

He Was Hated and Persecuted Without a Cause

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Jesus said to His disciples. "Remember the word that I said unto you, 'A slave is not greater than his Master.' **If they have persecuted Me (and they did), they will also persecute you;** if they have kept My words, they will keep yours also. But all these things **they will do unto you** for My Names' sake, because they do not know **Him (the Father)** who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. **The one hating Me hates My Father also.** If I had not done among them the works (healings and other miracles) which no other man did, they would not have sin; but now **they have both seen** (the miracles) **and have hated both Me and My Father.** But this comes to pass, so that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their Law, '**They hated Me without a cause.**' " (John 15:20-25) (the quote is from Psalm 35:19)

"For **without cause** have they have hidden for me their net in a pit (or trap), which they have dug **without cause** for my soul. Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue my soul from their destructions, my only life from the lions. I will give You thanks in the great congregation; I will praise You among much people. **Let not those who are my enemies wrongfully rejoice over me; nor let those wink with the eye, who hate Me without a cause.** For they do not speak peace; **but they devise deceitful matters against those who are quiet in the land.** Yes, **they opened their mouth wide against Me,**" (Psalm 35:17-21 a psalm of David)

Persecuted, Persecute: from the Greek words ***edioxan & dioxousin*** which mean: **they-persecuted & they-will-persecute**; from ***dioko***: to put to flight, to pursue, by implication to persecute. Properly, to **aggressively chase**, like a hunter pursuing a catch. In context: this word signifies zealous **unjust persecution** against Jesus.

Hates, Hated: from the Greek words ***misei & mison*** which mean: **hating & hates**; (from ***miseo***: **to hate**); thus properly: to detest, and/or to denounce. In context: the enemies of Christ Jesus hate and detest Jesus without any just reason to do so.

Without a Cause: from the Greek word ***dorean*** which means: **without-cause**; (the **adverbial** form of ***dorea***: **a gift**, as in a free unmerited gift); thus for ***dorean***: something **freely done** (either in a positive sense - as in without charge, or unearned), or negative sense: as in: without just "cause"; or undeserved, or unnecessary, or to no purpose. In context: Jesus is referring to all the unjust, and undeserved hate and persecution that He, (and by association the Father), received without any just cause or reason from His enemies.

In Psalm 35:19 the Hebrew word is ***chinnam*** or ***khin-nawm*** and has a similar meaning: devoid of cost, reason, or advantage: thus, **without a cause, causeless**, for no just reason to harass, trouble, molest, or to persecute someone.

The hate and persecution came in various ways; please consider the following:

From the people of His own town:

"And all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, **were filled with wrath**, and rose up, **and thrust Him out of the city**, and led **Him** (Jesus) unto the brow of the hill upon which their city was built, so that **they might cast Him down headlong**. But He, passing through the midst of them went **His way**." (Luke 4:16-28-30-32 please read in context)

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From the rulers of His own people:

“Jesus went into the Temple, and began to cast out those who sold and bought in the Temple, and He overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of those who sold doves; and He would not allow any man to carry any vessel through the Temple. And He taught them, saying, 'Is it not written, '*My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?*' (Isaiah 56:7) But you have made it a den of thieves.' And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His doctrine.” (Mark 11:15-18)

Jesus said, “Have you not read this scripture; '*The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*' (from Psalm 118:22-23) **And they sought to lay hold on Him**, but feared the people for they knew that He had spoken the parable against them: and they left Him, and went their way. And they sent unto Him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, **to catch Him in His words.**” (Mark 12:10-13 please read in context)

Jesus said, “ 'Woe unto you, lawyers! for you have taken away the key of knowledge; and you do not entered in yourselves, and those that were entering in you hindered.' And as He said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to **assail Him vehemently**, and **to provoke Him** to speak about many things; laying wait for Him, and seeking **to catch something out of His** mouth, so that **they might accuse Him.**” (Luke 11:45-52-54 please read in context)

Psalm 35:19 is just one of other prophecies foretelling persecution and hatred of the Fathers' Christ-Messiah – Jesus. Please consider the following:

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The (Gentile) kings of the earth set themselves, and the (Jewish) rulers take counsel together, against the LORD (the Father), and against His Anointed-One (Jesus the Christ-Messiah), saying, 'Let us break Their bands asunder, and cast away Their cords from us.' " (Psalm 2:1-3)

“The **Stone** (speaking of Jesus) **which the builders refused** (speaking of the rulers of His own people) has become the **Head Stone** of the corner. This is the LORD'S (the Father's) doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” (Psalm 118:22-23) (quoted in Acts 4:11; & Matthew 21:42)

“**He (Jesus) is despised and rejected of men**; a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; **He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**” (Isaiah 53:3) (see John 1:10-11)

Eventually the enemies of Jesus and the Father did catch and lay hands on Jesus. And **as it was with Job, so it also was with Jesus**:

"They have gaped at me with their mouth; they have **smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully**; they have gathered themselves together **against me.**" (Job 16:10)

By the chief priests and Ruling Counsel: “ 'What do you think?' They answered and said, 'He is guilty of death.' Then they spit in His face, and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands.” (Matthew 26:66-67)

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By Pilate and his soldiers:

“And when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. **Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus** into the common hall, and gathered unto **Him** the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped **Him**, and put on **Him** a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon **His** head, and a reed in **His** right hand; and they bowed the knee before **Him, and mocked Him**, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' **And they spit upon Him**, and took the reed, and **smote Him on the head**. (Matthew 27:27-30)

“Then Pilate went forth again, and said unto them, 'Behold, I bring **Him (Jesus)** forth to you, so that you may know that **I find no fault in Him**.' Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate said unto them, '**Behold the Man!**' When the chief priests therefore and officers saw **Him**, they cried out, saying, '**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**' But Pilate said unto them, 'You take **Him**, and crucify **Him**; **for I find no fault in Him**.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and by our law **He** ought to die, because **He** made **Himself** to be **the Son of God**.' ... but he said unto the Jews, '**Behold your King!**' But they cried out, '**Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!**' But Pilate said unto them, '**Shall I crucify your King?**' The chief priests answered, '**We have no king but Caesar!**' Therefore he delivered **Him** to them **to be Crucified**. **And they took Jesus, and led Him away**. And **He** bearing **His** cross went forth unto a place called the Place of a Skull, ... **where they Crucified Him**.” (John 19:1-7;14-17 please read in context)

Thus, by the hateful words of their own mouths they rejected Jesus and the Father as being their King, as said: 'Let us break **Their** bands asunder, and cast away **Their** cords from us.'

As it was with Jesus, so also shall it be with His followers:

“And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, You are God, who has made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them; who by the mouth of Your servant David has said, '*Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? **The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ***.' For truly **against Your Holy Child Jesus, whom You have anointed**, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, to do whatever Your Hand and Your counsel determined beforehand to be done.” (Acts 4:1-24-28-31 please read in context)

Jesus Was Hated and Persecuted Without a Cause

He was harassed and hated by the scribes, pharisees, lawyers, and priests of Israel!

The people of His own hometown rejected Him.

Finally, the kings of the earth, and the rulers of Israel gathered together against God the Father, and against Jesus His Christ – His Holy Child!

And they delivered Jesus up to be Crucified !!

But, Father in Heaven this was Your eternal plan for our redemption!

Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself and endured the Cross for our salvation!

For this we are eternally thankful and grateful to you our Loving God !

All Praise and Glory and Honor to You forever and ever ! Amen !!!