



The  
Purpose of  
Revelation

John 15:18-27

# New Testament History of the Nation of Israel

- ◆ While generally, the people marveled at the works and teaching of Jesus, He was rejected by the Jewish leaders.
- ◆ He was confronted, contradicted, threatened, conspired against, falsely accused, slandered, arrested and crucified.
- ◆ Jesus had warned His disciples of these events and the cost of being His disciple - John 15:18-27

Apostate Israel Instigated  
Severe, Unrelenting  
Persecution of the Disciples of  
Christ

PASSAGE	NATURE OF PERSECUTION	RESULT
Acts 4	Threats	Prayer (v. 24), filling with the Spirit (v. 31), unity (v. 32), witness (v. 33)
Acts 5	Beatings	Rejoicing (v. 41), witness (v. 42)
Acts 7	Killing of an individual	Saul witnesses Stephen's death
Acts 8	Widespread persecution, arrests	Spreading of the gospel (8:1,4), conversion of Saul (chapter 9)
Acts 9	Plot to kill Paul	Unity (vv. 26,27), witness (v. 28), more persecution (v. 29)
Acts 12	James killed, Peter arrested	Prayer (v. 5), answered prayer
Acts 13	Paul reviled (v. 36), mob incited violence, driven from the city (v. 50)	Gospel goes to the Gentiles



Acts 14:1–7	Plot to harm Paul and Barnabas (v. 5)	Left and preached the gospel (v. 7)
Acts 14:8–22	Paul stoned and left for dead (v. 19)	Believers strengthened and taught to continue in faith, to enter the kingdom of God through many tribulations (v. 22)
Acts 16	Paul imprisoned and beaten (vv. 23,24)	Praised God (v. 25), jailer and family come to Christ (vv. 32–34), their Roman rights were upheld (vv. 35–39)
Acts 17:1–12	Mob riot (v. 5)	Paul sent to Berea (v. 10), many received the message (v. 11)
Acts 17:13–34	Opposition incited by Jews from Thessalonica (v. 13)	Paul sent to Athens (v. 14), some believed (v. 34)
Acts 18	Persecutors become abusive (v. 6)	Paul takes the message to the Gentiles, many believe (vv. 6–8)

Acts 19	Mob action (vv. 23,34)	Paul advised by church to stay away from the crowd; situation settles down, church protected by authorities (v. 37)
Acts 21—23	Paul attacked by Jews and arrested by Romans in the temple	Paul appeals for his legal rights as a Roman; sent to Rome to testify for Christ (23:11); witnesses to political leaders (chap. 24), Festus (25:1–12), Herod Agrippa (25:23—26:32); preaches and teaches in Rome (28:31)

# The Persecutions in Revelation 2-3

	REFERENCE	CITY	OPPOSITION
1	Revelation 2:9	Smyrna	False Jews
2	Revelation 2:13	Pergamum	Likely Gentiles
3	Philadelphia 3:9	Philadelphia	False Jews

# The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

- ◆ Remember the parable of the wicked vinedressers  
(Matthew 21:33-46)
- ◆ Remember the Fifth Seal (Revelation 6:9-11)
- ◆ Remember the Lament of Babylon (Revelation 18:20, 24)