
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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To: Curtis Dowdy

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January 28, 1966

Mr. Curtis Dowdy
P.O. Box 414
Centre, Alabama 35960

Dear Brother Dowdy:

Please excuse this tardy reply to your letter of July 6, 1965. Brother Alan Bryan sent your letter on to me immediately upon receiving it, but I have allowed the press of other matters and the need for more study on the questions you raised to prevent my writing before now.

I am aware of the controversial verses in Matthew 24 that you mention. I do know that two questions are being answered in the chapter. You make a rigid distinction between the two questions which I do not believe the chapter warrants. I do agree with the general divisions that you set forth, but you will notice that the "abomination of desolation" is not specifically introduced until verse 15. The American Standard Version and others following it make a new paragraph begin at that verse. The "all things" of verse 34 could refer back to all that is mentioned from verses 15 onward.

R. V. G. Tasker in his Tyndale Commentary on Matthew (pp. 224-225) suggests that the first 14 verses are an introductory paragraph and deal generally with both the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of time. William Barclay in his Daily Bible Study Guide, Vol. II, pages 334-336, makes a similar analysis of the chapter allowing for the first 14 verses to introduce answers to both questions. You might also consult John Peter Lange's work on Matthew 24 in which he specifically states that verses 1-14 refer to the "whole New Testament dispensation" (p. 423). Henry Alford in his Greek New Testament, Vol. 1, pages 217-220, takes a similar position.

There seems to be no question that the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24, and in Hebrews 10 is a type of the destruction

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to come over all creation at the end of time. I do not believe I have misused the passages in question. Your letter and concern is deeply appreciated. I will continue to study these verses and would beg your forgiveness in not answering your excellent letter sooner.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc