



## [Matthew 27:22-25](#)

(22) Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" (23) Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" (24) When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it.*" (25) And all the people answered and said, "His blood *be* on us and on our children."

*New King James Version*

Nowhere does Matthew—or anyone else—ever tell us that [God](#) acquiesced to carry out vengeance on those who cried, "Crucify Him!" before Pilate's judgment hall. Nowhere does Matthew intimate that God consented to punish their children over the centuries. If He had committed Himself to carry out these peoples' so-called "curse," He would have knowingly bound Himself to violate His own law for centuries.

Why, then, have the Jews found themselves so often in such dire straits over the years, not only after [the crucifixion](#) of Christ, but for centuries before? They have been [persecuted](#) by the Egyptians, the Philistines, the Edomites, the Canaanites, the Sidonians, the Hivites, the Moabites (see [Judges 3:3-12](#)), and the Midianites (see [Judges 8:1](#)). The catalog of their tormentors includes the Persians of Haman's time, the Greeks of Antiochus' time, the Romans of Imperial times, and afterwards various European and Muslim peoples to the present. Their history of persecution would fill volumes.

Why?

Anciently, *only* the Jews, along with their Israelite brethren, were the recipients of God's revelation: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" ([Amos 3:2](#)). God counts that revelation as a precious blessing to the family of [Abraham](#), as Paul writes in [Romans 3:1-2](#): "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 27:22-25 (<http://www.theberean.org>) every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God."

To Paul, the Jews were not cursed, but were *first*, the Greeks second ([Romans 2:9-10](#)). He took seriously his commission to carry God's name "before . . . the children of Israel" ([Acts 9:15](#)). The [book of Acts](#) records that in every town and city he visited, he went first to the local Jewish synagogue; after that, he preached [the gospel](#) to the Gentiles. Indeed, he admonished the church at Thessalonica to "become imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea . . ." ([I Thessalonians 2:14](#)).

God gave the Jews a lot. Here, the principle of [Luke 12:48](#) enters the picture: "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

As we know from the Old Testament and as history since has demonstrated, the Jews have repeatedly rejected God, treading His oracles underfoot. Today, many are the Jews who have forsaken God and joined the vanguard of liberal secularism (read, atheism) in the arts, law, politics, science, education—invirtually every field of human endeavor. Throughout their history, many Jews have scorned God's revelation, purposefully making themselves a profane people. So, the corollary of Christ's principle applies, as stated in [Luke 12:47](#): "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."

The Jews, more than any single people in history, knew [God's will](#), as it is expressed in the "oracles"—His revelation to them. They often have rejected it. As often as they do, their [apostasy](#) has carried with it the penalty of "many stripes."

— Charles Whitaker

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