

# The LandBetween

## MINISTRIES

*The mission of the LandBetween Ministries is to equip leaders to fulfill Christ's Great Commission of heart-focused discipleship in a broken world.*

NEWSLETTER

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## NOBODY RIVALS THE RISEN JESUS CHRIST

### THE NON-VIOLENT MESSIAH

As 2019 comes to a close and we reflect back on the year, at least two themes emerge: Success and pain.

In 2019, in the midst of a surging economy in America, the body of Christ suffered tremendous pain and violence.

Just eight months ago, on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, about 259 Christians were killed due to terrorists bombing three different churches in Sri Lanka. These Christians are a small minority and were peacefully celebrating the risen Messiah when they were targeted and killed.

Jeremy Hunt, the former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom ordered a report on global Christian Persecution and, on May 3, 2019, the BBC published a summary of the results: Christians are the most persecuted group in the world and that in certain areas Christians are being persecuted at genocidal levels.

On Christmas day, a week ago in Nigeria, eleven believers were beheaded for their faith in Christ.

On Sunday, December 29, 2019, two faithful men laid down their lives for Christ as they were shot and killed while serving in their local

church just outside of Fort Worth, Texas. Reports indicate the gunman had been involved with drugs, demons, and other issues, but there are no legitimate excuses for such violence. Thankfully, the church had a plan, and the legal rights to mitigate the violence, or more innocent Christians would have been killed.

Throughout history, a pattern is clear: Since the Adversary cannot kill the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9) in a believer, evil people resort to violence and seek to kill the human body of a believer. This plan fails, however, as *nothing* can kill the



Holy Spirit or stop Jesus and His Kingdom from advancing.

In contrast, in Isaiah 53:9 Jesus is prophesied as one who would do no violence nor be a person of deceit. Jesus perfectly fulfilled God's prophecy recorded by Isaiah that the Messiah would be a man of non-violence.

Not one of Jesus' twelve disciples, not even Judas the betrayer, resorted to violence or revenge killings. However, all remaining twelve disciples of Jesus were killed by the

hands of murderous, violent men. Although violence has been done over the centuries by so-called "Christians," it is important that we separate the true believers from those who simply identify as Christians.

During Hitler's rule in Germany, genuine believers such as the Ten Boom family, died trying to save Jewish lives. Peaceful, loving believers in Jesus have been killed the world over trying to take the love of Christ to Islamic nations. Genuine believers in Jesus are not anti-Semitic nor Islamophobic, yet they are often falsely accused as being such.

Yes, there have been many false Christians who have not followed Jesus' teaching and His Messianic example of non-violence. However, should the element of false Christianity be a surprise? No, because it makes sense that the genuine, the real, the best, the brightest, would be the one entity with the most copycats and frauds. Just as certain Asian nations (proudly) violate the law and pirate the most popular and best products from the West, it is clearly taught in the Word of God that the Adversary masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:4).

Just because one may identify their vehicle as a Ford does not *make* it an actual Ford. Likewise, just because religions or atheistic regimes may try to justify *their* violence by falsely accusing all Christians of being...

...violent, *does not make you guilty* of the sins of false believers.

As a follower of Jesus, I do not have to apologize, as if I am guilty, for the violence of the Crusades or other past events because my spiritual heritage, going back to Isaiah 53:9 and beyond, had *absolutely nothing to do with such violence*.

Why bring up this topic of Jesus being non-violent? What does it matter for life in 2019 and 2020?

A trend I see in America and the world is that more and more cultural leaders, from leftist politicians to popular film executives, are falsely accusing Christians of being “violent” as an excuse for labeling them as a “threat.” And, what does that lead to? A societal “threat” in our culture, from the unborn to the cost of caring for the elderly, is deemed worthy of being eliminated. — I am not fear mongering, but we need to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

We need to take seriously that there are powerful forces at work in the US that truly hate Christians and want them eliminated. The Word tells us to *stand firm in the faith* (1 Corinthians 16:13) and yet I see too many Christians in America *standing around waiting for Jesus to return* instead of actively repenting, praying, and standing up for freedoms in America that much of the world only dreams of having. A leading “conservative” voice in American culture is a non-Christian and has falsely accused Jesus of leading a first-century Jewish

revolt against the Romans in Jerusalem, but Jesus “failed.”

In other words, to him Jesus is no big deal, just another leader of a violent revolt who failed. Why would this man believe such a lie about Jesus? Because that is what he was taught by his religious leaders and he has chosen to believe such a lie.

The truth is that Isaiah 53 and other Scriptures clearly point to Jesus as the Messiah. And, Jesus never instigated or led in a revolt against



the Romans;

He even told His followers to pay their taxes to Caesar (Matthew 22:15-22). Jesus had much more important things to do than lead a violent revolt against the Romans.

A revolt against the Romans would have had to involve violence, as the Roman empire expanded and was defended by a fierce military regime.

In contrast to leading a violent revolt, Jesus knew someone’s spirit would live forever, long after the Roman empire would fall. Jesus focused on what would last forever: One’s spirit, mind, and the temple (body) Jesus will resurrect

to be in heaven for those who are truly part of His spiritual family.

In contrast to false Christians who inflict violence, why is there a growing global violence against believers in Christ? Although over 80 million Christians have been killed by Communistic, Socialistic, and other regimes in the past 110 years, the attack on Christians is recently increasing in both Western civilizations and globally as never before, but why?

The best answer I can give to these questions is that the Gospel of Jesus is having incredible fruit in some of the hardest places on earth; and, as expected, the Adversary is angry and desperate that his strongholds of darkness are giving way to the Kingdom of Light. Places such as Iran are seeing an amazing increase in believers in Jesus. Iran is in ancient Persia, which, historically, is one of the most influential and well-educated regions on earth. Another stronghold seeing people coming to faith in Jesus is the Holy Land. These new believers have found the Truth. And, that no other source or substance can rival the amazing peace, forgiveness, and grace provided by Jesus Christ.

These new believers in Christ make all the suffering Jesus went through worth it; it also means all the suffering in Jesus’ family is worth it too.

2019 saw a lot of pain, but there was also unrivaled joy in spiritual hearts that will never stop beating.