

~PERSECUTION (1570)

[Hebrew, *ra-dhaph'*, Greek, *di-o'ko*]

.. History

.. Persecution Of Christians

.. Proper Attitude Toward Persecution

- Harassment or injury that is deliberately inflicted on persons because of social status, racial origin, or religious faith and beliefs, the purpose in the latter instance being to stamp out such beliefs and prevent their spread among new converts.
- The Hebrew verb *ra-dhaph'* and the Greek *di-o'ko*, which mean persecute, can also be rendered, pursue, chase.
- The enemy said; I shall **pursue!** I shall overtake! I shall divide spoil! My soul will be filled with them! I shall draw my sword! My hand will drive them away! (**Exodus 15:9**)
- Then the Amorites who were dwelling in that mountain came out to meet you and went **chasing** you, just as bees do, and scattering you in Seir as far as Hormah. (**Deuteronomy 1:44**)
- So, then, let us **pursue** the things making for peace and the things that are upbuilding to one another. (**Romans 14:19**)
- And people will say to you, See there! Or, See here! Do not go out or **chase** after them. (**Luke 17:23**)
- **Persecution** takes various forms. It may be limited to **verbal abuse, ridicule, and insults.**
- But they were continually **making jest at the messengers of the true God and despising his words and mocking at his prophets,** until the rage of Yehowah came up against his people, until there was no healing. (**2 Chronicles 36:16**)
- But when some went on **hardening themselves** and not believing, speaking injuriously about The Way before the multitude, he withdrew from them and separated the disciples from them, daily giving talks in the school auditorium of Tyrannus. (**Acts of Apostles 19:9**)

- Or it may include economic pressures;
- And it **puts under compulsion** all persons, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they should give these a mark in their right hand or upon their forehead. (**Revelation 13:16**)
- And that nobody might be able to buy or sell except a person having the mark, the name of the wild beast or the number of its name. (**Revelation 13:17**)
- **Bodily injury**
- And they braided a crown out of thorns and put it on his head and a reed in his right hand. And, kneeling before him, they made fun of him, saying; Good day, you King of the Jews! (**Matthew 27:29**)
- And they spit upon him and took the reed and began hitting him upon his head. (**Matthew 27:30**)
- At this they gave heed to him, and they summoned the apostles, **flogged them**, and ordered them to **stop speaking** upon the basis of Jesus name, and let them go. (**Acts of Apostles 5:40**)
- **Imprisonment**
- But before all these things people will lay their hands upon you and **persecute** you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, you being haled before kings and governor's for the sake of my name. (**Luke 21:12**)
- And the crowd rose up together against them, and the civil magistrates, after tearing the outer garments off them, gave the command to beat them with rods. (**Acts of Apostles 16:22**)
- After they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely. (**Acts of Apostles 16:23**)
- Because he got such an order, he threw them into the inner prison and made their feet fast in the stocks. (**Acts of Apostles 16:24**)

- **Hatred, and even death.**
- **Then people will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be **objects of hatred** by all the nations on account of my name. (Matthew 24:9)**
- **He did away with James the brother of John by the sword. (Acts of Apostles 12:2)**
- **It may be promoted by religious authorities,**
- **At that the Pharisees went out and immediately began holding council with the party followers of Herod against him, in order to destroy him. (Mark 3:6)**
- **Five days later the High Priest Ananias came down with some older men and a public speaker, a certain Tertullus, and they gave information to the governor against Paul. (Acts of Apostles 24:1)**
- **But, when two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and because Felix desired to gain favor with the Jews, he left Paul bound. (Acts of Apostles 24:27)**
- **Or it may be carried out by uninformed persons.**
- **Now the child kept growing and came to be weaned, and Abraham then prepared a big feast on the day of Isaac's being weaned. (Genesis 21:8)**
- **And Sarah kept noticing the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **poking fun**. (Genesis 21:9)**
- **But just as then the one born in the manner of flesh began persecuting the one born in the manner of spirit, so also now. (Galatians 4:29)**
- **And ignorant ones**
- **Although formerly I was a blasphemer and a persecutor and an insolent man. Nevertheless, I was shown mercy, because **I was ignorant** and acted with a lack of faith. (1 Timothy 1:13)**
- **Or by **unreasoning, fanatical mobs**.**

- **Now all those hearing these things in the synagogue became filled with anger. (Luke 4:28)**
- **And they rose up and hurried him outside the city, and they led him to the brow of the mountain upon which their city had been built, in order to throw him down headlong. (Luke 4:29)**
- **But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining he was dead. (Acts of Apostles 14:19)**
- **But the Jews, getting jealous, took into their company certain wicked men of the marketplace idlers and formed a mob and proceeded to throw the city into an uproar. And they assaulted the house of Jason and went seeking to have them brought forth to the rabble. (Acts of Apostles 17:5)**
- **But often these parties are only the agents of more powerful and sinister instigators unseen wicked spirit forces.**
- **Put on the complete suit of armor from God that you may be able to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil. (Ephesians 6:11)**
- **Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)**
- **In the original prophecy at;**
- **And Yehowah God proceeded to say to the serpent; Because you have done this thing, you are the cursed one out of all the domestic animals and out of all the wild beasts of the field. Upon your belly you will go and dust is what you will eat all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:14)**
- **And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (Genesis 3:15)**

- **Yehowah God foretold enmity between the serpent and the woman and between their respective seeds. The Bible as a whole bears witness to the fulfillment of this prophecy.**
- **Jesus clearly identified the serpent as Satan the Devil and at the same time told those persecuting him that they were from their father the Devil, hence of his seed.**
- **I know that you are Abraham's offspring, but you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you. (John 8:37)**
- **What things I have seen with my Father I speak, and you, therefore, do the things you have heard from your father. (John 8:38)**
- **In answer they said to him; Our father is Abraham. Jesus said to them; If you are Abraham's children, do the works of Abraham. (John 8:39)**
- **But now you are seeking to kill me, a man that has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. (John 8:40)**
- **You do the works of your father. They said to him; We were not born from fornication, we have one Father, God. (John 8:41)**
- **Jesus said to them; If God were your Father, you would love me, for from God I came forth and am here. Neither have I come of my own initiative at all, but that One sent me forth. (John 8:42)**
- **Why is it you do not know what I am speaking? Because you cannot listen to my word. (John 8:43)**
- **You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. (John 8:44)**
- **Because I, on the other hand, tell the truth, you do not believe me. (John 8:45)**

- **Who of you convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why is it you do not believe me? (John 8:46)**
- **He that is from God listens to the sayings of God. This is why you do not listen, because you are not from God. (John 8:47)**
- **In answer the Jews said to him; Do we not rightly say; You are a Samaritan and have a demon? (John 8:48)**
- **Jesus answered; I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. (John 8:49)**
- **But I am not seeking glory for myself, there is One that is seeking and judging. (John 8:50)**
- **Most truly I say to you, If anyone observes my word, he will never see death at all. (John 8:51)**
- **The Jews said to him; Now we do know you have a demon. Abraham died, also the prophets, but you say; If anyone observes my word, he will never taste death at all. (John 8:52)**
- **You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, are you? Also, the prophets died. Who do you claim to be? (John 8:53)**
- **Jesus answered; If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father that glorifies me, he who you say is your God. (John 8:54)**
- **And yet you have not known him. But I know him. And if I said I do not know him I should be like you, a liar. But I do know him and am observing his word. (John 8:55)**
- **Abraham your father rejoiced greatly in the prospect of seeing my day, and he saw it and rejoiced. (John 8:56)**
- **Therefore the Jews said to him; You are not yet fifty years old, and still you have seen Abraham? (John 8:57)**
- **Jesus said to them; Most truly I say to you, before Abraham came into existence, I have been. (John 8:58)**
- **Therefore they picked up stones to hurl them at him, but Jesus hid and went out of the temple. (John 8:59)**

- The book of Revelation shows that such **persecution** continues down to the time of Christ's taking power to reign and even thereafter for a period, for when Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth, the dragon **persecutes** the woman, waging war with the remaining ones of her seed who obey God and bear witness to Jesus.
- And war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled **(Revelation 12:7)**
- But it did not prevail, neither was a place found for them any longer in heaven. **(Revelation 12:8)**
- So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth, he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him. **(Revelation 12:9)**
- And I heard a loud voice in heaven say; Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God! **(Revelation 12:10)**
- And they conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their witnessing, and they did not love their souls even in the face of death. **(Revelation 12:11)**
- On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time. **(Revelation 12:12)**
- Now when the dragon saw that it was hurled down to the earth, it persecuted the woman that gave birth to the male child. **(Revelation 12:13)**
- But the two wings of the great eagle were given the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, there is where she is fed for a time and times and half a time away from the face of the serpent. **(Revelation 12:14)**
- And the serpent disgorged water like a river from its mouth after the woman, to cause her to be drowned by the river. **(Revelation**

12:15)

- But the earth came to the woman's help, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon disgorged from its mouth. (**Revelation 12:16**)
- And the dragon grew **wrathful** at the woman, and went off to **wage war** with the remaining ones of her seed, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus. (**Revelation 12:17**)
- A prominent agent used throughout history by Satan is the wild beast, a symbolic figure explained in the article.

See Also BEASTS, SYMBOLIC

- And it stood still upon the sand of the sea. And I saw a wild beast ascending out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, and upon its horns ten diadems, but upon its heads blasphemous names. (**Revelation 13:1**)
- And there was granted it to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them, and authority was given it over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. (**Revelation 13:7**)
- Another is Babylon the Great, discussed under the article bearing that heading.
- And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery. Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth. (**Revelation 17:5**)
- And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the holy ones and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. Well, on catching sight of her I wondered with great wonderment. (**Revelation 17:6**)
- The Satanic enmity toward those seeking to do God's will in righteousness and his use of the above-mentioned agencies can be traced throughout all Biblical periods, as the following history shows.

.. History

- **Religious persecution** has a history, according to Jesus, running all the way back to Adam's son Cain.
- And it came about at the expiration of some time that Cain proceeded to bring some fruits of the ground as an offering to Yehowah. (**Genesis 4:3**)
- But as for Abel, he too brought some firstlings of his flock, even their fatty pieces. Now while Yehowah was looking with favor upon Abel and his offering. (**Genesis 4:4**)
- He did not look with any favor upon Cain and upon his offering. And Cain grew hot with great anger, and his countenance began to fall. (**Genesis 4:5**)
- At this Yehowah said to Cain; Why are you hot with anger and why has your countenance fallen? (**Genesis 4:6**)
- If you turn to doing good, will there not be an exaltation? But if you do not turn to doing good, there is sin crouching at the entrance, and for you is its craving, and will you, for your part, get the mastery over it? (**Genesis 4:7**)
- After that Cain said to Abel his brother; Let us go over into the field. So it came about that while they were in the field Cain proceeded to assault Abel his brother and kill him. (**Genesis 4:8**)
- For this reason, here I am sending forth to you prophets and wise men and public instructors. Some of them you will kill and impale, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and **persecute** from city to city. (**Matthew 23:34**)
- That there may come upon you all the righteous blood spilled on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. (**Matthew 23:35**)
- **Cain killed his brother Abel because he was motivated by the wicked one, Satan the Devil.**
- Not like Cain, who originated with the wicked one and slaughtered his brother. And for the sake of what did he slaughter him? Because his own works were wicked, but those of his brother were righteous. (**1 John 3:12**)

- **The issue involved in Abel's death centered around faithful worship of Yehowah.**
- **By faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than Cain, through which faith he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness respecting his gifts, and through it he, although he died, yet speaks. ([Hebrews 11:4](#))**
- **Job, a man of God whose name means, **Object of Hostility**, in time became a target of wicked **persecution** instigated by Satan. Job's wife and three friends were only tools used wittingly or unwittingly by this archenemy of God and man.**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? ([Job 1:8](#))**
- **Finally his wife said to him; Are you yet holding fast your integrity? Curse God and die! ([Job 2:9](#))**
- **Why do you men keep persecuting me as God does, and not become satisfied with my very flesh? ([Job 19:22](#))**
- **For you men say; Why do we keep persecuting him? When the very root of the matter is found in me. ([Job 19:28](#))**
- **From time to time rulers of Judah and Israel inflicted much suffering on God's special representatives. King Saul, for example, made David, the man agreeable to God's heart;**
- **And after removing him, he raised up for them David as king, respecting whom he bore witness and said; I have found David the son of Jesse, a man agreeable to my heart, who will do all the things I desire. ([Acts of Apostles 13:22](#))**
- **The principal target of his hatred.**
- **For all the days that the son of Jesse is alive on the ground, you and your kingship will not be firmly established. So now send and fetch him to me, for he is destined for death. ([1 Samuel 20:31](#))**

- **However, Jonathan answered Saul his father and said to him; Why should he be put to death? What has he done? (1 Samuel 20:32)**
- **At that Saul went hurling the spear at him to strike him, and Jonathan came to know that it had been determined upon by his father to put David to death. (1 Samuel 20:33)**
- **And David continued in fear because Saul had gone out to look for his soul while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. (1 Samuel 23:15)**
- **Eventually Saul came to this side of the mountain, and David and his men were on that side of the mountain. So David became hurried to go away because of Saul, all the while Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to grab hold of them. (1 Samuel 23:26)**
- **Do pay attention to my entreating cry, for I have become very much impoverished. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I am. (Psalms 142:6)**
- **During the rule of Ahab and Jezebel, many prophets of Yehowah were forced into hiding as fugitives or were killed.**
- **Has not my lord been told what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of Yehowah, how I kept some of the prophets of Yehowah hid, a hundred men by fifties in a cave, and kept supplying them bread and water? (1 Kings 18:13)**
- **And now you are saying; Go, say to your lord; Here is Elijah. And he will be bound to kill me. (1 Kings 18:14)**
- **To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (1 Kings 19:10)**
- **King Manasseh shed innocent blood in very great quantity.**
- **And there was also innocent blood that Manasseh shed in very great quantity, until he had filled Jerusalem from end to end, besides his sin with which he caused Judah to sin by doing what**

was bad in the eyes of Yehowah. ([2 Kings 21:16](#))

- **King Jehoiakim put to death Urijah, a man prophesying in the name of Yehowah.**
- **And there also happened to be a man prophesying in the name of Yehowah, Urijah the son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim. And he kept prophesying against this city and against this land in accord with all the words of Jeremiah. ([Jeremiah 26:20](#))**
- **And King Jehoiakim and all his mighty men and all the princes got to hear his words, and the king began seeking to put him to death. When Urijah got to hear of it he at once became afraid and ran away and came into Egypt. ([Jeremiah 26:21](#))**
- **But King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt, Elnathan the son of Achbor and other men with him to Egypt. ([Jeremiah 26:22](#))**
- **And they proceeded to bring Urijah out from Egypt and to bring him to King Jehoiakim, who then struck him down with the sword and cast his dead body into the graveyard of the sons of the people. ([Jeremiah 26:23](#))**
- **Jeremiah suffered much **persecution** at the hands of government officials.**
- **You yourself have known. O Yehowah, remember me and turn your attention to me and avenge me upon my persecutors. In your slowness to anger do not take me away. Take note of my bearing reproach on account of your own self. ([Jeremiah 15:15](#))**
- **Let my persecutors be put to shame, but let me personally be put to no shame. Let them be the ones to be struck with terror, but let me personally not be struck with terror. Bring upon them the day of calamity, and break them even with twice as much breakdown. ([Jeremiah 17:18](#))**
- **But Yehowah was with me like a terrible mighty one. That is why the very ones persecuting me will stumble and not prevail. They will certainly be put to much shame, because they will not have prospered. Their indefinitely lasting humiliation will be one that will not be forgotten. ([Jeremiah 20:11](#))**
- **And the princes began to get indignant at Jeremiah, and they**

- struck him and put him into the house of fetters, in the house of Jehonathan the secretary, for this was what they had made the house of detention. (**Jeremiah 37:15**)
- When Jeremiah came into the house of the cistern and into the vaulted rooms, then Jeremiah continued dwelling there many days. (**Jeremiah 37:16**)
 - And the princes began to say to the king; Let this man, please, be put to death, for that is how he is weakening the hands of the men of war who are left remaining in this city and the hands of all the people, by speaking to them according to these words. For this man is one seeking not for the peace of this people but for calamity. (**Jeremiah 38:4**)
 - So King Zedekiah said; Look! He is in your hands. For there is nothing at all in which the king himself can prevail against you. (**Jeremiah 38:5**)
 - And they proceeded to take Jeremiah and throw him into the cistern of Malchijah the son of the king, which was in the Courtyard of the Guard. So they let Jeremiah down by means of ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water, but mire, and Jeremiah began to sink down into the mire. (**Jeremiah 38:6**)
 - **Because of the unfaithfulness of his people Israel, Yehowah allowed other nations to persecute them at times, even to the point of taking them into exile.**
 - **And Yehowah your God will certainly put all these oaths upon your enemies and those who hate you, who have persecuted you. (**Deuteronomy 30:7**)**
 - **Judah has gone into exile because of the affliction and because of the abundance of servitude. She herself has had to dwell among the nations. No resting-place has she found. All those who were persecuting her have overtaken her among distressing circumstances. (**Lamentations 1:3**)**
 - **There are other instances where violent **persecution**, legalized by government decree, was turned loose on those maintaining integrity to Yehowah, as when the three Hebrews were thrown into the fiery furnace and when Daniel was cast to the lions.**

- **At that time Nebuchadnezzar, in a rage and fury, said to bring in Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Consequently these able-bodied men were brought in before the king. (Daniel 3:13)**
- **Nebuchadnezzar was answering and saying to them; Is it really so, O Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you are not serving my own gods, and the image of gold that I have set up you are not worshipping? (Daniel 3:14)**
- **Now if you are ready so that when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and worship the image that I have made, all right. But if you do not worship, at that same moment you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is that god that can rescue you out of my hands? (Daniel 3:15)**
- **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered, and they were saying to the king; O Nebuchadnezzar, we are under no necessity in this regard to say back a word to you. (Daniel 3:16)**
- **If it is to be, our God whom we are serving is able to rescue us. Out of the burning fiery furnace and out of your hand, O king, he will rescue us. (Daniel 3:17)**
- **But if not, let it become known to you, O king, that your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not worship. (Daniel 3:18)**
- **Then it was that Nebuchadnezzar himself got filled with fury, and the very expression of his face was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He was answering and saying to heat up the furnace seven times more than it was customary to heat it up. (Daniel 3:19)**
- **And to certain able-bodied men of vital energy who were in his military force he said to bind Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, in order to throw them into the burning fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:20)**
- **At that time the high officials and the satraps themselves were constantly seeking to find some pretext against Daniel respecting the kingdom, but there was no pretext or corrupt thing at all that they were able to find, forasmuch as he was trustworthy and no**

negligence or corrupt thing at all was found in him. (**Daniel 6:4**)

- **Consequently these able-bodied men were saying; We shall find in this Daniel no pretext at all, except we have to find it against him in the Law of his God. (Daniel 6:5)**
- **Accordingly these high officials and satraps themselves entered as a throng to the king, and this is what they were saying to him; O Darius the king, live on even for times indefinite. (Daniel 6:6)**
- **All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high royal officers and the governor's, have taken counsel together to establish a royal statute and to enforce an interdict, that whoever makes a petition to any god or man for thirty days except to you, O king, should be thrown to the lions pit. (Daniel 6:7)**
- **Now, O king, may you establish the statute and sign the writing, in order for it not to be changed, according to the Law of the Medes and the Persians, which is not annulled. (Daniel 6:8)**
- **In accord with this, King Darius himself signed the writing and the interdict. (Daniel 6:9)**
- **But Daniel, as soon as he knew that the writing had been signed, entered into his house, and, the windows in his roof chamber being open for him toward Jerusalem, even three times in a day he was kneeling on his knees and praying and offering praise before his God, as he had been regularly doing prior to this. (Daniel 6:10)**
- **At that time these able-bodied men themselves crowded in and found Daniel petitioning and imploring favor before his God. (Daniel 6:11)**
- **Then it was that they approached and were saying before the king concerning the interdict of the king. Is there not an interdict that you have signed that any man that asks a petition from any god or man for thirty days except from you, O king, he should be thrown to the lions pit? The king was answering and saying; The matter is well established according to the Law of the Medes and the Persians, which is not annulled. (Daniel 6:12)**
- **Immediately they answered, and they were saying before the**

- king; Daniel, who is of the exiles of Judah, has paid no regard to you, O king, nor to the interdict that you signed, but three times in a day he is making his petition. (**Daniel 6:13**)
- Consequently the king, as soon as he heard the word, it was very displeasing to him, and toward Daniel he set his mind in order to rescue him, and till the setting of the sun he kept on striving to deliver him. (**Daniel 6:14**)
 - Finally these able-bodied men themselves entered as a throng to the king, and they were saying to the king; Take note, O king, that the Law belonging to the Medes and the Persians is that any interdict or statute that the king himself establishes is not to be changed. (**Daniel 6:15**)
 - Accordingly the king himself commanded, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the pit of the lions. The king was answering and saying to Daniel; Your God whom you are serving with constancy, he himself will rescue you. (**Daniel 6:16**)
 - And a stone was brought and placed on the mouth of the pit, and the king sealed it with his signet ring and with the signet ring of his grandees, in order, that nothing should be changed in the case of Daniel. (**Daniel 6:17**)
 - **During the reign of Persian King Ahasuerus, assault and persecution flared up against the Jews in general, and against Mordecai in particular, at the instance of wicked Haman the Agagite.**
 - After these things King Ahasuerus magnified Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite and proceeded to exalt him and to put his throne above all the other princes that were with him. (**Esther 3:1**)
 - And all the kings servants that were in the kings gate were bowing low and prostrating themselves to Haman, for so the king had commanded respecting him. But as for Mordecai, he would neither bow low nor prostrate himself. (**Esther 3:2**)
 - And the kings servants who were in the kings gate began to say to Mordecai; Why are you sidestepping the kings commandment? (**Esther 3:3**)
 - And it came about that, as they talked to him day by day, and he

did not listen to them, then they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's affairs would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. (**Esther 3:4**)

- Now Haman kept seeing that Mordecai was not bowing low and prostrating himself to him, and Haman became filled with rage. (**Esther 3:5**)
- But it was despicable in his eyes to lay hand upon Mordecai alone, for they had told him about Mordecai's people, and Haman began seeking to annihilate all the Jews who were in all the realm of Ahasuerus, Mordecai's people. (**Esther 3:6**)
- In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, someone cast Pur, that is, the Lot, before Haman from day to day and from month to month, to the twelfth, that is, the month Adar. (**Esther 3:7**)
- And Haman proceeded to say to King Ahasuerus; There is one certain people scattered and separated among the peoples in all the jurisdictional districts of your realm, and their laws are different from all other peoples, and the kings own laws they are not performing, and for the king it is not appropriate to let them alone. (**Esther 3:8**)
- If to the king it does seem good, let there be a writing that they be destroyed, and ten thousand silver talents I shall pay into the hands of those doing the work by bringing it into the kings treasury. (**Esther 3:9**)
- At that the king removed his signet ring from his own hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the one showing hostility to the Jews. (**Esther 3:10**)
- And the king went on to say to Haman; The silver is given to you, also the people, to do with them according to what is good in your own eyes. (**Esther 3:11**)
- The kings secretaries were then called in the first month on the thirteenth day of it, and writing went on according to all that Haman commanded the kings satraps and the governor's who were over the different jurisdictional districts, and the princes of the different peoples, of each jurisdictional district, in its own style of writing, and each people in its own tongue, in the name

of King Ahasuerus it was written and it was sealed with the king's signet ring. ([Esther 3:12](#))

- At that Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him; Let them make a stake fifty cubits high. Then in the morning say to the king that they should hang Mordecai on it. Then go in with the king to the banquet joyful. So the thing seemed good before Haman, and he proceeded to have the stake made. ([Esther 5:14](#))
- Other sources of **persecution** may be former associates.
- Because you do not continue running with them in this course to the same low sink of debauchery, they are puzzled and go on speaking abusively of you. ([1 Peter 4:4](#))
- Or friends and neighbors of one's hometown.
- The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, one of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. ([Jeremiah 1:1](#))
- Therefore this is what Yehowah has said against the men of Anathoth who are seeking for your soul, saying; You must not prophesy in the name of Yehowah, that you may not die at our hand. ([Jeremiah 11:21](#))
- Jesus said that close blood relatives, members of one's own household, would sometimes become rabid persecutors of those believing in him.
- Further, brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise up against parents and will have them put to death. ([Matthew 10:21](#))
- For I came to cause division, with a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a young wife against her mother-in-law. ([Matthew 10:35](#))
- Indeed, a man's enemies will be persons of his own household. ([Matthew 10:36](#))
- The principal human instigators of religious **persecution**, however, have been the promoters of false religion. This was true in Jeremiah's case.

- **And the priests and the prophets began to say to the princes and to all the people; To this man the judgment of death belongs, because he has prophesied concerning this city just as you have heard with your own ears. (Jeremiah 26:11)**
- **It was also the experience of the apostle Paul.**
- **When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met up with a certain man, a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 13:6)**
- **And he was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. Calling Barnabas and Saul to him, this man earnestly sought to hear the word of God. (Acts of Apostles 13:7)**
- **But Elymas the sorcerer, that, in fact, is the way his name is translated, began opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. (Acts of Apostles 13:8)**
- **At that particular time there arose no little disturbance concerning The Way. (Acts of Apostles 19:23)**
- **For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, by making silver shrines of Artemis furnished the craftsmen no little gain. (Acts of Apostles 19:24)**
- **And he gathered them and those who worked at such things and said; Men, you well know that from this business we have our prosperity. (Acts of Apostles 19:25)**
- **Also, you behold and hear how not only in Ephesus but in nearly all the district of Asia this Paul has persuaded a considerable crowd and turned them to another opinion, saying that the ones that are made by hands are not gods. (Acts of Apostles 19:26)**
- **Moreover, the danger exists not only that this occupation of ours will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be esteemed as nothing and even her magnificence which the whole district of Asia and the inhabited earth worships is about to be brought down to nothing. (Acts of Apostles 19:27)**
- **Hearing this and becoming full of anger, the men began crying out, saying; Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! (Acts of Apostles**

19:28)

- So the city became filled with confusion, and with one accord they rushed into the theater, taking forcibly along with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, traveling companions of Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 19:29**)
- In the case of Jesus we read that the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Sanhedrin together and Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, said to them. You do not reason out that it is to your benefit for one man to die in behalf of the people and not for the whole nation to be destroyed. Therefore from that day on they took counsel to kill him, Jesus.
- Consequently the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Sanhedrin together and began to say; What are we to do, because this man performs many signs? (**John 11:47**)
- If we let him alone this way, they will all put faith in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation. (**John 11:48**)
- But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, said to them; You do not know anything at all. (**John 11:49**)
- And you do not reason out that it is to your benefit for one man to die in behalf of the people and not for the whole nation to be destroyed. (**John 11:50**)
- This, though, he did not say of his own originality, but because he was High Priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was destined to die for the nation. (**John 11:51**)
- And not for the nation only, but in order, that the children of God who are scattered about he might also gather together in one. (**John 11:52**)
- Therefore from that day on they took counsel to kill him. (**John 11:53**)
- Before Jesus finally died on the torture stake, he suffered severe **persecution** in other ways at the hands of ungodly men supporters of the religious leaders bent on doing away with him.

- **Then they spit into his face and hit him with their fists. Others slapped him in the face. (Matthew 26:67)**
- **When it had become morning, all the chief priests and the older men of the people held a consultation against Jesus so as to put him to death. (Matthew 27:1)**
- **And, after binding him, they led him off and handed him over to Pilate the governor. (Matthew 27:2)**
- **Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be impaled. (Matthew 27:26)**
- **Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and gathered the whole body of troops together to him. (Matthew 27:27)**
- **And disrobing him, they draped him with a scarlet cloak. (Matthew 27:28)**
- **And they braided a crown out of thorns and put it on his head and a reed in his right hand. And, kneeling before him, they made fun of him, saying; Good day, you King of the Jews! (Matthew 27:29)**
- **And they spit upon him and took the reed and began hitting him upon his head. (Matthew 27:30)**
- **Finally, when they had made fun of him, they took the cloak off and put his outer garments upon him and led him off for impaling. (Matthew 27:31)**
- **Then two robbers were impaled with him, one on his right and one on his left. (Matthew 27:38)**
- **So the passersby began speaking abusively of him, wagging their heads. (Matthew 27:39)**
- **And saying; O you would-be thrower-down of the temple and builder of it in three days, save yourself! If you are a son of God, come down off the torture stake! (Matthew 27:40)**
- **In like manner also the chief priests with the scribes and older**

men began making fun of him and saying; (**Matthew 27:41**)

- Others he saved. Himself he cannot save! He is King of Israel? Let him now come down off the torture stake and we will believe on him. (**Matthew 27:42**)
- He has put his trust in God? Let Him now rescue him if He wants him, for he said; I am God's Son. (**Matthew 27:43**)
- In the same way even the robbers that were impaled together with him began reproaching him. (**Matthew 27:44**)

.. Persecution Of Christians

- With the death of Jesus, **persecution** of faithful servants of Yehowah would not end. This great Prophet had foretold this when, three days before his impalement, he declared to unfaithful Jerusalem:
- For this reason, here I am sending forth to you prophets and wise men and public instructors. Some of them you will kill and impale, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. (**Matthew 23:34**)
- That there may come upon you all the righteous blood spilled on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. (**Matthew 23:35**)
- Privately, Jesus had also repeatedly warned his disciples, saying; You will be objects of hatred by all people on account of my name. When they persecute you in one city, flee to another.
- And you will be objects of hatred by all people on account of my name, but he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved. (**Matthew 10:22**)
- When they persecute you in one city, flee to another, for truly I say to you, you will by no means complete the circuit of the cities of Israel until the Son of man arrives. (**Matthew 10:23**)
- Bear in mind the word I said to you, a slave is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also, if they have observed my word, they will observe yours also. (**John 15:20**)

- **Men will expel you from the synagogue. In fact, the hour is coming when everyone that kills you will imagine he has rendered a sacred service to God. (John 16:2)**
- **Soon after Pentecost 33 C.E, there were arrests, threats, and beatings.**
- **Now while the two were speaking to the people, the chief priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them. (Acts of Apostles 4:1)**
- **Being annoyed because they were teaching the people and were plainly declaring the resurrection from the dead in the case of Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 4:2)**
- **And they laid their hands upon them and put them in custody till the next day, for it was already evening. (Acts of Apostles 4:3)**
- **So, when they had further threatened them, they released them, since they did not find any ground on which to punish them and on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God over what had occurred. (Acts of Apostles 4:21)**
- **But the High Priest and all those with him, the then existing sect of the Sadducees, rose and became filled with jealousy. (Acts of Apostles 5:17)**
- **And they laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public place of custody. (Acts of Apostles 5:18)**
- **Then Stephen was seized and stoned to death, but not before he bore witness against his persecutors, saying; Which one of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute?**
- **Yes, they killed those who made announcement in advance concerning the coming of the righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become.**
- **Which one of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute? Yes, they killed those who made announcement in advance concerning the coming of the righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. (Acts of Apostles 7:52)**

- You who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not kept it. (**Acts of Apostles 7:53**)
- Well, at hearing these things they felt cut to their hearts and began to gnash their teeth at him. (**Acts of Apostles 7:54**)
- But he, being full of Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and caught sight of God's glory and of Jesus standing at God's right hand. (**Acts of Apostles 7:55**)
- And he said; Look! I behold the heavens opened up and the Son of man standing at God's right hand. (**Acts of Apostles 7:56**)
- At this they cried out at the top of the voice and put their hands over their ears and rushed upon him with one accord. (**Acts of Apostles 7:57**)
- And after throwing him outside the city, they began casting stones at him. And the witnesses laid down their outer garments at the feet of a young man called Saul. (**Acts of Apostles 7:58**)
- And they went on casting stones at Stephen as he made appeal and said; Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 7:59**)
- Then, bending his knees, he cried out with a strong voice; Yehowah, do not charge this sin against them. And after saying this he fell asleep in death. (**Acts of Apostles 7:60**)
- Yes, others received their trial by mockings and scourgings, indeed, more than that, by bonds and prisons. (**Hebrews 11:36**)
- They were stoned, they were tried, they were sawn asunder, they died by slaughter with the sword, they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, while they were in want, in tribulation, under ill-treatment. (**Hebrews 11:37**)
- The murder of Stephen was followed by a great siege of **persecution** led in part by Saul of Tarsus, the results of which scattered the Jerusalem congregation far and wide, but thereby extended the activity of preaching the Good News.
- Saul, for his part, was approving of the murder of him. On that day great **persecution** arose against the congregation that was in Jerusalem, all except the apostles were scattered throughout the

regions of Judea and Samaria. (**Acts of Apostles 8:1**)

- But reverent men carried Stephen to the burial, and they made a great lamentation over him. (**Acts of Apostles 8:2**)
- Saul, though, began to deal outrageously with the congregation. Invading one house after another and, dragging out both men and women, he would turn them over to prison. (**Acts of Apostles 8:3**)
- However, those who had been scattered went through the land declaring the Good News of the word. (**Acts of Apostles 8:4**)
- But Saul, still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest. (**Acts of Apostles 9:1**)
- And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he found who belonged to The Way, both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 9:2**)
- Later, Herod Agrippa I had James the brother of John slain with the sword and probably would have done the same thing to Peter had not the angel of Yehowah miraculously rescued him in the dead of night.
- About that particular time Herod the king applied his hands to mistreating some of those of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 12:1**)
- He did away with James the brother of John by the sword. (**Acts of Apostles 12:2**)
- As he saw it was pleasing to the Jews, he went on to arrest Peter also. As it was, those were days of the unfermented cakes. (**Acts of Apostles 12:3**)
- And laying hold of him, he put him in prison, turning him over to four shifts of four soldiers each to guard him, as he intended to produce him for the people after the Passover. (**Acts of Apostles 12:4**)
- Consequently Peter was being kept in the prison, but prayer to God for him was being carried on intensely by the congregation.

(Acts of Apostles 12:5)

- **Now when Herod was about to produce him, that night Peter was sleeping bound with two chains between two soldiers, and guards before the door were keeping the prison. (Acts of Apostles 12:6)**
- **But, look! Yehowah's angel stood by, and a light shone in the prison cell. Striking Peter on the side, he roused him, saying; Rise quickly! And his chains fell off his hands. (Acts of Apostles 12:7)**
- **The angel said to him; Gird yourself and bind your sandals on. He did so. Finally he said to him; Put your outer garment on and keep following me. (Acts of Apostles 12:8)**
- **And he went out and kept following him, but he did not know that what was happening through the angel was real. In fact, he supposed he was seeing a vision. (Acts of Apostles 12:9)**
- **Going through the first sentinel guard and the second they got to the iron gate leading into the city, and this opened to them of its own accord. And after they went out they advanced down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. (Acts of Apostles 12:10)**
- **And Peter, coming to himself, said; Now I actually know that Yehowah sent his angel forth and delivered me out of Herod's hand and from all that the people of the Jews were expecting. (Acts of Apostles 12:11)**
- **With his conversion to Christianity, Saul the persecutor became Paul the persecuted, as he says, by Yehowah's undeserved kindness. This occurred when he finally came to appreciate that he was fighting against the Lord himself.**
- **And he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? (Acts of Apostles 9:4)**
- **He said; Who are you, Lord? He said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (Acts of Apostles 9:5)**
- **And I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and handing over to prisons both men and women. (Acts of Apostles 22:4)**

- **And I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? (Acts of Apostles 22:7)**
- **I answered; Who are you, Lord? And he said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting. (Acts of Apostles 22:8)**
- **And by punishing them many times in all the synagogues I tried to force them to make a recantation, and since I was extremely mad against them, I went so far as to persecuting them even in outside cities. (Acts of Apostles 26:11)**
- **And when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice say to me in the Hebrew language; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? To keep kicking against the goads makes it hard for you. (Acts of Apostles 26:14)**
- **But I said; Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (Acts of Apostles 26:15)**
- **For I am the least of the apostles, and I am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the congregation of God. (1 Corinthians 15:9)**
- **You, of course, heard about my conduct formerly in Judaism, that to the point of excess I kept on persecuting the congregation of God and devastating it. (Galatians 1:13)**
- **They only used to hear; The man that formerly persecuted us is now declaring the Good News about the faith which he formerly devastated. (Galatians 1:23)**
- **As respects zeal, persecuting the congregation, as respects righteousness that is by means of Law, one who proved himself blameless. (Philippians 3:6)**
- **The account of his ministry and travels thereafter tells how Paul, in turn, experienced much **persecution** at the hands of Christianity's enemies.**
- **But the Jews stirred up the reputable women who worshiped God and the principal men of the city, and they raised up a **persecution** against Paul and Barnabas and threw them outside their boundaries. (Acts of Apostles 13:50)**

- In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling, that our ministry might not be found fault with. (**2 Corinthians 6:3**)
- But in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by cases of need, by difficulties. (**2 Corinthians 6:4**)
- By beatings, by prisons, by disorders, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times without food. (**2 Corinthians 6:5**)
- Are they ministers of Christ? I reply like a madman, I am more outstandingly one. In labors more plentifully, in prisons more plentifully, in blows to an excess, in near-deaths often. (**2 Corinthians 11:23**)
- By Jews I five times received forty strokes less one. (**2 Corinthians 11:24**)
- Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I experienced shipwreck, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. (**2 Corinthians 11:25**)
- As for me, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being **persecuted**? Then, indeed, the stumbling block of the torture stake has been abolished. (**Galatians 5:11**)
- But you have closely followed my teaching, my course of life, my purpose, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my endurance. (**2 Timothy 3:10**)
- My **persecutions**, my sufferings, the sort of things that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, in Lystra, the sort of persecutions I have borne, and yet out of them all the Lord delivered me. (**2 Timothy 3:11**)
- **Persecution** of Christians by the authorities of the Roman Empire from and after the days of Nero is a matter of secular history. The charges varied, but the objectives always seemed to be the same, namely, the suppression of Christianity.

See Also CHRISTIAN

· **Proper Attitude Toward Persecution**

- **If one keeps God's commandments as a Christian, it is impossible to escape **persecution**, for all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be **persecuted**.**
- **In fact, all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be **persecuted**. (2 Timothy 3:12)**
- **Yet true Christians are able to endure all manner of wicked **persecution** and still maintain a happy attitude free of malice and hatred of the **persecutors**.**
- **This is because they understand the issues involved the source of the **persecution** and why it is permitted. Instead of being puzzled and worried over such experiences, they rejoice to share with Christ in the test of loyalty under persecution.**
- **Beloved ones, do not be puzzled at the burning among you, which is happening to you for a trial, as though a strange thing were befalling you. (1 Peter 4:12)**
- **On the contrary, go on rejoicing forasmuch as you are sharers in the sufferings of the Christ, that you may rejoice and be overjoyed also during the revelation of his glory. (1 Peter 4:13)**
- **If you are being reproached for the name of Christ, you are happy, because the spirit of glory, even the spirit of God, is resting upon you. (1 Peter 4:14)**
- **The Christian, however, must be certain that what he suffers is really for a righteous cause. The Bible account and pattern allow for no mixing in politics, plotting of conspiracies, nor any type of criminal activities as the basis for ones being persecuted.**
- **Giving particular stress to this, the apostle urges;**
- **Beloved, I exhort you as aliens and temporary residents to keep abstaining from fleshly desires, which are the very ones that carry on a conflict against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11)**
- **Maintain your conduct fine among the nations, that, in the thing in which they are speaking against you as evildoers, they may as a result of your fine works of which they are eyewitnesses glorify**

God in the day for his inspection. (1 Peter 2:12)

- **He followed this up with counsel as to subjection to government officials, to slave owners, to husbands, citing the example of Christ Jesus as the model to be followed.**
- **For the Lords sake subject yourselves to every human creation; Whether to a king as being superior. (1 Peter 2:13)**
- **Or to governor's as being sent by him to inflict punishment on evildoers but to praise doers of good. (1 Peter 2:14)**
- **For so the will of God is, that by doing good you may muzzle the ignorant talk of the unreasonable men. (1 Peter 2:15)**
- **Be as free people, and yet holding your freedom, not as a blind for badness, but as slaves of God. (1 Peter 2:16)**
- **Honor men of all sorts, have love for the whole association of brothers, be in fear of God, have honor for the king. (1 Peter 2:17)**
- **Let house servants be in subjection to their owners with all due fear, not only to the good and reasonable, but also to those hard to please. (1 Peter 2:18)**
- **For if someone, because of conscience toward God, bears up under grievous things and suffers unjustly, this is an agreeable thing. (1 Peter 2:19)**
- **For what merit is there in it if, when you are sinning and being slapped, you endure it? But if, when you are doing good and you suffer, you endure it, this is a thing agreeable with God. (1 Peter 2:20)**
- **In fact, to this course you were called, because even Christ suffered for you, leaving you a model for you to follow his steps closely. (1 Peter 2:21)**
- **He committed no sin, nor was deception found in his mouth. (1 Peter 2:22)**
- **When he was being reviled, he did not go reviling in return. When he was suffering, he did not go threatening, but kept on**

committing himself to the one who judges righteously. (1 Peter 2:23)

- **He himself bore our sins in his own body upon the stake, in order, that we might be done with sins and live to righteousness. And by his stripes you were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)**
- **For you were like sheep, going astray, but now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:25)**
- **In like manner, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, in order, that, if any are not obedient to the word, they may be won without a word through the conduct of their wives. (1 Peter 3:1)**
- **Because of having been eyewitnesses of your chaste conduct together with deep respect. (1 Peter 3:2)**
- **And do not let your adornment be that of the external braiding of the hair and of the putting on of gold ornaments or the wearing of outer garments. (1 Peter 3:3)**
- **But let it be the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God. (1 Peter 3:4)**
- **For so, too, formerly the holy women who were hoping in God used to adorn themselves, subjecting themselves to their own husbands. (1 Peter 3:5)**
- **As Sarah used to obey Abraham, calling him lord. And you have become her children, provided you keep on doing good and not fearing any cause for terror. (1 Peter 3:6)**
- **A Christian could be happy if suffering for the sake of righteousness.**
- **Indeed, who is the man that will harm you if you become zealous for what is good? (1 Peter 3:13)**
- **But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are happy. However, the object of their fear do not you fear, neither become agitated. (1 Peter 3:14)**

- **But should never suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a busybody in other peoples matters.**
- **However, let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a busybody in other peoples matters. (1 Peter 4:15)**
- **But if he suffers as a Christian, let him not feel shame, but let him keep on glorifying God in this name. (1 Peter 4:16)**
- **Christians also appreciate the prize awaiting those who endure. Concerning this reward, Jesus declared;**
- **Happy are those who have been persecuted for righteousness sake, since the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them. (Matthew 5:10)**
- **Knowledge of the resurrection hope coupled with knowledge of the One who is the Source of that provision strengthens them. It fortifies them to be loyal to God even if threatened by death at the hands of violent persecutors.**
- **As a result of their faith in what Jesus death accomplished, they have been emancipated from the fear of such a violent death.**
- **Therefore, since the young children are sharers of blood and flesh, he also similarly partook of the same things, that through his death he might bring to nothing the one having the means to cause death, that is, the Devil. (Hebrews 2:14)**
- **And that he might emancipate all those who for fear of death were subject to slavery all through their lives. (Hebrews 2:15)**
- **The Christians mental attitude is important if he is to maintain faithfulness under the pressure of opposition.**
- **Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)**
- **Who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God. (Philippians 2:6)**

- **No, but he emptied himself and took a slaves form and came to be in the likeness of men. ([Philippians 2:7](#))**
- **More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. ([Philippians 2:8](#))**
- **For the joy that was set before Jesus he endured a torture stake, despising shame.**
- **As we look intently at the Chief Agent and Perfecter of our faith, Jesus. For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ([Hebrews 12:2](#))**
- **Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in insults, in cases of need, in persecutions and difficulties, for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am powerful. ([2 Corinthians 12:10](#))**
- **As a result we ourselves take pride in you among the congregations of God because of your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the tribulations that you are bearing. ([2 Thessalonians 1:4](#))**
- **In fact, to this course you were called, because even Christ suffered for you, leaving you a model for you to follow his steps closely.**
- **In fact, to this course you were called, because even Christ suffered for you, leaving you a model for you to follow his steps closely. ([1 Peter 2:21](#))**
- **He committed no sin, nor was deception found in his mouth. ([1 Peter 2:22](#))**
- **When he was being reviled, he did not go reviling in return. When he was suffering, he did not go threatening, but kept on committing himself to the one who judges righteously. ([1 Peter 2:23](#))**
- **The Christians attitude toward the persecutors themselves is also an important factor. Loving ones enemies and blessing those opposed enables a person to endure.**

- However, I say to you; Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you. (**Matthew 5:44**)
- Keep on blessing those who **persecute**, be blessing and do not be cursing. (**Romans 12:14**)
- And to toil, working with our own hands. When being reviled, we bless, when being **persecuted**, we bear up. (**1 Corinthians 4:12**)
- When being defamed, we entreat, we have become as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things, until now. (**1 Corinthians 4:13**)
- **This too the Christian knows; Anyone forsaking home and relatives for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven is promised a hundredfold more, but **with persecutions** also.**
- Jesus said; Truly I say to you men, no one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the Good News. (**Mark 10:29**)
- Who will not get a hundredfold now in this period of time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, **with persecutions**, and in the coming system of things everlasting life. (**Mark 10:30**)
- **It is true that not everyone who hears the Good News of the Kingdom will endure the heat of **persecution**, and some may attempt to sidestep the issues to avoid trouble.**
- Yet he has no root in himself but continues for a time, and after tribulation or **persecution** has arisen on account of the word he is at once stumbled. (**Matthew 13:21**)
- All those who want to make a pleasing appearance in the flesh are the ones that try to compel you to get circumcised, only that they may not be **persecuted** for the torture stake of the Christ, Jesus. (**Galatians 6:12**)
- **But it is better to rely on Yehowah's strength, praying as David did for deliverance from the **persecutors**, knowing he will not leave his servants in the lurch. Then one will be able to say with the apostle; We are coming off completely victorious through him that loved us.**

- **O Yehowah my God, in you I have taken refuge. Save me from all those persecuting me and deliver me. (Psalms 7:1)**
- **We are **persecuted**, but not left in the lurch, we are thrown down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:9)**
- **Always we endure everywhere in our body the death-dealing treatment given to Jesus, that the life of Jesus may also be made manifest in our body. (2 Corinthians 4:10)**
- **Who will separate us from the love of the Christ? Will tribulation or distress or **persecution** or hunger or nakedness or danger or sword? (Romans 8:35)**
- **Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long, we have been accounted as sheep for slaughtering. (Romans 8:36)**
- **To the contrary, in all these things we are coming off completely victorious through him that loved us. (Romans 8:37)**