

<sup>19</sup> The teachers of the law and the chief priest looked for a way to arrest Him immediately because they knew He had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

Luke 20.19

<sup>20</sup> Keeping close watch on Him, they sent spies who pretended to be honest, They hoped to catch Jesus in something He said so that they might hand Him over to the power and authority of the governor.

Luke 20.20

Now we watch the scheming shift from the questioning of His legitimacy by the chief priests, to a more insidious scheme by spies to entrap Jesus in His words so that they could hand Him over to the governor. Isaiah had prophesied that Spirit of wisdom and knowledge would rest on Christ (Isaiah 11.2) and it shines here in brilliance as these spies are confounded in their efforts and forced to admit that He has spoken well. Jesus will, in turn, question them regarding David's prophesy and then pronounce seven (the number of completion) judgments <sup>1</sup> on the Pharisees and teachers of the law, which end with these heart-wrenching words of prophecy—

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

Matthew 23.37-39

*A Political Trap: Is it lawful to pay taxes to a godless government?*

- Matthew 22.15-22 (Mark 12.13-17; Luke 20.20-26)

*A Theological Trap by Liberal Theologians*

- Matthew 22.23-33 (Mark 12.18-27; Luke 20.27-40)

*A Theological Trap by Conservative Theologians*

- Matthew 22.34-46 (Mark 12.28-37)

*Jesus Questions His Opponents: How can the Christ be both David's son and Lord?*

- Matthew 22.41-45 (Mark 12.35-37; Luke 20.41-44)

*"Woe to You!" The Condemnation and Judgment of the Arbiters of the Old Order*

- Matthew 23

<sup>1</sup> Remember that the judgments foretold in Revelation are also in "sevens"—seven seals, seven angels and seven trumpets, seven plagues in the seven bowls of God's wrath.

*The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"*