

When contemplating persecution . . .

Consider Him.

By Elizabeth Kendal (Easter, April 2011)

Does persecution bite; does fear consume your night?

Consider him.

Does tribulation strain; does mocking sore inflame?

Consider him.

Consider him who crown of thorns did humbly wear; (Mark 15:16-20)

Despised, rejected, spat on, was stripped bare; (Isaiah 53:3; Matt 27:28-30, Psalm 22:18)

Unrecognised, object of scorn, Unfair! (John 1:11; Luke 22:63-65; Psalm 22:6; Isaiah 53:9)

Consider him.

Can those who hate you strike; take jobs, possessions, life?

Consider him.

Can government forsake; injustice overtake?

Consider him.

Consider him who bore the blows and took the lash; (Matt 26:67; Matt 27:26)

Falsely accused, betrayed, abused in purple sash; (Matt 26:59-60; Luke 22:47-48; John 19:2, 5)

At Golgotha, nailed to a cross, with Satan clashed; (John 19:16-18; Matt 27:39-44; Heb 13:12)

Consider him.

Does righteousness take fright; does hope fade out of sight?

Consider him.

Does fear grip heart and head; strike hands and knees like lead?

Consider him.

Consider him who with his gaze on heaven's home, (Hebrews 12:2)

Endured the cross, despised the shame for promised throne; (Hebrews 12:2)

Consumed with love, propelled by faith alone; (Hebrews 12:2)

Consider him.

When evil seems supreme; when rest seems like a dream;

Consider him.

When enemies grow bold; when shrouds seem to enfold;

Consider him.

Consider him whose violent death bruised serpent's head; (Gen 3:15; Col 2:13-15; Rev 5:6-14)

Who third day, shroud removed, rose from the dead; (John 20; Isaiah 25:7-8)

Arisen, King of Love victorious, as he said; (Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 17:22-23; & John 2:18-22)

Consider him!

*" . . . let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself,
so that you may not grow weary of fainthearted."
(Hebrews 12:1c-3 ESV)*