



Joy In
Persecution
For the Church in Pakistan

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By, Naveed Malik
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"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12

Special Thanks

I am thankful to the Lord that He has prepared Brother Aftab Daniel to pay the printing cost of this booklet. It is not the first time, as he occasionally participates in the recording of our videos and printing of our books. Although originally he is from Karachi, the Lord our God opened a door for him to carry on his business in Saudi Arabia. It is my prayer that may the Lord our God richly bless brother Aftab and his family and use him in an even greater way for His glory.

Author

Special Thanks

I am thankful from the bottom of my heart for Sister Miriam Jannai, the servant of the Lord who helped me in editing the English text of this booklet. She also helped in editing my several books which have been written in English as a gift from her heart. She is a committed and faithful servant of the Lord. She has a special burden for Israel that they may come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sister Miriam Jannai, it is my prayer from the deep bottom of my heart that may the Lord our God grant you a long and prosperous life that you may be a blessing for so many more people. Amen

Author

Editor's Thought

The burden for Israel Brother Naveed Malik mentions was given as a surprise "Esther assignment" in August 2001. In late 2005, a passion for the people and nations of Pakistan and India was added, which is when Brother Naveed Malik came into my life. The request that I edit this booklet arrived on a Saturday, which is when I celebrate YHWH's Sabbath, so I asked for his patience and also told him the feast of Purim (based on the Book of Esther) was starting that evening so I would begin the editing work after I'd welcomed that event by delighting in eating some Haman's Hat cookies! The weekly Torah portion had included Deuteronomy 25:17-19 which is significant to me for personal reasons. Then, on Sunday, as I was doing the editing, I stopped to listen to a recording of the Book of Esther and also read Exodus 17:8-16, Psalm 3:3 and Hebrews 11, which was all so confirming as I had been struggling a week before over being upset with the way the Pharaoh-like leader of my country is doing things. However, in listening to a talk on prophecy six days before the editing work, I'd been quieted and able to submit to the idea that our heavenly Father is allowing all these national and world events to happen for His good purpose as the time nears for the second coming of Messiah Y'shua, His Son. And that the Book of Exodus is the pattern for what will happen in the future as far as His people being miraculously protected and provided for even as the world is in turmoil. Revelation 15:1-4 mentions the Song of Moses (Ex. 15:1-21) being sung and after I read Hebrews 11 on the topic of "trusting faith" I continued through Hebrews 12:1-3, being reminded of "the great cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us and all Y'shua suffered for us. In 2006 Brother Naveed Malik asked me to pray Psalm 2 for the nation of Pakistan - the Word of Elohim is true and good for counsel, meditation and encouragement. "May YHWH Elohim of Israel bless you and keep you, make His face to shine upon you, be gracious unto you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:22-26)

Miriam Jannai

Dear Reader!

Thank God that now this booklet has reached your hands. It is not just an accident, but the will of God that you are reading this book. Surely it is written only for you, not for someone else, so that you may walk faithfully in the journey of following Christ and you may become strong in your Christian faith.

In the present age we hear that something bad is happening everywhere. If we look at it more closely, then we will find that the entire world is lacking peace. The superpower nations like America are declining economically very badly. We hear that a spiritual spirit of death is ruling all over America. It seems to me that America is sinking down rapidly into the bottomless ocean day after day. Every person around the world knows about what happened in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A huge portion of the population of Japan was hit by an earthquake and then a tsunami in March 2011. You know what happened over there. It was not less than what we read about the last Day of Judgment. Man has much knowledge, but at the same time he is more insecure and makes ammunition with his own hands for his own destruction.

What do we see about the condition of the nation of Egypt, a nation that was a superpower in the days of Moses? Aren't there flames of fire that are embracing all Egypt? Don't we hear that prophecies of the book of Revelation are being fulfilled? Do you see what is going on in Libya and Tunisia? Is there something that you don't know which I have to tell you? No, you know everything. You turn on the television and hear hardly any good news.

You read the newspaper and find that so many people are killed, read about corruption, about bribery, about fire and flames and cruelty against children and women. So many people have stopped reading the newspaper in our nation because it causes their blood pressure to rise. There is no hope of joy in this world. What is going on in Bahrain is something that never ever happened before this. Kindly change the channel from Star Plus and watch news about what is going on around the world.

Look at our own nation of Pakistan. What hasn't happened here? Didn't historical earthquakes afflict our nation from East to West and North to South? Didn't we hear that a tsunami was going to hit Karachi but the Lord our God controlled it? Do we think that we are better than others? Didn't our nation become wrapped up in a very bad flood at the end of 2010? Isn't the next plague worse than the earlier one? Our planes were crashed, trains were damaged in accidents, vehicles were burnt, Church buildings were attacked, and Christian communities were set on fire. Christian schools, hospitals and worship places were attacked by firecrackers; even our animals were burnt and turned into ashes.

Our political leader, Mr. Shahbaz Bhatti, was recently murdered because he was taking the side of the Christian community. We heard that Qamar David was found dead in jail day in March 2011. How strange is it that while I was ironing my clothes I heard on Express News that in England a female canine gave birth to 17 puppies, but there was no mention even once on any of our television channels about what happened to Qamar David in the jail. The reason that we assume is that he did not die but was killed because of the blasphemy law. He was in jail because of the law of blasphemy. We don't know how many more are on the front line and about to be killed. A lot of young Christian men have been killed in the name of religion and some are still in jail. There is not any lawyer who puts his life at risk to file our cases.

My dear fellow Believer! What kind of right you are asking for? Your right is a heavenly inheritance if you believe that Jesus is your Savior. But until you get there, you better get ready to let them flow the rivers of your blood and light the lamps with your blood that those who are in darkness may come out of it and live in the Kingdom of true Light.

Do you know that in Orissa, India, our Christian sisters where stripped naked and they asked them to run away through the streets? I am not talking about something that happened centuries before but about an event in the last decade.

It is sad to say that in our own community, because of our own disunity, our love and harmony has turned into ashes and flown away in the air. Ministry work has become a joke for so many people. There is selling and buying on Church properties. We do backbiting and feel proud of pulling the legs out from under our own brother. The purpose of our lives has become to have position, greediness and money. We have forgotten that "if a man gets the entire world and loses his own soul then what is the benefit to that person?"

The circumstances of our nation and cities are so critical that there is not any assurance whether the one who leaves his dear ones for a job in the morning will come back alive in the evening. The invisible circle of hatred and prejudice around the church in Pakistan is becoming narrower and narrower day by day. That is the reason I felt a special burden, honor and pleasure to write this booklet in this critical situation. It could be the last effort of mine in the earthly journey of my life. We are in the front line and don't know when

someone will think killing me will bring merit. However, my purpose in writing this is to help my fellow believers to be firm and strong in their faith, knowing that the crown of life belongs to those who bear the pain till the final breath. If someone would go through this small booklet then the bitter pill of persecution will become sweet to swallow.

Jesus Christ already prophesized that “people will persecute you for My Name’s sake. They will put you in prisons. They will bring you into the courts and even some of you shall be killed but you need to be patient in these kinds of circumstances.” Jesus said that you need to be happy in these kinds of circumstances because not in this world but in heaven you have a greater reward. Jesus said that worldly people persecuted those prophets who came long before you. The teaching of Jesus Christ is to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. As proof of living what He taught, Jesus was crucified by this kind of worldly people and He was praying for them, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” while on the cross. Those who were following His footsteps did the same as Jesus has commanded us to do. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles we find that when Stephen was being stoned he prayed, “Father, do not count their sin against them.” One of the spiritual warriors said that “*suffering is the jewelry of a believer.*”

Jesus Christ said that “if it happened with Me, the green tree, then why won’t it happen with you who are dry?” So I am just playing my role of reminding you what Jesus has prophesized about our persecution. Now, what kind of comfort zones we are asking for and what kind protest are we doing while asking for our rights?

From the very beginning of the Church it never ever happened that believers were in a comfort zone and in a peaceful world. They were witnesses of Christ in every age and in all kinds of circumstances. They knew that Jesus Christ said that “if someone would like to follow Me then he/she should take up his/her cross and then follow Me.” Christian believers knew that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. They have lit the lamps with their own blood to make us see the true Light. I salute those martyred heroes of faith.

For your kind information I would like to bring to your kind notice that St. John and St. James were beheaded, St. Stephen was stoned and, according to the traditions, St. Peter was crucified by being hung upside down. St. Paul was

beheaded in Rome. Recorded in Church history are abundant incidents that happened against the Church; bringing them out with the tongue of a pen makes my heart cry out. Bishop Polycarp was tied up to a wooden stake and was burned alive. Christians were thrown into the lion dens in Roman stadiums. Christians were packed in wet skins of animals and thrown out into the sunshine. As the skins of animals were drying and shrinking, the bones of believers were being broken into pieces. They were asked to lie on iron sheets of nails under a heavy load. The skin of believers was removed and, after being sprinkled with salt, their bodies were thrown into the hot sand and sunshine. In this way they were killed by slow poisoning of persecution. They never asked for religious or political asylum or visas for America. What kind of comfort zones we are looking for? This is a matter to think about.

St. Peter was told to shut his mouth and not to speak about Jesus. He responded, "Do you want me to obey you and not God? It is impossible." According to the traditions he was crucified as I have mentioned earlier. It is said that St. Peter was crucified while his head was down because he said, "Do not crucify me as you did with my Lord but crucify me by hanging me upside down." He went through this happily.

St. John was the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ and he was the human author of the Gospel of John, the three epistles of John and the book of Revelation. On the cross Jesus addresses this same disciple saying, "Here is your mother" (Mary) and then to His mother Jesus said, "Here is your son." Traditions tell us that St. John took Mary along with him to Ephesus because he was serving the Lord over there and Mary died there and is buried on a small mountain near Ephesus called Miryana. This is the same St. John who was thrown into prison by the ruler of that time. And traditions say that St. John was thrown into boiling oil in a big pan same as you fry fish.

St. Paul, one of the persecutors of the Church, was the one persecuted much more than any other believer. He made three missionary journeys. At the end of his last journey he came to the Island of Miletus where His ship was anchored for some time. Here he recalled that "nearby is Ephesus where my spiritual children are" and I think his heart was beating fast then because he wished to meet with them. By sending some men, the elders of the Ephesus Church were called in Miletus. Then St. Paul addressed them like this:

“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

My dearest fellow believers, there is no need to tie black ribbons on our foreheads or arms. There is no need to protest because it won't bring something good. We don't even see any example of protest to follow in the Word of God. What I think is that you are thinking to make some amendments in the blasphemy laws and I want to tell you that you won't be able to do so. They will never be changed and they will even make more laws like that. It is because it is according to the Word of God that persecution and killings will happen.

Remember that these laws are not new but very old and even at the time of Daniel laws such as these were in action. It was said that “whoever will not bow down before the golden image will be put into a furnace of fire.” Praying, “Oh God, remove the mountains of persecution” is against the Word of God.

Jesus Christ already warned us that all this will happen to believers. We can't go against the truths of the Word of God. Let me say that we need to pray like this: “Lord, if it is your will that my blood could be the cause of revival in this nation then I am ready. Lord, make my faith so strong that I never ever compromise with this world but strive to fight the good fight. And if there is a need to lay down my life for the sake of the Gospel, then make me so strong and firm in my faith that I never turn back.”

I would like to share a testimony of a Christian family of Vietnam. There were very critical and difficult circumstances when revival embraced Vietnam.

Many Church leaders were martyred. After some time a martyred Church leader's wife and her two small children were arrested. They were taken into the jungle where the mother was tied up to a tree and two of her children were tied up to two different trees, one on her right and the second on her left. The soldiers had taken their guns and, making them the target, said to these three: "If you want to deny your Christ then do it right now. Otherwise we won't wait; we will kill you all on the spot." It was only a few steps journey between their life and death. Think about what you would have done if you were that lady or one of those children. Think seriously.

Both children were smiling while looking into the eyes of their mother and the mother's eyes were filled with tears as she said to her children: "Dear children, don't be afraid of those who kill the flesh. But we need to worry about the one who can kill and throw into hell both our soul and body. We belong to Jesus and we will remain His people. Let these soldiers do what they want to do but, my dear children, I would like to tell you that if they kill us right now then we would have dinner tonight at the table of the King of the Kings and the Lord of the Lords." Then these cruel soldiers killed these three precious souls by firing on them as they sang "I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back" until their last breath. Hallelujah.

Many years ago one of my Korean friends who was learning Urdu from me said: "Korean people paid the price for revival. Our ancestors were worshiping in the Churches and after oil was poured on our Church buildings they were burned inside of them." He also said, "Until the key leaders of Pakistan lay down their lives for the sake of the Gospel, revival will not come in Pakistan." You can read a few books regarding revival. There were many who laid their lives for the Gospel. A few titles of these books are: "Korea In The Flames Of Fire," "Martyrs of Carthage" and "Martyrs of Roma." The study of these books will be a cause of blessing for you.

I want to say for your encouragement that you have not come into this world according to your own will. There was a special purpose of God in your birth. You are not without a purpose and God wants to use you for His ministry. I believe that you won't die until you complete your ministry work. I can give you proof of it from the Word of God. It is written in Revelation 11:7: "*And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*" This passage is about two witnesses. God was going to use them for

His purpose and He did. Please see the words: *“And when they shall have finished their testimony...”*. Until they finished their work, no one was able to even touch them. They were killed after finishing their work. Isn't it true?

What I am saying is that God has chosen you and called you for a special purpose and you have to work according to that purpose. Until you finish that purpose no one will be able to touch you. Even bombs will fail to explode and there are not any arms that will work when people use them against you in this time period.

I pray that these words may become the cause of revival and transformation in the lives of the Pakistani Church. May we come to know that Christian life, not only in Pakistan but all over the world, is not a bed of roses but rather one of thorns. It is necessary to go through the tunnels of suffering to enter into the Kingdom of God.

I am so thankful for the promise the Lord made in Revelation 21: *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”* Revelation 21:3-4

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.” Romans 8:35-39

From One Who Is Awaiting
His Second Coming

Naveed Malik

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