

A photograph of a sunset over a field of tall grass. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper center, partially obscured by soft, out-of-focus clouds. The light from the sun creates a warm, golden glow across the scene, with rays of light visible. The foreground is filled with tall, thin blades of grass, some in focus and some blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**CATCHING GOD IN  
THE ACTS**



Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

*Acts 8:1-4*



THE  
BLOOD  
OF THE MARTYRS  
IS THE  
SEED  
OF THE CHURCH

—TERTULLIAN



## Xi's China Ends 2019 With The Worst Religious Persecution In The Country's History

*Increased religious persecution in China has failed to curtail the growing number of Christians, which has reached more than 100 million today — more than the 90 million members of the Chinese Communist Party.*



By Helen Raleigh

JANUARY 7, 2020

Dec. 30, 2019, was a day when people who live in the free world were busy planning ahead and getting ready for New Year's Eve celebrations. But for China's outspoken Wang Yi, the founding pastor of China's most famous house church, the Early Rain Covenant Church, there was no such celebration. After being detained by Chinese authorities for more than a year without an actual charge, in a closed-door legal proceeding Wang was **sentenced** to nine years in prison for trumped up convictions of "inciting subversion of state power" and "illegal business activities."

Throughout the proceeding, Wang's lawyer wasn't allowed to defend him. In addition to jail time, Wang will be stripped of his political rights for four years, and the Chinese government will confiscate about \$7,000 worth of his personal assets. According to **Bob Fu**, president of China Aid, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization advocating for basic rights of Chinese Christians, Wang's sentence is the harshest of any house church leaders in China.

### Why Pastor Wang Engaged in 'Faithful Disobedience'



Chris Buckley 傅百英  
@ChuBailing



Replying to @ChuBailing

Wuhan can feel a little end-of-times. Still I was surprised to come across Christian evangelists in one neighborhood cheerfully handing out leaflets and painfully flimsy masks.



143 5:41 AM - Feb 11, 2020

65 people are talking about this

## Wuhan Christians' Response to the Coronavirus Shames the Chinese Government

William Huang | February 25, 2020



With the world in turmoil as the coronavirus outbreak sweeps across Asia and threatens

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere  
preaching the word.

*Acts 8:4*

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.

*Acts 8:5-8*

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

*Acts 6:5-6*

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

*Acts 1:8*

"Again we face a dark time in the history of God's people. In spite of some encouraging signs, the forces of evil seem to be gathering for a colossal assault on the work of God in the world. ... Our world needs to be touched by Christians who are Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, and Spirit-empowered. Are you that kind of Christian?"

*Billy Graham*

26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

*Acts 8:26-39*

"Why is it that when we talk to God we're said to be praying, but when God talks to us we're schizophrenic?"

*Anne Lamott*





PRAYING  
HYDE  
OF INDIA