

*James Crawford "Persecution Is Coming Jesus Prophesied"
Series "The Abomination of Desolation" www.fatherheartchurch.com*

"Persecution Is Coming, Jesus Prophesied"

Introduction

As I sought the Lord for this week's sermon, He impressed upon me to prophesy about the coming intense persecution that is going to test all Christians. The Anti-Christ is coming on the scene soon and he will seduce & intimidate many Christians into falling away.

This prophetic sermon will help us prepare for the coming pressure that all Christians in every nation will experience. We can do this!

Matthew 24

3 ...the disciples came to Jesus privately, saying, "Tell us...what will be the sign...of the end of the age?" ...4 And Jesus answered...9 "...they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."

1. Beware of Conspiracy Theories & The Persecution Complex

What is a persecution complex?

Persecution complex is an irrational or delusional belief that other people are trying to harm or conspire against you. Delusions can be defined as a fixed and irrational belief. People with a persecution complex often have delusional beliefs that are fantastical or impossible in nature. (study.com)

When a person is being taken over by self-pity, they can develop a "victim mentality." We see this in the "me too" movement as well as the "woke" and

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"cancel culture" movements. Entitlement is generally fruit that falls from the tree of a persecution complex also.

2 Timothy 4

4 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus... 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering...

We must be careful what we receive and believe. We are exhorted by God to be sober-minded and to endure persecution and hardship, not to be paranoid about it.

2. Preparing & Warning Others Gets Tiresome

God's Word exhorts us to be focused and resolved as we prepare for the last days and all that comes with it.

2 Peter 3

God's Promise Is Not Slack

3 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the

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words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The Day of the Lord

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Be Steadfast

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14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

3. Preparing For Persecution Gets You Persecuted

As you begin to study this out and speak about it to help your loved ones and others, some will ridicule you, so prepare your hearts for this. Don't let anyone stop you from preparing and warning others. Let your words be bold and very gracious and many will hear you and be saved.

1 Timothy 4:16

Look well to yourself [to your own personality] and to [your] teaching; persevere in these things [hold to them], for by so doing you will save both yourself and others...

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4. God Gives Eternal Rewards to Faithful Persecutees

1 Peter 1

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love.

5. Prophetic Word: Speak Openly to Your Loved Ones

The Lord said, "Speak openly to your loved ones. You are their Noah watchman. Give them the sound wisdom of God as you are learning it."

6. We Get Stronger by Staying in God's House & Presence

Psalm 84

1 How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young— Even Your altars, O Lord of

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hosts, My King and my God.

4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You.
Selah 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. 12 O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

7. The Coming Seduction of The Anti-Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

The coming of the [Antichrist, the lawless] one is through the activity of Satan, [attended] with great power [all kinds of counterfeit miracles] and [deceptive] signs and false wonders [all of them lies], and by unlimited seduction to evil and with all the deception of wickedness for those who are perishing, because they did not welcome the love of the truth [of the gospel] so as to be saved [they were spiritually blind, and rejected the truth

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that would have saved them].

Because of this God will send upon them a misleading influence, [an activity of error and deception] so they will believe the lie, in order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe the truth [about their sin, and the need for salvation through Christ], but instead took pleasure in unrighteousness.

8. Surround Yourself with Strong Believers Who Are Practicing This

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Proverbs 22:24-25

Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

Proverbs 13:20

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Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 12:26

One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 16:28

A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

James 4:4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

9. The Punishment of Those Who Fear Man Over God

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.

Hebrews 13:6

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Matthew 10:28

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And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.