

Chapter XII

The Eschatological Discourse¹⁹⁶

215 Prediction of the Destruction of the Temple Mt. 24:1-2, Mk. 13:1-2, Lk. 21:5-6

As Jesus left the Temple, one disciple said,
“Look at these buildings, how they tower overhead!”

“These stones will not last! What can will be burned
And not one stone will not be overturned!”



216 Signs before the End Mt. 24:3-8, Mk. 13:3-8, Lk. 21:7-11

They asked Him, "Teacher, when and what signs will appear
To show that all these things You prophesied are near?"

Christ said, "Take heed that you're not led astray.
For men will come in My name and will say,

'I am the Christ!' and 'The time is at hand!'
They will mislead those who don't understand.

When you hear of wars and rumors thereof,
Do not think judgment comes yet from above.

For nation shall clash fiercely against nation,
While kingdoms fight, and throughout all creation,

Both pestilence and famine will abound,
While massive earthquakes shall shake up the ground.

Great signs and terrors will leave men's heads spinning,
And for the birth pangs this is the beginning."



217 Persecutions Foretold

Mt. 24:9-14, Mk. 13:9-13, Lk. 21:12-19

“For you shall be delivered up to die.
They’ll seize you from your homes, to terrify,
And bring you to both jail and synagogue
To pummel, mock, to deprecate and flog.
To governors and kings you’ll testify,
But do not worry how you will reply.
What you need say the Spirit will inspire,
Who comes in silence, comes through wind and fire.
So do not fear the trials you cannot predict.
The Spirit will give words they cannot contradict.
Then brothers will deliver up their brothers,
Fathers their children and children their mothers,



And many will be killed because of their own kin.
They'll harm you for My name, which you put your faith in.

He who holds true throughout all will be saved.
In places where they're morally depraved,

Such that they persecute who spreads My word,
Leave there, so that by others you are heard.

In truth, the Son of Man will come before
You've reached each Jewish town, from shore to shore.¹⁹⁷

A student's not above the one who taught,
But likeness to the teacher is well sought.

If by 'Beelzebul' people your master call,
No better will upon those of My house befall.

Then many will betray their friends, apostatize,
And hate each other and false prophets will arise.

Most men's hearts will grow cold when there is strife,
But who endures will gain eternal life.

Throughout the world My message will extend.
All this will happen; then will come the end."

218 The Appalling Abomination
Mt. 24:15-22, Mk. 13:14-20, Lk. 21:20-24

"You'll see an appalling abomination,
Set up in the worst possible location.

Those in Judea would be best to flee.
And when approaching armies people see,

Those on the rooftops must leave what's below behind.
Fieldworkers must not be by anything confined.

Let those inside the city flee at once,
And all outside avoid the battlefronts.

Such woe and heartache shall befall the city
That all who hear it shall be filled with pity.

Alas for those with child in those days
And mothers who young nursing babies raise!

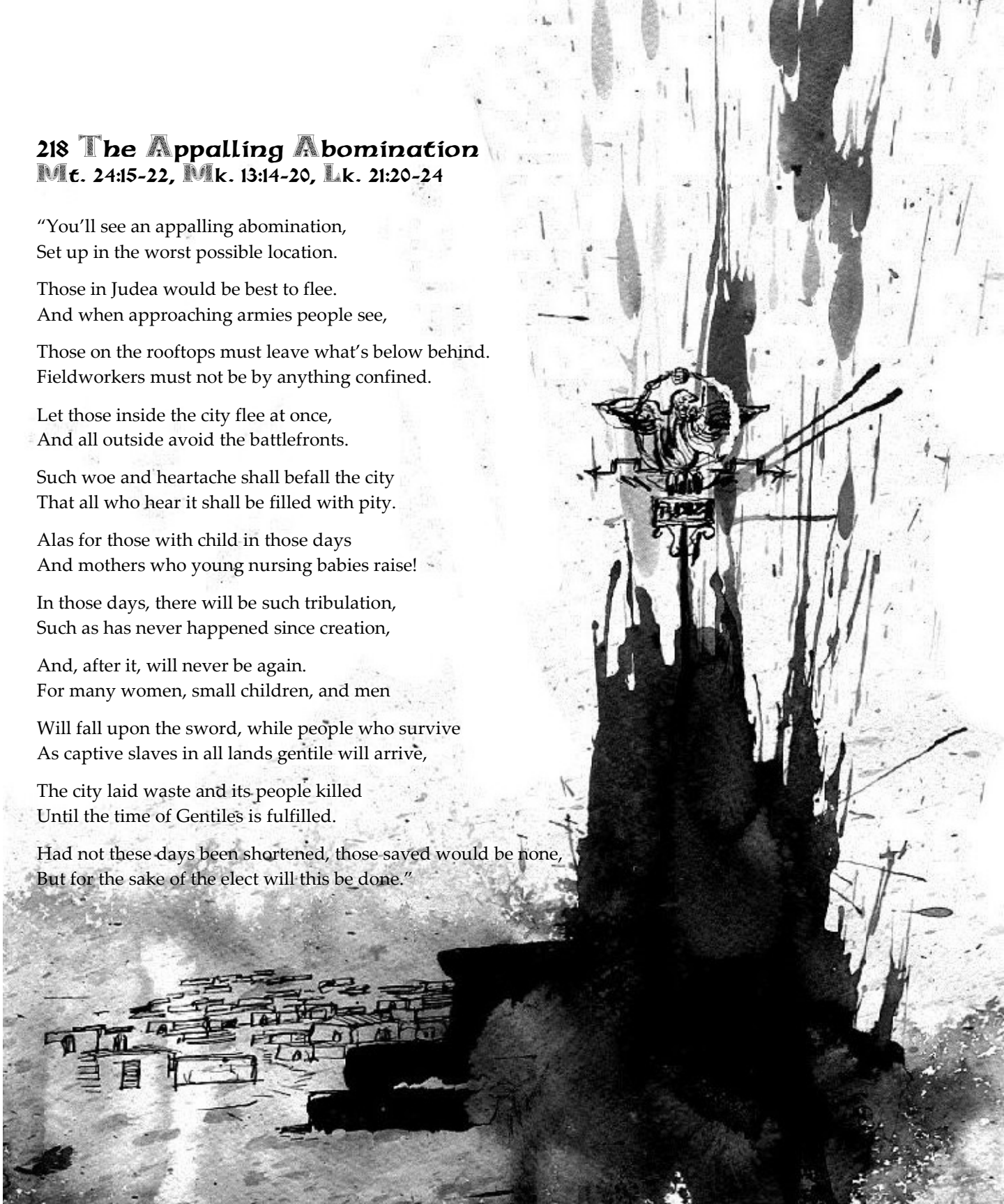
In those days, there will be such tribulation,
Such as has never happened since creation,

And, after it, will never be again.
For many women, small children, and men

Will fall upon the sword, while people who survive
As captive slaves in all lands gentile will arrive,

The city laid waste and its people killed
Until the time of Gentiles is fulfilled.

Had not these days been shortened, those saved would be none,
But for the sake of the elect will this be done."



219 False Christ's and False Prophets Mt. 24:23-28, Mk. 13:21-23, Lk. 17:23-24, 37b

"You'll long to see a day from after My return,
But eyes will not, as much as hearts may deeply burn.

If someone tells you, 'Look, there is the Christ!'
You must not be so easily enticed.

False Christ's and prophets will arise and show great signs
To mislead those for whom the Lord a place assigns.

As you have been warned, be aware of this.
Should you hear, 'He is in the wilderness,'

Do not go there. If they say, 'In the inner room,'
Concern for this should not a moment's thought consume.

Just as a flash of lightning shines across the sky,
The Son of Man's arrival shall meet every eye.

For where the body lies upon the ground
Above you'll see the vultures fly around.¹⁹⁸

Yet first the Son will meet grief and privation
And be rejected by this generation."



220 The Coming of the Son of Man Mt. 24:29-31, Mk. 13:24-27, Lk. 21:25-28

"In those days, when has passed the tribulation,
The sun and moon will lack illumination,

While countless stars fall down out of the sky
And, everywhere, great pains will terrify.

The oceans and the seas and their turmoil
Will make men faint and, in their fear, recoil.

The powers of the heavens will be shaken
And all tribes will by grief be overtaken

When people see the coming of the Son of Man,
In majesty not seen since all the world began.

From clouds of heaven will He send His angels forth
To gather God's children from west, east, south and north."

