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No Prophet Can Die Outside Jerusalem

Luke 13: 31-35

No prophet can die outside Jerusalem DIG: What does Yeshua reveal here about His intentions? Why was Herod Antipas a real threat? What does Christ's response show about Him? Who controlled where and when Jesus would die? Why was Jerusalem's fate already determined at this point? What strikes you about Yeshua's prophecy? When did it find its fulfillment? Under what conditions will Messiah come back? When?

REFLECT: What concerns you about the spiritual condition of your nation? Your city? Your church? Your messianic synagogue? What would it mean for each to gather under His wings? How do you react to opposition when you are convinced that God has a purpose for your life? Have you ever had someone you loved with all your heart reject you? What do you imagine His return will be like with you standing there?

At that same time that Jesus was talking about entering through the narrow door, some Pharisees came to Him and said, "Leave this place (Perea, on the eastern side of the Jordan River valley) and go somewhere else" (Luke 13:31). Some interpreters believe that **the Pharisees** were trying to frighten Yeshua back into Judea so that the Great Sanhedrin (**to see link click [Lg](#) - The Great Sanhedrin**) would have control over **Him**. Compare the attempt of Amaziah, the priest of the golden calf at Bethel, to frighten the prophet **Amos** out of Isra'el into Judea. He also failed (**Amos 7:10-17**). But such devious motivation need not have been present in this instance, for not all **Pharisees** wanted to kill **Messiah**; these may have thought enough of **the Lord** to warn **Him**. In fact, **some** were **not far from the kingdom of God** (**Mark 12:34**) and **some** came to faith in **Him** and remained **Pharisees** (**Acts 15:5**), among them Sha'ul of Tarsus (**Acts 21:13**).

"Herod wants to kill you" (Luke 13:31). Jesus was not that far away from Machaerus, the very place where **he** had the Baptizer beheaded. The son of **Herod the Great** (see **[Av](#) - The Visit of the Magi**), **Herod Antipas** was a first-century ruler of Galilee and Perea who bore the title of tetrarch or *ruler of a quarter*. **His** threat was real. Although **Herod** wanted

to see **Messiah** perform a miracle (see [Lp - When Herod Saw Jesus He Was Greatly Pleased](#)), he regarded **the Lord** as a dangerous leader like **Yochanan the Immerser** whom he had killed (see [Fl - John the Baptist Beheaded](#)). **Christ's** answer, like that of Rabbi Sha'ul's to Agav (**Acts 21:13**), is that threats will not discourage **Him** from following **God's** plan.¹⁰⁷⁹



The Lord replied: Go tell that fox, "I go on My way (for a brief but definite period) **today and tomorrow I AM driving out demons and healing people, and on the third day I will reach My goal"** (**Luke 13:32 CJB**). **Herod** had been wily, deceptive, crafty and cruel in dealing with the Herald, disposing of **John** by beheading him secretly and defending **his** act on false grounds. **Antipas** wanted to dispose of **Yeshua** in the same way. But **the renegade Rabbi** was not going to be deterred, nor **His** plans changed because of the threats of **Herod**. **In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day** (a Semitic idiom for a short indefinite period followed by an imminent and certain event) **for surely no prophet can die outside Yerushalayim** (**Luke 13:33**)! **God the Father** had set the appointed time and place of **His Son's** death. **He** was not saying that **He** would arrive in **Tziyon** in three days. The point was that **Yeshua ha-Mashiach** had a mission in mind and **He** would continue on **His** schedule **He Himself** had set. The goal was **the Holy City of David** where **He** would die. There, **He** must present **Himself** publicly to the Great Sanhedrin and to Pontius Pilate, and *then* be put to death.¹⁰⁸⁰

Jerusalem, Jerusalem. **Jesus'** lament, like **Jeremiah's** (see the book of **Lamentations**), bemoaned the fate of **the Sacred City** that refused to heed **God's Prophet** from **Nazareth** (compare **Psalms 137** for a similar lament). **Yerushalayim's** rejection of **the Son of God** had already taken place (see [Ek - It is only by Beelzebub, the Prince of Demons, that This Fellow Drives Out Demons](#)). **You who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you** (**First Samuel 30:6**; **First Kings 12:18, 21:13**; **Second Chronicles 24:21**),

how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, that is, tenderly and lovingly, even though the people **were not willing (Luke 13:34)**. Consequently, since **the nation**, which had even **killed the prophets** that **He** had sent, and had rejected **His** words, they would now kill **Him**.

Look, your house (Zion and her people) is left to you desolate (Greek *aphietai*, meaning *abandoned*). This prophecy of doom was soon fulfilled by **her** complete destruction (see **Mt - The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple on Tisha B'Av in 70 AD**). Then **the Supreme Commander of Life and Death** quoted from **Psalm 118:26: I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"** (**Luke 13:35**). The multitudes did quote this verse when **He** entered **the Holy City** in **His** Triumphal Entry, but their religious leaders disapproved. **He** would not come again until a believing remnant had been prepared who would beg **Him** to come back (see my commentary on **Revelation Ev - The Basis For the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**). In the **far eschatological future** this truth will be proclaimed when **Jesus comes again** and enters **Tziyon** as the millennial **Ruler**.