

# Treasure Hunt

- Why does the world hate Christians?
- How should we feel when we are persecuted because we are righteous?
- What kind of persecution should we *not* value?
- What two motives does the Lord give us to rejoice when we are persecuted?
- Where will we enjoy the reward that is laid up for us in heaven?
- Please name one Old Testament prophet who was persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

# The Structure of the Sermon

Setting	4:25-5:2	7:28-8:1
Blessings & Warnings	5:3-12	7:13-27
Our Mission	5:13-16	
Law & Prophets	5:17-19	7:12b
Toward Man	5:20-48	7:1-12a
Toward God	6:1-18	6:19-34

Blessed are

3 The poor in spirit

4 They that mourn

5 The meek

6 They which do hunger and thirst after righteousness

7 The merciful

8 The pure in heart

9 The peacemakers

**10 They which are persecuted for righteousness' sake**

# The Motive for Persecution

1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached **for the name of Christ**, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But **let none of you suffer as a murderer**, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if *any man suffer as a Christian*, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Joh 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because **ye are not of the world**, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

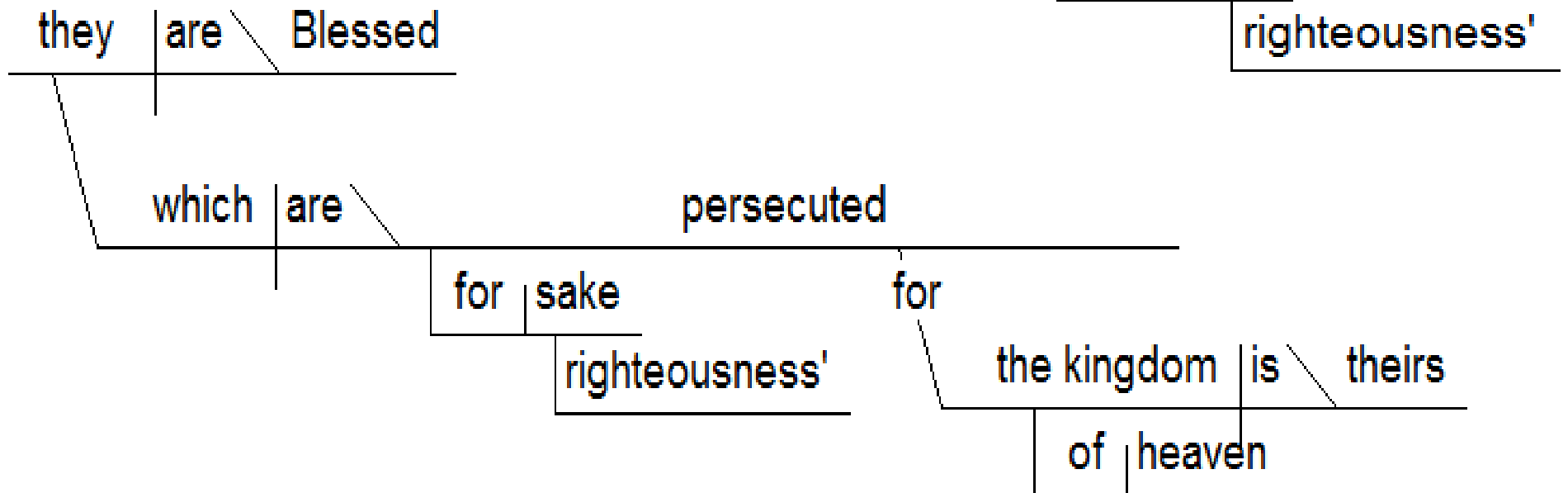
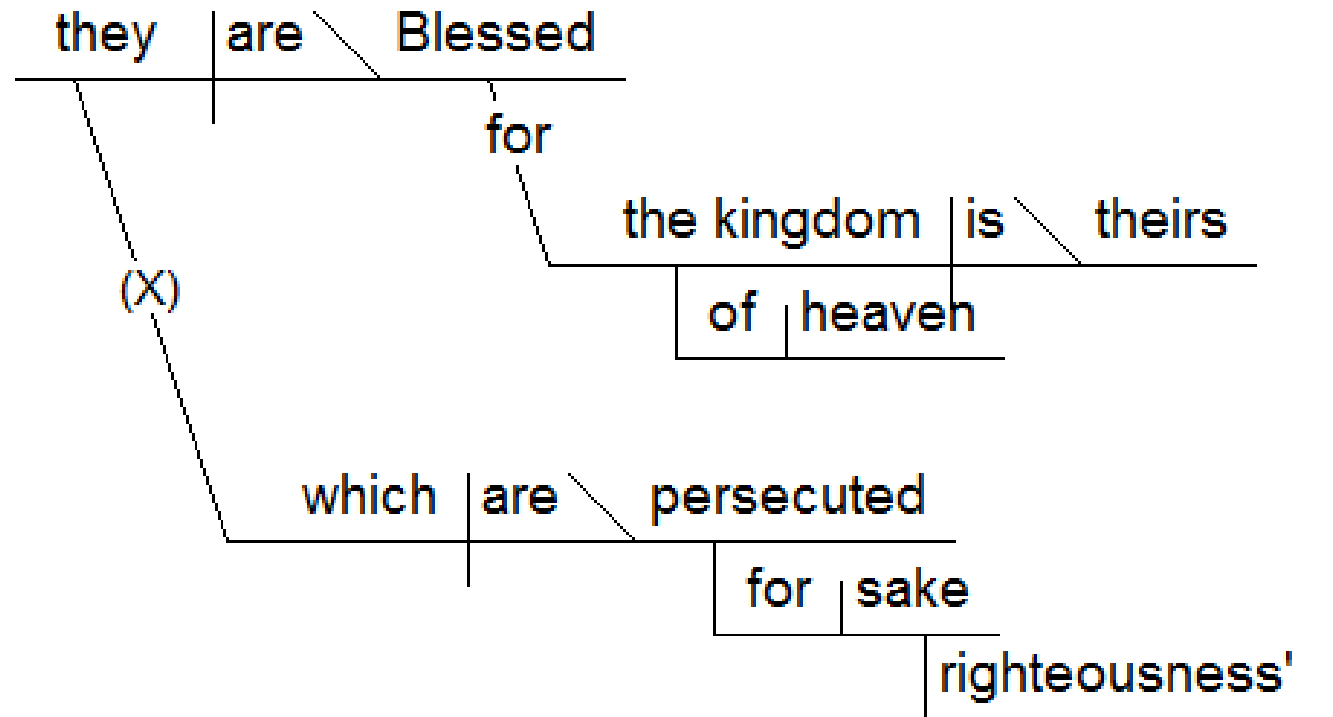
Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, **because their deeds were evil**.

1Jo 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And **wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous**.

1Pe 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that **ye run not with them** to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

Mar 6:17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. 18 For John had said unto Herod, **It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife**. 19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: 20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, **he did many things, and heard him gladly**.

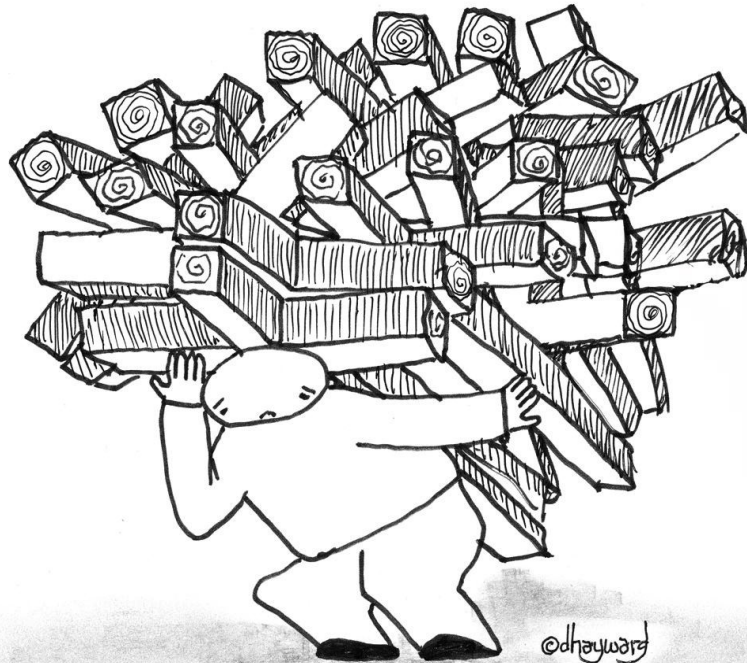
# Two Possible Parsings



# Two Motives for us to Rejoice in Persecution (5:12)

## Past:

For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you



## Future:

For great is your reward in heaven

Image: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/nakedpastor/2010/07/cartoon-codependent-care-giver/>

# First Motive to Rejoice: Your Reward in Heaven

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But **lay up** for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Mat 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have **treasure in heaven**: and come and follow me.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of man **shall come** in the glory of his Father with his angels; and **then** he shall reward every man according to his works.

2Th 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: 5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: 6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Col 1:5 ... the hope which is **laid up for you in heaven**, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you**, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time**.

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you **at the revelation of Jesus Christ**;

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed**, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

# Second Motive to Rejoice: The Prophets' Example

Mat 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: 35 That upon you may come **all the righteous blood shed upon the earth**, from the blood of righteous **Abel** unto the blood of **Zacharias son of Barachias**, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. 36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Act 7:52 Which of the **prophets** have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Jer 20:7 O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one **mocketh me**. 8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a **reproach** unto me, and a **derision**, daily. 9 Then I said, I will not **make mention of him**, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and **I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay**. 10 For I heard the **defaming** of many, fear on every side. Report, say *they*, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, *saying*, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and **we shall take our revenge on him**. 11 But **the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one**: therefore my **persecutors** shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: *their* everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

Jam 5:10 Take, my brethren, the **prophets**, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.