

**Angry Words #3**

**Matthew 23:33-39** <sup>33</sup>"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? <sup>34</sup>Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. <sup>35</sup>And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. <sup>36</sup>I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation. <sup>37</sup>"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. <sup>38</sup>Look, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup>For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' " (NIV 84)

**I. Here are the details of this passage.**

**A.** Jesus is reinforcing a **charge** that they have heard before regarding their ungodly behavior. V. 33

**Matthew 3:7-8** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. (NIV 84)

**B.** God had, and will continue to, send holy people to them to give them chances to **repent**. V. 34

**C.** The responses to these holy "preachers" will prove the **guilt** of the evil leaders and will also show that they are truly the descendants of their ancestors who did the same things. V. 34-35

**D.** The generation that Jesus is speaking to will receive **judgement**. V. 35-36

**E.** God's love for Israel has been shown by his continuous reaching out to them but they were **unwilling** to receive it. V. 37

**F.** They will be a **cursed** people until they receive Christ. V. 38-39

**II. Historically this has been shown to be true.**

**A.** The early church preachers were severely **persecuted** by their fellow Jews. V.34

**B.** In AD 70 **Titus**, the leader of the Roman army, totally destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the temple.

Josephus described this time in this way: "Gaping with hunger, like mad dogs, lawless gangs went staggering and reeling through the streets, battering upon the doors like drunkards, and so bewildered that they broke into the same house two or three times in an hour. Need drove the starving to gnaw at anything. Refuse which even animals would reject was collected and turned into food. In the end they were eating belts and shoes, and the leather stripped off their shields. Tufts of withered grass were devoured, and sold in little bundles for four drachmas."

C. God is still waiting for them to receive the **Messiah**. V. 39

III. We have some warnings to us, as Christians, in this passage.

A. The **Gentiles** will also be held responsible for their unwillingness to receive Christ as Messiah.

B. They too will be sent men and women who preach the **truth** to them.

C. Even the **religious** will be judged if they reject the Messiah.

**Romans 11:19-21** You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. (NIV 84)

D. **We are** this generation's prophets, wise men, and teachers.