

ITASCA TEXAS, SUNDAY NIGHT, 11-3-40.  
1-MATT.5:10) BLESSED ARE YE, WHEN MEN SHALL REVILE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SHALL SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY FOR MY SAKE.

1-PERSECUTE MEANS: ( IS A VERB TRANSITIVE)

- 1-TO HARASS OR ILL-TREAT
- 2-ESPECIALLY FOR RELIGIOUS OPINIONS.
- 3-TO ANNOY WITH IMPORTUNITY.

2-PERSECUTION MENTIONED IN THE PRECEDING VERSE AND THIS ONE:

- 1-COMPREHENDS ALL OUTWARD ACTS OF VIOLENCE.
- 2-ALL THAT THE HAND IS ABLE TO DO.

3-PERSECUTION OF EARLY CHRISTIANS:

- 1-GERMANY, FRANCE, ENGLAND, ROME.
- 2-BEGINNING UNDER NERO, AND ABOUT THE TIME OF THE DEATH OF PAUL, THESE PERSECUTIONS CONTINUED WITH GREATER OR LESS FURY FOR CENTURIES.

4-CHRISTIANS WERE FALSELY ACCUSED OF THE MOST DREADFUL CRIMES:

- 1-THEY WERE CONDEMNED AS REBELS AGAINST THE EMPIRE.
- 2-AS FOES TO RELIGION AND PESTS TO SOCIETY
- 3-THEY WERE DECLARED TO BE THE CAUSE OF GREAT CALAMITIES, FAMINES--PESTILENCE--EARTHQUAKES--

5-AS THEY BECAME THE OBJECTS OF POPULAR HATRED AND SUSPICION, INFORMERS STOOD READY FOR THE SAKE OF GAIN TO BETRAY THE INNOCENT.

- 1-GREAT NUMBERS WERE BURNED ALIVE IN THE AMPHITHEATERS OF ROME.
- 2-SOME WERE CRUCIFIED, OTHERS WERE DRESSED IN THE SKINS OF WILD ANIMALS AND THRUST INTO THE ARENA TO BE TORN BY DOGS.
- 3-VAST MULTITUDES ASSEMBLED TO ENJOY THE SIGHT, AND GREETED THEIR DYING AGONIES WITH LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.

6-THIS SEEMED TO BEAR OUT THE STATEMENT MADE BY PAUL (HEB. 11:36, 37, 38)

DESTITUTE, AFFLICTED, TORMENTED, OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY; THEY WANDERED IN DESERTS, AND IN MOUNTAINS, AND IN DENS AND CAVES OF THE EARTH.

7-THE CATACOMBS OF ROME AFFORDED SHELTER FOR THOUSANDS. (BENEATH THE HILLS OUT SIDE THE CITY OF ROME, LONG GALLERIES WERE TUNNELED THROUGH EARTH AND ROCK.

ITASCA TEXAS, SUNDAY NIGHT, 11-3-40  
(Matt. 5-12) - REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD: FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN: FOR SO PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU. PHILIPPIANS 4:4 - PAUL SAID, "REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS: AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE".

8-REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD:

1-THERE ARE SEVERAL CASES ON RECORD, WHERE THIS WAS LETTERALLY DONE BY THE MARTYRS IN "BLOODY QUEEN MARY'S DAY".

9-FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN:

- 1-A RABBI ONE TIME SAID THAT:
- 2-THE DAY IS SHORT.
- 3-THE WORK IS GREAT.
- 4-THE LABOURS ARE SLOW.
- 5-THE REWARD IS GREAT.
- 6-THE FATHER OF THE FAMILY IS URGENT.

10-THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUFFER JOYFULLY ON TWO CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1-THEY ARE THEREBY CONFORMED TO THE PROPHETS WHO WENT BEFORE.
- 2-THEIR REWARD IN HEAVEN IS A GREAT ONE.

WHEN THE GIVER OF LIFE SHALL AWAKEN THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, MANY A MARTYR FOR CHRIST SAKE SHALL COME FROM THOSE GLOOMY CAVERNS OF ROME.

*William W. Stone, Kentucky, 1801*  
*Alexandra Cameron, Ireland, 1809*  
*The Campbells, Penn., 1809*

535



