




The Gospel of Matthew

The Fulfillment of Israel's Story




The “Cleansing” of the Temple



Matthew 21:12 Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. **13** He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.” **14** The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. **15** But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry **16** and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself’?” **17** He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.




The “Cleansing” of the Temple



Jeremiah 7:3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. **4** Do not trust in these deceptive words: “This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.” **5** For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, **6** if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, **7** then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. **8** Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. **9** Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, **10** and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, “We are safe!”—only to go on doing all these abominations? **11** Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the Lord.



Taxes to the Emperor?



Matthew 22:15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.



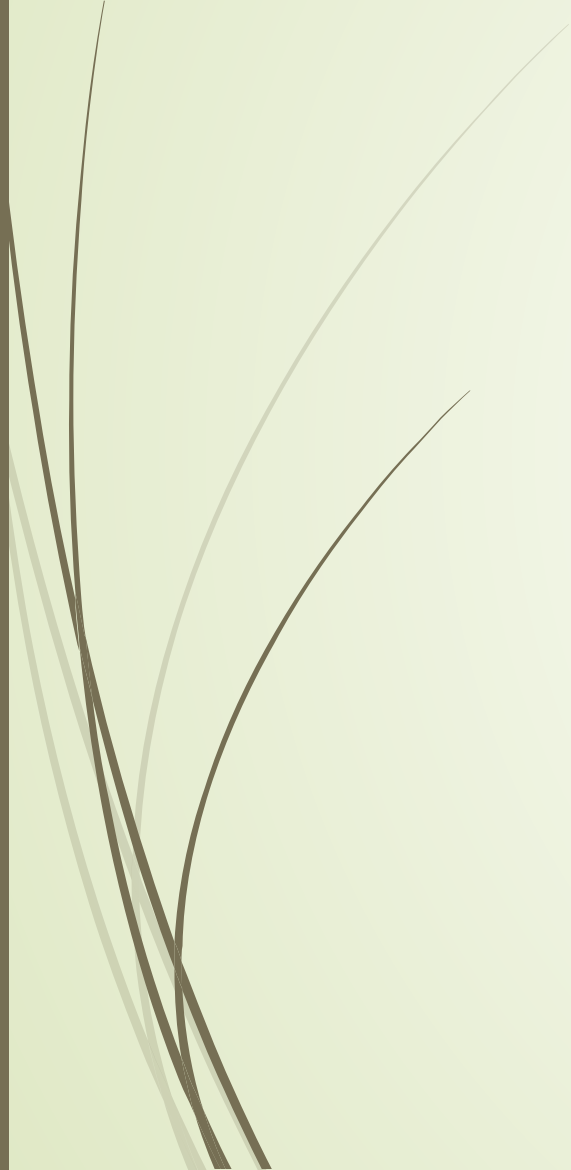
A Question About Resurrection

- ▶ **Matthew 22:23** The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying,
²⁴ “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.’ ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶ The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸ In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.” ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.



The Condemnation of the Pharisees

- **Matthew 23:1** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, **2** “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; **3** therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. **4** They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. **5** They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. **6** They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, **7** and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. **8** But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students



The Condemnation of the Pharisees

- **Matthew 23:14** “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them. **15** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. **16** “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the sanctuary is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is bound by the oath.’ **17** You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the sanctuary that has made the gold sacred? **18** And you say, ‘Whoever swears by the altar is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gift that is on the altar is bound by the oath.’ **19** How blind you are! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? **20** So whoever swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; **21** and whoever swears by the sanctuary, swears by it and by the one who dwells in it; **22** and whoever swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by the one who is seated upon it.



The Condemnation of the Pharisees

- Horace, *Sermones* 1.4.139-143, “This is one of those lesser frailties I spoke of, and if you should make no allowance for it, then would a big band of poets come to my aid — and we, like the Jews, will compel you to make one of our throng.”



The Condemnation of the Pharisees

- **Matthew 23:23** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.
24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!
25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **26** You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean.

The Condemnation of the Pharisees

- **Matthew 23:29** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, ³⁰ and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹ Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors. ³³ You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴ Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, ³⁵ so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.