

# Preterism – Abomination of Desolation

“Since the time of Eusebius . . . there have been those who have thought that Christ’s prophecy of the abomination of desolation was somehow fulfilled when Titus destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70, and that the words referring to “Jerusalem surrounded with armies” are just another way of saying “the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place.” It can be shown, however, that nothing which took place at the fall of Jerusalem fulfilled the prophecy of Christ in regard to “the abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel. Attention has been called to the fact that Eusebius, in his *Canons*, lists Luke’s reference to Jerusalem surrounded with armies as a verse peculiar to Luke, not parallel to anything in Matthew or Mark. Nevertheless, Eusebius’ *Church History* is a chief source for the erroneous identification. The case for the theory that the prediction of Christ as to the abomination of desolation was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem is well summarized in Schaff’s *Church History*, Vol. 1, pp. 390-404. Schaff draws almost entirely from Eusebius’ *Church History*, Book III, Chapters V-VIII and from Josephus’ *Jewish Wars*, Books V and VI. Eusebius, in turn, is dependent almost entirely upon Josephus. The removal of Christians to Pella in Perea before the fall of Jerusalem is cited as the fulfillment of the command to flee at the sign of the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15 ff.; Mark 13:14 ff.).”

—— J. Oliver Buswell, *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962; reprint, 10th printing, 1976), 2:401-402.

“One of our a-millennial friends . . . points out that the comma after, “before the war,” shows that the warning, not the flight, took place before the war. Thus, this friend argues, the flight may have taken place after the abomination of desolation.”

—— J. Oliver Buswell, *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962; reprint, 10th printing, 1976), 2:402.