WILL WE HAVE PERSECUTION

Yes we are not so Holy that we will escape all persecution as some in the America's and parts of Europe teach.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

We May not suffer to the extent that Christians in other countries do.

You notice I said "May Not" and the reason I say that is, America was the last continent to propagate and stand for God's righteousness, sending out missionaries and the gospel around the world.

Mark 16.15 to end and Malichi 3:11

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

You see, God has always blessed the countries and people that have stood for him and taught others to do the same.

God's blessings do not cease the exact moment you stray. Look at Israel's record or England's, (at one time the sun never set on British soil - look now)

I could list many examples, but I think you get the point, the blessing continues for years after, there are lots of chances to repent.

Those that live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution, BUT they have the promises of God: Psalms 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

John14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

You see the peace of God is not comprehendible to them that do not believe.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The Church or the Body of Christ WILL ESCAPE the great Tribulation.

The great tribulation is the last seven years, when God pours out his wrath upon this earth.

Revelation 12:1 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Re 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

Re 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

The escape is the Rapture of the church found in <u>1Thessilonians 4:16-17</u>

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

In a nutshell, Yes we will suffer some sort of persecution BUT... those that are in Christ and are watching or looking for his return will not go through the great tribulation.

This is God's promise in Rev 3:10, as well as other scriptures.

Trust this sheds some light for you

Bro Ken