

Mark 13:9-13

The Beginning of the End Part 2 - Our Response

2.

Mark 13:5-8 World Scene / Big Picture

What are the 3 main indicators of the “beginning of sorrows”?

1. Deception
2. Wars (Destruction)
3. Natural Disasters

“the end is not yet...” “These are the beginning of sorrows”

3.

Mark 13:9-13 - Personal Picture:

Personal Response and application during this time

4 encouragements

1. Watch
2. Preach / Witness
3. Don't Fear or Worry
4. Endure

Deception, Wars, Natural Disasters; as well as increase in lawlessness and apostasy from the faith.

4.

[Mark 13:9-13](#) — text

5.

#1. Watch, Take Heed

v.9 — *Watch, take ye heed to yourselves*

[Mat 10:16 NKJV] Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

6.

#1. Watch, Take Heed / Persecution

1. “They will deliver you up to councils”
 1. Councils = sanhedrins. the local disciplinary courts attached to the synagogues. According to Josephus, these local courts in every city consisted of seven judges. The Mishnah says that in every city where there were 100 men the council consisted of twenty-three judges.

2. [\[Act 8:3 NKJV\]](#) As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing [them] to prison.

7.

Persecution of Christians is on the rise, Americans say. The Washington Times - Tuesday, April 5, 2016

A poll finds that, in just two years, the number of Americans who think Christians are facing growing intolerance in the U.S. has drastically increased.

Sixty-three percent of respondents in the LifeWay Research [survey](#) said they agree or strongly agree that Christians are facing growing levels of persecution, up from 50 percent in 2013. The bulk of that surge comes from respondents who said they “strongly agree” with the statement, a number that increased from 28 percent to 38 percent. A similar number, 60 percent, said religious liberty is on the decline in America, up from 54 percent in 2013.

8.

4 Slides from opendoorsusa.org

PERSECUTION AT A GLANCE

Christians remain one of the most persecuted religious groups in the world. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ. **Christian torture** remains an issue for believers throughout the world including the risk of imprisonment, loss of home and assets, physical torture, rape and even death as a result of their faith.

Trends show that countries in **Africa**, **Asia** and the **Middle East** are intensifying persecution against Christians, and perhaps the most vulnerable are **Christian women**, who often face double persecution for faith and gender.

Every day we receive new reports of Christians who face threats, [Mark 13:1 \(NKJV\) - Then as He went out](#) assessment, beatings and even loss of family because of their faith in Jesus.

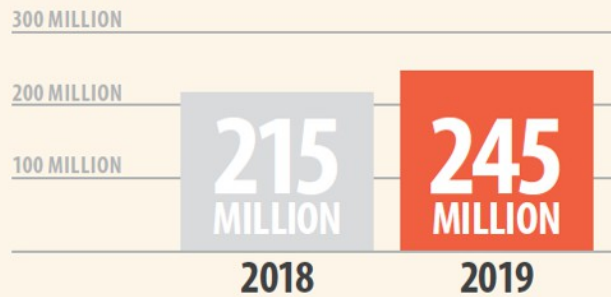
Every month, on average:

- 345 Christians are killed for faith-related reasons
- 105 Churches and Christian buildings are burned or attacked
- 219 Christians are detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned

PERSECUTION BY THE NUMBERS

≈14%

The rise in the number of Christians in the top 50 countries on the World Watch List who experience high levels of persecution.



1 in 9 Christians experience high levels of persecution worldwide.



During the World Watch List 2019 reporting period, in the top 50 countries:

4,136

Christians were killed for faith-related reasons. On average, that's 11 Christians killed every day for their faith.



2,625

Christians were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned.

1,266

churches or Christian buildings were attacked.



ONE  = 100

According to our research:

- 245 million Christians experience high levels of persecution in the countries on the World Watch List. And worldwide, 1 in 9 Christians experience high levels of persecution.
- **North Korea** is ranked #1 for the 18th consecutive year as the most dangerous country for Christians.
- Islamic Oppression fuels Christian persecution in 8 of the top 10 countries.

12.

2. Back to the text: “**and you will be beaten in the synagogues.**”

1. Saul - who was leading a violent persecution against the believers became himself a believer in Jesus.

Right away other believers were shocked!

1. [[Act 9:13-16](#) NKJV] Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. "And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."
2. [[2Co 11:23-25](#) NKJV] in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

13.

#1. Watch, Take Heed / Persecution // A Testimony

1. Jesus says to them “you will be delivered up, beaten, You will be brought before rulers and kings **for My sake, for a testimony to them.**”

1. Jesus before Pilate: [[Jhn 19:10-11](#) ESV] So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

14.

#2. Preach and provide witness of the Gospel

1. [v.10](#) and the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

1. Great Commission

1. [[Mar 16:15, 20](#) ESV] 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ... 20 And they went out and preached everywhere,
2. There is a definite call on the believers to be involved in the Great Commission to spread the gospel around the whole world.
 1. [[Rom 10:13-15](#) NLT] For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

15.

#2 Preach the gospel:

C.T. Studd (British cricketer star) -
gave up fame and fortune to serve Christ.

"Some want to live within the sound
Of church or chapel bell;
I want to run a rescue shop,
Within a yard of hell."

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last."



"Yes, when? When indeed shall we see a real Church Militant here upon the earth? Christ's call is to feed the hungry, not the full; to save the lost, not the stiff-necked; not to call the scoffers, but sinners to repentance; not to build and furnish comfortable chapels, churches, and cathedrals at home in which to rock Christian professors to sleep by means of clever essays, stereotyped prayers and artistic musical performances, but to raise living churches of souls among the destitute, to capture men from the devil's clutches and snatch them from the very jaws of hell, to enlist and train them for Jesus, and make them into an Almighty Army of God. But this can only be accomplished by a red-hot, unconventional, unfettered Holy Ghost religion, where neither Church nor State, neither man nor traditions are worshipped or preached, but only Christ and Him crucified. Not to confess Christ by fancy collars, church steeples or rich embroidered altar-cloths, but by reckless sacrifice and heroism in the foremost trenches..."

"Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible, by faith in the omnipotence, fidelity and wisdom of the Almighty Savior Who gave the command. Is there a wall in our path? By our God we will leap over it! Are there lions and scorpions in our way! We will trample them under our feet!"

16

2. Look again at **Mark 13:10** —

1. [v.10](#) and the gospel **must** first be preached to all the nations.
2. [[2Th 3:1](#) NLT] Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.
3. [[2Th 3:1](#) ESV] Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,

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