



Closer than we think!

PART 1 OF 5

July 2, 2018

MATTHEW 24:9 NKJV – (9) “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

The rising persecution of Christians. When talking with His disciples about the end times, Jesus forewarned that before the end of the world “*You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death*” (**Matthew 24:9**). 2016 saw yet another increase in the persecution of Christians, with Fox News reporting that “nearly 90,000 Christians were killed for their faith in 2016 and that as many as 600 million were prevented from practicing their faith through intimidation, forced conversions, bodily harm or even death.”

Just because the physical persecution of Christians is not happening as much in America does not mean that it is not a problem worldwide. The imprisonment, torture and even death of Christians will continue to rise throughout the world at record levels. Jesus forewarned that this would happen.

Then there is the persecution by those not of God and those who claim to be of God, located right here in America. In the structure called a church. Yes, they could be Christians too, but have not matured in thoughts and speech. Yet, they persecute because they know not what they do! Stand firm and remember, be afraid not what one can do to the body, but not the soul. The rising persecution of Christians points to the truth that the end of the world is “***Closer than we think.***”

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-10

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: You must learn to end the wars in your world by ending them in your mind.