

***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matt.5:10-12)***

**I. The War against the saints**

- A. *Satanic hostility (Rev.12:10-12; 20:7-8)*
- B. *The kingdom given to those who suffer for it (Matt.5:10/Dan.7:21-22, 25, 27/ 11:32-35/Acts 14:22)*
- C. *Old Testament Examples:*
  - 1. Cain and Abel; Joseph; David; Jeremiah (Hebrews 11:35-39)
  - 2. Messiah (Isa.53:3, 7-8, 12/Luke 24:25-26)
- D. *It is inevitable (John 15:20/ Mark 10:30/ Phil.1:29/ 2 Timothy 3:12)*

**II. Reasons for the world's animosity toward those who have escaped from it (John 15:19)**

- A. *Human rebellion against God and His anointed (Psalm 2:1-3/ "for Jesus' Name sake" Matt.5:11)*
- B. *Resentment against righteousness (1 John 3:11-13/1 Pet.4:1-4/ "for righteousness' sake")*
- C. *No blessing for being persecuted for bad behavior (1 Pet.4:15-16/2:19-20)*

**III. The Christian's proper response**

- A. *Do not think it strange (1 Peter 4:12-14/ Matt.16:21-26)*
- B. *Flight is permitted (Matt.10:23/Acts 9:23-25), but not hurtful resistance (Matt.5:39/James 5:6/ Romans 13:10)*
- C. *Remember Jesus (Heb.12:1-4)*
- D. *Rejoice (Matt.5:12)*
  - 1. You are being tested (Mark 4:17)
  - 2. Their hostility can be taken as a compliment (Matt.5:12/ Acts 5:41)
  - 3. You are given an opportunity to glorify God (1 Pet.4:13-14)

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