



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Jesus last words to Jerusalem

#### Matthew 23:37-39

**Matthew 23:37-39**, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup>See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup>for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

No one could possibly have a greater love and compassion for the nation Israel than a truly committed Christian.

It has to do with the fact that all the favourite people in my life are Jewish. Jesus, Paul, Peter, Moses, Abraham, and a few others.

I have such a great heart for Jewish people because they are God’s special people. A great sense of compassion over the plight of Jewish people.

There is a tremendous distress of a people who down deep inside believe they have a covenant with God and can't understand why it never turns to blessing.

**Why does it always seem that they are under a curse?**

People of Israel who believes themselves to be unique, who believe themselves to be humanitarily sensitive and yet seem always to be oppressed, always beleaguered, massacred, persecuted, harassed, and asking themselves why. Why?

We can see the remnants of the devastation of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. only the Western Wall that was left after the city was razed to the ground at the order of the Roman emperor.

We can see the remnants of their wars and their terrible slaughters that ran from ancient times to very modern times. The battles are still raging in that part of the world.

These people have suffered like no other nation in history. Despite all these things through these centuries, God has preserved them.

They are never exterminated.

They are never wiped out.

They are never even lost in the process of intermarriage.

They just keep perpetuating themselves.

Yet it is a perpetuation in punishment.

It is a continual existence in chastening.

**Why?**

They cry out to heaven that never answers.

If indeed we are the covenant, chosen, to whom they oracles of God are committed, adopted, promises, covenants, law and the services and of whom even the Messiah came or is to come, why?

Why have we suffered so?

The contemporary picture of the Jews in suffering really begins with the destruction of Jerusalem. In 70 A.D., Titus Vespasian came, the Roman General, sieged the city and before it was over, over a million Jews were killed, according to Josephus. Two years before that, in **68 A.D.**, the gentiles of Caesarea had slain 20,000 Jews and captured thousands more and sold them into slavery. This began the 2,000 years of holocaust that the Jews have suffered.

For example, around that period of time in one single day, the inhabitants of Damascus slit the throats of 10,000 Jews.

**Theodosius, Roman Emperor 347 – 395 A.D.** under his reign, developed a legal code. Legal code has inherent in its anti-Semitic viewpoints which state the inferiority of the Jews.

Unfortunately, Theodosius' legal code penetrated all Western law so that there was built in from that fourth century period an anti-Jewish feeling underlying much of Western culture.

The sad history really took on unbelievable proportions in the crusades.

The first crusade occurred in **1096. A.D.**

The crusades were basically supposed to be holy pilgrimages on the part of the Western European Christians. The word Christians loosely because they were not Christians in the true sense but only in the name of religion. They decided to march to the holy land to recapture the holy land from the pagan Turks who possessed it.

The holy land had fallen into the control of the Turks, and they thought that was a desecration of the Christian holy places. Now, the fear that they had was that as they went back and laid claim to that, the Jews would then make demands on them and the Jews would want also to lay claim to the land.

To prevent the Jews from exercising any of that, they just went across Europe and massacred all the Jews they found.

Here they are in the name of Christ massacring Jews across Europe.

That might give you a little idea why the Jews have a distaste in their mouth for Christianity.

### **Why the very word crusade conjures up all kinds of evil things to a Jew?**

The crusades were a very disastrous event.

They would go into a town, and they would find a Jewish settlement. They would find a small group of Jews or a large group in a town.

They would give them very often two choices.

- Choice number one, convert to Christianity and be publicly baptized.
- Choice number two, die.

What happened was many Jews who didn't want to do that died. Many others falsely converted to Christianity to save their lives.

Some of the Jewish leaders tried to prevent false conversions. In many towns and villages, the people committed suicide as families when they knew the crusaders were approaching their village.

They were guilty of no crime.

They were victims of unbelievable persecution.

In one village some of the women and young girls decided that they would rather die than go through what would happen in the crusades, and many of them didn't have the option of being baptized, it was just a question of being killed. So, they loaded rocks on these young girls, tying them in their garments, and dropping them in the river so that they would drown rather than be in any way humiliated by the crusaders.

They were accused of crucifying Christian children.

They were accused of drinking, then, the blood in the Passover of Christian children which they executed. All kinds of unbelievable horrors.

In the city of Worms, later famous because of Martin Luther, the Jews refused to be baptized, so they were murdered by the mob. Their corpses were dragged from one end of the city to the other to desecrate their bodies.

In **1236**, still in the time of the crusades went into two villages, **Anjou and Poitou**, and they trampled 3,000 Jews under their horses' hooves.

In **England**, a king by the name of **Edward I**, and under him the Jews were somewhat safe.

They by now had scattered all over Europe in the dispossession of Jerusalem and their land, and they found their way into England.

They had a degree of safety there for a while until a Dominican monk (the Dominicans were a very well-known and proud group) decided to study the Hebrew Scriptures in order to convert Jews to Roman Catholicism. In the process, he became converted to Judaism and was circumcised.

The result of that was that the Roman Catholic Church was irate, the Dominicans felt that they had been betrayed and disgraced, and so they sought to take vengeance on the Jews.

They expelled them from Cambridge. Laws were passed against them. They were charged with counterfeiting coins.

They were hanged.

They were exiled.

They were made to wear a badge saying, "I am a Jew."

A badge of inferiority.

In London, they took Jews, and they tied horses to their extremities and sent the horses in opposite directions ripping their bodies in half and then hanging the remnants of their bodies on the gallows for all the town to see.

Finally, around **1290**, the king made a decree that if any Jews were left, they were to be expelled.

They fled, they went further into Europe, into **France**, which already had expelled Jews under the reign of **Louis IX** but by

now had released a little bit of its animosity, and so the Jews could find at least a place to stay in France where they could live.

They, too, had to put either a red felt or a **yellow cloth badge** on, indicating they were Jews so everyone would know they were inferior.

That didn't last very long. Within about 15 years after that, **Philip the Fair** expelled over **100,000** Jews from France.

Some of them managed to hang around, stay, and when the terrible black death came in the **fourteenth century**, the plague that went across **Europe** and tens of thousands of people were killed with that terrible plague. The Jews were blamed, and it was said that the Jews had poisoned the wells in France and caused the black death.

So, they began again to kill the Jews. One entire congregation was together, meeting, and they burned them all in that one place.

As a result of this, they fled further.

This time they fled to **Poland and to Russia**.

In our contemporary time today, we know about Polish Jews and Russian Jews, very commonly, they were chased there.

Poland really became a homeland for them. It was in Poland that they established Talmudic schools. It was in Poland that they built seminaries that they did much of their work and so forth.

They then came into great conflict with the **Roman Catholic Church in Poland**, and there was tremendous persecution there.

They pitted themselves on one occasion against the **Cossacks** in a war, which the Cossacks won. Therefore, the Cossacks took out their vengeance on the Jews and massacred them. Some of them managed to flee to **Spain**.

But historians tell us that **Spain** could be called, “the hell of the Jews,” and the two people who heaped the most hatred and horror on the Jews were a king and queen **Ferdinand and Isabella**, who were the same two in power commissioning **Columbus to sail**, who later found the **Western Hemisphere**.

So, while they were giving the world the benefit of the Western Hemisphere, they were doing all they could to massacre the Jews in their own country.

One of the things they did in Spain that’s inconceivable is they found the names of proselytes who had converted to Judaism under the influence of the Jews. If they were dead, they dug up their graves, desecrated their bodies, and confiscated all

the property of their heirs to make sure no one every proselyted to Judaism.

This was the mark of being a Jew. Across Europe Jews became known as **Marranos - swine**. A mark had to be worn in Spain by every Jew composed of a series of flaming crosses.

Finally, in **1492**, when Columbus was sent west, the Jews were sent east out of Spain. The ones that wound their way to Russia to this day have been persecuted. We have all read about the terrible, terrible plight of Soviet Jews.

In the **17<sup>th</sup> century**, the first persecution broke out in **Poland**. They had some safety there for a couple of hundred years, and then it all of a sudden changed.

Germany began to massacre Jews.

Periodically through the centuries, Germany had done that, accusing them again also of using Christian children's blood for their Passover.

**German Catholic Church** said that they took knives, the Jews did and pierced the host in the mass until blood poured forth. In other words, they excused them of stabbing the body of Christ and persecuted and massacred them for that.

The anti-Semitism just flowed through Western civilization finally in a contemporary setting, reaching somewhat of an

apex in the terrible **Dreyfus affair in France**. When Dreyfus, who was an officer, in the army was put out of the army and humiliated as a traitor simply and only because he was Jewish. An unjust accusation of treason meant to get all Jews out of the high ranks of officers in the French army.

Despite all of this, the marvel of it all is this:

You have all these centuries of endeavors to exterminate the Jews, and by the time you come to World War II, there are **16.5 million Jews in Europe**.

While God is allowing all of this, God is not allowing it to exterminate this people.

They are perpetuated in punishment. Of course, Hitler came and then the unbelievable, indescribable Holocaust exterminated nearly six million Jews. Only this time there was a difference. This time it wasn't hatred based on religion, it was hatred based on race and that was a whole new thing.

It had always been religious until Hitler or most always.

Now it was based on race, and secular society picked up the legacy of religious anti-Semitism and gave the world racial anti-Semitism.

These people still suffer from it even today. It's tragic.

It has been 2,000 years like that for these people.

**Why?**

**Why is the question on the lips of Jews throughout their history?**

**Why is it this way with us?**

**Why so long do we suffer?**

The answer is in our passage.

**V 37-38,** *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup>See! Your house is left to you desolate;*

**What do you mean, “Your house is left to you desolate?”**

The Lord Jesus is saying that Jerusalem,

- Nobody is going to plow your ground anymore.
- Nobody is going to cultivate your field.
- No one is going to plant the crop.
- No one is going to be concerned about noble vines.
- No one is going to water you.
- No one is going to prune you.
- No one is going to build a hedge around you.
- No one is going to protect you.

You are on your own, left to the elements.

Very similar to **Isaiah chapter 5** where Isaiah said to Israel just before the Babylonian captivity a holocaust of another kind earlier in their history.

**Isaiah 5:1-7**, *Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. <sup>2</sup>He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. <sup>3</sup>“And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. <sup>4</sup>What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? <sup>5</sup>And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup>I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it.” <sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.*

God made you all that you could be.

God planted you a noble vine in a very fertile hill.

God put a mote around you.

God protected you.

God did all He could to preserve you, to cause you to bring forth grapes and you brought forth sour berries.

The judgment was now God's going to take away your hedge. No rain. You are going to be left to the elements.

For 2,000 years nearly, the nation Israel has had to live its life without God and without His protection, that's the difference.

### **Why is it the way it is?**

Because God has removed His protecting hand.

God has preserved them as a people.

God has left them unprotected from all the holocausts that the world could bring to bear.

### **Why?**

Because of what it says in verse 37.

Jesus came and said, "I wanted to gather you. I wanted to protect you. I wanted to bring you under my wings, and you would not."

This is the issue.

### **Why?**

Because they refused their Messiah.

**Do you want to hear something very important historically?**

If the Jews had received Jesus Christ, the Kingdom would have come.

Therefore, in rejecting Him, they have gotten what they have gotten.

Jesus said He came to bring the Kingdom.

They refused the King.

They forfeited the Kingdom.

They got what they got.

Instead of entering into the blessing of God, God took His hand of blessing off and left to the fate of an evil world. They have suffered immeasurably.

**1 Corinthians 16:22**, *“If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!”*

He is cursed.

If any man loves not the Lord, he is cursed. Privilege was given to Israel unequal to any privilege ever given to any nation. Unbelievable privilege, and with it came tremendous responsibility.

We have gone through **23 chapters of the Gospel of Matthew**, 23 chapters of the coming of Messiah.

- ✓ His birth,
- ✓ His ministry,

- ✓ His message,
- ✓ His miracles,
- ✓ His call, and
- ✓ His cry to Israel.

The sum of it is this:

The Messiah has come in human flesh, He has taught, healed, preached, loved, and demonstrated all that God is, they reject Him totally.

Jesus says, “That’s it. You are desolate.”

This passage closes the sermon of chapter 23. It is a sermon. Its one sermon, this chapter, and it’s the final sermon the Lord ever gave publicly.

A sermon against false spiritual leaders who have led the nation to this point of rejection.

Who have led the nation in their sin.

It doesn’t mean that the people weren’t as guilty as they were for following but nonetheless, the leaders led them there.

This chapter is against those leaders. It is a furious attack against those leaders.

But it ends with this pathos.

It ends with this grief.

It ends with this lament.

Because though God is going to judge that nation by removing protection and letting Satan go full blast at them.

God has His hand of protection off a lot of nations.

**Why is it worse with Israel?**

Because Satan wants to exterminate Israel more than any other nation.

Because they are the nation in the plan of God which Satan wants to thwart.

Therefore, for God to remove His protection from Israel is to expose them to the worst furies that Satan could ever bring upon any nation.

Because he desires to eliminate them so that Christ can never inherit them and fulfill the promise of God to them.

So, these false leaders have led the people in a rejection of their Messiah, and God has removed His blessing. But the heart of God is grieved as ours ought to be. We don't gloat over that.

**Ezekiel 33:11**, *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

**Jeremiah 13:17**, *But if you will not hear it, My soul will weep in secret for your pride; My eyes will weep bitterly And run down with tears, Because the Lord's flock has been taken captive.*

This does not make God happy but grieves Him.

**V 34-36** the imminent condemnation.

God says because you have rejected the Messiah, because you have filled up the cup of sin and guilt, rejected the Messiah but all the prophets of the past, you have cumulatively rejected all of God's revelation.

They had all the Old Testament. All the preaching of John the Baptist. All the ministry of Jesus Christ.

They have rejected it all.

They had their cup filled.

They have filled the cup of wrath to the brim. This is it.

It took centuries to fill the cup, and it is going to take centuries equally to pour back out.

They filled it up with centuries of sin.

It is being poured out with centuries of chastening.

**How could this group of people be guilty of the sins of the past?**

Because they knew the sins of the past and didn't learn from them. They inherited their guilt.

Because they not only didn't listen to Jesus and the apostles, but they also didn't listen to John before Jesus and the prophets before John.

They accumulated the guilt of all of it because they followed in the sins of their fathers, never learning lessons from their fathers.

Pain, deprivation, and punishment should have taught them.

They had cumulative guilt.

They had rejected full light, full revelation.

**Hebrews 6:4-6**, *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup>if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

They had a full revelation of Christ.

They rejected and said He was from Satan and hell.

Therefore, they became the apostates of all apostates, rejecting the accumulation of all revelation to them.

Which was summarized, epitomized, and maximized in the coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus says because of this all these things are going to come on this generation. This is the most guilty generation in the history of Israel because it rejected the light that had accumulated through thousands of years of divine revelation. All is going to come on you.

You have filled up the cup and now it's going to be poured out. It started in 70 A.D. in that terrible destruction of Jerusalem, and it's still going on right now.

Still going on right now.

It will get worse.

The persecution of Israel isn't over. The hand of God is off, and Satan's doing his thing.

### **Do you want to know something?**

There is a time described in the Bible as the great tribulation. It's also called the time of Jacob's trouble.

We will learn more about it when we get into chapter 24, but that is going to be a holocaust like no other holocaust Israel has ever seen.

The worst is yet to come.

The cup is still being poured out.

This doesn't mean that because as a nation is going through this with the hand of blessing off and Satan doing all he can to destroy them to thwart the plan of God, that doesn't mean that individual Jews can't come to Christ.

They can,  
They do, and  
They will.

Because always God has His remnant.  
Always there are some true Jews who see the Messiah, but for the whole nation terrible time of judgment.

### **Intense Compassion.**

From imminent condemnation to intense compassion.  
This is an outpouring of grief equal to the outpouring of wrath.

It is the climax of great emotion and compassion.  
It provides for us an essential balance and an essential understanding of the character of God and Christ.

We have heard furious words of judgment.  
We are going to hear words of grief.

God never rejoices in punishment in the sense that He gloats over the doom of a people. No, He grieves.

**V 37, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem"**

There is pathos in the repetition.

Those words are filled with sorrow.

**Luke 19:41-42**, *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.*

He rode in that day of triumphal entry the Passion Week and He saw the city, and He began to wept.

If you only knew, if you had only known who was here, who was visiting you, but you didn't know, and now you can't see. Your eyes are blind.

Jesus sorrowed.

He wept tears.

It may well be that He wept here again on Monday.

The tears of lament over a people about to have the hand of God's protection removed from them, to be turned over to Satan, who more than any other people would want them to be destroyed.

Just the idea of the repetition is interesting.

Very often in Scripture repetition like that is an indication of great emotion.

**Luke 10:41**, *And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.*

**Luke 22:31**, *And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.*

**Acts 9:4**, *Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”*

**2 Samuel**, the cry of anguish in the heart of David over his son.

**2 Samuel 18:33**, *Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: “O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”*

Repetition is the repetition of grief, the repetition of emotion.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem”

Jesus characterizes the city. Not as the city of peace, not as the holy city, He characterizes the city with present participles.

You who are killing the prophets.

You who are stoning them who are sent to you.

You are the city that kills prophets and stones messengers.

## What a characterization of the holy city?

People who prided themselves on being the city of God, the city of purity, the city of peace, the city of God, is called the city of killers.

In the book of Revelation, God calls Jerusalem Sodom and Egypt.

- Sodom, perversion.
- Egypt, pagan.

Jerusalem is the Sodom, Egypt, the murderous city.

- It's not the holy city.
- It's not the city of peace.
- It's not the city of God.
- It's not beautiful for habitation.
- It's not lovely among all the cities of the earth.
- It's not Jerusalem, the golden.
- It's Jerusalem, the killer, Jerusalem the murderer.

The present participles are most interesting, who are killing the prophets. They were about to kill Him, and He was the supreme Prophet.

Who are stoning those who were sent to you, they would also very soon after they killed him, kill Stephen. They would stone Stephen to death.

They weren't through doing it. They were still doing it.  
They were certainly the sons of their fathers. (V 29-31)  
They deny that they would kill the prophets and yet they are doing it.

They think they are better than their fathers who did that, but they are not.

Remember their fathers had wanted Jeremiah dead. They hated Jeremiah because he spoke the truth. They wanted to get rid of him.

They sawed Isaiah in half with a wooden sword, the prophet of God. Apparently, they murdered Zechariah, the prophet, between the temple and the altar.

They killed the prophets rather than hear their message.  
They are characterized as a city of murderers and indeed they were because they were about to murder the Son of God.

**Matthew 21:33-45**, the Lord had said, you are like a group of tenant farmers who have come into a vineyard that someone else owns. When the owner sends back his servants to give you a message, you kill the servants. Finally, after you have killed all the servants, the owner sends the son, you kill him, too.

That is the kind of people they were. They were killers of those who spoke the truth and represented God.  
Unbelievable. Murderers of the righteous.

### **Why has Israel suffered so long?**

This is why.

Because for so long they rejected God. For so long they killed His messengers. For so long they stoned those that were sent. Finally, they filled the cup up when they executed their own Messiah.

God says, that's it, you are desolate.

I take my hand of blessing off.

Culminating in the tribulation time when Revelation tells us the mouth of the pit is opened and the demons that for centuries have been bound are released to run rampant across the earth.

You have not only the persecution of men but the persecution of hellish supernatural demons, culminating this terrible time of Jerusalem's chastening.

Jerusalem is a symbol for the whole nation as it was very often in the ministry of the prophets.

When Jesus says, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,” He gathers up in Jerusalem’s symbolic use the whole of the people and the nation.

*“How often would I have gathered thy children together?”*

- ✓ I wanted to bring you into safety.
- ✓ I wanted you to come under the shelter of my wings.
- ✓ I wanted you to be protected.
  
- I didn’t want to take my hand of blessing off.
- I didn’t want to expose you to the elements.
- I didn’t want to leave you unprotected.

But often I wanted to gather you.

Does He mean just when He visited Jerusalem?

No, the Gospel of John records His several visits to Jerusalem, but He isn’t only referring to that.

*“How often?”*

A way of saying so many times I wanted to gather you.

All the time of His ministry, He wanted to gather them. He wanted to gather them. He wanted to call them to Himself.

**Matthew 11:28-29**, *Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Even as He dies on the cross, He gathers a thief into His arms who is willing to believe.

That is the way it was until they silenced His voice in death. He was always wanting to gather them into protection and safety from judgment.

Jesus gives a beautiful analogy.

*as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*

The word in the Greek is a bird.

A little farmyard maybe and a little hen and some little chicks. The hen looks up and sees a hawk flying across, gathers those little ones into protection in a private corner where she can't be seen, and they can't run around unprotected and unwitting to be consumed by that preying bird.

Or maybe a storm is approaching and a crash of thunder and lightning, she gathers those little ones in the warmth of safety.

The Lord would have done that.

There is a beautiful intimacy here.

There is tenderness here.

It isn't just some theological thing of which He speaks, it's something very personal, very intimate, very warm.

God wanted to give them security, but you were not willing.  
You wouldn't do it.

Calvinists, we find no absolute determinism in this verse. we find no fate here. We find no predetermined destiny here without thought for a response.

We find here that God would, but you wouldn't.  
Somewhere in the midst of that incredible apparent paradox of sovereignty and volition, we have got to see this passage.

*"How often I would have gathered, but you would not."*

Every soul that spends eternity outside the protection of God, every soul that spends eternity in hell is there because they would not.

The gospel gives no place for absolute determinism.

### **The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

**Matthew 22:3**, *and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.*

Jesus characterizes the time in which He lived and the people of Israel.

You got called,

You got invited,

But you wouldn't come.

You refused to come.

**Luke 14:16-24**, *Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,<sup>17</sup> and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’<sup>18</sup> But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’<sup>19</sup> And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’<sup>20</sup> Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’<sup>21</sup> So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’<sup>22</sup> And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’<sup>23</sup> Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’<sup>24</sup> For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”*

If the ones that were supposed to come don't want to come, we will just go take anybody that will.

They wouldn't come.

Man's choice is as much a part of salvation as is God's choice.

You would not.

Anyone who goes to hell goes there because they would not.  
Grace is resistible and every person responsible.

We see the heart of Christ.

**V 38, *See! Your house is left to you desolate;***

Jesus earlier had called it "*My Father's house*"  
Jesus says now it's your house.

It has been so desecrated now.  
Jesus is talking probably about the temple which was the  
House of God, and that was where He was right then.

Your house is deserted.  
God just left.

To put it in Old Testament terms, ***Ichabod***, the glory had  
departed and now you are on your own.

Your house speaking of the temple that way, Jesus included  
the city and the whole nation. God's protection is gone.

God has a new house.  
The church is the house of God.

**1 Timothy 3:15**, *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

**Deuteronomy 28:15-16**, *“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: <sup>16</sup>“Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.*

**Deuteronomy 28:15-68**, find that very early in the Pentateuch when God first established His relationship with His people, He said if you turn from me, this what will happen.

They did it and that’s exactly what happened.

Please read Deuteronomy 28 and you will see it fulfilled in the history of Israel.

Christ rejected Israel because Israel rejected Him.

The gospel is still open to individual Jews. On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 Jews were saved. Later, many thousands more were saved.

Jews have been saved throughout all history.

They are still being saved today.

There are still many of them whose hearts are opened to the gospel of Jesus Christ. God will always have remnant. Individual Jews can come, but as a nation, God has removed His hand of blessing, and they are exposed.

**Luke 19:43-44**, *For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,<sup>44</sup> and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

Jesus was talking about the siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. You didn't know when God came in the form of Jesus Christ. Because you didn't know that your city's going to be devastated.

**Josephus** says the city was razed to the ground. Nothing was left but one prominent tower and a part of the Western Wall. The city was so flattened and so leveled, not one stone upon another, that a visitor coming to the area would not know that it was ever inhabited. It happened, and it set in motion the centuries of Israel's unprotected devastation.

It's the divine payoff for rejecting Christ and cumulative sin of a nation killing prophets, stoning the messengers of God.

So sad and heartbreaking.

**Is that the end?**

Bless God, it isn't the end.

**V 34-36, Imminent condemnation.**

**V 37-38, Intense compassion.**

**V 39 Insured conversion.**

*V 39, for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "*

Jesus says that I am gone. This is the end. Farewell from your Messiah. Your rejection is final.

It was proven final because when the apostles came and preached after Christ was gone, they wanted them dead, too. Nothing changed. It's the end of the call for Israel.

They refused the grace of salvation when it was offered to them. His mission to them as Saviour as a nation has ended.

You shall not see me anymore.

Is that where the verse ends?

If it ended there, it would dramatically change all of our doctrine, all of our theology.

If that was the end then it would make us doubt that we could ever trust God again.

Because if He said to that nation, “You will never see me again,” then He is just broken some pretty strong promises.

My Bible tells me in the Old Testament that He promised them that He would regather them.

Ultimately God would be their Saviour. God would be their King. They would come into a relationship with Him.

Ultimately all the promises and covenants would come to fruition.

If my Bible ended at the word henceforth or anymore, and there's nothing more for Israel, I got to rethink the whole Old Testament and the character of God who made promises He's now not going to keep, but it doesn't end there.

*till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' ”*

*Until.*

There is hope in that.

### **Is there going to be an until?**

There is going to be a time when something happens Until you shall say blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”

When Jesus rode into the city in His triumphal entry and they were hailing Him as the Messiah.

**Matthew 21:9**, *Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"*

They said this, from Psalm 118:26, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

A cry meant to identify the Messiah.

Messiah was the coming One in the Lord's name or in the Lord's behalf or representing the Lord.

Blessed is perfect, always blessed, blessed in the past, and continually blessed. The always blessed coming One who comes in the name of the Lord.

You are not going to see Me ever again until you recognize Me as your Messiah.

Until you recognize me as your Messiah.

**Are they going to do that?**

Of course they are going to do that.

Israel's history is going to get worse and worse and more tragic in the future.

We can read about it in **Daniel**.

We can read about it in **Revelation**.

We will study about it on **Matthew 24**, very soon.

It's going to get worse, and the world is going to be massed against that people.

**Zechariah 12:9-10**, *It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

Do you know what's going to happen?

When the cup is empty and the wrath is fully poured out, God is going to turn the tables.

God is going to destroy the nations that come against Jerusalem. On Jerusalem pour out the spirit of grace.

The scales are going to come off their eyes and they are going to look again at the One they pierced.

They are going to mourn as their only son.

There was only one Messiah, and they are going to say that oh, now we see. Now we understand why our history has been

like this. Now we understand it all. We mourn for we have killed the only Son, the firstborn, the Messiah.

**Zechariah 12:11**, *In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.*

More great mourning in Jerusalem and other places.  
All over the land, in the families, there's mourning.

All these years of suffering have happened because of what we did. The grief is overwhelming.

Israel's going to come to that place.

### **How do they come to that place?**

Because God pours out on them on the spirit of grace and supplication. God gives them grace to cry out to Him for blessing and mercy.

**Zechariah 13:1**, *"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.*

God's going to wash them.

Going to wash the whole nation, clean them.

**Zechariah 13:2**, *“It shall be in that day,” says the Lord of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.*

Never remember again.

All the false prophets and unclean spirits are going to go.

God’s going to save His people. Glorious!

**Zechariah 13:9**, *I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”*

When they look on the One they have pierced and they see Him for who He is and they say, “Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, that’s our Messiah, that’s our Messiah.”

Jesus said **V39**, “then you will see me.”

You won’t see me until you say that.

When you say that, then you will see me.

They say that in **Zechariah 13**.

What happens when they say?

**Zechariah 14:3-4**, *Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup>And in that*

*day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.*

**Where is Jesus going to come when He comes back?**

Mount Olives, Jerusalem.

As soon as they recognize the Messiah, they are going to see Him.

**Romans 11:11**, *I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.*

They stumbled that they should fall permanently.

God forbid.

They haven't stumbled to fall permanently.

**Romans 11:23-26**, *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup>For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? <sup>25</sup>For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness*

*of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup>And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

When the time comes, they are surely converted.  
What great hope.

### **What does it have to do with you?**

If God has chastened and punished and cursed by abandoning His own beloved people Israel, what do you think is going to happen to you if you reject Jesus Christ?

Do you think you will fair any better who are not His people?  
Don't be proud.

This lesson of a nation in history can be reduced to a lesson for a man and a woman in this moment of time. For it must be said to you as well. If you do not love the Lord, you are cursed.

The principle is the same whether a nation or an individual.  
You make a choice.

The Lord seeks to gather you into the safety of His love and salvation.

### **Will you or won't you allow that to happen?**

He would, but in so many cases you would not and bring upon yourself the same abandonment.