

# WHY ARE CHRISTIANS TARGETED FOR PERSECUTION AND DEATH?



Grace and Peace to you from the Philippines! Today is Thursday, April 30, 2026. Our reading today is John Chapter 16. On Easter Sunday 2019, in Sri Lanka more than three hundred Christians were killed as they worshiped the GOD of the Bible. Why would someone do such a horrible thing to beautiful families as they were peacefully worshipping Jesus? The answer can be found in today's passage. Notice in verse 2

of our reading Jesus said, "the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

Before he became a follower of Christ, the Apostle Paul was one of the major persecutors of the early church. He held the coats of the killers who stoned Stephen, the first Christian martyr. (See Acts 7:58) Saul wreaked havoc on the early church and arrested many believers and may have even killed some or had them put to death. Paul, (then Saul) acquired warrants for believers hiding in Damascus to arrest and torture them. Fortunately, as he was on his way, he met Jesus. He was miraculously saved, and he was given a new life and a new mission. (See Acts 9) Although they may not realize it, people who harm Jesus' followers are being controlled by Satan. Satan was originally created by GOD as a beautiful angel but tried to overthrow God and was cast out of heaven with his followers. They are referred to as fallen angels. (Ezekiel 28:11-17; Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 25:41)

Satan is now the ruler and power of this world. (Ephesians 6:12). Jesus referred to him as the ruler and god of this world. (John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; John 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4) Satan has blinded the minds of people who think they are doing God a favor by killing Christians. A loving and gracious GOD would never have you take the life of another person without cause. Satan is a liar and murderer. Here is what Jesus said when He confronted these types of people, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44)

Jesus also said, "If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you." (John 15:20) The reason they do these things is they DO NOT know the true and living God of the Bible. "And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me." v.3 We live in a time of immense persecution for true followers of Christ, more than any other time in history. However, Jesus comforts us with these words in verse 20, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy." As followers of Christ, we will suffer persecution if we stand for our faith. However, there is coming a day when Jesus shall return and our sorrow shall turn into joy. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28) JESUS IS COMING AGAIN! IT MIGHT JUST BE TODAY!

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