

The Altar, the Abomination,  
and Armageddon



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Introduction

# The Altar, the Abomination, and Armageddon



Antiochus Epiphanes



Judas Maccabeus

## Introduction

The Altar, the Abomination, and Armageddon is a teaching about the End Times and the Return of the Lord.

In 2020, when it looked like the world was coming apart, I decided to see what an End Time scenario looks like according to scripture.

What I learned is simple. It is the story of a tyrant who is defeated by the Lord. To make it harder than that confuses the issue.

It is important to understand that the historic pattern of the tyrant given in Daniel, fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes, is the model for End Time events. Antiochus was the tyrant who set up an image of himself as Zeus Olympus in the second temple in 167 BC. This was the original Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24.

Speaking prophetically, Jesus tells us that the Abomination of Desolation is the sign we are looking for to tell us when we are in the period known as the Great Tribulation. He also tells us that we should be looking for His return "Immediately after the Tribulation".

Antiochus and his armies were defeated by the people of God, lead by a father and priest, Mattathias the Hasmonean, and his sons. They became known as the Maccabees. Judas Maccabeus is still remembered as the leader and victor over Antiochus and his armies. Their story is recorded in the books of the Maccabees. These books tell the story of the defeat of Antiochus.

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In the narrative of I Maccabees, a Levitical priest from Modein, Mattathias the Hasmonean, started the revolt against Antiochus and the Seleucid Empire by refusing to worship the Greek gods. Mattathias was being asked by an officer of Antiochus to offer a sacrifice to the Greek gods on the altar at Modein. He refused. When another priest stepped up to offer the sacrifice, Mattathias killed the priest and the officer of Antiochus. He and his five sons fled to the wilderness of Judah and began the revolt against Antiochus.

After Mattathias' death in 166 BC, his son Judas Maccabeus led an army of Jewish dissidents to victory over the Seleucids in guerrilla warfare. The Maccabees destroyed the pagan altars and were able to defeat the Seleucids. As a result, this family forever became known as the "Maccabees". The word Maccabee is based on the Aramaic word for "hammer", because they "strike hammer blows against their enemies". Hanukkah is the celebration of the Maccabean victory over Antiochus and his armies.

In the end times, Jesus will defeat the final "Antichrist", a tyrant like Antiochus. Armageddon will be the final end to this tyrant and his armies. The Altar, the Abomination, and Armageddon will explain this pattern of the end times. It is the same pattern of the persecution of the Jews by Antiochus. This pattern will include the shutting down of the **Altar** (the Transgression of Desolation), the setting up of a pagan image in the house of God known as the **Abomination** of Desolation, and the return of the Lord to destroy this tyrant and his armies at **Armageddon**.

Enjoy the teaching, The Altar, the Abomination, and Armageddon.

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Psalms 119:104

Through thy precepts I get understanding:  
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Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.



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