

## Not the End ... This is the Beginning      March 22, 2020

*Matthew 28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*Acts 7:59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 8:1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

Persecution and adverse conditions has been the greatest times of the Kingdom of God.

- David persecuted by Saul.    1 Samuel
- Mordecai persecuted by Haman.    Esther 3-7
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego persecuted by Nebuchadnezzar    Daniel 3
- Daniel persecuted by King Darius of the Medes and Persians.    Daniel 6
- The birth of Jesus was persecuted by Herod.    Matthew 2
- Jesus was persecuted by the religious leaders of the day.    Matthew 15
- The Church was persecuted by the Jewish leaders and the Romans
- True believers were persecuted by the established church throughout the last two millennium
- The Church was persecuted by the Chinese Government
- The Church was persecuted by the Russian Government
- The Church was persecuted by \_\_\_\_\_

And every time there has been a "troubling time" the Kingdom of God has expanded!  
It's time for the Kingdom of God to grow!!

(John Meaux's dream). Churches across America closing their doors, some will not open again.

(My prayer two weeks ago) "Is this it? Is this the big one?"  
God answered me, "No, this is just the shakedown cruise."

- "24 churches by 2027"
- "Just built classrooms to train the Saints to do the work of the ministry."

*John 16:29 His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

*Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

*35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?*

*37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*