

Tuesday 19th April 2022

Jeremiah 38: 6 "So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud."

Acts 8: 1 "On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria."

Acts 9: 4 "He fell to the earth and heard a voice saying unto him, 'Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?'" King James Version.

Sadly, persecution is not some distant historical fact it is happening right now in Ukraine. It may not be to do with religious belief but persecution can be for political or racial reasons as well. It's just a form of man's inhumanity to man.

Jeremiah had been predicting the fall of Jerusalem at the hand of the Babylonians much to the annoyance of King Zedekiah's officials. Jeremiah was only relaying God's word but that didn't stop him being persecuted.

Saul, later Paul was dramatically diverted from his marauding persecution of Christians on the road to Damascus and as the apostles, blessed with the Holy Spirit set about spreading the faith they and their followers were persecuted and the latter hounded out of town.

Jesus on his cross must be the ultimate persecution which we mark at this time but the triumph of his resurrection on the third day should inspire us to spread the word of God whenever and wherever we can.