

Aramaic, a language with many similarities to Hebrew.

In these verses Jesus used the phrase with reference to something that would occur at a time that was then still future. There are differing opinions among New Testament students as to whether the phrase pointed to something that would occur during the Roman conquest in A.D. 66-70, or whether it pointed to something that would happen in the time of Antichrist.

In 1 Maccabees 1:54 the phrase, "abomination of desolation," is applied to the act of Antiochus Epiphanes in setting up a statue of Zeus in the defiled temple above the altar. A somewhat similar phrase, "the rebellion (or sin) that causes desolation," occurs in the prediction of this act of Antiochus in Daniel 8:13.

It is quite reasonable to suggest that perhaps Jesus took the act of Antiochus Epiphanes as an illustration of some thing that would be done at a later time, whether by the Romans or by Antichrist. Yet it is not unreasonable to wonder whether He might have had in mind a still unfulfilled prophecy of Daniel in which the phrase was used. The exact phrase occurs in Daniel 11:31 and 12:11.

The context clearly indicates that Daniel 11:31 is a prediction of this act of Antiochus in 167 B.C. According to what we believe to be the correct interpretation of Daniel 12:11¹⁴ it is also used in that passage with reference to this deed of Antiochus. It appears certain that in Daniel 9:27 the time of the predicted action has the same range of possibilities as those of the Lord's prediction in the gospels, and the verse contains the same two words that are elsewhere translated "the abomination that causes desolation." Yet of the many translations into English that I have examined, the revised form of the NIV is the only one that contains this phrase.

In both of the early Greek translations of Daniel 9:27 the two words occur in exactly the same form as in the New Testament references. Many English translations separate the two words in such a way as to break the connection between them. The verse is admittedly a difficult one to translate,