

Daniel 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Analysis

This verse provides specific timing: "from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days" (1,290 days). The "daily sacrifice" (tamid, תמיד) refers to the continual burnt offering in the temple, and its removal signals covenant worship's cessation. The "abomination that maketh desolate" refers to idolatrous desecration of the temple, fulfilled partially under Antiochus Epiphanes (167 BC) and prophetically under future antichrist (Matthew 24:15).

The 1,290 days (approximately 3.5 years plus 30 days) exceeds the "time, times, and a half" (1,260 days) mentioned in verse 7 by 30 days. This additional period likely represents time for cleansing and restoration after tribulation ends. The specific numbers demonstrate that God precisely times historical events—persecution doesn't extend one day beyond divine decree. This precision provides comfort: suffering has exact limits known to God even when hidden from sufferers.

The connection to "abomination of desolation" links Daniel's prophecy to Christ's Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:15-21) and John's Revelation (Revelation 11:2-3, 13:5). Multiple fulfillments occur: Antiochus's desecration, Rome's temple destruction, and future antichrist's activities. This pattern demonstrates prophetic prophecy often has "near" and "far" fulfillments, with historical events foreshadowing eschatological completion. Christ's instruction to understand Daniel

(Matthew 24:15) emphasizes this prophecy's continuing relevance for discerning end-times events.

Historical Context

Antiochus IV Epiphanes fulfilled this prophecy initially when he stopped Jewish sacrifices, erected a pagan altar in Jerusalem's temple, and sacrificed pigs (167 BC). The Maccabean revolt followed, leading to temple rededication in 164 BC (commemorated in Hanukkah). The period from desecration to rededication approximated 1,290 days, providing initial fulfillment.

However, Christ's reference to future fulfillment (Matthew 24:15) and John's use of similar timeframes (Revelation) indicate ongoing prophetic relevance. Rome's destruction of the temple (AD 70) provided secondary fulfillment, while future desecration under antichrist awaits final fulfillment. This layered fulfillment pattern characterizes biblical prophecy, with events foreshadowing greater future realities.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's precise timing of persecution's duration provide comfort that suffering doesn't extend one moment beyond divine decree?
2. What does multiple fulfillment (Antiochus, Rome, future antichrist) teach about how biblical prophecy often has both near and far applications?
3. How does Christ's command to "understand" Daniel's prophecy (Matthew 24:15) shape our approach to studying eschatological texts?

Interlinear Text

וְיָמֵעַת	הוֹסֵר	הַתָּמִיד	וְלִיתָ
And from the time	sacrifice shall be taken away	that the daily	set up
H6256	H5493	H8548	H5414
וְשָׁק וְיָ	שֹׁמֵם	יָמֵי	אֶלֶף
and the abomination	that maketh desolate	days	there shall be a thousand
H8251	H8074	H3117	H505
מֵאֵת יָמֵי	וְתִשְׁעִים:		
two hundred	and ninety		
H3967	H8673		

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 11:31 (Sacrifice): And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Matthew 24:15 (Parallel theme): When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Mark 13:14 (Parallel theme): But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Daniel 9:27 (Sacrifice): 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, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Revelation 11:2 (Parallel theme): But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Revelation 13:5 (Parallel theme): And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Daniel 7:25 (Parallel theme): And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

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