

Persecution

It is Satan's policy to persecute the elect of God. 2 Tim 3:12 is emphatic. God's elect are not surprised when they suffer persecution, for wherever they are, they will be persecuted (Jn 15:18-20; 16:1-3). Satan has workers, and those workers form a company. His company loves darkness rather than the light. It is company policy for Satan's workers to persecute God's holy people who live no longer for themselves (2 Cor 5:15).

Holy means set apart. God has people who are set apart, and Satan has people who are set apart. God has Holy People, and Satan has "holy" people. God's elect, His Holy People, never persecute even Satan's holy people. Satan has holy people also, who are set apart to persecute God's Holy People. God's Holy People are a priesthood, a Holy nation (1 Pet 2:9-10). Jn 16:1-3 – Satan's holy people think they are doing God a service when they persecute His people. God's Holy People have never persecuted anyone; they pray for their enemies.

Jn 15:18 – The *world* is all who are under the control of Satan's power (1 Jn 5:19). They even think they are doing God a service when they kill God's people, thinking His people are Satan's people. This is the reason God's people are commanded to pray for those who persecute them. Jn 15:19 – Whoever belongs to the world will hate God's people. The world loves its own people, but it hates those who were chosen out of this world.

If the righteous people of this world persecute the Holy people of God, they lose their righteousness and become unjust, and will become worthy of Satan's punishment (Mt 25:41). They will no longer be those of the nations who befriend the Holy people, and their end will be that of Mt 25:46. The Holy are Messiah's own brothers (Mt 12:50; 25:40-41).

Paul, in Acts 9:4, was persecuting Messiah Himself (Acts 3:17; 1 Tim 1:13; Acts 17:30; Heb 9:7). What spirit was compelling Paul to persecute the Son of God? Paul was murdering Messiah Himself (Acts 8:1; 7:51,52,53, 58). He was guilty of the blood of Messiah. Verses 59 and 60 show the difference between the Holy Ones of God, and the holy ones of Satan.

Paul (Saul) approved of Stephen's being put to death (Jn 3:19-20). But Paul said that he did it in ignorance (Gal 1:13-23; Acts 9:1-30; 22:1-16; 26:11-14). Paul was formerly a blasphemer (Jms 2:7), a persecutor, plus a violently arrogant and insolent man. He acted according to the prejudices he was taught in his educational upbringing and schooling in the ways of Pharisee-ism.

God showed him mercy, because He knew that Paul was willing to do His will, if he had the chance to know the truth, since he was misinformed. Paul admitted that he was misinformed. He did what he did out of ignorance. He spoke unjustly against Yahshua, becoming a blasphemer. He spoke against His name, His teachings and His ways. But Gen 18:19 says that the sons of Abraham will keep the Way of Yahweh. This is the reason the promise to Abraham was in abeyance for the seed. There was so much misunderstanding and misinformation by the Satan-inspired teachers of the Jews of that day. But there is hope (1 Tim 1:15-17; Mt 21:43; Gen 18:19; 15:18; 17:1,7,8; Acts 26:6-8; Rom 11:15).

Israel in its apostate state (as Christianity today) has a policy to persecute God's very own elect (Mt 24:24; Rev 18:20). Satan's people have a *policy* (not just a rule) to persecute, kill, and destroy from the face of the earth what will bring about Dan 2:44 (and Heb 10:13; Rev 20:1-2; 11:15; Isa 49:6; Mt 21:43; 24:14; Rev 17:16-18; 18:4-10,20; 19:2-3).

Of course Satan, who controls governments, who took every measure to murder Messiah, will also, through even religion, take every measure to destroy His seed (Isa 53:10-11) who will bring to fruition the purpose of His death — to procure a nation, a stone, to accomplish all His will and purpose. This will be the result of the suffering of His soul in death (Isa 49:6-8; Mt 21:43; 24:14; Rev 11:15; 20:1-2; Heb 10:13; Acts 3:21).