

The Condemnation—Part 2a
“The Judgments”
Matthew 23:13-33

I. **They Are Spiritual S _____ B _____** (v 13)

- a. Jesus turned His attention back to the ***scribes and Pharisees***
- b. ***woe = ouai (ούαι)*** = “a state of intense hardship or distress—‘disaster, horror’” (cf. Num. 21:29; 1 Sam. 4:8; Isa. 3:9–11; 5:8–23; Jer. 13:27; Ezek. 24:6–9; Hab. 2:6–20; Matt. 11:21; 18:6–7; 24:19; 26:24)
- c. ***hypocrites (hypokritēs / ὑποκριτής)*** = “one who pretends to be other than he really is”
- d. ***you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people... nor do you allow those who are entering to go in*** = instead of being guides and shepherds they became wicked gatekeepers (cf. Acts 4:16–17; 8:30–32ff; Matt. 12:22–32; John 1:19–28; 9:18–34; 1 Thess. 2:14–16)
- e. ***for you do not enter in yourselves*** = even with all of their religious showmanship, they were still LOST!

II. **They Are Spiritual P _____** (v. 14)

- a. The Bible in your hands is a 99.8% accurate representation of the original New Testament autographs
 - i. Plato’s Tetralogies = _____ manuscripts (895 A.D.)
 - ii. Julius Caesar’s Commentaries on the Gallic Wars = _____ manuscripts (9th to 15th Centuries A.D.)
 - iii. New Testament = _____ manuscripts (100 to 500 A.D.)
- b. With that said, verse 14 is most likely not in the original autograph of Matthew chapter 23 (verse 14 does not appear in: χ , B, D, L, Θ , A , and old Italic, Syriac, and Coptic translations, but it is found in E, F, G, H, K, M)

- c. But it is in both Mark & Luke’s Gospels, so Jesus did say it, just not as part of this teaching (cf. Mark 12:38–40; Luke 20:47)
- d. So, we can say that Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees because they ignored God’s Old Testament warnings in dealing with His most vulnerable children (cf. Ex. 22:22; Deut. 10:18; 14:29; 24:17–21; 27:19; Ps. 68:5; 146:9; Prov. 15:25; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 22:3; Zech. 7:10)
 - i. ***devour widows’ houses*** = They used their spiritual positions to take advantage of and steal from widows
 - ii. ***for a pretense you make long prayers*** = they did not commune with God through prayer, but instead showed off to make them appear more religious
- e. ***therefore you will receive greater condemnation***

III. **They Are Spiritual C _____** (v. 15)

- a. God commanded Israel to occupy the Promised Land (a crossroads of major trade routes), to show the world who the God of Israel is and how to worship Him (cf. Ex. Gen. 12:3; Ex. 19:6; Isa. 49:6; 1 Peter 2:9)
- b. They sinfully turned their separation and consecration into hatred for the Gentiles (Jonah 4:2)
- c. ***travel around on sea and land*** = But the 1st century Jewish historian Josephus tells us that around the 1st century... an eagerness developed among some to convert Gentiles to Judaism (see ‘Ant.,’ xviii. 3. 5; xx:2. 4; ‘Bell. Jud.,’ ii:17. 10; ‘Vita,’ § 23)
- d. There were 2 types of Jewish Converts:
 - i. ***God-fearing*** (cf. Acts 10:2, 7, 22, 35; 13: 16, 26, 50; 16:14; 17:4, 17; 18:7)
 - ii. ***proselyte (prosēlytos/ προσήλυτος)*** = “a Gentile who had converted to Judaism”
him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves = their self-righteous manmade religion took the Gentile convert even further away from God (cf. Matt. 12:34; 23:33; John 8:44)