

Matthew Series

Lesson #147

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

**Kingdom Postponed; Judgment Coming;
What is Gehenna?
Matthew 23:29–24:2**

**VI. Jesus is presented to Israel as her
Messianic King and rejected (21:21–25:46)**

- A. Jesus is publicly presented to Israel as
her Messianic King, 21:1–17**
- B. Jesus the Messianic King is rejected by
the nation, but not all of the people,
21:18–22:46**
- C. Jesus rejects the nation and
announces eight (7) WOES on the
religious leaders, 23:1–39**

**Religion = Man doing the work.
God blessing and validating
human effort.**

**Christianity = God doing all of the work.
Man receiving it by faith.**



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. 10:41, “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”

Matt. 13:17, “for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”



The Claim of the Pharisees:

Matt. 23:30, “and say, ‘If¹ we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ ”

Jesus Indicts the Pharisees:

Matt. 23:31, “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.”

Luke 11:47, “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

Luke 11:48, “In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs.”

Matt. 21:34, “Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

Matt. 21:35, “And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

Matt. 21:36, “Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.”

Matt. 21:37, “Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’”

Matt. 21:38, “But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’”

Jesus virtually *orders* them to kill Him:

Matt. 23:32, “Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt.*”

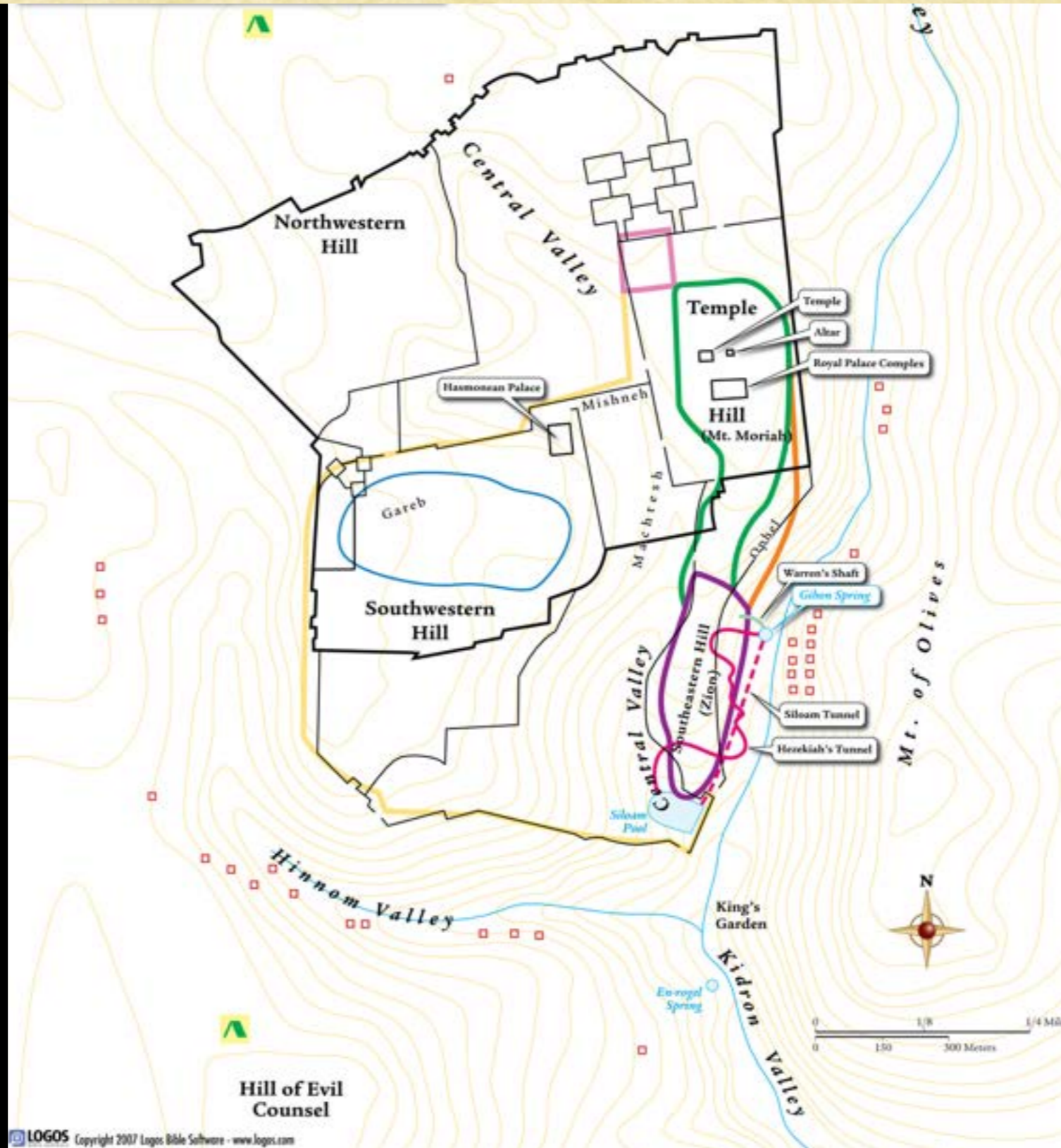
**Matt. 23:33, “Serpents, brood of vipers!
How can you escape the condemnation of
hell?”**

Matt. 3:7, “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ” – Temporal judgment, not eternal

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחַיְהִים (ge' hinnom), γέεννα (geenna)

11× in 10 verses



***Gehenna*, “The Valley of Hinnom”**

גֵּיאַ הַחִינּוֹם (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

11× in 10 verses

Where Judah sinned by committing child sacrifice and burning their sons and daughters in the fires of Molech. Thus *Gehenna* symbolized a place of idolatry, disobedience to God, and spiritual failure.



2 Chron. 28:3, “He [Ahaz] burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.”

Jer. 7:31, “And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.”

***Gehenna*, “The Valley of Hinnom”**

גֵּיהֵנָּם (ge' hinnom), γέεννα (geenna)

11× in 10 verses

For their sins of idolatry Judah was to be punished in *Gehenna* in 586 BC.

This was a historical punishment of divine discipline on the nation for their spiritual failure.

In Jeremiah 19:6 Jeremiah predicted that as punishment for the sins, the valley would be used as a mass burial site for those slaughtered in the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

Jer. 7:31, “ ‘And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.

Jer. 7:32, “ ‘Therefore behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when it will no more be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Tophet until there is no room.’ ”

Jer. 19:6, “ ‘therefore behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.’ ”

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחִנּוֹם (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

OT: 11× in 10 verses

Conclusion: The Valley of Hinnom was not used in the Old Testament as a reference to eternal condemnation in the Lake of Fire, but as a place of divine discipline on the nation of Israel for their spiritual failure. *Gehenna* thus became a symbol for spiritual failure, condemnation and shame, and divine discipline in time, not in eternity.

Matt. 5:22, “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire [the Valley of Hinnom].”

Matt. 5:29, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into the Valley of Hinnom.”

Matt. 10:28, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [the Valley of Hinnom].”

Luke 12:5, “But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell [the Valley of Hinnom]; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”

Isa. 66:24, “And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

Jer. 17:4, “And you, even yourself, shall let go of your heritage which I gave you; And I will cause you to serve your enemies in the land which you do not know; For you have kindled a fire in My anger which shall burn forever.”

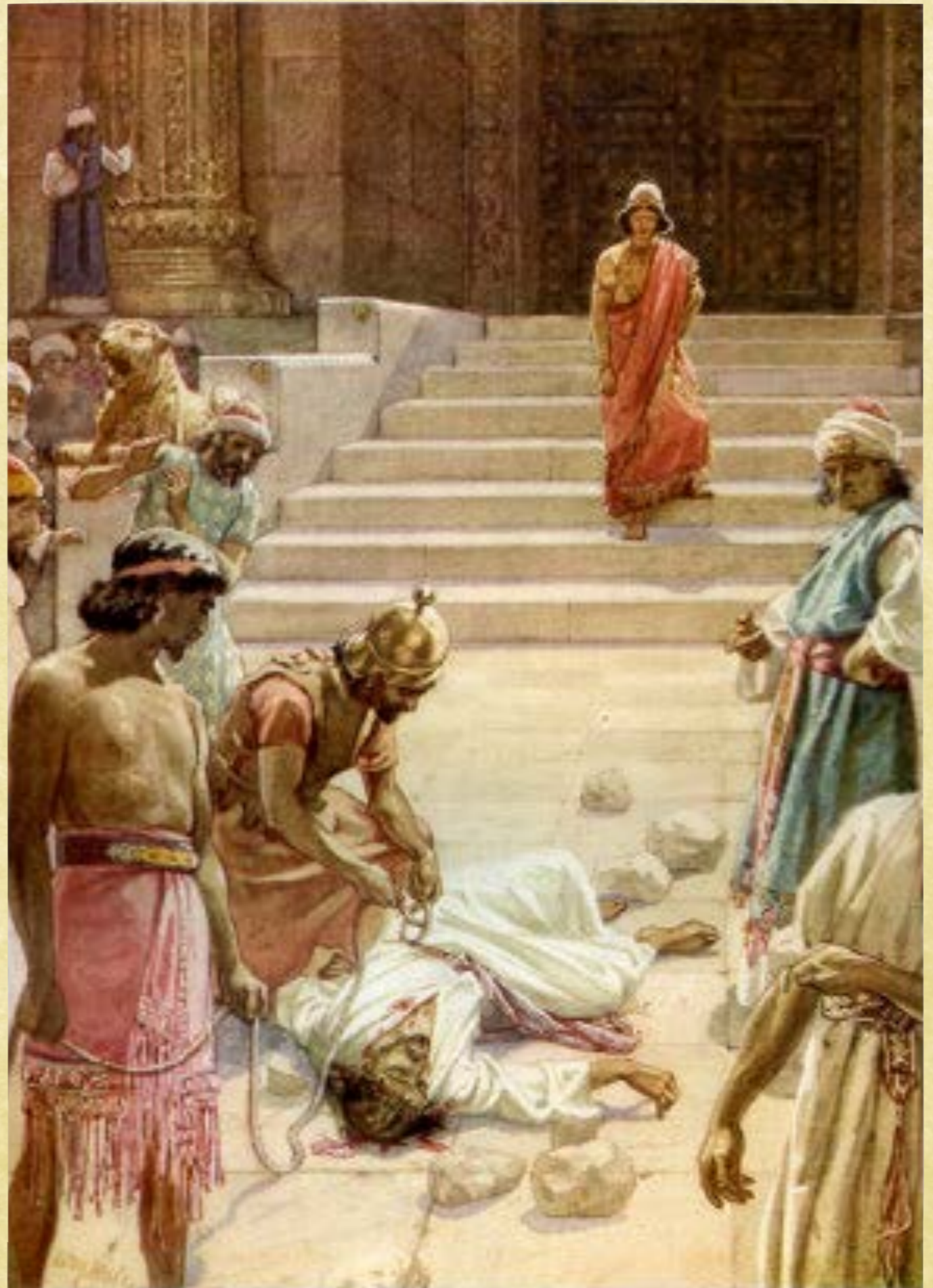
Jer. 21:12, “O house of David! Thus says the Lord:

**‘Execute judgment in the morning;
And deliver him who is plundered
Out of the hand of the oppressor,
Lest My fury go forth like fire
And burn so that no one can quench it,
Because of the evil of your doings.’ ”**

**Matt. 23:33, “Serpents, brood of vipers!
How can you escape the condemnation of
hell [the Valley of Gehenna]?”**

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.”



2 Chron. 24:20, “Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, ‘Thus says God: “Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.” ’

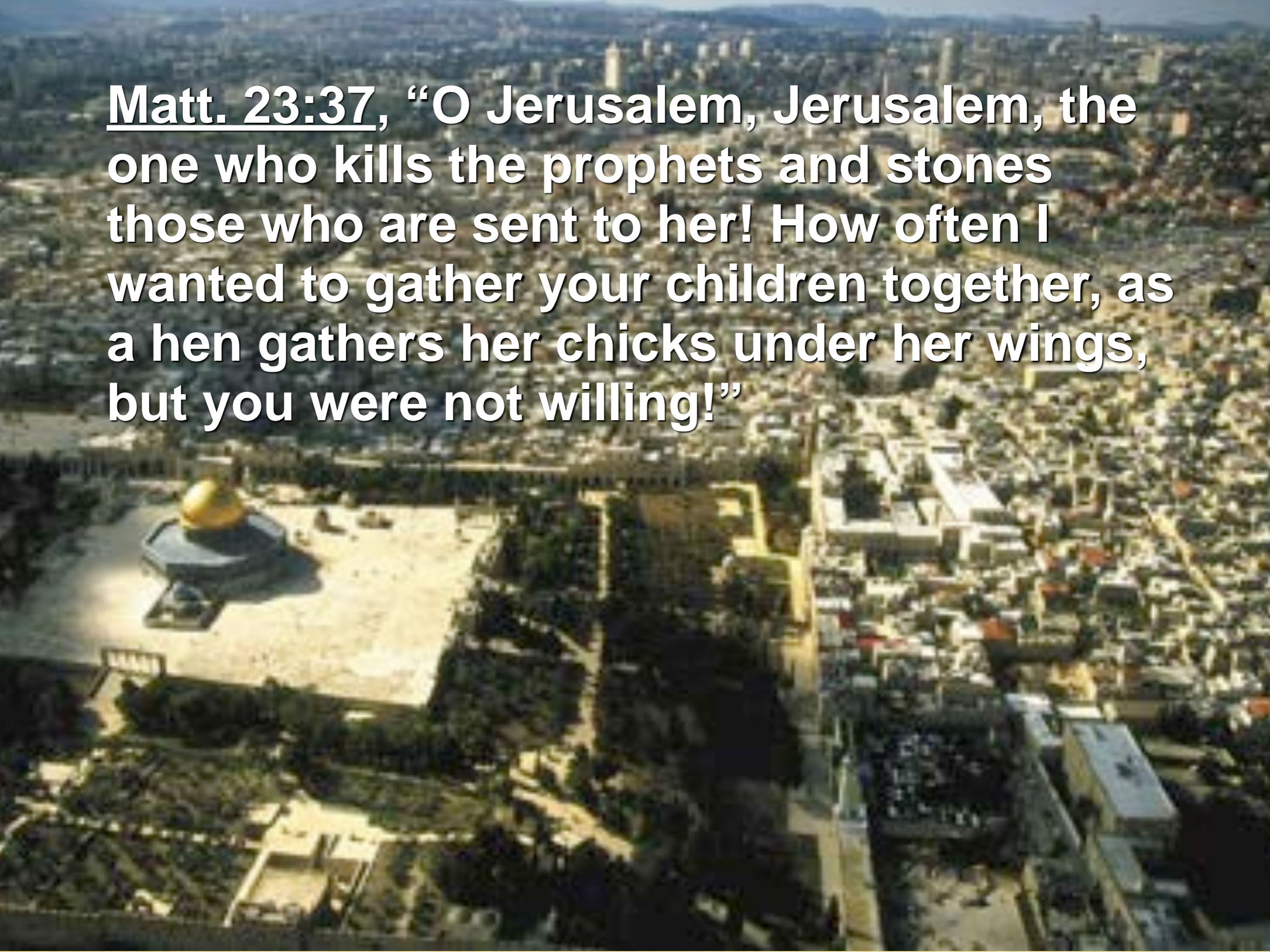
2 Chron. 24:21, “So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.”

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

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. 23:37, “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. 23:38, “See! Your house is left to you desolate;”



Matt. 24:2, “And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.’ ”



