

WORLD WATCH LIST 2023



RANK	COUNTRY	PERSECUTION LEVEL	TOTAL SCORE
1	North Korea	EXTREME	98
2	Somalia	EXTREME	92
3	Yemen	EXTREME	89
4	Eritrea	EXTREME	89
5	Libya	EXTREME	88
6	Nigeria	EXTREME	88
7	Pakistan	EXTREME	86
8	Iran	EXTREME	86
9	Afghanistan	EXTREME	84
10	Sudan	EXTREME	83
11	India	EXTREME	82
12	Syria	EXTREME	80
13	Saudi Arabia	EXTREME	80
14	Myanmar	EXTREME	80
15	Maldives	EXTREME	77
16	China	EXTREME	77
17	Mali	VERY HIGH	76
18	Iraq	EXTREME	76
19	Algeria	VERY HIGH	73
20	Mauritania	VERY HIGH	72
21	Uzbekistan	VERY HIGH	71
22	Colombia	VERY HIGH	71
23	Burkina Faso	VERY HIGH	71
24	Central African Rep.	VERY HIGH	70
25	Vietnam	VERY HIGH	70
26	Turkmenistan	VERY HIGH	70
27	Cuba	VERY HIGH	70
28	Niger	VERY HIGH	70
29	Morocco	VERY HIGH	69
30	Bangladesh	VERY HIGH	69
31	Laos	VERY HIGH	68
32	Mozambique	VERY HIGH	68
33	Indonesia	VERY HIGH	68
34	Qatar	VERY HIGH	68
35	Egypt	VERY HIGH	68
36	Tunisia	VERY HIGH	67
37	Congo DR (DRC)	VERY HIGH	67
38	Mexico	VERY HIGH	67
39	Ethiopia	VERY HIGH	67
40	North Macedonia	VERY HIGH	67
41	Ukraine	VERY HIGH	67
42	Madagascar	VERY HIGH	67
43	Malaysia	VERY HIGH	67
44	Russia	VERY HIGH	67
45	Guinea	VERY HIGH	67
46	Philippines	VERY HIGH	67
47	Chad	VERY HIGH	67
48	Belarus	VERY HIGH	67
49	Lebanon	VERY HIGH	67
50	Venezuela	VERY HIGH	67

ABOUT THE LIST

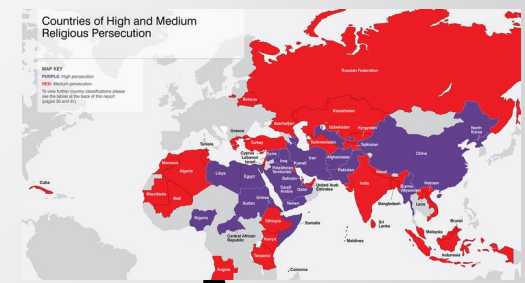
The World Watch List is compiled by Open Doors' analysts using real-world data from experts on the ground in 150 countries. Persecution in each country is recorded using a points system which tracks violence and pressure.

PERSECUTION LEVELS

- **HIGH**
41-60 points
- **VERY HIGH**
61-80 points
- **EXTREME**
81-100 points

What Did Jesus Promise?

Persecution



The Apostles Expected Persecution [Mt 10:16-39]

Jesus permitted running. **10:23 [Ac 9:23-25]**

He didn't permit "just warfare" **[Lk 22:35-53]**

God avenged Paul's crimes **[Ac9:13-15;2Co11:23ff]**

Peter Also Warned His Flock [1Pet 4:12-19]

Jesus is our example **[1Pet 2:18-25]**

Paul warns of it at the start **[Ac 14:19-22]**

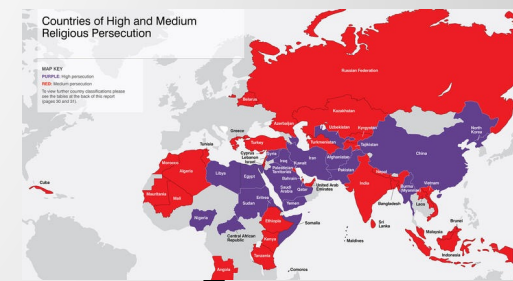
And in his "last words" to Timothy **[2Ti 3:10-14]**

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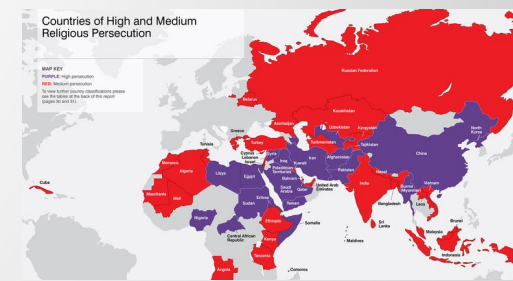
Tacitus, a Roman historian, records Nero's efforts.

The Martyrdom of Polycarp ca. 150AD

Swear by the fortune of Caesar; repent, and say, "Away with the (Christians)." But Polycarp, gazing with a stern countenance on all the multitude of the wicked heathen then in the stadium, and waving his hand towards them, while with groans he looked up to heaven, said, "Away with the Atheists." Then, the proconsul urging him, and saying, "Swear, and I will set thee at liberty, reproach Christ;" Polycarp declared, "**Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?**"

What Did Jesus Promise?

Persecution



Persecution Records Outside of Scripture

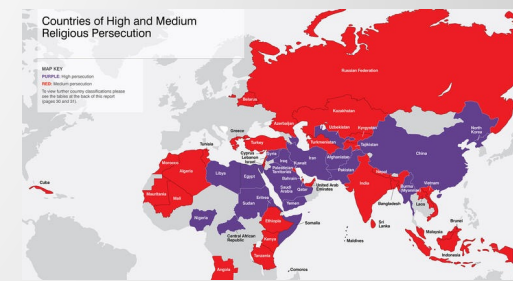
Pliny's Letters to Emperor Trajan ca. 100AD

It is my practice, my lord, to refer to you all matters concerning which I am in doubt. For who can better give guidance to my hesitation or inform my ignorance? I have never participated in trials of Christians...

...I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, **threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed.** For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished...

What Did Jesus Promise?

Persecution



Persecution Records Outside of Scripture

Tacitus, Roman historian, records Nero's fires.

Martyrdom of Polycarp describes his flight & plight.

Pliny's Letters to Trajan records early Christian trials.

Most early persecutions were from local laws & rulers.

There was fear Christianity upset their ordered society.

Christians appeared to be rebels. **[Ac 16:19-21 & 17:6-8]**

So, the NT urges good citizenship **(Rom13; 1Tim2; 1Pet2)**

“The most significant aspect of the dispute between Arius & Alexander in 322 is that there was so little about it that was

new at the outset it is arguable that the

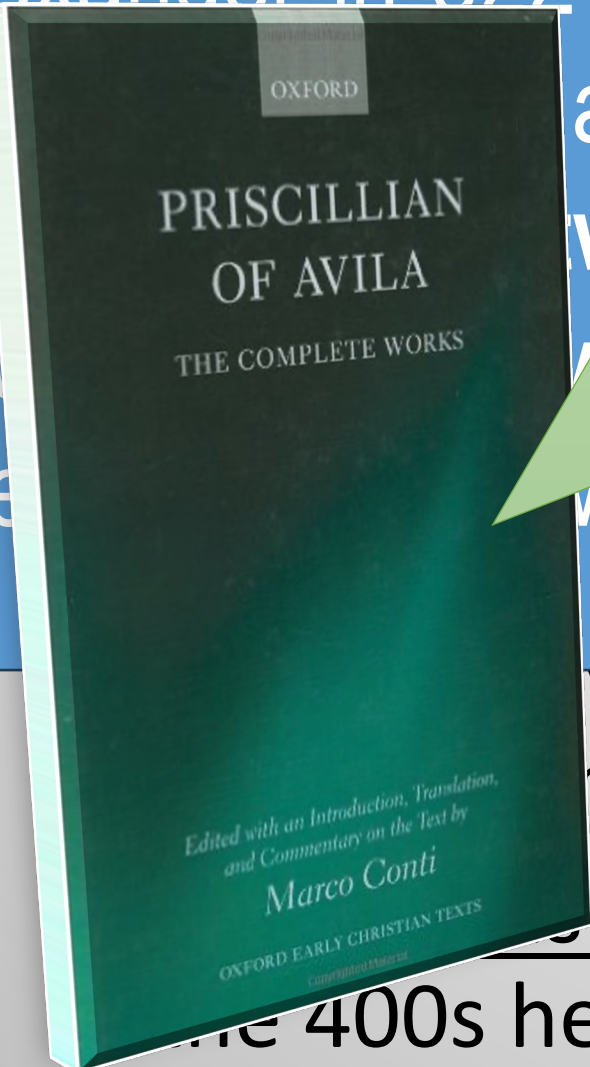
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the 400s he justifies using force with [Lk 14:16-24]



Priscillian of Spain in 383AD.
A bishop for a “house church.”
Maximus, ruler in The West condemned him & six followers. Three other bishops lamented this secular interjection & subsequently excommunicated all the bishops involved.