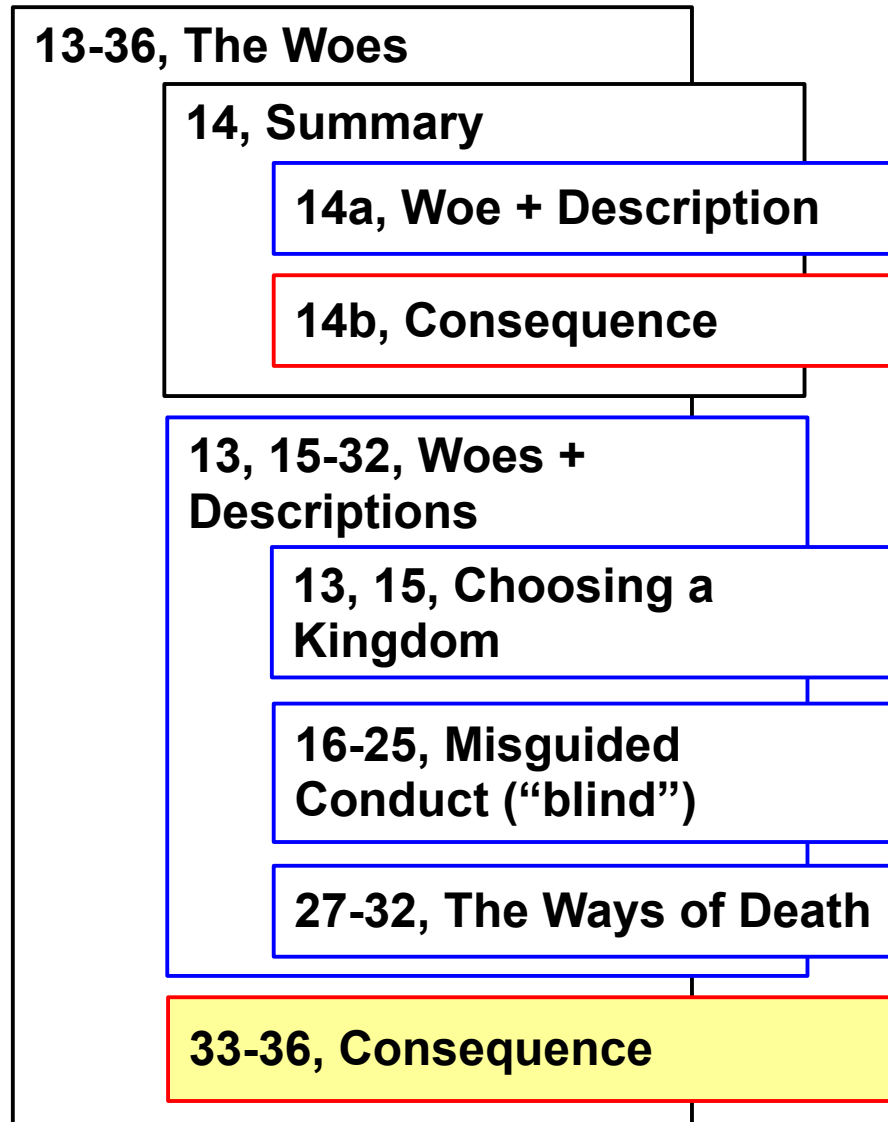


# Treasure Hunt

- What verse in John's gospel recalls the characterization of the Pharisees as a "generation of vipers"?
- How do the three kinds of people in v. 34 correspond to the OT?
- How does the Lord's promise to send these people relate to the NT?
- How did Israel's treatment of these new messengers compare with their treatment of the OT prophets?
- Who is Zacharias, and why is he called the son of Barachias?
- Why does the Lord select Abel and Zacharias from all the OT saints?
- What is the difference between "generation" in vv. 33 and 36?
- When the Lord offers to gather Israel under his wings, what claim is he making?
- What "house" is being left desolate in v. 38?
- To what OT prophecy does the challenge of v. 39 refer?

# v. 33 Generation (γεννημα, 1081) of Vipers



Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, **O generation of vipers**, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Mat 12:34 **O generation of vipers**, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Joh 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

# v. 34 I send ...

Evidence for three-fold canon

Sirach Prolog (~100 BC) many and great things have been delivered unto us by **the law and the prophets, and by others** that have followed their steps ... my grandfather Jesus ... had much given himself to the reading of **the law, and the prophets, and other books** of our fathers ... **the law itself, and the prophets, and the rest of the books**

Luk 24:44 These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written **in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

Prolog to Sirach (~100 BC)	Luke 24:44	Ezek 7:25	Matt 23:34
The law	The law of Moses	b) The law shall perish from the priest	c) Scribes (gospels)
The prophets	The prophets	a) A vision of the prophet	a) Prophets (Revelation, 2 Peter)
The others ... the other books ... the rest of the books	The psalms	c) Council [shall perish] from the ancients	b) Wise men (epistles)

End of OT revelation predicted

Eze 7:26 Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a **vision of the prophet**; but the **law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.**

Recognition of silent times

1Sa 3:1 And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was no open vision.*

1Ma 9:27 (~100 BC) So was there a great affliction in Israel, the like whereof was not **since the time that a prophet was not seen** among them.

B. Tal. Sot. 48B (~AD 500) When Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi died, **the Holy Spirit departed from Israel.**

## v. 34 Promised Persecutions

Some of them ye shall **kill** ...

Act 7:59 And they stoned **Stephen**, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Act 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed **James** the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take **Peter** also.

Some of them shall ye ...

**persecute** ... from city to city:

Act 8:1 And at that time there was a great **persecution** against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Act 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the **persecution** that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

# v. 35 Zacharias son of Barachias

~802 BC (pre-captivity)

2Ch 24:20 And the Spirit of God came upon **Zechariah** the son of **Jehoiada** the **priest**, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. 21 And they conspired against him, and **stoned him with stones** at the commandment of the king **in the court of the house of the LORD**.

~520 BC (post-captivity)

Zec 1:1 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,

Neh 12:1 Now these *are* the **priests** and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, ... 4 **Iddo**, ... 12 And in the days of Joiakim [the high priest] were priests, the chief of the fathers: ... 16 Of **Iddo, Zechariah**;

A Rabbinical custom of identifying similar people:

Tar Lam. 2:20 See, O Lord, and observe from heaven against whom you have turned. Thus is it right for the daughters of Israel to eat the fruit of their wombs due to starvation, the lovely boys wrapped in fine linen? The Attribute of Justice replied, and said, "Is it right to kill priest and prophet in the Temple of the LORD, as when **you killed Zechariah son of Iddo, the High Priest and faithful prophet in the Temple** of the Lord on the Day of Atonement because he admonished you not to do evil before the Lord?"

# v. 36 “This generation...” (γενεα, 1074)

Regular use in Matthew is temporal rather than racial:

Mat 1:17 So all the from Abraham to David *are* fourteen **generations**; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen **generations**; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen **generations**.

Wicked and condemned:

Matt. 11:16 But whereunto shall I liken **this generation**? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,

Matt. 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with **this generation**, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

Matt. 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with **this generation**, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.

Matt. 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon **this generation**.

Matt. 24:34 Verily I say unto you, **This generation** shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled [occur].

# v. 37, Who gathers Israel like chicks?

Rut 2:12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the **LORD God** of Israel, **under whose wings** thou art come to trust.

Psa 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me **under the shadow of thy wings,**

Psa 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, **O God!** therefore the children of men put their trust **under the shadow of thy wings.**

Psa 57:1 Be merciful unto me, **O God,** be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, **in the shadow of thy wings** will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

Psa 63:7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore **in the shadow of thy wings** will I rejoice.

Psa 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and **under his wings** shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

# The Great Debate

