

# Matthew 23:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

## Analysis

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**I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes** (έγὼ ἀποστέλλω πρὸς ὑμᾶς προφήτας καὶ σοφοὺς καὶ γραμματεῖς)—Jesus's "I send" reveals His divine prerogative to commission messengers. Apostello (send) is used of God sending prophets in the OT. He will send New Covenant ministers: apostles/prophets (Ephesians 4:11), wise men (teachers), and scribes (those trained in Scripture, like Matthew himself—13:52).

**Some of them ye shall kill and crucify... scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city**—Jesus prophesies the apostolic martyrdoms: James beheaded (Acts 12:2), Stephen stoned (Acts 7), tradition says Peter crucified, Paul beheaded. The synagogue scourgings fulfilled literally (2 Corinthians 11:24—Paul received 39 lashes five times). This proves the Pharisees are prophet-killers like their fathers—they'll do to apostles what ancestors did to prophets.

## Historical Context

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Jewish law permitted 39 lashes for serious offenses (Deuteronomy 25:3). Synagogue rulers administered this. Acts records repeated apostolic persecution by Jewish authorities: imprisonment, beatings, attempted stonings. Paul's letters detail his sufferings from Jewish opponents (2 Corinthians 11:23-27). The

predicted pattern fulfilled precisely—demonstrating Jesus's prophetic authority and the religious establishment's unchanged heart. The generation that killed Jesus killed His apostles, filling up the measure.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's claim to personally send prophets, wise men, and scribes demonstrate His divine authority?
2. What does the pattern of religious persecution of God's messengers teach about the danger of institutionalized religion without regenerate hearts?
3. How do we participate in this pattern when we resist, marginalize, or silence prophetic voices that challenge our comfort?

## Interlinear Text

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διὰ τοῦτο ἴδού, ἔγὼ ἀποστέλλω πρὸς ὑμᾶς  
Wherefore G5124 behold I send unto you  
G1223 G2400 G1473 G649 G4314 G5209

προφήτας καὶ σοφοὺς καὶ γραμματεῖς· καὶ ἔξ αὐτῶν  
prophets and wise men and scribes and some of them  
G4396 G2532 G4680 G2532 G1122 G2532 G1537 G846

ἀποκτενεῖτε καὶ σταυρώσετε καὶ ἔξ αὐτῶν  
ye shall kill and crucify and some of them  
G615 G2532 G4717 G2532 G1537 G846

μαστιγώσετε ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς ὑμῶν καὶ διώξετε  
shall ye scourge in synagogues your and persecute  
G3146 G1722 G3588 G4864 G5216 G2532 G1377

ἀπὸ πόλιν· εἰς πόλιν·  
them from city to city  
G575 G4172 G1519 G4172

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 13:52** (Parallel theme): Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

**Colossians 1:28** (Parallel theme): Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

**Acts 13:1** (Prophecy): Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Matthew 10:23** (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

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