

Luke 11:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

Analysis

That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation (ἵνα ἐκζητηθῇ τὸ αἷμα πάντων τῶν προφητῶν τὸ ἐκκεχυμένον ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου ἀπὸ τῆς γενεᾶς ταύτης)—Jesus pronounces climactic judgment: ekzēteō (required, demanded) suggests judicial reckoning. The blood of 'all the prophets' shed apo katabolēs kosmou (from the foundation of the world) will be charged to tēs geneas tautēs (this generation). This generation's guilt encompasses all accumulated prophetic martyrdom.

This shocking verdict operates on covenant continuity—Jesus's generation represents Israel's final opportunity before destruction. Their rejection of Messiah completes Israel's pattern of prophetic rejection, bringing accumulated judgment. Matthew 23:36 parallels: 'All these things shall come upon this generation.' AD 70's temple destruction fulfilled this prophecy—the generation that rejected Christ witnessed Jerusalem's fall.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke this in approximately AD 30; Jerusalem fell in AD 70. The generation that heard Jesus preach witnessed catastrophic judgment—temple destruction, mass crucifixions, enslavement. Josephus's account of the siege confirms horrific fulfillment. The lawyers' unbelief culminated in national disaster, validating Jesus's prophetic warning.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does accumulated covenant unfaithfulness affect corporate judgment—can nations store up wrath across generations?
2. What does this teach about historical responsibility—how does this generation's response to Christ affect coming generations?
3. How should awareness of impending judgment affect the urgency of gospel proclamation in your context?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	ἐκζητηθῇ	τῆς	αἷμα	πάντων	τῆς	προφητῶν	τῆς
That	may be required	which	the blood	of all	which	the prophets	which
G2443	G1567	G3588	G129	G3956	G3588	G4396	G3588

ἐκχυνόμενον	ἀπὸ	καταβολῆς	κόσμου	ἀπὸ	τῆς	γενεᾶς
was shed	from	the foundation	of the world	from	which	generation
G1632	G575	G2602	G2889	G575	G3588	G1074

ταύτης
G3778

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 24:4 (Blood): And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

