

“The World Hates Jesus”

John 15:18-16:1

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John began his Gospel by saying, “He came to His own, and His own received Him not” (1:11). This statement means that, for the most part, humanity rejected Jesus when He came the first time. That is a repeated theme all throughout John’s Gospel. This hatred of Christ now reaches a climax during His last week on earth.

1. The reality that the world hates Christ—until He returns(15:18)

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you”

“The world...hates Me” (7:5)

“the world has hated them because they are not of the world” (17:14)

“Friendship with the world is enmity with God” (James 4:4)

“Why do the nations rage...against the LORD and against His Messiah” (Psalm 2:1-2)

“haters of God” (Romans 1:30)

2. The reason the world hates Christ—they love their sin (15:19)

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world...therefore the world hates you”

“The world...hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil” (7:5)

“people loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come into the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (3:19-20)

3. The result of the world's hatred for Christ—they will persecute you (15:21-16:1)

"If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service" (15:20; 16:2)

"Jesus said to him... 'when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish" (21:17-18)

"Herod...killed James the brother of John with the sword" (Acts 12:2)

"I, John...was on the island called Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9)

"From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned" (2 Corinthians 11:24-25)

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10)

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you" (1 Peter 4:12-14)

"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Philippians 1:29)

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:11-12)