

# Luke 13:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

## Analysis

Jesus laments: 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!' (Ιερουσαλήμ Ιερουσαλήμ, ἡ ἀποκτείνουσα τοὺς προφήτας καὶ λιθοβολοῦσα τοὺς ἀπεσταλμένους πρὸς αὐτήν, ποσάκις ἡθέλησα ἐπισυνάξαι τὰ τέκνα σου ὃν τρόπον ὅρνις τὴν ἑαυτῆς νοσσιὰν ὑπὸ τὰς πτέρυγας, καὶ οὐκ ἡθελήσατε). The repeated name expresses grief. The present participles 'apokteinousa' (ἀποκτείνουσα, killing) and 'lithobolousa' (λιθοβολοῦσα, stoning) indicate habitual rejection. Christ's desire to gather them 'as a hen gathers her brood' expresses tender, protective love. The tragic 'ye would not' (οὐκ ἡθελήσατε) reveals human will resisting divine grace.

## Historical Context

Jerusalem's history of killing prophets (Zechariah, Isaiah according to tradition, John the Baptist) climaxed in crucifying Christ. Within 40 years, Rome would destroy the city (AD 70), leaving 'your house desolate' (v.35). Jesus' lament echoes Old Testament prophets (Jeremiah 8:18-22, Hosea 11:8) expressing God's grief over Israel's rebellion. The maternal imagery (hen protecting chicks) powerfully conveys divine compassion even toward those who reject Him. This passage

demonstrates both God's genuine desire for all to be saved and human responsibility in rejecting grace.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' lament over Jerusalem reveal both divine sovereignty in salvation and genuine human responsibility for unbelief?
2. What does the image of protective maternal care teach about God's heart toward those who ultimately reject Him?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἰερουσαλήμ Ἰερουσαλήμ τὰς ἀποκτείνουσα τὰς

Jerusalem      Jerusalem      which      killest      which  
G2419            G2419            G3588            G615            G3588

προφήτας καὶ λιθοβολοῦσα τὰς ἀπεσταλμένους πρὸς

the prophets    and      stonest      which      them that are sent      unto  
G4396            G2532            G3036            G3588            G649            G4314

αὐτήν ποσάκις ἡθελήσατε ἐπισυνάξαι τὰς τέκνα σου

G846      how often      would      I have gathered      which      children      thy  
G4212            G2309            G1996            G3588            G5043            G4675

δν τρόπον ὅρνις τὰς ἔαυτῆς νοσσιὰν ὑπὸ τὰς

G3739      as      a hen      which      doth gather her      brood      under      which  
G5158            G3733            G3588            G1438            G3555            G5259            G3588

πτέρυγας καὶ οὐκ ἡθελήσατε

her wings      and      not      would  
G4420            G2532            G3756            G2309

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 7:52** (Prophecy): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

**Isaiah 30:15** (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

**Psalms 36:7** (Parallel theme): How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

**Zechariah 1:4** (Prophecy): Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

**Luke 23:28** (References Jerusalem): But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

**Luke 19:44** (Parallel theme): And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

**Ruth 2:12** (Parallel theme): The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

**Isaiah 50:2** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

**Psalms 91:4** (Parallel theme): He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

**Psalms 81:13** (Parallel theme): Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

