

THEME : THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION

I-DEFINITION

II-THE CAUSES OF PERSECUTION

III-FORMS OF PERSECUTION

1-Verbal persecution

2-Discrimination

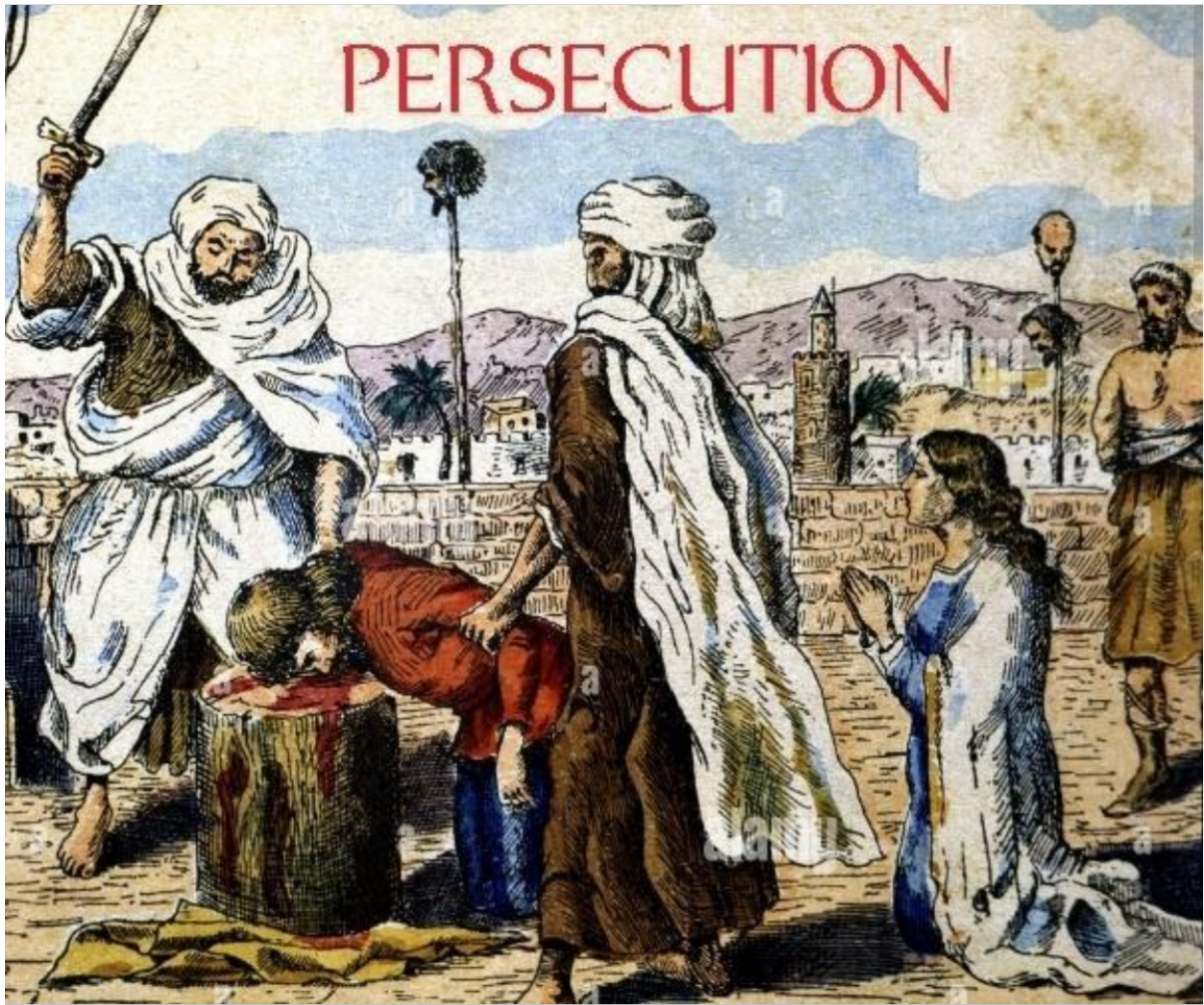
3-Rejection

4-Disinformation

IV-SOLUTIONS

CONCLUSION

PERSECUTION



INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of Christianity to the present day, Christians have always been persecuted in many ways. We knew men like Saul of Tarsus who Judaized and persecuted Christians. Our study will focus on the cause of persecution, some forms of persecution experienced by Christians and proposed solutions. But first of all, what is persecution ?

I-DEFINITION

Persecution is vexation, an unjust and violent pursuit of an executioner on a victim. It is a method of forcing others to forcibly adhere to one's point of view or belief. This being the case, what can lead to the persecution of Christians ?

II-THE CAUSES OF PERSECUTION

The Bible says you shall love your neighbor as yourself ; Matthew 19 :19 honor your father and your mother ; and : you will love your neighbor as yourself. No one will want to hurt themselves. However, hatred pushes many people to have aversion towards those who do not have the same faith as them ; Luke 21 :12 But before all this, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you ; They will hand you over to the synagogues, they will throw you into prison, they will bring you before kings and before governors, for my name (Jesus) sake. Selfish interests are not on the sidelines. So, what are the forms of persecution that Christians experience around the world ?

III-FORMS OF PERSECUTION

1-Verbal persecution

It consists of uttering threatening words towards a person in order to get them to accept what you want ; surah 2 :193 And fight them until there is no more association and that the religion is entirely with Allah alone. If they cease, let there be no hostility except against the oppressors ; 9 :29 Fight against those who do not believe in Allah or the Last Day, and who do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden, and who do not profess the religion of truth, from among those who received the Book (the Christians) until they pay the poll tax with their own hands, having humbled themselves ;9 :123 O you who believe ! Fight against those of the disbelievers who are near you ; and may they find hardness in you. And know that Allah is with the pious. However, what some think of Christians is quite different. JESUS taught us to collaborate with men and not use the physical to fight against enemies ; Matthew 9 :10-12 As Jesus sat at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and wicked people came and sat down with him and with his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, Why does your master eat with publicans and sinners ? When Jesus heard this, he said, It is not those who are well who have need a doctor, but the sick. Matthew 26 :52 Then Jesus said to him, Put your sword back in its place ; for as many as take the sword shall perish by the sword ; Romans 12 :18 If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

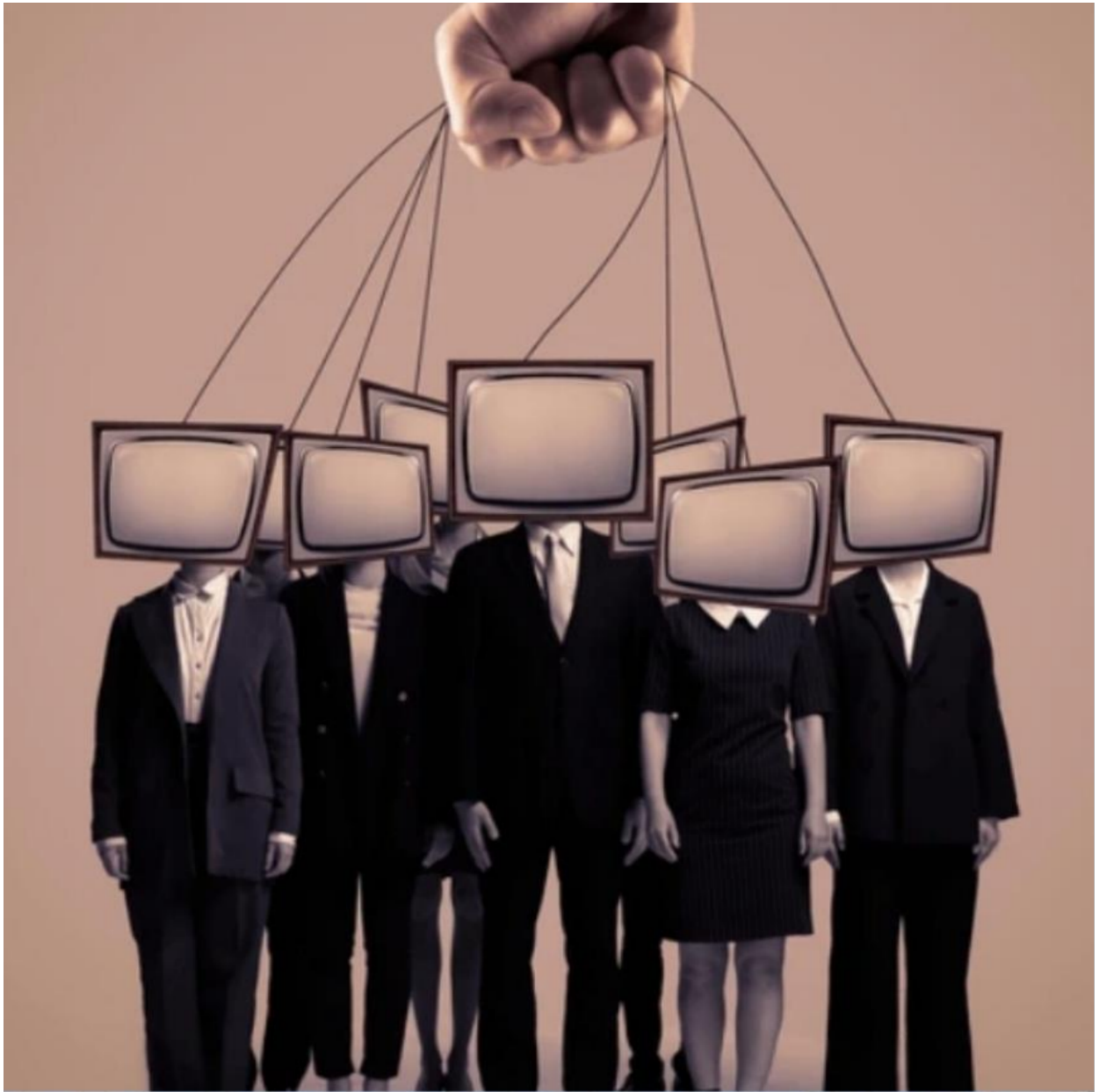


2-Discrimination

In some countries like ours, Muslims demand a higher number of positions at their level because they consider others to be a minority. And yet the Koran and the Bible challenge us about injustice ; surah 3 :161 A prophet is not one to take spoils. Whoever appropriates it will come with what he appropriates on the Day of Resurrection. Then, each individual will be fully compensated for what he or she has (badly) acquired. And they will not be wronged ; Luke 16 :9-11 And I say unto you, Make friends of unrighteous riches, that they may receive you into the everlasting tabernacles, when they fail you. He who is faithful in the least things is also faithful in the great things, and he who is unjust in the least things is also faithful in the great things. If then you have not been faithful in unrighteous riches, who will entrust you with true riches ?

3-Rejection

Many after committing themselves to the Lord Jesus saw themselves abandoned, humiliated or banished from their families. Some are mocked because of their faith and commitment to following God. Have they done something so wrong that they are being treated as such. The objective is to divert them from the path of salvation. But Jesus warned us ; Matthew 5 :10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ! Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because your reward will be great in heaven ; for thus the prophets who were before you were persecuted. Sura 3 :28 Let not the believers take unbelievers as allies instead of believers. Anyone who does so contradicts the religion of Allah, unless you seek protection from them. Allah warns you about Himself. And the return is to Allah.



4-Disinformation

There is a big difference between what some religious guides say out loud and what their book says. We are told that they advocate peace while the truth is hidden. Let us see how the prophet himself fought those who did not adhere to his ideals to subdue them ; surah 2 ;190-193 – Fight in the path of Allah those who fight you, and do not transgress. Certainly, Allah does not like transgressors ! 191 – And kill them, wherever you meet them ; and chase them from where they chased you (who has been chasing who from the beginning ?) : association is more serious than murder. But do not fight them near the Sacred Mosque until they have fought you there. If they fight you there, then kill them. Such is the recompense of the disbelievers. 192 – If they cease, Allah is certainly Forgiving and Merciful. 193 – And fight them until there is no association and religion belongs entirely to Allah alone. If they cease, let there be no hostility except against the oppressors. In fact we receive information contrary to what is written. It would be better to tell the truth to the followers and tell them to change their behavior towards others.

V-SOLUTIONS

Man is a social being. He does not live by instinct but by conscience. It would therefore be reasonable to try to convince everyone out of love. In Christianity there is no force because the Bible says in John 16 :8 And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. In the same way that domestic violence and racial discrimination should be prohibited, the obligation (especially through violence) to adhere to a belief should be banned.

CONCLUSION

Saul of Tarsus who was persecuting the church met the Lord Jesus and was a powerful means to lay the foundation of Christianity. Our prayer is that this may be the case for the persecutors of the gospel.

God bless your reading.

Godwill Chosen Joshua