

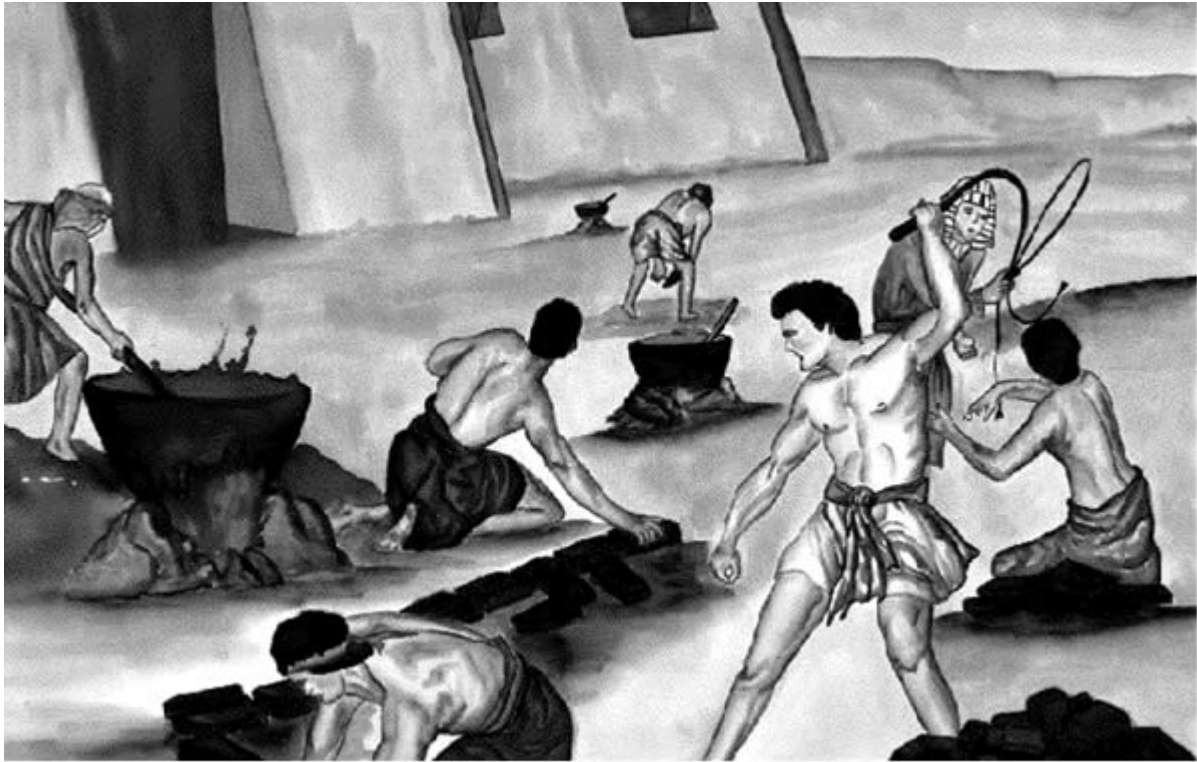
What is persecution?

Here's a Bible story to help explain....

Once upon a time there was a new king of Egypt, He was called **Pharaoh**. He was a big bad bully. Pharaoh was afraid of the Israelites. But why was he afraid? Well this is what he said.....Pharaoh said to his people, "Look there are far too many Israelites. We must deal with them or if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So Pharaoh was afraid that they would take over his country.....so he wanted to stop them.



So Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves. Pharaoh oppressed them which means he treated them very, very, very badly. He hoped that the Israelites would become weak. But his evil plan to crush them did not work.



So he thought hard.....'Aha' said Pharaoh. 'I have another plan!' It was a very cruel plan, because Pharaoh was a big bad bully! So he called the 2 midwives and told them "When a boy baby is born to the Israelite women, you must kill the boy baby!"

But the plan didn't work! And why didn't it work? Because the midwives believed in God and they knew it was wrong to kill the boy babies. So they did not do what Pharaoh said and they let the boys live.



Pharaoh was not pleased so he thought hard..... 'Aha', he said 'I have another plan!' This time he said to all his people "Every Israelite boy that is born you must throw into the River Nile so that he drowns. That will stop them!"

About that time a baby boy called **Moses** was born. His parents believed in God. They wanted to save Moses so they hid him. But after three months they could not hide him anymore – probably because baby Moses was too noisy. So his mother put baby Moses in a basket and hid basket in the reeds by edge of the River Nile. She told his sister to watch the basket and to see what would happen to the baby.



Later, the princess who was Pharaoh's daughter went down to the River Nile to swim and wash. The princess saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. The princess opened it and to her surprise she saw a baby. Moses was crying, and the princess felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Israelite babies," she said.



The sister had been watching and she jumped out and the sister asked the princess, "Shall I go and get one of the Israelite women to look after the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. Moses' sister went and got the baby's mother. The princess who was Pharaoh's daughter, said to her, "Take this baby and look after him for me." So the woman took the baby Moses and looked after him for the princess.



So, the little innocent baby Moses escaped the evil plans of big bad bully Pharaoh.

The same God looks on the problems of the bullied, oppressed and persecuted today and God is concerned about them and cares for them.