

Mark 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some.

Analysis

Again he sent another; and him they killed—Escalation reaches murder (ἀποκτείνω, apokteinō). **And many others; beating some, and killing some**—a summary statement compressing centuries of prophetic martyrdom into one devastating sentence. The plurality reveals God's relentless pursuit of His people through successive generations of prophets, and Israel's persistent violence against them.

The 'many others' indicts the entire prophetic tradition from Abel to Zechariah (Matthew 23:35). This verse is the hinge: it establishes the pattern (rejection-violence-murder) that will climax in verses 6-8 with the beloved son. The tenants' escalating violence proves they won't be reformed—only judgment remains.

Historical Context

Israel's history is stained with prophetic blood: tradition holds that Isaiah was martyred under King Manasseh, Jeremiah was killed by fellow Jews in Egypt, Zechariah son of Jehoiada was murdered in the temple (2 Chronicles 24:20-22). Jesus later pronounced judgment: 'Upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth' (Matthew 23:35), confirming this parabolic indictment as historical reality.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the progression from beating to killing demonstrate that persistent rejection of truth leads to hardened violence against it?
2. What does God's sending 'many others' reveal about His patient determination to call rebellious people to account?
3. How do you guard against the religious complacency that killed the prophets while claiming to honor them?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πάλιν ἄλλους ἀπέστειλεν· κάκεῖνον ἀποκτείνοντες

And **again** **another** **he sent** **and him** **killing some**
G2532 G3825 G243 G649 G2548 G615

καὶ πολλοὺς ἄλλους τοὺς μὲν δέροντες τοὺς δὲ

And **many** **another** **G3588** **G3303** **beating some** **G3588** **and**
G2532 G4183 G243 G1194 G1161

ἀποκτείνοντες

killing some
G615

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