

# Daniel and the Coming King

## "The Special Sin for Which Christ Died-1"

by Desmond Ford

I have been reading omnivorously for about 60 years, but there is nothing in all literature like the miracle we found last time in our first study in the Book of Daniel.

In Daniel 9:24–27, an obscure Jew (Daniel)—long before the Christian era—could predict that another obscure Jew (Jesus), would bring sin to an end! Jesus would do this by a malefactor's death, and bring in everlasting righteousness for all who wanted it. Furthermore, Jesus would thus fulfill all prophetic visions.

There's nothing like that in all of literature. Surely, here is the finger of God.

The nearest hint to anything like it is found in the writings of Plato, Virgil, and early Roman historians. (The Roman writers had received it from the Jews, who found it in the passage I have mentioned.)

### Fulfillment at Jerusalem

This same passage also says that as a result, the city that put Jesus to death would know war and desolations until the end, "... shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined" (Daniel 9:26–27 KJV).

You can't watch a single newscast without seeing the fulfillment of that. Jerusalem is like no other city—just as the Bible is like no other book, just as the Jews are like no other people, and just as the gospel is like no other teaching.

You cannot find that city today. It's 24 feet below the modern city of Jerusalem. The Jerusalem where some of us have walked is not the city through which Jesus walked. That one has been destroyed again and again—and again. That is why Daniel's book says: "Unto the end, war." "Unto the end, ruins." That has been Jerusalem's war-torn history ever since the cross of Calvary

*Jesus said In Mark 13:14 that we need to understand what the Book of Daniel's expression, "the abomination of desolation" means. Yet there is only one book in the English language devoted to the topic! Knowing what the phrase meant saved the lives of the early Christians. We need to study to find out what Jesus wants us to know.*

—and will be until the end.

The Bible is such a book that men could not write if they would, and would not write if they could. And it's so with the gospel. The gospel has its own divine imprimatur. Nobody could have invented the gospel.

But consider what I say about the prophecy regarding Jerusalem. As a result of the cutting off of Messiah, the city that did it would be an everlasting warning of the peril of rejecting the love of God.

### Another Scripture Miracle

Now we come to another miracle.

**"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." (Mark 13:14)**

Speaking about Russia, and how it might react to the outbreak of World War II, Winston Churchill said, "It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." This is what we have in Mark





13:14, the most difficult passage of the New Testament.

Yet our Lord said, “Let him that readeth understand.” (That is, “Understand it.”)

This is no parenthetical statement from Mark, as some commentators have thought. The evangelists are not in the habit of interrupting their Lord with their own comments.

Jesus very skillfully takes a term that occurs 27 times in the original Hebrew language of Daniel. Twenty-seven times Daniel uses the word “understand,” or its cognates. So Jesus takes that word and, very skillfully, puts it right here.

### Search for Books on Topic

You would think that there would be thousands of books written on the topic about which the most influential Figure of all time said, “Understand it.”

My wife, Gill, and I set out to look for such books 26 years ago. Do you know how many we found? None.

I remind you that there are miles of books on shelves about the life and teachings of Jesus. Miles of them. Yet there is not one on this topic—the “abomination of desolation”—until I wrote it!

Isn't that mysterious?

Do you understand about the “abomination of desolation”? Jesus said to understand it. Do you understand it? If you don't, don't feel too badly. Most Bible commentators don't understand it either.

William Barclay, that wonderful commentator and scholar from Glasgow, Scotland, said nobody knows what the “abomination of desolation” is. Vincent Taylor, another great British scholar, said we haven't an inkling of what it might be. At the end of this study, you are going to be smarter than the Bible scholars of millenniums!

### Personal Study of Abomination

I have to confess that, for me, study on the “abomination of desolation” meant about 16 hours a day, six to seven days a week, over a period of years. (Even on the holy day my mind was on this passage of Scripture.) And I had studied it for decades before that.

With Gill's help, I ransacked books in German, French, and Dutch. That's because we ran out of English material on the topic in just three months. (There were no complete books on the topic; just fragments here and there.)

Well, let's see if, in our study, we can

do any better than the commentators. There's a saying about commentators:

“Commentators each dark passage shun; and hold up their tiny candle to the sun.”

When a Scripture passage is an obscure passage, the commentators are obscure. On easy passages, they are easy to follow.

### The Abomination of Desolation

What is this “abomination of desolation”? It is something startling.

Jesus says in the context, “Look, you asked me what will be the sign of the end. Let me tell you. There will be wars, but that is not the sign. There will be earthquakes, but that is not the sign.

Iniquity will abound, but that is not the sign. There will be religious persecution, they will betray you, but that is not the sign.

“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation’ spoken of by Daniel, that is it!”

Here's a signal on which the lives of thousands depended. Not one Christian died in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 because of this prophecy. The early Christians understood it. They acted on it. They fled from Jerusalem at the appointed time.

But the complete and total fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy is yet ahead. That's because this whole chapter not only applies to the destruction of ancient Jerusalem. That city is the symbol of a rebellious world that is soon to come to an end. Everything in Mark's chapter applies not only to before the fall of Jerusalem on a local scale, but also on a worldwide scale before the end of time.

The Bible is a miracle of literature, “Much in little.” Bible scholars sometimes talk about the “apotelesmatic application” of certain prophecies. Certain predictions are like a series of mountain peaks that have similarities between them—recurring applications. This prophecy is one of them.

### Importance of Bible Study

Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. That's because the Christians heeded this written word, the Bible. My friends, millions need to understand this word, the Bible, if they are going to avoid perishing in the end of the world.

What we are about to study is of great importance.

We read last time the promise of Daniel, that at the time of the end this sealed book of Daniel would become opened. Many would search, many would investigate, and knowledge of the Book of Daniel and its prophecies would be increased.

As a result, a revival would turn many to righteousness. And those that would be teachers and soul winners in that day would shine as the brightness of the heavens and like the stars for ever and ever. (See Daniel 12:3–4.)

So what we are studying is no trifle. Put on your thinking caps! We're going to struggle over this one. And you will see that the unsealing/increase of knowledge/revival are related to the special sin for which Christ died—of which we are all guilty.

