

## Watchman Report - Martyrs and Apostates - Issue #4

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### Watchman Report - Martyrs and Apostates - Issue #4

By Dr. Christian Widener · Issue #4 · View online

October 22nd, 2021

Welcome to the fourth issue of the End Times Berean Watchman Report!

In this fourth issue, we will be looking at the tremendous increase in Christian persecution worldwide, and also some of the signs of growing apostasy within the Church.

#### The Martyrdom of the Saints

There is no denying that persecution has always been a part of the Christian experience, but beginning in 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a sharp increase in Christian persecution worldwide. Currently there are an estimated 309 million Christians living in places with very high or extreme levels of persecution.

#### '70 million Christians' martyred for their faith since Jesus walked the earth

A new article series in Christian History magazine says a "global war" is being waged against Christians.

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#### Nearly 1 million Christians reportedly martyred for their faith in last decade | Fox News

Over 900,000 Christians have been martyred in the last 10 years, a Christian research firm affiliated with Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts estimates.

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#### The 50 Countries Where It's Most Dangerous to Follow Jesus..... | News & Reporting | Christianity Today

Latest report on Nigeria persecution finds 3 in 4 martyrs are in Nigeria, ranked among 10 worst persecutors for first time.

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#### Taliban reportedly going 'door-to-door' looking for Christians to kill them - TheBlaze

Christians in Afghanistan say they are fleeing to the mountains as Taliban militants are reportedly going door to door in search of believers in order to kill them. It's the beginning of what many have anticipated to be a brutal, terroristic Taliban reign. The radical Islamist militants have swept t...

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And the demonization of both Jews and Christians is on the rise. If that trend also continues, then increased persecution is sure to follow.

#### New study reveals 912% increase in antisemitic content on TikTok - Israel National News

Israeli study finds massive increase in the amount of anti-Semitic content on social media platform in 2021.

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I think we can expect more demonizing, fake news stories like this one in the future, as well:

#### White Christian Radicalization Is A Violent Threat | HuffPost

There was a distinctly Christian nationalist presence at the U.S. Capitol riot. Some leaders are trying to publicly reject it – but others are staying s...

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#### The Great Apostasy

This is a tough topic to write on. But if you know a lot of Christian people across various denominational backgrounds, then you already know that there is a widening gap in beliefs about what constitutes proper expressions of Christian faith and practice, and many that are just completely walking away from the faith.

#### 'I Kissed Dating Goodbye' author Joshua Harris now says he is no longer a Christian

"The information that was left out of our announcement is that I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus," the former pastor wrote in an update to Instagram

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#### Author Paul Maxwell announces he is no longer a Christian | U.S. News | The Christian Post

Paul Maxwell, a former Desiring God writer and the author of the book The Trauma of Doctrine, has announced he is no longer a Christian.

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Christian ministries are also embracing pro-homosexual and marxist movements, like BLM, under the thinly veiled guise of social justice and tolerance. This has been going on for a while, as you can tell from this 2016 article in Christianity Today reporting on InterVarsity's and John Piper's endorsements of BLM.

#### Where John Piper and Other Evangelicals Stand on Black Liv..... | News & Reporting | Christianity Today

Stats on the racial reconciliation debate spanning from InterVarsity's Urbana conference to Russell Moore's NYT op-ed.

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#### Research: Progressive (Social Justice) 'Christianity' | Christian Research Network

Do not be fooled by professing Christians who prefer either "progressive Christian" or "social justice Christian" to evangelical. It matters not what trendy terms people use...

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Many Christians are even questioning if the Holy Spirit is real...

#### Most US Christians don't believe Holy Spirit is real: study | U.S. News

Of an estimated 176 million American adults who identify as Christian, just 6% or 15 million of them actually hold a biblical worldview, a new study from Arizona Christian University shows.

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Some of these apostate false teachers have already learned of their mistake, but tragically, almost certainly when it was too late. Like Dr. Spong who wrote the book, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, some of these teachers have fulfilled the words of 2 Peter 2:1, by "denying the sovereign Lord who bought them."

#### Controversial Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong, who advocated for LGBT affirmation, dies at 90

Theologically liberal Episcopal Church Bishop John Shelby Spong, an outspoken advocate of progressive views on LGBT issues and biblical interpretation, has passed away at age 90.

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#### To the church at Pergamum

Among the apostasies of the church, particularly in the last days, is the error of Balaam. I see this error manifested in the heresy of Replacement Theology, which is has been embraced by millions of Christians worldwide. For more on that, I hope you will check out my blog:

#### Balaam's Error and Replacement Theology – End Times Berean

The account of Balaam is given in Numbers 22-24 and 31. Balaam was a Gentile who worshiped God, but he was enticed by Israel's neighbors to curse them and to put stumbling blocks in their way. The story is easy to overlook as just an odd event that happened in the days of Moses. Balaam...

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#### Remember, we've been warned...

There is so much more that could be written on both martyrdom and apostasy, but hopefully this helps see the reality of the situation that surrounds us globally.

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NIV) – Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

#### Final Thoughts

Both martyrdom and apostasy has been a part of church history since the days of the Apostles; however, when we look over all of events that have been happening around the world, I think these days are truly unprecedented.

If one looks back in church history, there were certainly times even more terrible than present events in isolated regions, but never quite so global. And I think what we are seeing now is just getting started. Be forewarned and stay on your guard. May God grant us all the ability to stand true in the days ahead.

Next week we'll talk about the Antichrist, his mark, and Babylon the Great.

Until then, keep watching!

Maranatha!

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By Dr. Christian Widener

Keep up-to-date on specific trends and events which help us know where we are in the Bible's last days timeline.

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