

MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM

O Jerusalem! Jerusalem!

Matthew 23:37-39

Introduction: Overview/context

- **Warnings** (to the people) (1-12)
- **Woe** (to the leaders) (13-36)
- **Apostrophe** (to Jerusalem) (37-39)

An apostrophe is an exclamatory passage in a speech or poem addressed to a person (typically one who is dead or absent) or thing (typically one that is personified).

The purpose is to express strong feeling, a kind of blurting out. We are to be receptive to its emotional intensity.

A Deep Lament - v.37a

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the city that kills the *prophets*
and stones *those who are sent* to it!

A Willing Savior - v.37b

How often would I have
gathered your children together
as a hen gathers her brood
under her wings,
and *you were not willing!*

A Devastating Consequence - v.38

See, your *house* is left to you *desolate*.

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- The temple in Jerusalem
- The city of Jerusalem
- The people of Israel
- Jerusalem as the capital-city symbol representing the totality of the religious, social, national, economic and political system of the Old Covenant

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- Departure of the Divine Presence

A Revelatory Prophecy - v.39

For I tell you,
you will not see *me* again,

until you say,

‘*Blessed* is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.’) Ps118:26/Mt21:9

Jesus left the temple...

Response/Application

- True religion/spirituality is more than mere outward forms and institutions, even Divinely ordained ones.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is no less than the welcoming acceptance of and submission to Jesus as God’s Messiah-King.
- Notwithstanding repeated invitations and rejections, note the heart of Jesus toward the unrepentant.
- This heart is reflected toward the Jews by Paul (Romans 9:1-5; 10:1).
- What heart would the Spirit of Christ show in us toward the Jews and others, even in their repeated rejection?