

Luke 13:22-35 Workers of Iniquity

Yeshua's life, lifestyle, and Ministry provoked opposition from a variety of people from the king to the common man. From the news of Messiah's birth, the visit by the Magi and the killing of the males two years and younger, to the cries for His crucifixion by the religious leaders and the people, and the plotting of Messiah's death, cast an ominous shadow over the people He came to save.

In this portion of Luke, Yeshua is asked a question on a few being saved and then warned about a plot against His life. Yeshua's response leaves much to seriously consider for all who heard and read Yeshua's words.

Lk 13:22 And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

Lk 13:23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be **saved**? And he said unto them,

Question: Are there few that be **saved**?

Saved – **4982 σώζω** sozo {sode'-zo}

Meaning: 1) to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction 1a) one (from injury or peril) 1a1) to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health 1b) to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue 1b) to save in the technical biblical sense 1b1) negatively 1b1a) to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment 1b1b) to save from the evils which obstruct the reception of the Messianic deliverance

Usage: AV - save 93, make whole 9, heal 3, be whole 2, misc 3; 110

Yeshua does not answer the question but encouraged the hearers of His response to strive to enter at the strait gate.

Lk 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Strive – **75 αγωνίζομαι** agonizomai {ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee} **Meaning:** 1) to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games 2) to contend with adversaries, fight 3) metaph. to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers 4) to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something

Usage: AV - strive 3, fight 3, labour fervently 1; 7

Strait – **4728 στενός** stenos {sten-os'}

Meaning: 1) **narrow**, strait

Usage: AV - strait 3; 3

Yeshua said in Matthew:

Mt 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mt 7:14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Why won't they be able to enter in?

Lk 13:25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Grace expires.

The grace period expires.

The Dispensationalists even teach the age of grace, or the age of the church expires with the rapture.

Lk 13:26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and **thou hast taught in our streets.**

Lk 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye **workers of iniquity.**

Workers – **2040 ἐργάτης** ergates {er-gat'-ace}

Meaning: 1) a workman, a labourer 1a) usually one who works for hire esp. an agricultural worker 2) one who does, a worker, perpetrator

Usage: AV - labourer 10, workman 3, worker 3; 16

There are three Greek words for iniquity in the New Testament writings.

Iniquity – **93 ἀδικία** adikia {ad-ee-kee'-ah}

Meaning: 1) injustice, of a judge 2) **unrighteousness of heart and life** 3) a deed violating law and justice, act of unrighteousness

Usage: AV - unrighteousness 16, iniquity 6, unjust 2, wrong 1; 25

2Pe 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2Pe 2:16 But was rebuked for his **iniquity**: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

Iniquity – **3892 παρανομία** paranomia {par-an-om-ee'-ah}

Meaning: 1) breach of law, transgression, **wickedness**

Usage: AV - iniquity 1; 1

The most quoted by Messianics:

Mt 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Mt 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Mt 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Mt 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Iniquity – **458 ἀνομία** anomia {an-om-ee'-ah}

Meaning: 1) **the condition of without law** 1a) **because ignorant of it** 1b) because of violating it 2) contempt and **violation of law**, iniquity, wickedness

Usage: AV - iniquity 12, unrighteousness 1, **transgress the law** + 4060 1, **transgression of the law** 1; 15

- Not knowing the Law
- Refusing to obey the Law
- Rejection of the Law altogether

Anomia would seemingly fall into the category of Hosea 4:6.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing **thou hast forgotten the law** of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Lk 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

Lk 13:29 And they shall come from the east, and *from* the west, and from the north, and *from* the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

Lk 13:30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

Certain Pharisees, aware of Herod's plan, warned Yeshua to leave the area He was in because of Herod.

Lk 13:31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

Herod, in the days of Yeshua's Ministry was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea. He had John the Baptist beheaded. Back in Luke 9, he heard that John had been resurrected from the dead.

Herod had no jurisdiction in Jerusalem for it was under the authority of Pontius Pilate. Some believe the Pharisees were trying to hasten His journey to Jerusalem, out of reach of Herod, but well within the reach of the religious leaders who would ultimately pressure Pilate to crucify Yeshua.

Lk 9:7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;

Lk 9:8 And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again.

Lk 9:9 And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

Yeshua was not afraid of Herod, and continued to focus on His Ministry and mission.

Lk 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third *day* I shall be perfected.

Lk 13:33 Nevertheless I must walk today, and tomorrow, and the *day* following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

Lk 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen *doth gather* her brood under *her* wings, and ye would not!

Jerusalem, in this passage, is referring to the religious center, which was inclusive of all religious activity and the focal point of the Temple services where all of Israel were to gather three times a year.

Lk 13:35 Behold, **your house** is left unto you **desolate**: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until *the time* come when ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

House – 3624 οἶκος oikos {oy'-kos}

Meaning: 1) a house 1a) an inhabited house, home 1b) any building whatever 1b1) of a palace 1b2) **the house of God, the tabernacle** 1c) any dwelling place 1c1) of the human body as the abode of demons that possess it 1c2) of tents, and huts, and later, of the nests, stalls, lairs, of animals 1c3) the place where one has fixed his residence, one's settled abode, domicile 2) the inmates of a house, all the persons forming one family, a household 2a) the family of God, of the Christian Church, of the church of the Old and New Testaments 3) stock, race, descendants of one

Usage: AV - house 104, household 3, home + 1519 2, at home + 1722 2, misc 3; 114

Desolate – 2048 ἔρημος eremos {er'-ay-mos} **Meaning:** 1) solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited 1a) used of places 1a1) a desert, wilderness 1a2) deserted places, lonely regions 1a3) an uncultivated region fit for pasturage 1b) used of persons 1b1) deserted by others 1b2) deprived of the aid and protection of others, especially of friends, acquaintances, kindred 1b3) bereft 1b3a) of a flock deserted by the shepherd 1b3b) of a women neglected by her husband, from whom the husband withholds himself

Usage: AV - wilderness 32, desert 13, desolate 4, solitary 1; 50

The prophet Malachi prophesied by the Spirit of YeHoVaH in his final verse of Chapter 4.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Not many years after the ascension of Messiah Yeshua, persecution began amongst the followers of Messiah. The Saints were scattered in Acts 8.

Ac 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. 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.

James, the brother of John, was killed by Herod.

Ac 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.

Ac 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

The Temple was destroyed around 70 AD and religious life in Israel was forever changed.

Today, we await our Messiah's return.