

The Condemnation—Part 3
“Closing Arguments”
Matthew 23:34-39

I. **The P_____ (vs. 34-36)**

- a. **Therefore** = ties directly to Jesus’ last woe against the Pharisees (cf. Matt. 23:29-33; 2 Kings 21:16; 24:4; Jer. 26:15; Lam. 4:13; Rom. 2:5; 9:18-23)
- b. **I am sending** = declares Jesus’ deity! (cf. Matt. 5:10–12; 9:37–38; 28:18–20)
- c. **prophets...wise men...and scribes** = Old Testament Jewish titles for God’s messengers (cf. Eph. 4:11-12)
- d. **you will kill...crucify...scourge...and persecute** = exactly what the Apostles and the early Christians experienced at the hands of the unbelieving Jews (cf. 2 Cor. 11:23-25; Acts 5:40; 7:59; 8:1–4; 9:1–2; 12:2; 13:45, 50; 14:1–2; 17:5–10, 13-14; 19-20; 18:12–18; 21:27; 23:12; 22:19; 24:1–9; 26:11)
- e. **so that** = WHY? (what is God’s purpose for sending messengers that He knows the Jews will persecute and kill?)
 - i. **upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth** = to “³² Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers.” (Matt. 23:32)
 - ii. Scripture does NOT teach “Determinism” or “Double Predestination” (that God predestines people to hell; He doesn’t have to, they willingly choose it!)
 - iii. But God may bring new opportunities to repent and believe on people who have hardened their hearts; **so that**, their guilt will continue to increase!
 1. And that is exactly what Jesus says He is going to do the unbelieving Jews of that literal 1st century **generation** (cf. Gal. 6:7)

- f. **from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah** = from the first righteous man of God murdered to one of the last prophets to Israel who was murdered and who has a book by his name (cf. Zech. 1:1; 2 Chron. 24:20-21)

II. **The P_____ (vs. 37-39)**

- a. **Jerusalem, Jerusalem** = the embodiment of the Jewish people and nation
- b. **who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her** = they had repeatedly rejected God’s messengers
- c. God always refers to Himself as masculine; but He does use feminine/motherly imagery to describe His unconditional love for His children (cf. Deut. 32:10–12; Ruth 2:12; Ps. 17:8; 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; 91:4; Mal. 4:2; Isa. 31:5)
- d. **you were unwilling** = God does not need to condemn unrepentant man; he condemns himself! (cf. Isa. 6:9–13; Jer. 5:20–29; Ezek. 18:32; 33:11)
- e. **your house** = before it was His Father’s house (cf. Matt. 12:4; 21:13)
- f. **left to you desolate** = Ezekiel’s vision is fulfilled when Jesus left the Temple that day for the Mount of Olives; the Shekinah glory of God left that Temple (cf. Ezek. 11:23; 1 Sam. 4:21; Jer. 22:5)
- g. What is the KEY WORD of verse 39? **u_____**
 - i. Jesus has returned to the Father, but He is Coming Again!
 - ii. “**they will look on Me whom they have pierced**” and “**and so all Israel will be saved**” (Zech. 12:10 & Rom. 11:26; cf. Hos. 3:4-5; Jer. 23:5–6; Isa. 66:10–22; Ps. 118:26; Zech. 14:1–11; 2 Cor. 3:15-16)