

Matthew 23:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Analysis

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth (ὅπως ἔλθῃ ἐφ' ὑμᾶς πᾶν αἷμα δίκαιον ἐκχυνόμενον)—hopōs indicates purpose or result. This generation's sin would bring accumulated judgment for all prophetic martyrdoms. **From... Abel unto... Zacharias** spans biblical history from Genesis 4:8 to 2 Chronicles 24:20-22 (last book in Hebrew Bible order). "Abel to Zechariah" equals our "Genesis to Revelation"—the entirety of redemptive history's martyrs.

Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar—this Zechariah said, "Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD?" before being stoned in the temple court (2 Chronicles 24:20-22). Jesus says "ye slew" (past tense)—treating that generation as corporately guilty with the current one. The crucifixion would be the culminating murder, triggering judgment for all accumulated prophetic blood.

Historical Context

AD 70 brought Jesus's prophecy to fulfillment: Roman armies under Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. Josephus records over 1 million Jews died, temple treasures plundered, survivors enslaved. This judgment fell on "this generation" (v. 36)—those alive when Jesus spoke. The generation that witnessed

Jesus's ministry, rejected His Messiahship, crucified Him, and persecuted His apostles experienced the accumulated judgment for Israel's entire history of prophetic rejection.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's patience in delaying judgment sometimes result in accumulated wrath falling on a culminating generation?
2. What does the span from Abel to Zechariah teach about God's comprehensive justice—no righteous blood is forgotten?
3. How should awareness that corporate judgment can fall on a generation affect our response to prophetic warning today?

Interlinear Text

ὅπως	ἔλθῃ	ἐπὶ	ὑμᾶς	πάν	αἵματος	δικαίου	
That	may come	upon	you	all	blood	of righteous	
G3704	G2064	G1909	G5209	G3956	G129	G1342	
ἐκχυνόμενον	ἐπὶ	τῆς	γῆς	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	αἵματος	Ἄβελ
shed	upon	G3588	the earth	from	G3588	blood	Abel
G1632	G1909		G1093	G575		G129	G6
τοῦ	δικαίου	ἕως	τοῦ	αἵματος	Ζαχαρίου	υἱοῦ	Βαραχίου
G3588	of righteous	unto	G3588	blood	of Zacharias	son	of Barachias
	G1342	G2193		G129	G2197	G5207	G914
ὃν	ἐφονεύσατε	μεταξὺ	τοῦ	ναοῦ	καὶ	τοῦ	
whom	ye slew	between	G3588	the temple	and	G3588	
G3739	G5407	G3342		G3485	G2532		
θυσιαστηρίου							
the altar							
G2379							

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 1:1 (Parallel theme): In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

Hebrews 11:4 (Righteousness): By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Genesis 4:8 (Parallel theme): And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Revelation 18:24 (Blood): And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Jeremiah 26:15 (Blood): But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.

2 Kings 21:16 (Blood): Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

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.

Hebrews 12:24 (Blood): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Isaiah 26:21 (Blood): For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Jeremiah 26:23 (Parallel theme): And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.