

**Key Verse:** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Matthew 23:37*

**God the Father’s Verdict Against Israel**

**2 Key Phrases:**

1) **“Gathered”** = expressed God’s ongoing offers of grace by the use of the imperfect [ongoing] tense.

**Illustration:** Matthew 22:1-14 Marriage Feast Parable

A parable always begins with something familiar to the listeners and then brings the truths of the familiar alongside [meaning of word parable] of a new or unfamiliar spiritual truth.

**4 Key Steps to Studying a Parable**

- 1) Observe the circumstances surrounding the parable’s deliverance.
- 2) Observe the essential details and what they represent.
- 3) Observe the original hearer’s mindset and understanding.
- 4) Look for the single central spiritual truth of the parable to be gained and do not get sidetracked with the details of the story.

**NEVER** base a doctrine or finer part of a doctrine **solely** upon a parable!

**Meaning of this parable:** Reveals God’s wrath and justification toward the original invited guests and their refusal. It demonstrates that being invited requires the acceptance by the invited person according to God’s standards.

2) **“Ye would not”** = Reflects the totality of their repeated rejections of Him and His kingdom thru the use of cumulative aorist.

**Two Phased Judgment – Matthew 23:36 - 39**

- 1) *“Your house is left unto you desolate” – “all these things shall come upon this generation”* – that generation hearing the judgment.
- 2) *“Ye shall not see me”* [to know, perceive] *henceforth, till...* - the generations Jewish people that would follow to this day.

**Note:** God’s judgment on Israel will not last forever. *“till”* literally in the Greek is “from now until” Future deliverance dependent upon national Israel’s following Deuteronomy 30:1-4