

CONDEMNATION OF COUNTERFEIT SPIRITUAL LEADERS:  
PROCLAIMING JUDGMENT  
(Matthew 23:33-39)

- I. His PRONOUNCEMENT of Coming Judgment (Matt. 23:33-36)
  - A. Jesus' INVOCATION of condemnation (23:33)
    1. They are "SERPENTS" and a "BROOD of VIPERS" (cf. 3:7)
      - a. They are DEADLY
      - b. They are DECEITFUL
    2. They cannot ESCAPE the sentence of HELL (cf. 23:32)
  - B. The INEVITABILITY of the condemnation (23:34-35)
    1. He will SEND them MESSENGERS
      - a. "Prophets" refers to the APOSTLES
      - b. "Wise men" refers to other TEACHERS
      - c. "Scribes" are those who will WRITE the NEW TESTAMENT
    2. They will REJECT His SERVANTS (cf. 21:33-46)
      - a. Some they will KILL and CRUCIFY
      - b. Some they will SCOURGE
      - c. All they will PERSECUTE
    3. Their guilt will be COMPREHENSIVE and COMPLETE (cf. 23:32)

- C. The IMMINENCE of the condemnation (23:36)
  - 1. ALL these things WILL COME
  - 2. They will come upon THIS GENERATION
  
- II. His LAMENT for the Coming Judgment (Matt. 23:37-39)
  - A. Jesus' INTENSE compassion (23:27-38)
    - 1. He AFFIRMS that it is DESERVED
    - 2. He REGRETS that it is NECESSARY
    - 3. He declares their "HOUSE" will be left "DESOLATE"
      - a. It will be ABANDONED by God to their ENEMIES
      - b. It will be DESTROYED, leaving them no ACCESS
  - B. Israel's INSURED conversion (23:39)
    - 1. These are His LAST WORDS to ISRAEL (cf. 24:1a)
      - a. They will UTTERLY REJECT Him
      - b. They will DEMAND His CRUCIFIXION
    - 2. There WILL COME a day when they ACKNOWLEDGE Him (Zech. 12:8-12; 13:1-2; 14:3, 8-9; cf. Rom. 11:11-12)
      - a. They will REPENT
      - b. They will be RESTORED