

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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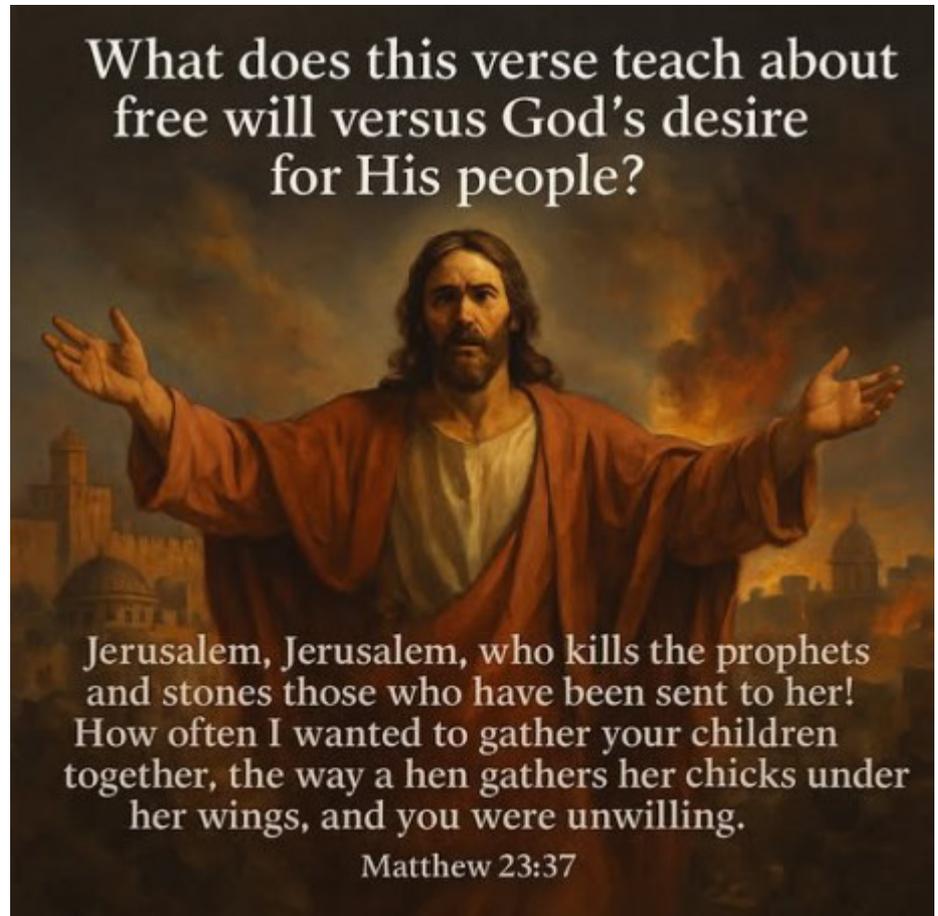
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**Free Will - What does this verse teach about free will versus God's desire for His people? (Matthew 23:37)**



By Dan Maines

**What does this verse teach about free will versus God's desire for His people? (Matthew 23:37)**

Matthew 23:37 shows that God genuinely desired to gather Jerusalem's people to Himself, offering protection and covenant blessings, yet they were unwilling. This highlights that God's will can be resisted, meaning human free will played a role in their rejection. His desire was for their restoration, but their choice to reject Him led to judgment, which in the fulfilled perspective came in AD 70 when the city was destroyed.

Matthew 23:37 fits a repeated biblical pattern where God desires to save and bless His people, but their refusal leads to judgment.

### **Old Testament connections:**

- **Isaiah 30:15** - "For this is what the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said: 'In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength.' But you were not willing." - God offers salvation and peace, but the people reject it.
- **Isaiah 65:2** - "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts." - God continually reaches out, yet they persist in rebellion.
- **Jeremiah 7:25-26** - "Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending them. Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers." - The sending of prophets parallels Jesus' ministry and the messengers He references in Matthew 23.
- **2 Chronicles 36:15-16** - "The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against His people, until there was no remedy." - The rejection of God's messengers ultimately brought judgment, which in the fulfilled perspective happened in AD 70.

In each case, God's desire is clear, He wants to gather, protect, and bless, but human unwillingness and rebellion override that blessing, leading to covenant judgment.

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