

- The breakdown of Woes. “The first six woes may be seen as three pairs with matching themes:”
  - the first pair (vv. 13-15) speak of keeping people out of the kingdom of heaven;
  - the second pair (vv. 16-24) focus on the distorted perspective which puts concern with details before the basic principles of religion and ethics;
  - the third pair (vv. 25-28) contrast outward and inward purity.
  - The seventh woe then brings the denunciation to its climax with the charge of complicity in the murder of God’s messengers. NICNT France. The seventh is a summary and final ‘blow’ to the religious leaders.
  
- I. **The Last Woe** - the subject of killing the prophets and messengers of God. The unclean tombs of the last verse naturally lead into the last Woe-the killing of God’s messengers.
  - A. vs 34 I am sending; vs 34 you will kill and flog; vs 35 you will be held responsible; 36 judgment will fall on this generation.
  - B. vs 32 Finish what your ancestors started...kill me...you sons of hell.
  - C. because of these murders of God’s sent one *judgement will fall on this generation!* 24:34 also repeats that judgment will fall on this generation as well that JTB declared.
    1. Jesus repeats Johns attack ‘brood of viper’
    2. Jesus repeats Johns resounding question: “How will you escape the judgement of hell?”
  - D. Jesus begins to fade out the attack on the Pharisees and now begins to move more openly upon the city of Jerusalem.
    1. vs 36 Amen! I tell you the truth. Jesus is declaring that the consequences of this generations action have been set in motion. “*Judgement will fall on this very generation!*” It shall come to pass.
    2. The heart of Jesus is to gather! But they are scattering. It is as if Jesus is giving them a comparison of what they could have had to what they are about to receive.
    3. The consequences of the judgement of vs 36 are now spelled out in verse 38.
      - a) vs 38 “your house” refers to the temple. Note: emphasis on House...dwelling place.
      - b) which he calls abandoned (deserted)...note the next thing he is doing is leaving the Temple Mount. It also reflects Ezk picture of God leaving the Temple. “*Then the glory of the Lord moved out from the entrance of the Temple and hovered above the cherubim.*” (Ezekiel 10:18, NLT)
      - c) And He calls it desolate. Uninhabited...uninhabitable.
      - d) What Jesus is saying is this: “Jerusalem, the city where God lives and dwells. You will find deserted by God, uninhabited by God.” God has left the building!

- e) Jesus declares this is not what God wanted...He wanted to gather you and love you like a mother hen gathering her chicks. They have no excuse...like all those at the end of the age who do not know God.
- E. "This act of judgment can only be averted if the people of Jerusalem are prepared to follow the lead given by the Galilean pilgrims." NICNT France They will not see him again until they welcome Him!!! That is a huge prophetic line!
- F. God Has Left the Temple, Chapter 24:1-2 Serves as the climax to the section.
1. Even as Jesus declares the Temple uninhabitable, He is now seen leaving it as in Ezk. 10:18. Matthew uses two words to say the same thing: went out and departed to draw attention to the significance of His departure. Those whom He had hoped would be preserved as a House of Prayer 21:13 are now left to perish like the cursed fig tree. 21:18-20
  2. Jesus had entered the temple dramatically and controversially and now he leaves in an even more dramatic way.
  3. The disciples point out the various Temple buildings and their majesty....are they really asking "Does He really mean they will be abandoned?" To which Jesus replies, *"Not one stone left standing!"*

## II. When and What Mt 24:3-ff

- A. Matthew 24 is Jesus final discourse before the passion. The focus is the judgement that the last chapter closed out on. And it is in response to the questions asked by the disciples. It is typical fashion that the disciples pull Jesus aside in private to seek understanding. The Mount of Olives would give a panoramic view of the Temple that will be center the discussion. Their questions:
1. When will all this happen? Answered in 24:4-35
  2. What sign will signal your return and the end of the world? Answered in 24:36-ff.
  3. The *parousia* unlike the events leading up to the fall of Temple will be quite clear.