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Preparing for Persecution

Best New Testament books on how to endure it

1 Peter

Jesus' leading apostle writes (4:12-13), "Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering." The book is rigorously honest yet full of courage and hope.

Acts

This story of the early Christians could be called "The Persecution of the Apostles" because over half the book deals with hostility toward Stephen, Peter, Paul, and others. Interspersed with the persecution are miracles, preaching, generous giving, and the growth of the church.

2 Thessalonians

Not widely read or preached from, but essential. As Paul writes, "Pray, too, that we will be saved from wicked and evil people, for not everyone believes in the Lord" (3:3).

Revelation

Written by John from his exile to a Roman prison colony, these visions focus persecuted Christians on the glory and victory of Jesus Christ.