

- I) V34-39 INTRO: Therefore indeed I send you prophets wise men and scribes some of them
- II) KEY: Jesus has been revealing the character traits of the Scribes and Pharisees
- III) IN CH. 23: Jesus preached an entire message warning the people about them
- IV) JESUS DID NOT HOLD BACK: As He revealed what they truly were
 - a) They were hypocrites, sons of Hell, blind guides, fools and blind, whitewashed tombs, serpents, and a brood of vipers
- V) V32 HE CLOSED: By saying Fill up (to the brim) the measure of your father's guilt
- VI) THIS SPEAKS OF A CUP: That is *filled to the brim* with sin
- VII) AS SUCH: It becomes a picture of a cup that is also filled with wrath and judgment
- VIII) THIS IS A PICTURE: Of judgment that is used in the OT
 - a) Is 51:17 Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger.
 - b) Jer 25:15 This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.
- IX) QUOTE: Since you have hardened yourselves against all warnings, the responsibility is yours. You are planning on killing Me. Go ahead, do it, and suffer the punishment that results
- X) WE NEED TO KNOW: That God does not close His eyes to this kind of sin
 - a) Though gracious, He is also just and He does not ignore those who undermine faith
 - 1) Lu 17:1-2 He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.
- XI) THIS COMPLETELY: Opposes the idea that all religions are the same before God

- XII) **REMEMBER:** When Jesus was speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well
- a) Jn 4:20-22 (She said) Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to her, “Woman, *believe Me*, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. *You worship what you do not know*; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.
- I) **IF ALL RELIGIONS LED TO GOD:** Then why did Jesus say this
- II) **IF ALL PEOPLE:** Could go to heaven by trying to be good, then why did Jesus die
- a) Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!
- III) **JESUS CAME:** To bring the message of salvation found in completely trusting Him
- a) He is the ladder to heaven, and it is through Him that we are saved
 - 1) 1 Ti 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus
- IV) **BECAUSE OF THIS:** Jesus strongly condemned the religious leaders
- a) They were rejecting Him, and provoking others to do the same
 - 1) Mt 23:13 Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in
- V) **V33 WE CLOSED:** With Jesus identifying them as serpents and a brood of vipers
- a) **SERPENTS:** Is a general word when speaking of snakes
- VI) **VIPERS:** Are small poisonous snakes living primarily in the deserts of Israel
- VII) **KEY:** They looked like small, dried twigs:
- a) Someone searching for firewood could by mistake pick them up and be bitten
 - 1) Ac 28:3 Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand.
 - 2) Ac 28:6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

VIII) VIPERS: Had a reputation for being both deadly and deceitful

IX) V33 HOW CAN YOU ESCAPE: The *condemnation* of hell

a) Because you are deceitful and deadly, how can you escape final judgment?

1) Not only have you turned My people against Me, but you are preparing to kill Me

2) You will not escape final judgment

X) V34-36 THEREFORE: Indeed I send you prophets wise men and scribes

a) You think that after you have killed Me, My work will be eliminated from the world

1) In this, you are absolutely wrong

2) My work in this world will continue long past My death

I) I WILL SEND WORKERS OUT INTO THE WORLD: My message will continue to spread

a) They will be commissioned to preach this gospel throughout the world

1) Mk 16:15 He said "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

II) YOUR RESPONSE: To this is that you will persecute and kill them, as you also did Me

III) V34 NOTICE: He said *I send you* prophets, wise men, and scribes

a) He is in the position of authority: He, *as has His Father*, sends forth prophets

1) Jer 7:25-29 From the time your forefathers left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again *I sent you my servants the prophets*. But *they did not listen* to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and *did more evil* than their forefathers.' "When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, *they will not answer*. Therefore say to them, 'This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips. Cut off your hair and throw it away; take up a lament on the barren heights, *for the LORD has rejected and abandoned this generation* that is under his wrath.

IV) SOME: Of them you will kill and crucify and some of them you will scourge and persecute

a) You will continue to persecute Me through your persecution of my disciples

V) JESUS HAD PREPARED HIS DISCIPLES: To weather persecution

a) Mt 10:16-18 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

b) Jn 16:1-4 All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when *anyone who kills you* will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things *because they have not known the Father or me*. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

VI) THIS BEGAN: Early in the history of the Christian church

a) Because the gospel included His unjust death, Jewish authorities were angered

1) They commanded the apostles to cease preaching

2) Ac 4:18 They called them (Peter and John) and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus

VII) WHEN THEY: Continued preaching the gospel, persecution arose against believers

a) Stephen was martyred and great persecution arose against the church

VIII) YOUR PERSECUTION: Will not quench the flame of the gospel

I) V35 ULTIMATELY: That on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth

II) FACT: In your obstinate rejection of the gospel, you are filling up your judgment

III) THE MORE GRACE: That you reject results in greater accountability to God

a) Ro 2:4-5 Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God's kindness leads you towards repentance? But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

IV) THEY, OF ALL PEOPLE: Stood most guilty because they had so many advantages

a) Ro 9:3-5 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is *the adoption* as sons; the *divine glory*, the *covenants*, the receiving of *the law*, the *temple*

worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

V) **FACT:** They had all of these advantages, and yet completely rejected Him

a) They were under *stricter condemnation because they had the most information*

1) Lu 12:48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked

VI) **FB COUNSELORS:** Need to take heed to this warning

a) Much bad advice flows out in the name of Jesus

1) Jas 3:1 Not many of you should *presume to be teachers*, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

VII) **FROM THE BLOOD OF:** *Righteous Abel* to the blood of Zechariah (From A to Z)

a) Abel: The righteous son of Adam, slain by his wicked brother Cain

1) Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered God *a better sacrifice* than Cain did. By faith he was commended as *a righteous man*, when God spoke well of *his offerings*. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

b) Zechariah: He is unknown for certain: 29 men are named Zechariah in Scripture

1) This may be Zech. 1:1 The prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah

2) The problem is that there is nothing recorded concerning the way that he died

VIII) **V35 NOTICE:** Whom *you* murdered: Jesus places the responsibility on them

a) V30 they denied any responsibility but Jesus says their unbelief condemns them

1) In this statement, He is saying that the nation is guilty of rejecting her prophets

2) By murdering Jesus, they once again were filling up the cup of wrath

I) **V36 ASSUREDLY I SAY TO YOU:** All these things will come upon this generation

a) The accumulation of guilt from Abel to the present time will result in judgment

II) **POINT:** This rejection of God and His ways goes back generations

a) In a sense, judgment has been restrained through God's patience

- III) **KEY:** Over time, the sin has grown and is now time to be judged
a) Is 65:6-7 "See, it stands written before me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps--both your sins and the sins of your ancestors," says the LORD. "Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds."
- IV) **V37-39 O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM:** Who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her
a) This is what is called a lamentation: a passionate expression of grief or sorrow
- V) **IT IS NOT:** That Jesus takes pleasure in pronouncing this judgment
a) It is that they have determined to reject His offer of salvation
- VI) **HE MADE THIS CLEAR:** When He gave a parable that revealed Israel's rejection of Him
a) Lu 19:14 *We will not* have this man reign over us!
- VII) **FACT:** Jerusalem represents all of Israel: A nation completely rejecting Him
a) Jn 1:10-11 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own (land), but his own (people) did not receive him.
- VIII) **THE NATION:** Was guilty of rejecting her Messiah and placed herself under judgment
a) She had gone so far as to even kill the prophets and messengers of God
1) Ac 7:51-52 (Stephen's message) You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers
- IX) **V37 HOW OFTEN I WANTED TO GATHER YOUR CHILDREN TOGETHER:**
a) I have so longed to hold you, to love you, to protect you and to save you
- X) **NOTICE:** But you were not *willing*: You have made a choice to reject Me
a) Ps 81:11 My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would *have* none of Me.

b) Jer 2:13 My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *And* hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.

1) Jesus knew rejection, as many of us do too

I) V38 SEE: Your house is left to you desolate

II) THOUGH MANY: Have a sense of being rejected by others but it is a relatively small thing

III) ULTIMATE REJECTION: Is when God Himself rejects you

a) Mt 7:22-23 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, '*I never knew you*; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

IV) THE RESULT: Your house is left desolate

a) Your city and Temple will be utterly destroyed

V) V39 FOR: I say to you you shall see Me no more till you say Blessed is He who comes in

a) This was His last open message, and they will not hear Him preach again

VI) STILL: One day it shall be said of Him blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord

VII) EARLIER: The Pharisees had told Jesus to stop His followers from saying these words

a) On Palm Sunday, they had cried these words to Him but the Pharisees were angered

1) Lu 19:39 Some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

VIII) NOW HE SAYS: In the future, these words will once again be said

IX) THIS SPEAKS: Of the return of Jesus Christ that is still in the future

a) Zech 12:10 And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

X) **QUOTE:** There can be little doubt that our Lord points to the second Advent, and to the welcome that will then be given Him by all those who are the true Israel of God. For the present generation, and for the national (but not spiritual Israel), the abandonment was final.

XI) **FACT:** These words will once again be cried out, when He returns

a) Rev 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.