



Matthew 23:27-39

- Matt. 23:27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.
- Matt. 23:28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
- Matt. 23:29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,
- Matt. 23:30 and say, “If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’
- Matt. 23:31 “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.
- Matt. 23:32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt.
- Matt. 23:33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?
- Matt. 23:34 Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, 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,
- Matt. 23:35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.
- Matt. 23:36 Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.
- Matt. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!
- Matt. 23:38 See! Your house is left to you desolate;
- Matt. 23:39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” ”

Observations & Discussion

1. Compare vss. 27-28 with Matthew 5:9. Jesus describes the scribes & the Pharisees as lawbreakers, but the righteous as peacemakers. How does breaking God's law relate to peace, and with whom?
2. Read Romans 5:1, Romans 10:15, Romans 12:18, Colossians 1:19-20, & Hebrews 12:14. In view of these scriptures what does it mean to be a peacemaker? Why is that important to Jesus?
3. Comparing vss. 29-35 with Matthew 5:10 we see a contrast between the persecuted and the persecutors. Why do you think it is that religious people are often the worst offenders when it comes to persecuting the righteous?
4. The religious leaders honored the dead prophets, but wanted to murder the living prophets, thus Jesus' condemnation in vss. 33-39. Read Jesus' words carefully—what would they need to do to escape an eternity in Hell?
5. In vs. 36 Jesus said, "*Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*" How has Jesus' warning been fulfilled?
6. There is one word in vs. 39 that gives the assurance that the Jewish people will one day acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah. What word is it?
7. Read Zechariah 12:10 & Romans 11:25-27. According to these scriptures when will the Jewish people nationally confess Jesus as Lord?