

-A STUDY OF THE BEATITUDES-

Blessed

is the One

| MATTHEW 5:1-12 |

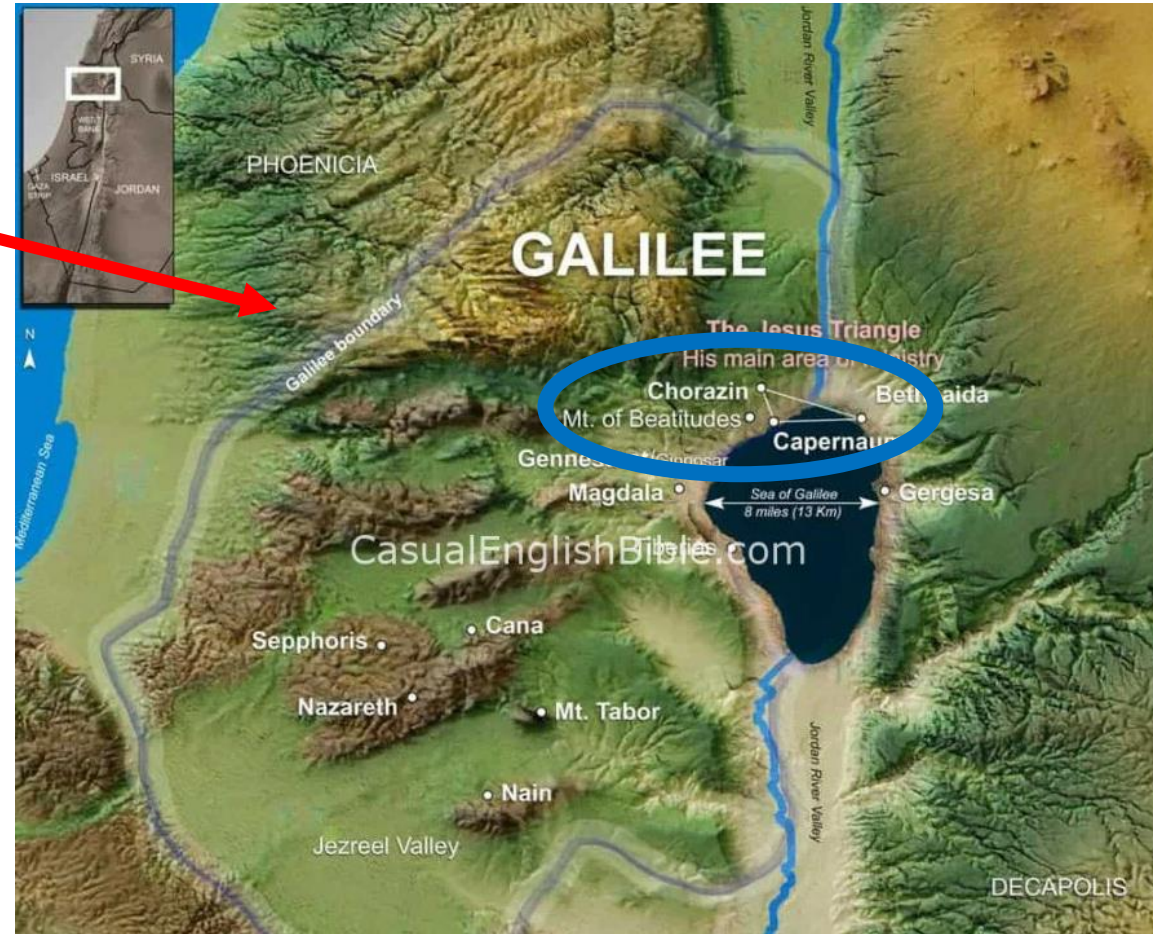
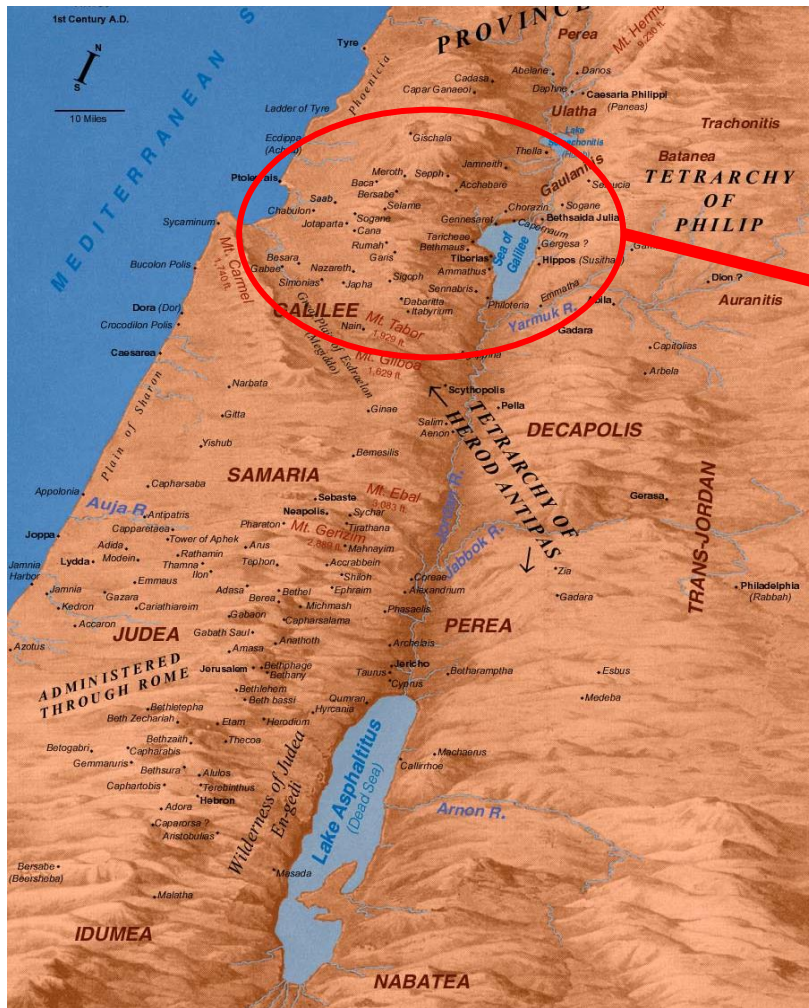


Sermon on the Mount

- Region of the Galilee
 - Mount of the Beatitudes
- Jesus' Longest Recorded Sermon
- Primary audience was His disciples
 - Predominantly Jewish
 - Crowds, multitudes, followers of Jesus (Matthew 7:28)
- Echoed feel of Moses going up to Mt Sinai
- “The sermon did not present the way of salvation. The sermon showed how a person who is in right relationship with God should conduct his life.” – The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Sermon on the Mount

Blessed
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https://www.casualenglishbible.com/resource_location/mount-of-beatitudes?srsId=AfmBOoo_FcMNgF3-5GiM6UJA4qSwh5K1r3_-syTwTAaS__JPEKcnlgzE

Sermon on the Mount

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<http://souvenirchronicles.blogspot.com/>

Matthew 5:1-12

- 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 “**Blessed** *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- 4 “**Blessed** *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
- 5 “**Blessed** *are* the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”
- 6 “**Blessed** *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
- 7 “**Blessed** *are* the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
- 8 “**Blessed** *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
- 9 “**Blessed** *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”
- 10 “**Blessed** *are* those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- 11 “**Blessed** *are* you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”
- 12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Blessed are ____, for ____.

- Blessed = *Makarios* (μακάριος)
- *Makarios*: Happy, Joy, a sense of a Fulfilled life, Congratulations
- For = *hoti* (ὅτι)
- *Hoti*: That or Because; The reason for that “blessed”
- While there are 9 “Blessed” statements, only 8 beatitudes

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the **pursuit of Happiness...**” – United States Declaration of Independence
- “The phrase "the pursuit of Happiness" is a cornerstone of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, it identifies the universal, "unalienable" right all individuals have to live freely and seek a meaningful, flourishing life.” National Archives (.gov)

Beatitudes 1-6

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
- “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”
- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
- “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
- “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Blessed are the Peacemakers

- “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9
- Peacemaker: eirenopoios (εἰρηνοποιός - ee-ree-noh-poy-OSS)
 - One who makes peace by reconciling parties that are at variance (conflict)
- Sons of God:
 - Belonging to the Heavenly Father and reflect His character

Blessed are the Peacemakers

- The world started with peace and will end in peace
 - The Garden of Eden
 - Eternity in Heaven
- “In this original garden, there was union with God, contentedness with self, closeness and affection with one another, and a deep sense of enjoyment for all that God had created” – The Garden Resonates

Blessed are the Peacemakers

And then.. The fall

“Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out.” – Genesis 3:23-24

Blessed are the Peacemakers

- Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of something
- True peace is **oneness with God**, the presence of ultimate peace

“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our **peace**...” Ephesians 2:14

“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.” Isaiah 9:6

Sar Shalom – Prince/Ruler of Peace

Blessed are the Peacemakers

“Peace I leave with you; **My peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” – John 14:27

- Not worldly peace
- Not free from trouble
- Literally HIS peace

Blessed are the Peacemakers

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” – Romans 5:1

“And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made **peace** through the blood of His cross” – Colossians 1:20

- Oneness with God by the ultimate peacemaking act in the history of the world

Blessed are the Peacemakers

“There is no **peace** for the wicked’, says the Lord” – Isaiah 48:22

- Unless we deal with sin, there is no peace
- To make peace we must bring truth, not flee from conflict so as not to offend someone
- Be a **Peacemaker**, not a **Peacekeeper**

Blessed are the Peacemakers

- Peacekeeper – “Let’s not upset or offend anyone”
 - Avoids the hard conversations
 - Suppresses the truth
 - Enables sin
 - “peace” over conflict
- Peacemaker – “Let’s bring people into right relationship, even if a difficult truth has to be said”
 - Willing to have challenging conversations
 - Speaks the truth
 - Calls out sin
 - Points to the **TRUE PEACE**

Blessed are the Peacemakers

- The example, the ultimate **Peacemaker**, Jesus Christ
 - Repeatedly rebuked the Pharisees with truth
 - Cleansed the temple of unrighteousness
 - Confronted sin head on
 - Called all to repentance
 - Bore the sin of the world on a wooden cross

Blessed are the Peacemakers

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- To make peace, you must know peace.
- Make peace with yourself, then go make peace with the world

Have you reconciled your sin and made peace within yourself?

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Blessed
is the One

When you go out and make true peace with the world, one thing is sure to follow...

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10
- Persecuted: dediōgmenoi (δεδιωγμένοι - deh-dee-ohg-MEH-nee)
 - Perfect tense – ongoing, lasting state
 - the systematic and deliberate mistreatment or oppression of an individual or group, usually driven by hostility regarding their race, religion, political beliefs, or other fundamental identities – dictionary.com
- Kingdom of Heaven:
 - Not a physical place, but living in God’s reign

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- “...for the sake of righteousness”
- “In the context of the Beatitudes, this phrase describes those who suffer persecution because of their commitment to what God requires – righteous behavior that flows from seeking to fulfill God’s demand” – The Beatitudes through the Ages, Christianity: A Brief Survey

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

Blessed
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- Persecuted cont.
 - The root verb diōkō (pursue) originally meant "to run swiftly to catch someone," "to chase," or "to hunt." It evolved to take on a hostile connotation—meaning to pursue someone like an enemy, hunt them down, or aggressively mistreat them for their beliefs. – bibletools.org
 - As if the righteous were dangerous or despicable
 - While persecution may escalate to physical violence, it often begins with words – insults, false accusations, cruel mockery

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” – John 17:14
- We must live in the world – Raise families, work, contribute to society
- When we live “not of the world” it is visible, it is different
- Living unlike the world points out the lack of oneness with God, the lack of true peace – it makes the world uncomfortable

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

Blessed
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“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you” – John 15:18-19

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.” – Matthew 5:11
- Not another beatitude, but a doubling down
- An expansion of the broader persecution
 - 3 forms of persecution

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- Three types of persecution:
- **Insult you** (oneidizō - to mock, revile, heap insults)
 - Mocked for your faith
 - Called narrow-minded, intolerant, foolish
 - Ridiculed for believing scripture

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- Three types of persecution:
- **Persecute you** (harassment, pressure, discrimination)
 - Being excluded socially
 - Losing opportunities because of biblical convictions
 - Workplace consequences for refusing unethical behavior
 - Imprisonment, harm or even death

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- Three types of persecution:
- **Falsely Say All Kinds of Evil Against You** (slander, false accusations)
 - Misrepresenting your beliefs
 - Accusing Christians of motives they don't have
 - False rumors
 - Deliberately twisting what was said

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” – Matthew 5:12
- Paul says
 - believers can exult/rejoice in our tribulation for it brings perseverance, character, hope – Romans 5:3-5
 - suffering for Christ is a privilege granted by God – Philippians 1:29

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- Paul's Credentials – 2 Corinthians 11
 - Imprisonments and beatings without number, often in danger of death
 - Five times received the 39 lashes
 - Three times beaten with rods
 - Once stoned
 - Dangers from robbers, his countrymen, gentiles, false brethren
- Paul's "thorn in the flesh" – 2 Corinthians 12
 - Asked the Lord 3 times to remove it
 - The Lord responded "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" – 2 Corinthians 12:9

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

Blessed
is the One

- “Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great;” – Matthew 5:12
- Our reward
 - Eternity in heaven
 - Oneness, fellowship with Christ, Peace

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

Blessed
is the One

- “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” – Matthew 5:12
- “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;” Acts 7:51-52

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- **Jeremiah:** Labeled a traitor for advising surrender to Babylon, he was beaten, placed in stocks, and thrown into a muddy cistern to starve.
- **Isaiah:** According to early Jewish and Christian traditions, he was bound and sawn in two by the orders of King Manasseh of Judah.
- **Zechariah:** Stoned to death in the courtyard of the temple for rebuking the idolatry and disobedience of the people.
- **John the Baptist:** Imprisoned and eventually beheaded by King Herod after publicly condemning the ruler's unlawful marriage.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

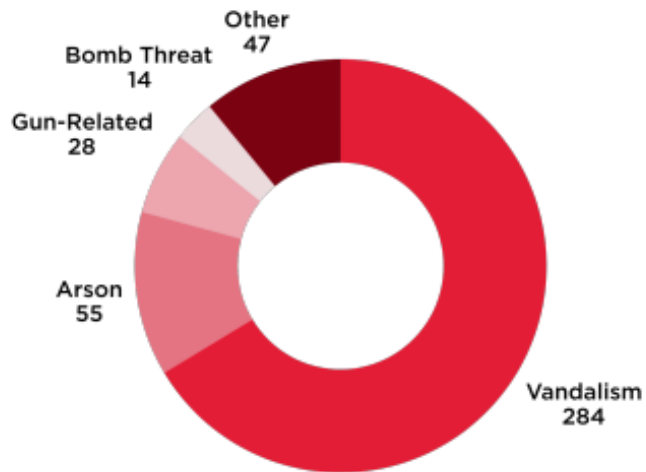
The widely accepted traditions regarding their deaths include:

- Peter: Crucified upside down in Rome at his own request, as he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus.
- Andrew: Crucified on an X-shaped cross in Greece.
- Thomas: Speared to death in India.
- Bartholomew: Flayed (skinned alive) and beheaded in Armenia.
- Matthew: Killed by a sword wound in Ethiopia (though early accounts from the second century suggest he died a natural death).
- Philip: Crucified upside down in Hierapolis.
- Simon the Zealot: Reportedly sawed in half in Persia, or crucified in Armenia.
- Thaddeus (Jude): Killed with arrows in Armenia or Lebanon.
- James (son of Alphaeus): Stoned and beaten to death in Jerusalem.
- Matthias (the replacement for Judas): Stoned and beheaded.

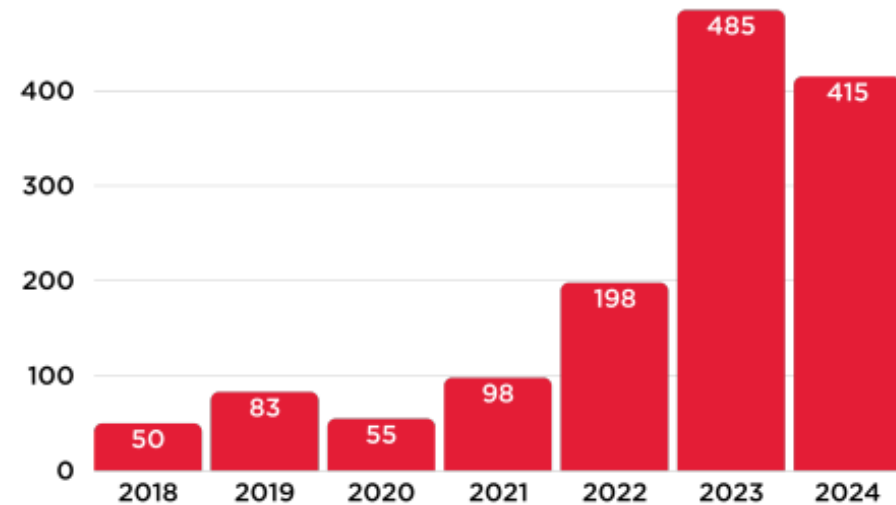
Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- To date, FRC has identified 1,384 acts of hostility toward U.S. churches, occurring between January 2018 and December 2024. These acts are destructive and have the potential to intimidate religious communities. Therefore, they deserve to be condemned

Types of incidents, January-December 2024



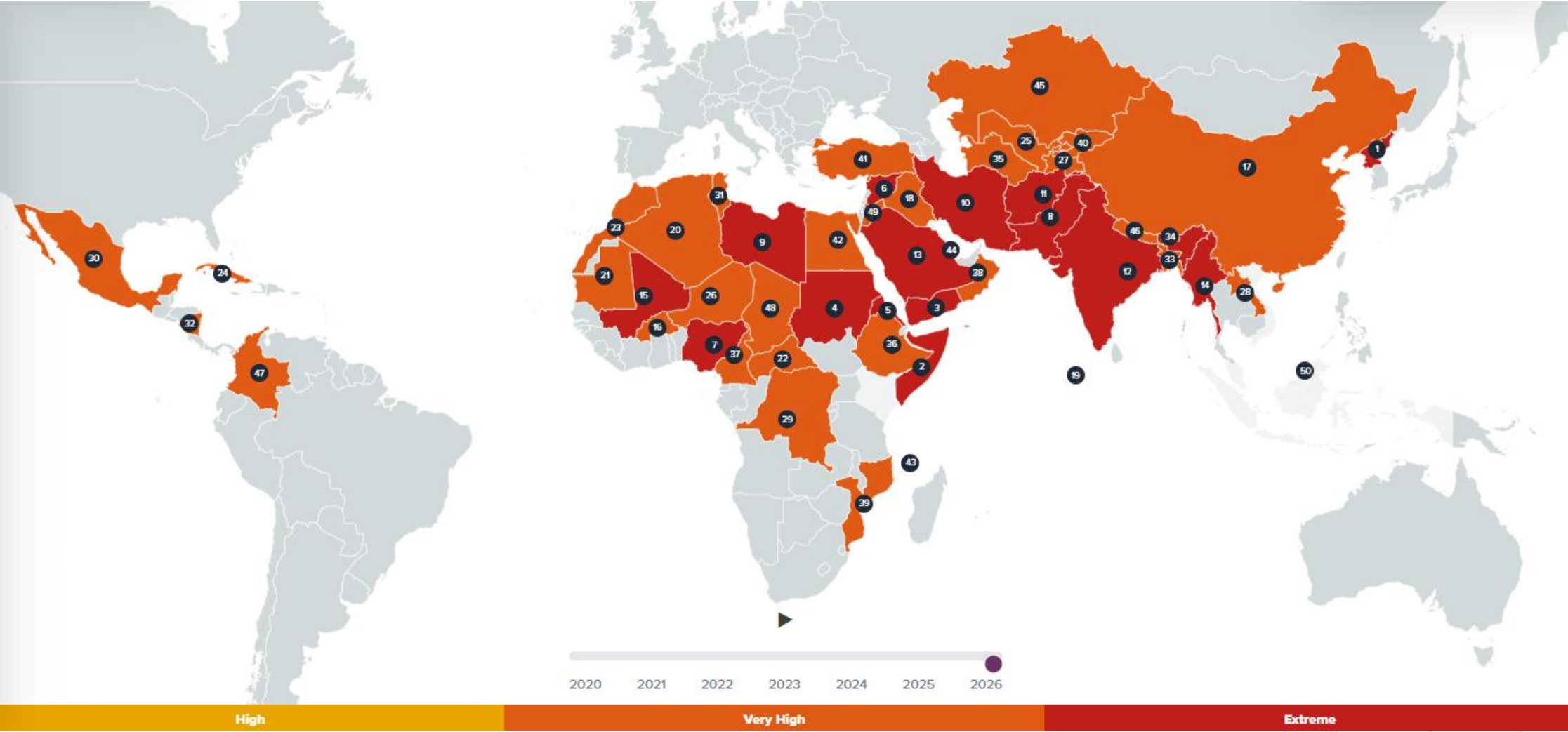
Incidents per year, 2018-2024



<https://www.frc.org/issueanalysis/hostility-against-churches-is-on-the-rise-in-the-united-states#gsc.tab=0>

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

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<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution>

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

More than 388m Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

In Open Doors' World Watch List top 50 alone, 315m+ Christians face very high or extreme persecution. Explore the country profiles to find information, stories and prayers for each of the countries, along with ways that you can stand with your persecuted church family in prayer and action. [More about the World Watch List](#)



1 in 7 Christians are persecuted worldwide



1 in 5 Christians are persecuted in Africa



2 in 5 Christians are persecuted in Asia

VIOLENCE IN NUMBERS



4,849
Christians murdered



4,712
Christians detained



3,632
Churches and Christian properties attacked

Last year, more Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country, according to Global Christian Relief.

<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution>

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

Blessed
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- “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?... Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether his strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?... So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.” Luke 14:28-33

Blessed are those who have been persecuted

- Do we count the cost of following Jesus?
- Do we expect to not have to pay a price?
- If it is costing us nothing, are we truly following Him?

The Beatitudes

- Blessed are the pure in heart...
- Blessed are those who mourn...
- Blessed are the gentle (meek)...
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...
- Blessed are the merciful...
- Blessed are the pure in heart...
- Blessed are the peacemakers...
- Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness sake...

The progression of a Christ Follower

- Blessed is the one who recognizes they are a spiritually bankrupt sinner in need of a Savior
- Blessed is the one who mourns over his sin
- Blessed is the one who humbles himself in submission to Jesus Christ
- Blessed is the one who has a desire for holiness
- Blessed is the one who gives grace and mercy to others because they know grace and mercy
- Blessed is the one who has an internal transformation
- Blessed is the one who makes peace by leading others to the author of peace
- Blessed is the one who faces the world's response to the outward reflection of the inward transformation