

# “O Jerusalem”

Matthew 23:37-38

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lesson Text: **Matthew 23:37-38** – “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! See! Your house is left to you desolate.”
- B. What a city it was . . . The city of Jerusalem.
1. It crowned the high hills of Judea like a glorious diadem.
  2. It had an unbroken history reaching back to the days of Abraham and Melchizedek.
  3. It was the ancestral home of David.
  4. It was the home of the Temple, the spot where the eternal God abode among men.
  5. It was intended to be the center of worship of the true God and a symbol of justice for all people.
  6. It was the citadel of faith . . . The sacred depository of the hopes . . . Beliefs . . . and aspirations of the Hebrew people.
  7. It had been besieged and ravaged and rebuilt and stormed and sacked again throughout its history.
    - a. **50** times it has been **besieged**.
    - b. **38** times it has been **conquered**.
    - c. **10** times it has been **destroyed and leveled** to the ground.
- C. Now it had rejected its rightful King and within a generation would be handed over to the conquering legions of Rome under the command of Titus.
- D. Over that city Jesus wept, as perhaps He still weeps over the great, sad cities of this sin-cursed earth wishing that their rejection of Him would end.
- E. **Matthew 23:37-38** (NLT) – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. And now look, your house is left to you, empty and desolate.”
- F. Jerusalem had become blind to God and insensitive to human need.

## **WHAT WEeping!** . . . “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem”

- A. Brethren:
1. It is one thing to be concerned.
  2. It is another thing to have deep feelings about a matter.
  3. It is yet another thing to care so deeply and strongly that you are moved to shed tears over it.
- B. One of the three recorded shedding of tears by our Lord in the Bible had to do

with His weeping for the lost and wasted opportunities of Jerusalem.

**WHAT WICKEDNESS!** . . . “The one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!”

A. Look at what they had done and would do:

1. God sent His prophets . . . They had killed them.
2. God sent His Only Begotten Son . . . They rejected Him and would crucify Him.
3. He would send His Kingdom, the Church . . . And they would refuse it and persecute it.
4. He sent them His final written Law . . . And they refused it and divided it.

B. God had tried and tried to redeem them . . . But without their receiving Him. Now He would send the best He had . . . And they would kill Him.

**WHAT WARMTH!** . . .” “How often I have wanted

A. God had not given up on Jerusalem . . . Jerusalem had given up on Him.

B. Jesus wanted Jerusalem to come to His Father . . . But they would not.

**WHAT WILLFULNESS!** . . . “As a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.”

A. A lesson from nature . . . A demonstration of God caring and His willingness to bring Jerusalem and all people to Him.

B. A mother hen protects her chicks as they gather under her wing . . . God will protect all who will gather under His Omnipotent (All-powerful) care.

**WHAT WISDOM!** . . . “But you were not willing.”

A. It takes two to form this eternal relationship . . . God’s part and man’s part.

B. God has long kept His part and willingness to perform it before His creation . . . But man has not been willing to leave that which is against God’s will.

**WHAT WOE!** . . . “Your house is left to you desolate.”

A. This end result is due to their choice not to obey God . . . Not to turn and return to Him.

B. They were reaping what they had sown . . . And so we. **Galatians 6:7** – “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

1. What are you sowing?

2. You can know what you are going to reap by what you are now sowing!

## CONCLUSION:

A. What happened to Jerusalem then can happen to cities today.

What happened to Jerusalem then can happen to cities today.

What happened to Jerusalem then can happen to individuals today.

B. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**