- Seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls
- B. v. 22
- C. v. 23
- D. v. 24
- E. v. 25

CONCLUSION

- 1) The rapture is first**
 - a. John 14
 - b. “Comfort”
- 2) The antichrist will be revealed**
 - a. Revelation 6
- 3) He will make a covenant with Israel for seven years**

- a. Daniel 9:27
- 4) He will break his covenant (v. 15)
 - a. 3 ½ years
- 5) Great Tribulation
 - a. Jeremiah 30- “In the time of Jacob’s trouble”
 - b. It’s purpose?
- 6) The Battle of Armageddon
 - a. Revelation 16:16
- 7) The Second Coming of Christ (v. 27)