

Introduction: Ancient problems in a modern world: persecution, raids, kidnappings and genocide. There have always been vile crimes by one community against another -fueled by *superiority complex*; often times, a tribe or race that believes it is better than others by virtue of its own religious belief. The template is to persecute the other group when in similar population in same area, carry out raids as bandits and kidnappers for ransoms of neighboring settlements and finally to attack to sell off the enemies into slavery or forcefully marry their females and kill their males so as to appropriate their land.

It is amazing that the more things change, the more they remain the same. The insecurity in Nigeria has followed the same pattern in modern times and is driven mostly under the guise of religious extremism. A tribe which considers itself as “the owners of Nigeria” is trying to grab power and natural resources, rule others or drive them out and this has allegedly reached genocidal proportions to attract foreign interest for intervention. What is the way out?

Thesis: Take precautions so as not to fall victim but if oppressed; flee or pray, God’s appointed deliverer will eventually show up to overcome the enemy. Examples abound in scripture:

1. When Lot carelessly drifted from his uncle Abraham, his family got raided and kidnapped by marauding kings but Lot was rescued by Abraham – Genesis 14:9-16
2. When the children of Israel were enslaved in Egypt, God raised Moses as their Deliverer at the appointed time – Exodus 3:4-10, Acts 7:35
3. After the children of Israel occupied Canaan, they often turned from God into sin and were oppressed by their neighbours. Whenever they repent and call upon the LORD, He sent them a deliverer –Judges 3:9,15. Famous ones include Samson, Gideon, Barach, etc. The ultimate is Romans 11:26
4. After man sinned or fell in Eden, when we longed for God, He came as the Deliverer – Psalms 18:2, Luke 2:11, 26-32, Acts 17:24-31

Conclusion: Those who oppressed by Satan or enslaved to sin can find a Deliverer in Jesus Christ today when they obey His gospel message. The Son of God sets free indeed and gives rest.

Jesus said we shall face persecution and tribulations in the world as believers, we are to flee when possible but must always pray for divine intervention. God will surely avenge His people and send a rescuer when the cup of their tormentor is full.

The current turmoil of insecurity nationwide, and alleged *Christian genocide* is not altogether surprising. Usually, things bet worse before they get better and the darkest hour of the night must come before the Sunlight. God will resolve it.

His people will eventually be able to worship and praise Him in peace in Jesus’ name. Amen.