

## For Further Discussion of Matthew 24:15

*These questions are provided for your further application and study. Read through the entire chapter (24) and then answer/discuss the following questions pertaining to verse 15. (Be sure to also download the Supplement as well)*

**Before you begin:** *It doesn't take a theological degree to recognize that Matthew 24 concerns 'the signs of Christ's [second] coming and of the close of the age' (v. 3). Jesus' words from verse 4 onward are in response to the disciple's question regarding this. What ought to be noticed right off the bat is how concise Jesus' answer is. He seems to have left a lot of details out. What I want you to understand from this is that this was not because He simply forgot to share these with His disciples, and us. Rather what He did share, and even what he didn't, He did for a reason. Keep this in mind as you spend time discussing this chapter over the next few weeks, and allow it to bring about two results: (1) To fuel your inquisitive mind – "Why did Jesus tell them/us this and not something else, or more?"; and (2) to remind you that God's goal (in Scripture) is not to provide you with every detail. Instead it is to give you all that you need in order to trust Him. So with this in mind let's do some exploration.*

### Observation Questions:

1. Let's begin by considering verse 15 in relation to the chapter as a whole. The word "So/Therefore" that begins this verse is a literary cue, connecting this verse to what was previously said. What connection does verse 15 have with verses 4-14?

How is it connected to the verses following it? (Think through the flow of thought for the chapter as a whole.)

If you were to assign a function to verse 15 in relation to the whole chapter, what would that role be? How important is this verse? Why?

### Interpretation Questions:

2. In verse 15, Jesus makes reference to an event specifically found in the prophetic book of Daniel – "the abomination of desolation." While we looked at the Danielic passages that speak to this event in the sermon, it would be good to be reminded here as well. To do this it will be helpful for you to have downloaded "**Daniel's Timeline**" from the website. Specifically looking at the second page, and with each person in the group turned to one of the four passages, discuss what we can learn about the nature of this event.
3. Why do you think the author inserted that parenthetical statement – "let the reader understand"? What do you think is the purpose for this *insertion*? What specifically might he want the reader to do?

### Application Question:

4. What details do you wish Jesus had included in His description? What topics do you think would have been helpful to have addressed? Of what use and benefit would this have been for you?

Now let's broaden this question, what information would you need to live for Christ even more? Why would that information help?

Consider what you just said in light of **John 15:15-16**. What has Jesus (and hence Scripture) made known to us?

5. In the message we talked about the dangers of living in paranoia of the coming events, as well as the importance of being preparing for them. Discuss with your group ways you have seen people respond with paranoia, and why it is spiritually dangerous to respond this way?

Discuss with your group why not being spiritually prepared for the events described in Matthew 24 is dangerous.

Read **Matthew 26:30-56**. What was the attitude of the disciples prior to Jesus' arrest with respect to their ability to recognize and withstand temptation? How were the disciples instructed to prepare for the intense trials that were to come upon them, and yet failed to? What can you learn from their experience?

6. How is the devil described in **Genesis 3:13**? Keeping this in mind, now read **Revelation 13:11-18**, and assuming the devil is really good at what he does, what gives you the confidence that you will not be deceived by the Antichrist?