

Ancient Church History Journal

HIST 414 Church History

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It seems the ancient church has been under attack since the days of the apostles. Some of these attacks were external, those on the outside such as the Jews and some were internal individuals teaching heresy. Whether these attacks were external or internal, Christianity has been able to stand against these attacks over the centuries proving that when something is ordained of God it will be able to withstand the test of times.

The Jews were the first group to attack the spread of Christianity. After the Holy Ghost fell on the Day of Pentecost, the apostles were going around preaching the gospel of Christ. The Jews were still waiting for Christ to appear and refuse to accept the gospel that was being preached by the Apostles. The Jews began to persecute the Apostles with their first killing by stoning Stephen to death. This caused the disciples to disperse and leave Jerusalem taking the gospel further into other parts of the world, fulfilling the great commandment to preach the gospel to the world. They had to get out of Jerusalem in order to spread the gospel, even though there was a price to pay.

As the gospel began to spread to other countries including Rome, the church faces more persecution. The Roman Empire feels that Christianity is trying to take over the political arena and overthrow the Roman Empire. As more and more people in Rome are converting to Christianity, their loyalty is to Jesus instead of Caesar, this made the Roman Empire upset and the persecution of the Christian church began. In addition to the Christians being persecuted for political reasoning's, there was also religious reason that seemed to have grown out of lack of understanding; such as mistaken the church's action of communion, the breaking of bread and drinking wine to symbolize Christ's body with that of sacrificing children.

The Jews and the Roman church are just two of the avenues in which the church faced persecution centuries ago. Years later, the church would experience a relief from persecution with the Edict of Milan in 313. Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in 313 giving freedom of worship not only to Christians but also to other religious organization. It seems in our day in time; in some countries persecution of the Christians still take place. While here in the US, we are free to gather and worship as we please, there are other countries where Christians are being beheaded. But still the name of Jesus is still being preached and shared across the globe. Before the coming of Christ, the gospel message has to be spread abroad for all to hear and given a chance to respond to it. There is nothing the enemy can do to stop the spread of the gospel, after all when something is ordained of God it will be able to withstand the test of time.