



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

## The Legacy of Innocent Blood

JUNE 16-18, 2010

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**Matthew 23:34-36** *“Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, (35) so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. (36) Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”* (NASB)

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“IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT JESUS SAID, ‘*WHOM YOU MURDERED*,’ SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES BUT INCLUDING ALL UNBELIEVING ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH THE MURDER OF THE PROPHET HAD BEEN OVER 500 YEARS EARLIER, THE WICKED LEADERS THE LORD NOW ADDRESSED HAD PARTICIPATED IN IT. BY THEIR MURDERING JESUS, THE INCARNATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEY PROVED THEIR COMPLICITY IN AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTION AND MURDER OF EVERY RIGHTEOUS PERSON WHO HAS EVER SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF EVIL MEN.” JOHN MACARTHUR

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What is the significance of “*Therefore Behold*”? Has Jesus again revealed His deity in this passage? How will the blessing of one group become the curse of God upon the other? How did they incur the guilt of “*all the righteous blood shed on the earth*”? Is it possible to incur such guilt today? What happened to that generation and their children?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 23-25: MATTHEW 23:1-12 *THE KING’S LAST WORDS TO HIS NATION*

For thousands of years the Jews had anticipated the coming of their Messiah. It was their national hope that the Messiah would arrive and present His kingdom and usher in an age of endless blessing. Every Jewish woman longed to be mother of the Messiah, and every Jewish man longed for one of their own to rise to that

prophesied place of honor, prominence and majesty. Yet when their Messiah arrived and offered His kingdom of blessing, hope and salvation, they rejected Him in unbelief and abhorrence. They wanted nothing spiritual, they only wanted the deliverance from Rome and conquest which would benefit them physically. They wanted blessing while embracing their sin because they loved darkness rather than light, lies rather than truth, lust rather than love, wickedness rather than righteousness, worthless works rather than divine grace, the broad path to destruction rather than the narrow path to salvation found only in their Messiah, Jesus Christ. In the midst of the greatest blessings of infinite compassion and innumerable miracles of mercy, they rebelled against their Prince of Peace and were even now plotting to murder Him. The legalistic, hypocritical, self-righteous scribes and Pharisees did not “*thirst for righteousness*,” instead they hungered and thirsted for the blood of the righteous. They are about to “*fill up, then, the measure of the guilt*” of their fathers. The picture is a cup filled to the brim with sin that brings upon it the fullness of wrath, condemnation and eternal destruction by God Himself. Thus Jesus had warned, “*You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the condemnation of Hell?*” When God is irrevocably rejected by man, then that man is given over to his sin and irrevocably rejected by God!

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“THEY ARE MEN WHO REMAIN EVIL IN THEIR INNER LIFE, IN SPITE OF PROFOUND CONVICTION. IT WAS HIS DECLARATION OF SEQUENCE, HIS DECLARATION THAT HELL IS THE INEVITABLE HARVEST OF A MAN’S SOWING.” G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

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### I. THE PERSECUTED MT. 23:34A

One would expect that after Jesus has pronounced seven woes and warned them of God’s impending judgment in hell, there would follow immediate judgment. But in contrast Jesus’ mercy is still extended

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### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – DENNYS ON RT. 1, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS AT NOBLEWOOD PLAZA  
THURSDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – RT. 10, IRONBRIDGE SPORTS PK, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8<sup>TH</sup> & MAIN – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

# Virginia

## The Christian Nation Who Persecutes Christ!

and the “*Therefore, Behold*” is astoundingly followed by more messengers graciously giving them the truth necessary for their salvation. Jesus describes His Apostles and future leaders of the Church in three categories: “*Prophets, wise men, and scribes.*” The prophets clearly proclaim the truth of God’s Word. The wise men know how to skillfully apply the truth of God’s Word and the scribes have skill in understanding and interpreting the Word of God in the light of other Scriptures. All three of these descriptions are parallel in that these are to strengthen others in the Word of God. They are consumed with the priority given by Christ in John 5:39, “*Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.*”

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“THE NATION IS GUILTY. YOUR FATHERS WERE GUILTY. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOURSELVES TO BE LIKE THEM. YOU ARE ABOUT, BY SLAYING THE MESSIAH AND HIS MESSENGERS, TO FILL UP THE INIQUITY OF THE LAND.”  
ALBERT BARNES

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### II. THE PERSECUTORS MT. 23:34

These wicked leaders would not only kill their own long awaited Messiah, but especially His merciful messengers, “*some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city.*” Notice that Jesus details their persecution in descending terms of ability and effectiveness. Their goal is to “*kill and crucify*” all the believers in Christ, because their father is the Devil who “*was a murderer from the beginning*” (John 8:44). They did not have the authority to “*kill and crucify*” one of their own, so when this was accomplished, it was by solidarity with the Romans. Yet the first martyr of the Church was killed by stoning from blind rage by the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:8-7:60). The first persecution that the leaders of the Jews did was to beat all the Apostles of Christ who spoke in Jesus’ name (Acts 5:40). After the stoning of Stephen there arose such a persecution

that it caused a dispersion of the Christians (Acts 8:1-3) and then Saul is even hunting them down far away in Damascus of Syria, 160 miles away (Acts 9:1-30).

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“LEST INNOCENT BLOOD BE SHED IN THE MIDST OF YOUR LAND WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU AS AN INHERITANCE, AND THUS GUILT OF BLOODSHED BE UPON YOU.” DEUTERONOMY 19:10

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### III. THE PENALTY MT. 23:35-36

The result of their ravid thirst for the blood of the followers of Christ was “*so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*” Since Jesus will be the final Judge of every individual in eternity (Rom. 14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:9-11), and He has chosen to apply the biblical corporate guilt to bloodshed, then these murders will be held accountable for “*all the righteous blood shed on the earth.*” Able was the first to be murdered by Cain (Gen. 4:8) and God said “*The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground*” (4:10). Zechariah, when he was killed also spoke of accountability, “*The Lord look upon it and repay!*” (2 Chronicles 24:22) Jesus also held Saul responsible for persecuting Himself as he hunted the Christians with the words, “*Saul, Saul, Why are you persecuting Me?*” (Acts 9:4) **Therefore for anyone to persecute or kill one of Christ’s elect, it is the same as persecuting Christ Himself!** Because Jesus also said, “*Suffer the little children to come to Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God*” (Lk. 18:16), then the shedding of innocent blood through the abortion of children must bring the same penalty to all who consent and take part in it! But Jesus required this blood, not just at the final judgment, but of His own present generation and the untold atrocities to the Jews in the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 was the result.

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) How have you treated Christ through His children?
- 2) Are you growing in your love for God and others or proving that you are instead a child of the Devil?
- 3) Do your decisions for our state reflect the application of accountability to Jesus Christ?