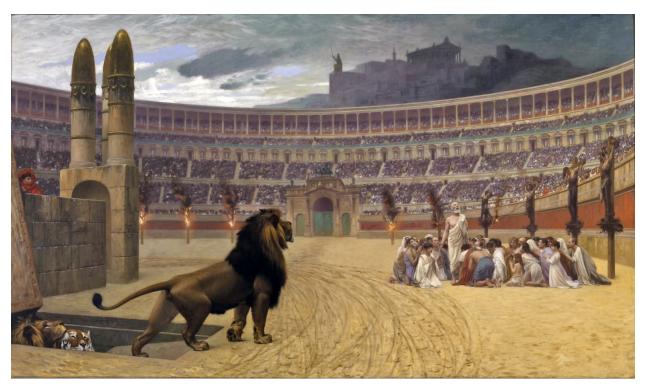
Today's Martyrs

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-Leon 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 causalities

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/
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