

# 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

**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	ὕμεῖς	ἑαυτούς·	παραδώσουσιν	γὰρ	ὕμᾱς	
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
for	councils	and	for	the synagogues	ye shall be beaten	and	before
G1519	G4892	G2532	G1519	G4864	G1194	G2532	G1909
ἡγεμόνων	καὶ	βασιλέων	σταθήσεσθε	ἕνεκεν	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.