



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The King's Last Words to His Capitol

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David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / 804-796-9411 / www.capitolcom.org

Matthew 23:37-39 *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. (38) Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! (39) For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’ ” (NASB)*

“WITH THE FULL INAUGURATION OF THE NEW COVENANT AT JESUS’ DEATH, THE TEMPLE WILL NO LONGER PLAY ANY ROLE IN THE UNFOLDING PLAN OF SALVATION HISTORY (CF. JOHN 4:23). FROM THEN ON NO SPECIAL LOCATION WILL BE MORE SACRED THAN ANY OTHER; GOD WILL DWELL WHEREVER ‘TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER’ IN CHRIST’S NAME (18:20). FORTY YEARS LATER IN A.D. 70, THE TEMPLE BUILDINGS WERE LITERALLY DESTROYED . . . THE DEPARTURE OF JESUS MEANS THE DEPARTURE OF GOD. JESUS WILL SOON LEAVE AND BE CRUCIFIED, NOT TO BE SEEN AGAIN BY THESE WHO HAVE REJECTED HIM UNTIL HIS SECOND COMING.”

CRAIG BLOMBERG

also serves the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, then they will naturally have a propensity to love the Jews. It gives the believer a deep concern for the plight of the Jews in their constant struggle to survive, and most importantly for the salvation of their souls by Jesus Christ, their Messiah. In the covenant God made with Abraham four thousand years ago, God promised to preserve His chosen people and bless the world through them (Genesis 12:2-3, 22:17). For the last two thousand years they have wondered why they have suffered so much at the hands of some of the world’s most wicked people. Since God has called them “*the apple of His eye*” (Zachariah 2:8), why is there so much hatred against them causing them unfathomable misery and anguish? Jesus answers these questions as He closes His final public message to His leaders and His people at their capitol with intense compassion and assurance that Israel would ultimately be converted.

THERE ARE ACTUALLY THREE TIMES THAT JESUS WEEPS WITH COMPASSIONATE WORDS OVER HIS CAPITOL: FROM A DISTANCE (LUKE. 13:31-35), AT THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (LUKE 19:41-44), AND IN HIS LAST WORDS ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT (MATT. 23:37-39).

What is the significance of doubling a name in Scripture? How does Jesus mourn over His wayward people? In what ways do hens care for their chicks so that Christ used this metaphor? Is Jesus transferring the ownership of the “*house*” to these wicked leaders? What must Israel do in order to see their Messiah again?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- SEPTEMBER 25: DELTAVILLE LEGISLATIVE INVITATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT (LIFT)
- NOVEMBER 1: CAPITOL OF VIRGINIA CAPITOL COOKOUT AND PRAYER WALK

Ever since the time that God gave the land of Israel to Abraham, the Hebrews have been a special people called out by God to serve Him. Because the Christian

I. CHRIST’S TENDER COMPASSION MT. 23:37

Jesus sometimes used the doubling of a name to graciously but directly get a person’s attention. Jesus first doubles His own name in the Sermon on the Mount when He portrays those who are deceived into thinking their own good works will get them to heaven (Mt. 7:21). Later He says, “*Martha, Martha*” in Luke 10:41 to help her see what was most important. Christ addressed Peter, warning him of his future denial with, “*Simon, Simon*” (Lk. 22:31). Saul is saved on the road to Damascus when his name is doubled by Jesus (Acts 9:4). Christ mourns the lack of repentance in His leaders and His people as He addressed them for the last time in the most holy place of the most holy city.

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 8TH & MAIN – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

Virginia

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“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!” Jesus reminds them again of their legacy of blood, knowing that they will soon kill Him and stone Stephen (Acts 7:58-60). *“How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings and you were unwilling.”* The Gospels are but a faint sketch of all the works of Christ because here we are taught that Jesus was *“often”* at Jerusalem, no doubt for the biblical feasts held there. The picture of the hen gathering her chicks is most tender and caring. He longed to grant them perfect safety and happiness all together in His infinite loving kindness. They are gathered by the call of the hen, the chicks obediently coming, and then their intimacy and protection under His wings. The contrast of wills is intensified with the exact same verb *“I was willing”* *“and you were unwilling!”* No one can ever blame God for their destruction. He is willing and has provided everything necessary for the salvation of any individual.

“HE SHALL COVER YOU WITH HIS FEATHERS, AND UNDER HIS WINGS YOU SHALL TAKE REFUGE.”
PSALM 91:4

II. CHRIST'S TOTAL ABANDONMENT MT. 23:38

To reject infinite love is to demonstrate infinite ingratitude and thus be abandoned by God. This abandonment is so severe that not only protection is relinquished but also possession. *“Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!”* Just the previous day when Jesus had cleansed the temple, He had said, *“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations”* *“But you have made it a den of thieves”* (Mark 11:17). There is nothing more that Satan delights in than to torment and destroy those whom God loves. *“He was a murderer from the beginning”* (John 8:44). It is his ultimate rebellion to miserably harm, torture and even annihilate those whom God longs to protect and save. There is a double emphasis here on their abandonment

by Jesus Christ. He now calls the Temple, the Capitol city and even the nation *“your house.”* They would not relinquish their wicked leadership and surrender to His gracious rule, so Jesus says in effect, *“it’s all yours now!”* It literally *“is being left to you desolate.”* This word in the noun form means *“wilderness”* and emphasizes the fact that it is becoming uninhabited. His Temple, Capitol, and nation are presently being left by God Himself! This is the final word of their abandonment by the infinite God in human form. That abandonment will remain until they are willing to surrender to His gracious rule and acknowledge Jesus as their *“Lord!”*

“NOTHING REMAINED FOR THE KING BUT TO PRONOUNCE THE SOLEMN SENTENCE OF DEATH UPON THOSE WHO WOULD NOT COME UNTO HIM THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE.” CHARLES SPURGEON

III. CHRIST'S TRUE RECEPTION MT. 23:39

Jesus finally gives the complete abandonment of His presence, *“For I say to you, from now on you will not possibly see Me.”* They were left to their own devices so utterly that God would no longer even allow Himself possibly to be seen. This is the strongest negation available in the Greek language. It includes two negatives, the first negating probability and the second negating possibility! Their worship, their administration and their generations would be *“Ichabod”* (I Samuel 4:21) because their glory and their God was departing from them so absolutely that His presence was not even possible through Judaism. But next word *“until”* is vitally important. If it was *“unless”* it would only grant a future possibility, but *“until”* promises a future reality! *“until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.’”* One day, as numerous Old Testament prophecies predict, Israel will be completely blessed, redeemed and restored when they, as a nation, recognize Jesus Christ as God and Messiah King (Zachariah 12:10ff, 14:1-11).

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What is necessary for God to get your attention so that you are willing to repent?
- 2) Are you willing to come to Christ and acknowledge Him as Lord for His salvation, refuge and protection from Satan?
- 3) What would happen to you if God left you abandoned to yourself?