

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 ἐκχυννόμενον)—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 πᾶν αἷματος δικαίου
That may come upon you all blood of righteous
G3704 G2064 G1909 G5209 G3956 G129 G1342

ἐκχυνόμενον ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀπὸ τοῦ αἵματος Ἀβελ
shed upon the earth from blood Abel
G1632 G1909 G3588 G1093 G575 G3588 G129 G6

τοῦ δικαίου ἔως τοῦ αἵματος Ζαχαρίου υἱοῦ Βαραχίου
of righteous unto blood of Zacharias son of Barachias
G3588 G1342 G2193 G3588 G129 G2197 G5207 G914

ὸν ἐφονεύσατε μεταξὺ τοῦ ναοῦ καὶ τοῦ
whom ye slew between the temple and G3588
G3739 G5407 G3342 G3485 G2532 G3588

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.