

Jesus faces the persecution of evil. As onlookers watch the pain and suffering of our Lord, they fail to understand that there is far greater suffering ahead for those who reject the calling.

We learn of persecution so great that man begs for death, but death will not come (Revelation 9:6): **During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.** How long will this death elude them? Will it be just for the tribulation period? No, it will be for all eternity; misery and pain shall never fade. Yet the most troublesome aspect of all is separation from God. We find the agony of this in Christ as He is separated from the Father, as He took on the sins of the world: “My Father, My Father, why have You forsaken Me?”

It seems that in our entire world—even in Christian circles—people hurl insults and slander at God’s people. Even within God’s church, the Jewish nation is under attack. I have asked the question of many Christians: Where would our world be if there were no Jews? If the nation of Israel had never existed, where would you place your faith?

God never insinuated that Israel would follow and keep all His commands. As we study the Old Testament, we see that God used neighbouring pagan nations to punish Israel for their transgressions, yet we feel holier than they because we are not like them. But is that true? Has God not used them to establish warnings for believers? Has the Father not set forth the path we are to follow? Do we not also stumble? And yet, none are righteous.

**God says, Deuteronomy 7:6–8, ...For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession out of all peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than the other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your fathers, He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt....**

People expect Israel to have been a glowing example of perfection from the time God established them until today, but that was never God’s plan. Examples often include negative outcomes to more effectively emphasize the need for correction. We can see the trouble Israel continued to fall under as it sought to be like the other nations.

Would they honour the Father? Psalm 14:1–3; Romans 3:10–12; Psalm 53:1–3.

**To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. NKJV**  
**1 The fool has said in his heart,**  
**“There is no God.”**

**They are corrupt,  
They have done abominable works,  
There is none who does good.**

**2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men,  
To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.**

**3 They have all turned aside,  
They have together become corrupt;  
There is none who does good,  
No, not one.**

Let us read from Ezekiel 16. Pages toward the back of today's message.

**Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Let us look at our own shortfalls: anger without reason, resentment toward others for their beliefs and opinions, and the high horse we believe ourselves to be deserving of. Did Jesus ever sit on the back of a high horse? No, He made His entry on the colt of a donkey.

No, not one! As our world bashes the Jewish people, we fail to seek a deeper understanding—for today, we are no better than they. Many clutch to hate toward the Jews. "They killed Jesus," they exclaim, failing to acknowledge God's plan, which was established before the foundation of the world. The play was set into action, the characters were chosen, and the nation of Israel would have the hardest part. How many times have they failed God? But we must see ourselves and notice how much we are like them. To denounce the Jewish people is to denounce God's plan—and who among you feels so emboldened to do such?

Jesus knew and understood the sacrifice from the beginning. We find the first evidence of the coming Messiah in Genesis 3:15, where it is written that God would put enmity between Satan's seed and Eve's seed. This child, who is spoken of here, is Jesus—the only one to have ever been born without an earthly father. The seed addressed here is not that of an earthly man but rather comes through the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).

Was this not an announcement of our coming Christ—our Redeemer? Throughout Scripture, from Eve until the time of Jesus, there was never one who had the power to bruise the head of Satan. However, here we find this promise from the beginning of time, later being fulfilled as Jesus triumphantly arose from the grave. What a curse to be under for so long and still reject what Satan must know will come to fruition.

What bitterness drives one to cling to evil like a torn life vest on a man slowly drowning in the water—a man never realising the saving grace that has reached out to save, and instead going forward, driven by hate for all things he cries, I do not need your help. Oh, that every believer would come to humbleness and surrender, putting faith ahead of their own understanding.

We often see faces and temperaments that show rage and discontentment. They speak with vile hatred toward others; they are untrusting and suspicious of even their best friends. This is not a heart that feels compassion; it is a heart that feasts on destruction. Such a heart was Pharaoh's; such a heart was Herod's. And what can we learn from this? We must be mindful of the lessons learned from the life of Jesus. All men who have fallen from a seat of supreme power have done so in pride, with inflated images in the mirror; they fail to see what is in the heart.