

# PERSECUTION



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY FOR MY SAKE.

REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD, FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN, FOR SO THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

- JESUS

MATTHEW 5:10-12 NKJV

This original course was written in 1994 but it is now 2024 and I have been updating some of the original material. As we come to the final Beatitude on persecution, it struck me how much more relevant this subject is than it was 30 years ago. The spirit of antichrist has been around for 2000 years but it seems to be growing stronger as the years go by. We should not be surprised, for the devil knows his time is short, and his demonic hatred for Jesus and all that He represents and loves only intensifies. As followers of Jesus, we should understand that we will face persecution.

## PERSECUTION DEFINED

Put to flight, to pursue or drive away - Vines Expository Dictionary

This is the type of pursuit one has in a hunt or a chase. Saul pursued the followers of Jesus this way.

**Saul made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. - Acts 8:3 NKJV**  
**He breathed threats and murder against the disciples of Jesus - Acts 9:1**

Saul did not realize that when he was persecuting the church, he was actually attacking Jesus. Jesus himself confronted Saul with that truth when He encountered him on the road to Damascus - Acts 9:5. Harassment and persecution were nothing new to Jesus, for He faced it throughout his public ministry. He preached righteousness and truth to a corrupt religious world. They often sought to kill or silence Him. They finally succeeded when they tried Him in a corrupt and illegal night court and used a useful coward, Pontius Pilate to enact the crucifixion of Jesus. In his pride, the devil thought he could strike a fatal blow against God's righteous plans. However, God always has the final word. History is full of those who stood boldly for truth and righteousness. Some were not necessarily even Christians, but their causes were great. **The persecution Beatitude blessing applies strictly to followers of Jesus, nonetheless, we should acknowledge those who stand for what is right.** The following scripture gives more light on the subject:

**This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. - John 3:19-21 NIV**

- **Apostle Peter** - imprisoned for preaching Christ / crucified years later for his faith in Jesus
- **Apostle John** - exiled to Island of Patmos for his Christian faith
- **Stephen** - stoned to death for proclaiming Jesus
- **John Hus** - 1415, burned at the stake for teaching supremacy of Bible vs. the Roman church
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** - 1945 hung for opposing the Nazi regime in Germany
- **JFK** - murdered for exposing secret cabals, the military-industrial complex, CIA and the mafia

Here are some more recent persecutions, although less egregious than the above ones.

- **Steve Vaus 1992** - He came out with a song that was one of the most requested on many radio stations and reached #56 on the charts and was climbing higher. It was then removed by RCA from the radio and all stores. Why? Some big city radio stations complained about its conservative and patriotic nature. (written at time of NAFTA free trade agreement discussion)

### **WE MUST TAKE AMERICA BACK - Steve Vaus song 1992**

We must take America back, put an end to the gangs and the drugs in the streets and the fact that the bad guys must always go free. That is wrong. We need leaders who lead us, not stick us and bleed us and take all our money and send it abroad.

We must take America back. We need prayer in schools and more things made in USA. It's the least we can do for the red, white and blue. We must take America back.

In 2009 Vaus came with an updated version of the song. He also changed his recording name to Buck Howdy due to censorship of his songs.

- **Frontline doctors** - harassed for opposing the Covid cabal which suppressed viable remedies
- **Mike Lindell** - all big box stores and others dropped all of his My Pillow products because he sought to expose 2020 election corruption. FBI even stole his phone and kept it.
- **Tommy Robinson** - made documentary film about Muslim grooming rape gangs and was put in prison for a year in England for his 'crime'.
- **January 6 prisoners** - hundreds have been in prison for years for just walking into the capitol building (we now know that Pelosi helped facilitate the whole stand down of the national guard being there. She was afraid of the facts coming out of the massive voter fraud in 2020.
- **Donald Trump** - persecuted in every way including an assassination attempt when the Secret Service stood down from their normal protocols. Trump is hated by the Marxist leftists, the World Government globalists, Deep State warmongers in both political parties and all those who hate America and Christians
- **Tucker Carlson, Alex Jones, Elon Musk and others who do real investigative journalism**

**Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

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# HUNTED

When I wrote a course on the Beatitudes 30 years ago, the one about being persecuted for righteousness sake was instructive. I found two full pages of examples throughout the Bible of people who were being hunted down or pursued. The Greek word for **persecution** is **dioko**, which meant to pursue, aggressively seek after. This word was first used as a **hunting term** which indicated the actions of a hunter who sought to capture or kill an animal. In this message we will only highlight a few examples. We will include the exhaustive list on our website in the Beatitudes section. Jesus' instructions to his first apostles:

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves. But be on your guard against men. They will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

- Matthew 10:16-18 NIV

## Three Sources of Persecution

- Religious leaders - Matthew 10:17
- Government leaders - Matthew 10:18
- Family members - Matthew 10:21

Saul hunted followers of Jesus with murderous threats (Acts 8:3; 9:1) but after his conversion to Christ he was the one who was persecuted in his role as apostle Paul in what was a dangerous mission to preach Christ in a pagan world (2 Cor. 11:23-27).

Jesus experienced **death threats** from various sources.

- King Herod sought to kill the child Jesus - Matthew 2:13
- Pharisees plotted and hunted down Jesus throughout his public ministry - Matthew 12:14; 26:3,59; 27:25-44, Luke 4:28-30. They looked for reasons to accuse Him Luke 6:7. It culminated in the illegal, unjust trial of Jesus in a 'kangaroo court' just before his crucifixion. Throughout history and even today, tyrannical leaders, corrupt judges and courts persecute those who stand for righteousness. Leaders in Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, U.K., Iran, Australia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, China, South Africa, Canada, USA etc. are doing so now.

## Reasons for Persecution

- Fear that the people will have freedom of expression (cancel culture)
- Afraid of the light and exposure of their corrupt actions - John 3:19-21
- Fear of losing power and influence to their perceived enemies
- Jealousy, greed, envy, bitterness, hatred, derangement syndrome
- Driven by the spirit of Antichrist and the Devil (father of lies and slander)
- Destroy political enemies through lawfare and slander etc.

The cartoon characters the **Roadrunner and Wiley Coyote** (You Tube) are a metaphor for the current atmosphere in our country. Wiley kept trying to kill the Roadrunner, but he always failed and kept getting frustrated with each new attempt. The Pharisees set many traps for Jesus to no avail, but finally got him crucified naked on a cross. However, their seeming victory turned into a massive defeat. Their Satanic plan was demolished for good when Jesus rose from the dead! Whenever the Roadrunner escaped Wiley Coyote, he said Beep! Beep!

Jesus proclaimed something better: **'I am the Living One; I was dead and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of Death and Hades.'** - Revelation 1:18 **He will bring justice to victory and in His name the nations will put their hope.** - Matthew 12:20-21

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