

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!' (Ἰερουσαλὴμ Ἰερουσαλήμ, ἡ ἀποκτείνουσα τοὺς προφῆτας καὶ λιθοβολοῦσα τοὺς ἀπεσταλμένους πρὸς αὐτήν, ποσάκις ἠθέλησα ἐπισυνάξει τὰ τέκνα σου ὡς τρόπον ὄρνις τὴν ἑαυτῆς νοσσιὰν ὑπὸ τὰς πτέρυγας, καὶ οὐκ ἠθελήσατε). 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 ἠθελήσατε) 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

Ἱερουσαλήμ	Ἱερουσαλήμ	τὰς	ἀποκτείνουσα	τὰς			
Jerusalem	Jerusalem	which	kill	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	ἠθελήσατε	ἐπισυνάξει	τὰς	τέκνα	σου	
G846	how often	would	I have gathered	which	children	thy	
	G4212	G2309	G1996	G3588	G5043	G4675	
ὄν	τρόπον	ὄρνις	τὰς	ἐαυτῆς	νοσσιὰν	ὑπὸ	τὰς
G3739	as	a hen	which	doth gather her	brood	under	which
	G5158	G3733	G3588	G1438	G3555	G5259	G3588
πτέρυγας	καὶ	οὐκ	ἠθελήσατε				
her wings	and	not	would				
G4420	G2532	G3756	G2309				

Additional Cross-References

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!

