

Persecution has come! What are we to expect?

Vicki Goforth Parnell 12-19-23 @ 7:27AM

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Matthew 10:24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

1. You will be hated by the world because they hated Jesus Christ.

John 5:18; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:22; 1 John 3:13

2. The religious leaders and communities shall turn on you because they turned on Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10: 18-20; Mark 15: 6-15; Matthew 27: 11-26

3. The world will tell lies upon you just as they did Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5: 11; 10: 25; Mark 3: 22 (Another example: Potiphar's wife and Joseph Genesis 39)

4. The people will deny the power of Jesus Christ and he in you just as they denied this power while he was in human flesh and even after he has been glorified.

Luke 12:9; 23: 2; Titus 1: 16; Exodus 5: 2; 2 Timothy 2:12; 3: 5; 2 Peter 3: 3-4; Matthew 10: 33

5. Friends will abandon you just as the disciples abandoned Jesus Christ in the garden when the soldiers came for him.

Matthew 26: 56 (Another example Paul in Rome too by Demas 2 Timothy 4:10)

6. You will have to learn to pray earnestly, even agonizing in your prayer battles to endure what you are to face as Jesus Christ did in the garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26: 36-46; Mark 14: 32-42; Luke 22: 40-46

7. Those who profess to love you shall betray you just as Peter, other and Judas Iscariot did Jesus Christ, but Judas sealed his betrayal with a kiss.

Matthew 10: 21; 35-37; 26: 48-49; 69-75; John 18: 15-17; 25-27; Psalms 41:9; 55:12-14

8. The enemy shall move against you in the shadows, at night so they can accuse you in the hours of light, of day. Just as they did Jesus Christ when they came for him in the night hours then accused him in the morning hours that followed.

John 18: 13; 28; Matthew 26: 45; 27: 1-2

9. Mobs shall be incited against you just as the mobs were against Jesus Christ as well and some others of his children found written in the Word of God.

Matthew 26: 45; John 18: 3; Luke 4:28-30; Acts 17:5-6

10. For the love of money, you will be sold out, betrayed Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot for 30 pieces of silver.

1 Timothy 6:10; Matthew 27: 3-5; 26: 14-16 (Another example: Samson by Delilah Judges 16: 18)

11. You shall be arrested unjustly, just as Jesus Christ was.

John 18: 12; Matthew 10: 17-18; 26: 47

12. You shall have false evidence created against you just as they did Jesus Christ when he stood before Caiaphas the high priest and Annas.

1 Peter 3: 16; Matthew 26: 59-62; John 18: 13; 24

13. You shall have a mockery for a trial, some more than one as they did Jesus Christ. If you are allowed to even have a trial.

Matthew 26: 57; 27: 11; John 19: 2-3

14. You shall be beaten and tortured even before you were found guilty and after just as Jesus Christ was.

Matthew 26: 67; John 19: 1-3; Mark 15: 16-20; Isaiah 50: 6; 52: 14

15. To serve Jesus Christ you will be made to walk a hard road and endure much hardship and distress, just as Jesus Christ did when he walked the road to Calvary's hill, to Golgotha.

John 19: 17; Matthew 8:20; 10: 38-40; Mark 15: 21-22; Luke 9: 57-62; Isaiah 53: 1-12

(Examples of others' hard walks: Hebrews 11: 35-40)

16. You will be murdered, some of you just as they tried to take Jesus Christ's life only, he was in control and gave his freely.

2 Corinthians 4:11-12; John 19:17; Revelation 6:9-10; 20:4-5

17. You will be mocked as Jesus Christ was.

Matthew 20:19; 27: 27-31; 2 Peter 3:3-7; Proverbs 14:9; Mark 15: 20; 31; Luke 23:11 (Examples: of mocking Genesis 19:14; 21:9; 2 Chronicles 36:16; Acts 17:32)

This is what many of us as true believers of Jesus Christ can expect in our walk of faith in the coming days that lay ahead until we see Jesus Christ return in his glorious appearing when he comes for his children, his bride who are ready in him. No man knows the day or the hour when he will return. Until that time, we must endure the good fight of faith through Jesus

Christ, in his name, by his strength and through his blood that covers us.
(James 1:2-4; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Corinthians 12:10)

The only difference between the children of God suffering and that which Jesus Christ suffered is that we do not have to go through it alone. He will be with us through it all. Never leaving us nor forsaking us and having endured all that he did for us he knows exactly what it takes to comfort, encourage, and strengthen each one of us every step of the way. Because Jesus Christ is faithful and will always be even unto the end of all things.
(Deuteronomy 7:9; Matthew 28:20)

Even in all this we are to take joy in our suffering and persecution, that we have been found worthy to suffer in his name. But we can still have joy, peace, and love beyond all measure that the world cannot understand because it's found in Jesus Christ alone. He is that perfect peace that is beyond mere man's comprehension. He is that strength that will keep us going when we ourselves have no strength left. He is that joy when all around it looks like hope has failed. And he is Balm of Gilead when our pain is the deepest. (1 Peter 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Romans 5:3-5; Philippians 4:7)

Proverbs 24:10 says this, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." This means if your strength is failing even now before all these things truly begin to transpire against us, the children of God then your strength is small, because you're trying to trust in your own strength and not the strength of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 12: 5 says this, "If thou hast run with the footmen and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? And if in the land of peace or in thou trusted they wearied thee, and how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?" This is asking you if you are weary now with all that you're facing during times of peace in what you're facing now, how are you going to stand when the real heavy persecution begins and/or physical war?

We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves in. Whether it be war, or peace. Whether we be in prison or free because we must trust his plans regardless. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior then we're enlisted in his army. We are called to serve. We are called to reach the lost and that might mean being in prison to do so. That will mean refusing to deny Jesus Christ and possibly losing our life for it. But it may also be that by our firm example through Jesus Christ someone else may have the power to stand and not deny Jesus Christ when their time comes to endure such persecution. (Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 3:14-18; 4:12-16; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20)

We are in tribulation days, but the great time of tribulation is upon us. We know Jesus Christ is coming back but until his bride is ready in his eyes and by his holy standards, we will all have to endure more persecution, trials, and tribulations and this is allowed to purify us, purge us, mold us and get us prepared. Again, no man knows the exact day or hour when Jesus Christ will come. (1 Peter 5:10; Matthew 24; Mark 13:32)

Some of us have had dreams and visions of Jesus returning before war begins in America. For me it has always been before the weapons are dropped from the skies upon our land, but what must we endure before this? War can officially begin by America declaring war on other nations and/or their people, or acts of aggression and war by attacks our nation receives on our own territories and lands like Guam, Hawaii for example, with the weapons dropping directly upon us at a later time. Why am I saying all of this, so we understand that we cannot trust in our own hopes. Our hope alone must be in Jesus Christ and him alone. This is not to discourage you but to encourage you because Jesus Christ has warned from the start to prepare us. Now those with eyes to see and ears to hear can see and know more than ever persecution, trials, and tribulations spoken of for the end time days of tribulation are here.

Let us be encouraged by God's Holy Word:

1 Corinthians 10: 13 says, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Habakkuk 3:17-19

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Isaiah 41:10-13

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psalms 34:27: The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Psalms 144:1 Blessed be the LORD my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Death of the Apostles, prophets, and disciples

(By: NOVEMBER 27, 2020 BY HILLTURNES)

PETER – The Apostle was imprisoned in Rome by the Emperor Nero who had him crucified upside down in 67 AD.

MATTHEW – The Apostle was preaching the gospel of Christ in Ethiopia and suffered martyrdom by the sword.

JAMES THE LESSER – The Apostle was thrown from the top of the temple and when that didn't kill him he was beaten to death with a club.

JAMES THE GREAT – The Apostle was put on trial in Jerusalem and sentenced to death. James was beheaded.

BARTHOLOMEW – The Apostle was also known as Nathaniel. Bartholomew was preaching the gospel of Christ in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was flayed to death by a whip while in Armenia.

ANDREW – The Apostle was crucified in Patras, Greece for preaching the gospel of Christ.

THOMAS – The Apostle was on one of his missionary trips to India to preach the gospel when he was stabbed to death with a spear.

JUDE – The Apostle was also known as Thaddeus. Jude was killed by arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

PHILLIP – The Apostle was beheaded in Turkey for preaching the gospel of Christ.

SIMON THE ZEALOT – The Apostle was sawn in half in Persia for preaching the gospel of Christ.

MATTHIAS – The Apostle chosen to replace Judas Iscariot was stoned for preaching the gospel of Christ and then beheaded.

JOHN – The last of the original disciples of Jesus did face martyrdom in Rome where he was boiled alive in a huge basin of oil. However, John was miraculously delivered from death by God (remember God needed John to write his gospel and the book of Revelation). John was also sentenced to work in the mines on the Isle of Patmos but ultimately John died of old age as the only Apostle not to suffer martyrdom.

PAUL – The Apostle was imprisoned in Rome and beheaded by the Emperor Nero in 65 AD.

MARK – The writer of the book of Mark and disciple of Christ was preaching the gospel in Alexandria, Egypt when he was martyred. An angry mob bound Mark's feet and he was drug through the streets of Alexandria by a team of horses.

LUKE – The writer of the book of Luke and disciple of Christ was hanged in Greece for preaching the gospel.

JOHN THE BAPTIST – John was the prophesied forerunner of Christ. John was imprisoned by Herod and later beheaded.

STEPHEN – This disciple of Christ was stoned to death in Jerusalem for his faith.

The above individuals are just some of the famous people from the Bible that we know were killed in service to God. The number of unknown Christians who were martyred in the early days we'll never know but there were a lot. Today in America Christians aren't persecuted like they were back then but the day will come when they are so we need to be prepared

to meet that challenge. Revelation tells us Christians will one day be beheaded for not renouncing their faith in Christ.

Some Old Testament prophets called to service by God were also slain:

ISAIAH – Killed with a saw by Manasseh, King of Judah.

ZECHARIAH – Slain in the temple by Joash, King of Judah.

JEREMIAH – Stoned to death in Egypt by Jews living there.

EZEKIEL – Slain in Chaldea by the chief Jew living there.

HABAKKUK – Stoned to death in Jerusalem by Jews.

AMOS – Tortured and killed with a staff by the priests of Bethel.

WHAT PRICE ARE YOU WILLING TO SUFFER FOR JESUS CHRIST?