

It's Coming !

“The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.” (Psalm 37:12)

The persecution that Christians have been experiencing in other parts of the world is coming to us, here in America. With Donald Trump now out of the way, the left will need a new target. The Trump hatred will now turn to Christian hatred and it will come quickly.

Recently, I was listening to radio station WDCX and what I heard just confirmed what other Christian sources have been saying. They said that churches around the country have been shut down as an excuse for not following the restrictions of social distancing. It was also said that a church in the south was fined an exorbitant amount of money when they held their service in their parking lot so as to accommodate the entire congregation. A brother in the Lord recently told me that LifeSiteNews.com, a Christian organization on You-Tube, was banned recently because they are pro-life. And already, Face Book has banned certain Christian organizations because they were pro-Trump. (WOW)! Only three weeks into the socialist Biden administration and it's already started.

But that was not all that I heard. The speaker also said that persecution of Christians around the world is increasing. In one province in China, the Christians living there came under persecution and violence broke out against them because they got the blame for the rise of the COVID-19 virus in their area. And in some Muslim countries, the Christians living there are only getting one-sixth of the stimulus, or relief funds, that the Muslims are getting, in hopes of their businesses failing, their churches closing, and them having to leave the country.

Also, on Feb. 3, 2021, it was reported that a proposed law in Denmark would require all sermons not preached in Danish to be translated into the Danish language and submitted to the government for its approval before the sermon could be preached. Religious groups are protesting and are concerned that this law could trigger similar laws in other nations.

The wicked plotting against the just is nothing new (Ecclesiastes 1:9). It's been going on since Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4:8). And why? Because his sacrifice was accepted by the Lord and Cain's was not (Hebrews 11:4). The following six stories are a small sampling of just and righteous men being plotted against in the Bible. It has gone on since the beginning of time and will continue, and get much worse, until Jesus finally comes back and puts an end to it all.

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.” (Genesis 37:3-5).

Later on, Joseph dreamed another dream and told it to his father and his brethren (vs. 10), and his brethren envied him (vs. 11). Later, when Joseph was sent by Israel to see if all was well with his brethren and the flocks, they saw him afar off and as he approached them, they conspired against him to slay him (vs. 18). But Reuben heard it, and he delivered Joseph out of their hands. Instead, they cast him into a pit (vs. 24). Then, Judah said to his brethren, *“Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites”* (vs. 27). And when Midianite merchantmen passed by, his brethren drew him out of the pit and sold Joseph to them for 20 pieces of silver, and he was brought into Egypt (vs. 28). This was only allowed to happen, because the Lord had a far-reaching plan to save Israel during the time of a great famine, or dearth, that was to come upon the land of Egypt and Canaan, as was shown to Pharaoh in a dream (Genesis 41).

In I Samuel 15, the Lord, through the prophet Samuel, told king Saul to go and smite Amalek and to utterly destroy all that they had including all the men, women, infant and suckling (vs. 3). This also included king Agag (vs. 8). But, Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of all the animals (vs. 9). It then repented the Lord that He had set up Saul to be king (vs. 11). It was then that the Lord chose David to replace Saul as king of Israel (chap. 16:13). Then the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him (vs. 14). From that point on, Saul was both jealous and afraid of David, and sought opportunity to kill him (chap. 18:12).

Saul's daughter, Michal, loved David and this pleased Saul (vs. 20). Because David was poor and had no dowery (vs. 23), Saul then devised a plan to kill David at the hands of the Philistines by requiring, instead of a dowery, one hundred foreskins of the Philistines. This plan did not work however because the Lord had already anointed him to be king instead of Saul, and instead of one hundred foreskins, David brought two hundred foreskins to Saul, and Saul was all the more afraid of David. Saul's attempts on David's life did not end, however, until Saul and his sons were killed in battle against the Philistines (I Samuel 31:6).

In I Kings 21, there was a man named Naboth who had a vineyard which was coveted by Ahab, the king of Israel. When Naboth refused to sell him the vineyard, the king went away and sulked like a little child (vs. 1-4). When Jezebel his wife saw him in this state, she sent two men, sons of belial, to bear witness against Naboth and say that he did blaspheme against

God and the king (vs.10). Then, they carried him forth out of the city and stoned him with stones until he died (vs. 13). After Jezebel found out that Naboth was dead, she told Ahab to go and take possession of the vineyard (vs. 15).

John the Baptist, the greatest man born of women (Matthew 11:11) rebuked king Herod for committing adultery with Herodias, his brother Philip's wife (Mark 6:18). Herodias therefore had a quarrel, or a grudge, against him but she could do nothing (vs. 19). When Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lord's, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee, she had her daughter dance before them, and her daughter pleased Herod so greatly that he offered to give her anything she asked for, up to one-half of his kingdom (vs. 22-23). She then went to her mother, and Herodias instructed her to ask for the head of John the Baptist in a charger, or basket (vs. 24-25). The request made king Herod exceedingly sorry (vs. 26), but for his oaths sake, he sent and had John beheaded in prison and had his head brought to her, and she presented it to her mother (vs. 27-28).

Stephen was a man full of faith and power, who did great wonders and miracles among the people. But, when the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke, they suborned, or seduced, men to lie and say, "*We have heard him speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law*" (Acts 6:8-13). As he stood trial before the high priest and the whole counsel, he gave the history of the Jewish people from Abraham all the way to Solomon (Acts 7:1- 47). But when he began to rebuke them for killing the prophets which God had sent to them, and for not keeping the law, and for betraying and killing the just one (Jesus) (vs. 52-53), they then rose up, full of anger (vs. 54), and cast Stephen out of the city and stoned him (vs. 59).

In Acts 21:27-35, the apostle Paul was arrested by the Romans after a riot, or a tumult, had broken out in Jerusalem and the Jews were going about killing Paul because he had been falsely accused of polluting the temple and spreading heresies against the law. While he was still being held, a conspiracy was formed by more than forty men to neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul (Acts 23:12-15). Fortunately for Paul, his nephew overheard the plot, told the officer in charge, and he had 470 soldiers bring Paul safely to Caesarea (Acts 23:16-33). This was only done because the Lord had already told Paul, "that he had to bear witness of Him at Rome" (vs. 11).

The Great Tribulation is just over the horizon, and as we get closer and closer, the persecution of Christians is going to drastically increase, especially here in America where Christians have hardly endured any kind of persecution for their faith (2 Timothy 3:12). Just how much we will have to endure before the Rapture of the true Church occurs – only God knows! Eventually, it will culminate with the wholesale killing of Christians around the world (Daniel 7:21, Revelation 13:7) during the seven year reign of the antichrist (I John 2:18). Jesus Himself said, "It would be a time such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, or ever would be again, and unless those days were shortened, no one would be left alive" (Matthew 24:21-22). That is why the time to get truly saved is today (2 Corinthians 6:2). Jesus promised in Revelation 3:10 "*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*" The Lord also promised to "come again and receive us unto Himself, so that where He is, there we may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Jesus loves us and wants to spare us from His wrath that is coming upon the whole world (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9). That's why almost 2,000 years ago, He came to this world, born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23) and of the Jewish race concerning the flesh (Romans 9:5). He began to preach at the age of thirty (Luke 3:23), and for three years, preached the gospel of repentance toward God. He never sinned (2 Corinthians 5:21) and as a result, He was offered as the perfect sacrifice to pay for all of our sins. He was crucified, died, and was buried, but three days later, rose from the dead according to the scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3-4). He made the way (John 14:6) for all of us to escape the damnation of hell which is coming upon all those who reject the free and precious gift of eternal salvation, or life, (Romans 6:23) which God offers to everyone (John 3:16). If you are truly ready to repent of your sins (Luke 13:3) and are ready to ask Jesus to come into your heart and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour, you will be saved and welcomed into the Kingdom of God. The choice is yours – make it now!

Yes, the persecution of Christians in America is coming. And, our best response is to do what Daniel did in Daniel 6:10. And that is to go to our knees and pray as we're being plotted against. The Lord's coming for us is imminent, so we don't have long to wait. In the meantime, endure, keep the faith, and always know that Jesus loves us.

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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