

**Why Does Jesus Say "The Blood of All the Prophets...
From the Blood of Abel to the Blood of Zechariah"?
(Luke 11:49-51)**

Luke 11: 49-50

Therefore also the Wisdom of God said,
'I will send them prophets and apostles,
some of whom they will kill and persecute,'
so that the blood of all the prophets,

(References to the Beginning of Genesis, the First Book in the Hebrew Canon)

shed from the foundation of the world,

(A Reference to the End of Chronicles, the Last Book in the Hebrew Canon)

may be charged (*ekzēteō*)
against (*apo*) **this generation,**

Luke 11:51

from the blood of Abel

to the blood of Zechariah,¹

who perished between the altar
and the sanctuary.

Yes, I tell you,

it will be required (*ekzēteō*)
of (*apo*) **this generation.**

Conclusion

**Jesus was not thinking chronologically but was including all the prophets
from the first book of the Hebrew Canon to the last.**

¹ Recorded in 2 Chronicles 24:20-22. Another prophet, Uriah, had been martyred later chronologically than Zechariah, during the reign of King Jehoiakim (609-598 B. C). Since the murder of Zechariah is the last killing of a prophet recorded in 2 Chronicles, the final book of the Hebrew Bible, this means that Jesus was referring to the first and last murders of prophets recorded in the Hebrew canon.

One textual issue is that the parallel passage in Matthew 23:35 has "Zechariah the son of Berechiah," (Zech 1:1). However, since the Old Testament gives no account of the death of Zechariah the son of Berechiah, it is doubtful that he is being referred to here. The likely explanation is that "of Berechiah" was an early scribal addition as is witnessed by the fact that the Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest complete Greek text of the New Testament, omits "of Berechiah" in Matthew 23:35. See the ESV Study Bible note on Matthew 23:35.