

"The Trials of Primitive Christianity"
Acts 2:36; 7:51-53; 8:1-14; 12:1-5; 28:22.

1-Jesus of Nazareth made His appearance upon the record of human transactions at a time of social, political and religious unrest.

1-Roman authority had been spread out over much territory.

2-The mythologies of Greece and Rome had about served their day.

3-Socrates had proclaimed the doctrine of immortality. There was a universal longing for a system of religion that would satisfy the spiritual instincts of the of the race.

4-The Jews as a people were particularly unsettled.....They were looking for a Messiah....expecting that He would deliver them from the galling Roman yoke, and establish an earthly kingdom that would rival the ancient glory of the kingdom of Solomon.

2-No wonder that Jesus soon became popular!

1-The second year of His ministry marked the climax of His popularity

2-He had delivered wonderful discourses.

3-At this time the multitudes were following Him blindly and clamoring to make Him their earthly king.

4-One day after He had filled their empty stomachs He began to talk with them concerning spiritual things and from that time on His popularity began to wane until He was despised and rejected of men....(Isa.53:2-5; Matt.27:27 Luke 9:22).....

5-Why was He despised and rejected of men?

6-Why was the church persecuted in the days of the apostles?????????????

FIRST.....

1-The teachings of Christ antagonized the religious autoeracy.....

1-AUTOCRACY...INdependent or self-derived power...2...uncontrolled authority.....

2-

Jesus uttered no words of flattery..... to the preist; the rabbis, or the doctors of the law..... He wore none of their long robes..... He indulged in none of their sanctimonious displays.....

3-Jesus scathingly denounced their hypocrisy. Matt. 23:1-15.....

4-The language of Jesus insulted their dignity laid bare their iniquity, and filled them with hatred (Matt.23:15-35).

2-The first class to be insulted to-day by the primitive gospel is the same autocratic group.

1-These men have spent centuries wrangling over theological nonentities, and keeping the followers of Christ divided into warring factions.

2-The plain preaching of the gospel antagonizes them by its very simplicity....

3-The theory of "the divine right of priests" is just as harmful and ridiculous as that of "the divine right of kings."

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