

Preparing for Persecution

September 12, 2010 * Bethel Baptist Church * Tim Davis

Acts 1-8

Parallels in Persecution: the 1st Century & the 21st Century

1. Religious: Judaism, Islam
2. Political: Roman, American
3. Cultural: Hellenistic, Humanistic
4. Evangelism: Roman Trade Routes, The Internet

Questions: “What if you were suddenly the only Christian left, or the only Christian in a new country or community? When you established it, what would the church look like, do, how would it operate?”

“What should you do now to prepare to be a world changer?”

As you read the following passages, take note of God’s provision during persecution, His people’s perseverance because of persecution, & pray about how you should make preparation for persecution.

Acts 1:4-8

Then the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, thousands were saved & began meeting in the Temple courts & in homes. The Apostles were preaching the Gospel & working miracles. The religious leaders arrested Peter & others (Acts 5:17-37).

Acts 5:38-42

Consider your own faith. Are you willing to be arrested for sharing the Gospel? Are you willing to be flogged (beaten) for sharing the Truth of Jesus?

The Church grew so fast, that they needed help, so they chose deacons. Take note of the first two deacons listed:

Acts 6:5-6

As you read the next passage, take note that when God begins to move & Christians are obedient to Him, satan attacks – we should EXPECT ATTACK!

Acts 6:7-15

Look again at the end of verse 9 & verse 10. Are you prepared to argue for your faith? Look at verse 11. Are you prepared to be gossiped about, or slandered for the Gospel of Christ?

If you would like a good summary of the Old Testament starting with Genesis 12, just read Stephen’s monologue in Acts 7:1-50.

As you read the last portion, take note of the Lord’s provision for His servant (7:56), Stephen’s perseverance because of persecution (7:59-60), and how proper preparation for persecution by Philip & the other Believers led to the supernatural spread of the Gospel (8).

Acts 7:51-8:8

Are you prepared to preach the Gospel whenever & wherever you go?

Other KEY verses with regard to persecution of Believers: James 1:2-4 & Matthew 5:10-12.

Commit to faithfully attending a HomeTeam for six weeks starting Sunday, September 19, to prepare for persecution by studying the doctrine of church in a new study called Vibrant Church.

For a Biblical Christian response to public Koran burning, please see Hebrews 12:14, Romans 14:19, & 2 Timothy 2:22-26.

Reader’s note: the above notes are more extensive than the actual message during the Sunday morning service. In the interest of time & attention, not all of these passages were shared. May the study in its entirety help you to prepare for coming persecution.