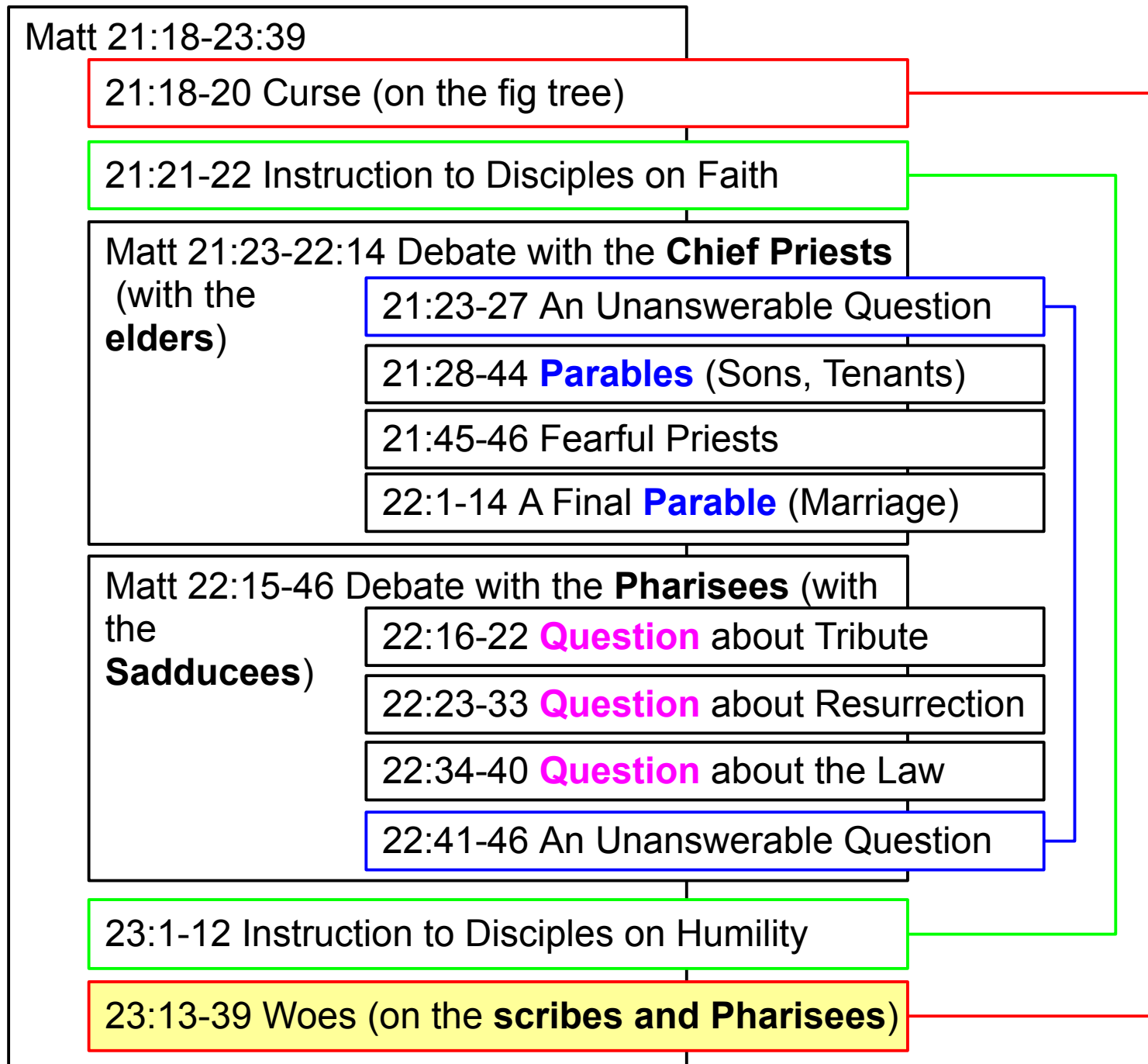


Treasure Hunt

- What are the three parts of a “woe” in the prophets?
- With what other sins is hypocrisy associated in the Bible?
- How does the blindness in these verses differ from that elsewhere in Matthew?
- What are the two different sources of spiritual blindness, and what is the prognosis for each?
- How does v. 14 differ from the other woes in the chapter?
- What is the grammatical relation between “devour widows’ houses” and “make long prayer” in Greek?
- Where does v. 14 come in most manuscripts of the Greek NT?
- How do the verse’s grammar and distinctive ending reinforce its structural role in the chapter?

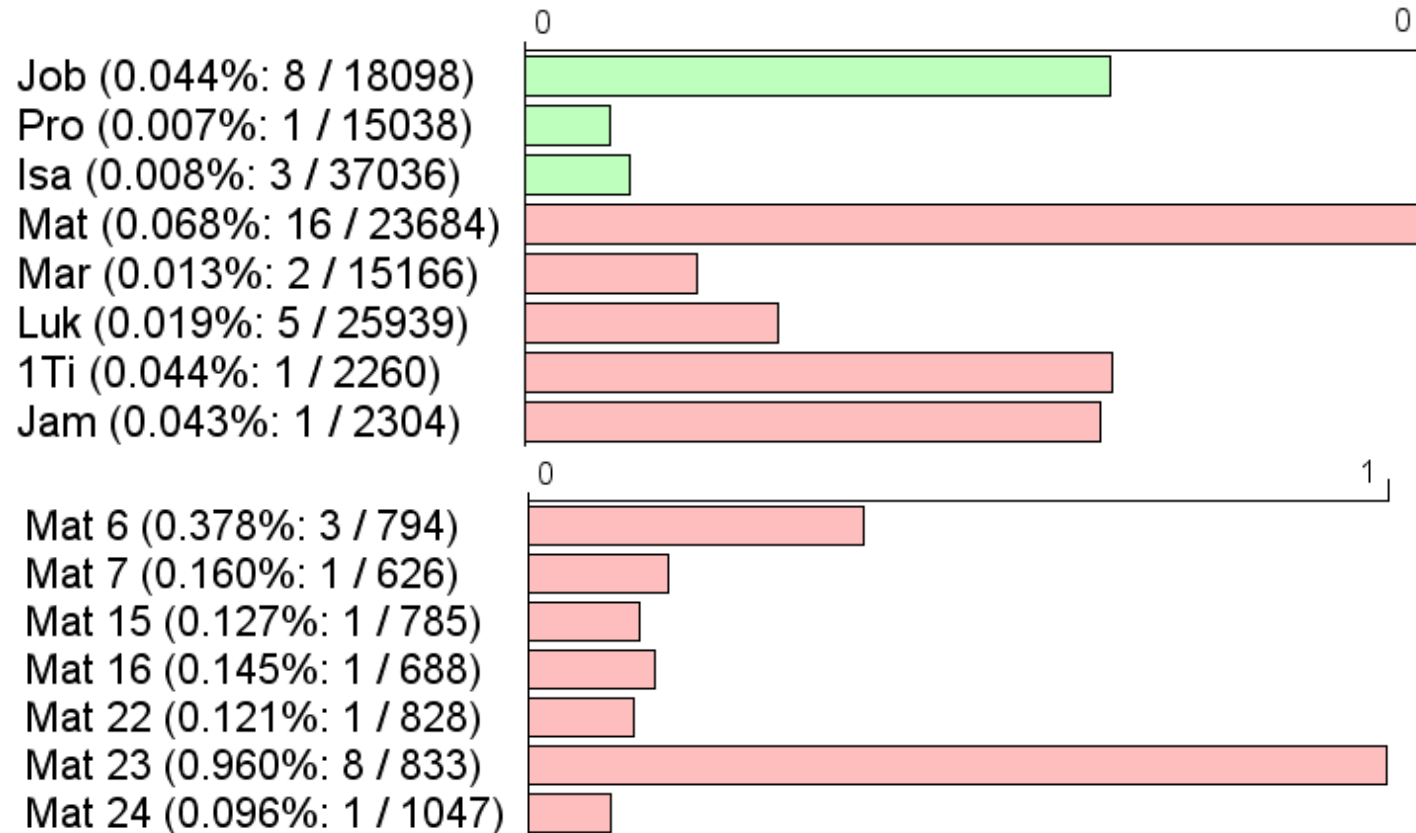
The Great Debate



Structure of a Prophetic Woe (Isaiah 5)

Woe	Consequence
<p>8 Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!</p>	<p>9 In mine ears said the LORD of hosts, Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, even great and fair, without inhabitant. ...</p>
<p>11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! ...</p>	<p>13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. ...</p>
<p>18 Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: 19 That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! 20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! 22 Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: 23 Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!</p>	<p>24 Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. ...</p>

“Hypocrite,” “Hypocrites,” “Hypocrisy” in the Bible



Isa 32:6 For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise **hypocrisy**, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.

Mat 15:7 Ye **hypocrites**, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying [29:13],
 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

Relation of Hypocrisy and Unbelief

Mat 24:50-51	Luk 12:46
The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for <i>him</i> ,	The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for <i>him</i> ,
and in an hour that he is not aware of,	and at an hour when he is not aware,
51 And shall cut him asunder,	and will cut him in sunder,
and appoint <i>him</i> his portion with the hypocrites :	and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers .

Two Kinds of Spiritual Blindness

1. Endemic

Isa 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a **light** of the Gentiles; 7 **To open the blind eyes**, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath **blinded** the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Two Kinds of Spiritual Blindness

2. Judgmental

Isa 6:9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and **shut their eyes**; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isa 29:10 For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and **hath closed your eyes**: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

Isa 44:18 They have not known nor understood: for **he hath shut their eyes**, that they cannot see; *and* their hearts, that they cannot understand.

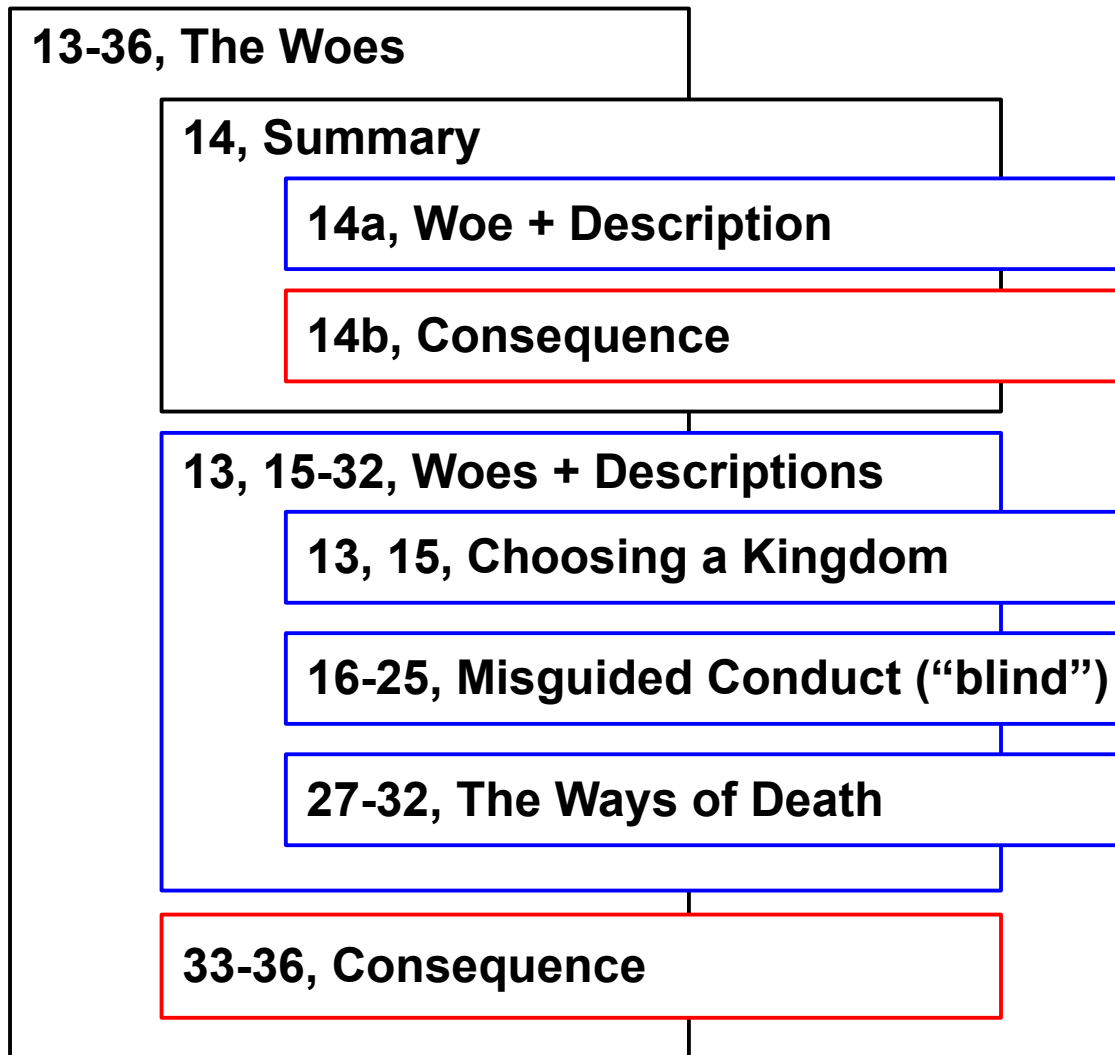
Isa 42:19 **Who is blind, but my servant?** or deaf, as my messenger *that* I sent? who *is* blind as *he that is* perfect [in a covenant of peace], and blind as the LORD'S servant?

→ Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Where does v. 14 go? (Textual Evidence)

	Critical Text	KJV	Majority Text
Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in <i>yourselves</i> , neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.	1	1	2
14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.	missing	2	1
15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.	2	3	3

Where does v. 14 go? (Structural evidence)



ABA'B' summary alternation

- AB = Table of Contents
- A'B' = Detail
- Extremely common throughout the Bible

v. 14 “greater damnation”

Mat 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be **more tolerable** for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be **more tolerable** for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Luk 12:47-48 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with **many stripes**. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with **few stripes**. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Jam 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the **greater condemnation**.