

Persecution

The apostle Paul said if there was anyone who ever wanted to live a godly life, then he should expect to meet with persecution (2 Tim 3:12). So, we have to learn what persecution is (it is not just being called hippies or such names). We have had people from the Christian and secular anti-cult syndicates trying to destroy us for years. Jn 15:18-21 — Their hatred towards God has been cleverly covered up in their hearts. It will be shown that Satan is their God (those who seek to destroy and persecute us unjustly) even though they say otherwise. Satan's most avid followers are those who deny that he exists. Mk 10:30; Acts 14:22 — Speaks of the necessity of persecution. We must be persecuted, so through tribulation, hardship, pain, suffering, we shall enter the Kingdom. We MUST be, shall be, will be persecuted. This testifies against ungodliness in all others who say they also live godly lives (Mal 3:18).

Mt 10:22; Acts 14:22; Phil 1:29; 1 Pet 4:12 — If someone is in Messiah there is no way he is going to get out of being persecuted, and if he is living a godly life in Messiah he will be regarded among those who God is preparing for eternity (Mt 13:21).

A lot of people in the world have been persecuted for various reasons, but we must be persecuted for righteousness sake (Mt 5:12-13). Mk 10:30 explains who the ones are who are persecuted for righteousness sake. They are the ones hastening the day of His coming (2 Pet 3:12; Dan 12:2-3) through their light, momentary affliction (2 Cor 4:16-17; Rom 8:17; Mt 5:11; Rom 12:14; Mt 5:44; Jn 15:20; Acts 9:4; Ps 119:86). Persecution must come ... to see whether all who are persecuted are persecuted without *cause* ... that is, whether it is *righteous* persecution or not (Mt 5:10,12; 1 Cor 4:12; 1 Ths 3:4).

I kept telling you that we would be persecuted (Heb 11:37; Rom 8:35; Mt 13:21; Mk 10:30). Persecution and eternal life go hand in hand. When persecution comes, eternal life within you wells up and overflows. When persecution comes it reveals our inner joy — which is the only way we can endure till the end. Otherwise we would be too disheartened and weighed down (2 Cor 12:10; 2 Ths 1:4-5; 2 Tim 3:11).

Persecution separates the godly from the ungodly — the righteous in Messiah from the righteous in the nations, those who persecute from those who are persecuted. Christianity always persecutes the saints, and later enshrines them.

Mt 23:33-34; Jn 15:18-25; 1 Jn 4:5-6; Mt 24:9-12; Jn 17:14.

Persecution (1377 in the Greek) — means to pursue with dogged determination to destroy. It is to be persistent, to press toward, to ensue. Satan wants to destroy the Body of Messiah and he wants to use his servants to it (2 Cor 11:13-15). We have to expect persecution as much as we expect one hundred houses for every one that is given up. This is a promise to all those who follow Him in fulfillment of the Good News our Master spoke (Mk 10:29-30). In Jn 15:18-21 it speaks of those who hate you because they hate Him and love the world. They don't *know Him*, though they claim to (verse 21). People like Bob Pardon, a *cult expert*, and those in France who are pursuing us, tell government officials that what we do is wrong and corrupt and incite them to take action against us. Yet they don't come to speak with us directly themselves because their deeds are evil. Everything is subtle — done behind our backs.

It's always the Christians (the religious ones in the harlot system) whom Satan is the head of and controls. This substantiates Rev 18:20, that it is and always has been the religious ones who strike out to persecute God's people. Rev 17:16-18 — God puts it in the hearts of the Ten Kings to destroy Christianity, and in so doing they execute His purpose (Rev 17:17). This is exactly parallel to Jehu in the Old Testament when he gathered all those in Israel who were worshippers of Baal into their temple for a huge celebration and dedication service. Once the decree went out that strictly only true worshippers of Baal were to be gathered there, then they were all destroyed quickly. Every true Christian who is totally devoted will be called in the same way to their temple for that huge celebration to give glory and honor to their Baal Jesus and in *one hour* they will all be destroyed (Rev 18:8,10,17). He is called Baal (Lord) Jesus. Their inspirations came from another God thought

they called Him *Lord*.

When persecution comes (Mk 10:29-30) we have to know that it is a blessing (1 Pet 4:12-14), that it is nothing strange. It should be expected. It is a clear indication that *we are counted worthy* to suffer for His sake (Acts 5:41 and 2 Ths 1:5).

These who “offer service to God” will pursue us with bitter hatred. We don’t have a “persecution complex” just because we are talking about such things, but it is important for us; we need to understand so we don’t get an “attitude” and begin withdrawing. This is Satan’s whole aim to draw us inward and vanquish our power. Satan is the one who persecutes, but he is a spirit (2 Cor 11:14-15) so he has to use human beings as his servants to carry out his will. Bob Pardon doesn’t care how many lives he tries to destroy; he is convinced he is “serving God.” He came in our midst as a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Godly lives testify against godlessness. So just as in Elijah’s day, there has to be a distinction to determine who YHWH is and what His will is. Remember that Jezebel sought to destroy Elijah after that standard was again raised up. Godliness stirs up strife in Satan, so he stirs up strife in his servants to destroy them. Our accusers say, “They can’t even have dogs, toys, watch television, etc.,” on and on. But sheep don’t have this spirit — lapping up dung from the world like dogs do. That is not their nature to do so. Just remember that people are not our enemy, but Satan. But he also controls men’s lives. We are to respond according to Rom 12:17-21. Pray for those who persecute you (Mt 5:44-45). The godly are persecuted, but *never* persecute. They will kick (cast) you out of their synagogues and kill you, thinking that they are “offering service to God” (Jn 16:1-3). So, when these things come upon you, don’t be surprised. It is for our testing and our approval (1 Pet 4:12; 2 Ths 1:4; Phil 1:27-28).

The world is condemned by the observation of Jn 13:34-35 and Jn 17:23, which persecution drew them even more together. The only way the enemy can destroy the Edah is from within — never from without — if the people are living a godly life in Messiah Yahshua. Mt 24:9 draws the true ones together, close.

Jms 1:2-4 — Persecution is the testing of our FAITH which in turn develops perseverance so that we may be made complete. We cannot be made complete without such kinds of trials and testings. Heb 12:16 — Many will trade their inheritance for a bowl of soup when affliction comes. 1 Pet 2:20-23; 3:8-17 — All of God’s servants who are suffering from persecution from Satan’s servants are having their souls purified now for eternity. The suffering they are going through in this age qualifies them for the next age and the eternal age. It purifies the soul. 1 Ths 5:23; Col 1:22-23 — made complete (1 Pet 4:12-19; Jms 1:2-4). 1 Pet 4:19 — Demonstrates to the world in every place (Mal 1:11) the surpassing value of knowing Messiah, the value of the Spiritual over the Fleshly, the eternal over the temporal (1 Pet 4:12; 2 Cor 4:18).

1 Pet 3:16 — The evil men who slander and the skeptics who watch us in every place (1 Pet 2:12) hear about the rest of us all around the world as well. They are seeing our response to suffering and persecution to determine whether our Savior is real or false. Our response to persecution shows whether our loyalty to Him will be broken or not. Whether our faith is real or false. It determines whether we are who we say we are and whether our love and unity is truly from the true God. This will differentiate us from all others who claim to serve God (Mal 3:18)

Jn 13:35; 17:23 — They will watch and see if we are faithful or hold Him up to public shame, reproach.

Persecution is the only way the world will be able to know whether we are loyal, reliable, predictable. It will determine whether Mt 24:9-13 will lead to the Kingdom being proclaimed as a witness to all the world or not. It will determine whether the witness is reliable and its subjects to the King authentic. Whether we are secure in Him who we claim is the Real One, the True One of 1 Jn 5:20. They will see whether our God is really the God of ISRAEL or not, the God of Abraham or not, whether He is miraculously at work within us.

1 Pet 3:13-18 — Never ever do true disciples distort the truth about Christianity; never are Christians persecuted for righteousness sake. If we are true and real, we are righteous, and if we are righteous, one of the greatest joys of life comes through persecution, for it shows that we are the blessed people of God (Mt 5:10-12). It is a seal of authenticity. God’s servants will suffer from Satan’s servants. So if persecution does not make us rejoice, either we are not persecuted for righteousness sake, or we are false (1 Pet 4:14). Whenever the Spirit of glory is put upon a people who are worthy of persecution they will rejoice — not from ritual but from the inner joy that comes

from the Spirit (1 Pet 4:12-19). AMEN!

Unless He produces in us who are Righteous the inner joy that causes us to rejoice, who could endure to the end? Mt 24:13 — Only His True Ones!