

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Timeline

*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. – 2 Timothy 3:1*



“The Christian Martyrs’ Last Prayer” – Jean-Léon Gerome (ca. 1863-1873)

36

Judea: Persecution by Saul [aka Paul]

41

Judea: Persecution by Herod Agrippa I

62

Judea: Persecution by Annas II

66 – 68

Rome: Persecution by Nero

ca. 95

Rome: Persecution under Domitian

ca. 107

Roman Empire: Persecution under Trajan

132 – 136

Roman Empire: Persecution by Jews for refusing to join with them in the Second Jewish Revolt against Rome

165 – 177

Roman Empire: Persecution under Marcus Aurelius

202 – 211

Roman Empire: Persecution under Septimius Severus

235

Roman Empire: Persecution under Maximinus I

250

Roman Empire: Persecution by Decius

257 – 260

Roman Empire: Persecution by Valerian

303 – 311

Roman Empire: Persecution by Diocletian and Galerius, 10,000 – 100,000 killed

341

Persian Empire: 1,150 Christians executed

361 – 363

Roman Empire: Persecution by Julian the Apostate

375

Crimea: Goths kill 308 Christians

516

Yemen: The Jewish warlord Dhu Nuwas claimed to have killed 22,000 Christians

622 – 750

Middle East, North Africa, Spain: Islamic conquest

960

Ethiopia: Queen Gudit persecuted the Church

1281

China: Leaders of the Church of the East arrested

1338 – 1368

China: Final suppression of the Church of the East

1370 – 1405

Asia and the Middle East: Destruction of the Church of the East in Central Asia by Timur, aka Tamerlane. Up to 17 million people of all faiths died. *This was likely the largest persecution of Christians by non-Christians prior to the 20th century – the exact number of affected Christians is unknown due to the extent of the destruction, but given Timur's hatred of Christianity it was surely a high percentage of the total casualties*

1453

Byzantine Empire: Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks. Thousands of Christians were killed and 30,000 deported or sold into slavery

1470

Greece: Fall of Negroponte to the Ottomans, 6,000 Christians killed or enslaved

1570 – 1573

Cyprus: Invasion by the Ottomans, at least 56,000 Christians killed or enslaved

Lepanto, Ionian Sea: The Ottoman navy was defeated and 12,000 Christian galley slaves were freed, at the cost of 7,500 Christian dead

1587 – 1639

Japan: Christianity was outlawed and 37,000 Christians and sympathizers were killed in the Shimabara Rebellion

1683

Austria: Siege and Battle of Vienna claimed over 16,000 Christians but the Ottoman forces were defeated

1690

Serbia: Ottoman atrocities caused 37,000 Christian families to flee to Austria

1700 – 1900

Vietnam: More than 20,300 Christians were killed

1780 – 1784

India: Tipu Sultan killed nearly 26,000 Christians and forced 30,000 to convert to Islam including some British officers

1789 – 1799

France: Revolution and the Vendean Revolt claimed 177,000 – 450,000 Christian lives

1791 – 1873

Korea: Over 10,000 Christians were killed in four major persecutions

1821 – 1832

Greece: Up to 130,000 Christians died in the war for independence from the Ottomans

1831 – 1861

Madagascar: Thousands of actual and suspected Christians died in ritual poisoning ordeals

1843 – 1909

Ottoman Empire: Over 380,000 Armenian, Assyrian, and Bulgarian Christians were killed in several waves of persecution

1869 – 1873

Japan: 3,600 Kakure Kirishitan ['Hidden Christians'] from Nagasaki were sent into internal exile, 650 died

1900

China: Almost 33,000 Christians were killed in the Boxer Rebellion

**1912 – present**

**Across the entire globe: At least 35 million Christians were killed and many more suffered in the greatest cumulative persecution in history**

Note: This timeline does not include the numerous cases of persecution of Christians by Christians, each of which was a denial of the prayer of Jesus that his followers be one [cf John 17:11], and many of which were exploited by non-Christians who desired to injure and wound His Church. It is a fact that much Christian suffering has ultimately been due to a lack of Christian unity in the face of persecution.

## **Today's Martyrs**

*For more information please visit our web site at <http://todaysmartyrs.org/>*

*or write to*

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