

# Mark 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

## Analysis

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**Take heed to yourselves**—self-examination precedes external threats. **They shall deliver you up to councils** (Greek *paradōsousin...* *eis synedria*, παραδώσουσιν... *εἰς συνέδρια*)—Jewish Sanhedrins prosecuted Christians (Acts 4:5-22; 5:27-42; 22:30-23:10). **In the synagogues ye shall be beaten**—Paul received this punishment five times (2 Corinthians 11:24), 39 lashes each. **Brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them**—the Greek *eis martyrion autois* (*εἰς μαρτύριον αὐτοῖς*, 'for a testimony against them') means Christian witness becomes evidence of gospel truth and judges' accountability.

Persecution serves God's purposes:

1. spreads gospel to rulers (Paul before Felix, Festus, Agrippa—Acts 24-26)
2. tests faith genuineness
3. produces endurance
4. demonstrates God's sustaining grace
5. results in eternal glory (Romans 8:18).

The phrase 'for my sake' means persecution comes because of Christ identification, not personal fault.

## Historical Context

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Early church suffered exactly as Jesus predicted: apostles beaten (Acts 5:40), Stephen stoned (Acts 7:54-60), James executed (Acts 12:2), Paul repeatedly imprisoned and tried before governors/kings (Acts 24-26). Synagogue persecution drove Christianity beyond Judaism into Gentile world. Roman persecutions under Nero (AD 64), Domitian (AD 81-96), Trajan, Decius, Diocletian tested church severely. Medieval Inquisition, Reformers martyred, modern persecution in communist/Islamic nations—estimates suggest more Christians martyred in 20th century than all previous centuries combined. Today, Open Doors reports 360 million Christians facing high persecution levels. Jesus' prophecy continues fulfilling.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Jesus say persecution comes 'for my sake'—how does this transform suffering's meaning?
2. How does Christian witness become 'testimony against' persecutors—both vindicating gospel and condemning rejecters?
3. What does 'take heed to yourselves' mean practically when facing external persecution threats?

## Interlinear Text

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βλέπετε δὲ ὑμεῖς ἔαυτούς· παραδώσουσιν γὰρ ὑμᾶς  
G991 But take heed to yourselves they shall deliver for you  
G1161 G5210 G1438 G3860 G1063 G5209

εἰς συνέδρια καὶ εἰς συναγωγὰς δαρήσεσθε καὶ ἐπὶ<sup>1</sup>  
for councils and for the synagogues ye shall be beaten and before  
G1519 G4892 G2532 G1519 G4864 G1194 G2532 G1909

ἡγεμόνων καὶ βασιλέων σταθήσεσθε ἔνεκεν ἐμοῦ εἰς  
rulers and kings ye shall be brought sake for my for  
G2232 G2532 G935 G2476 G1752 G1700 G1519

μαρτύριον αὐτοῖς  
a testimony against them  
G3142 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 13:5** (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

**John 16:2** (Parallel theme): They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

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