

1686 AD – ‘THE PEAK OF HUGUENOT PERSECUTION IN FRANCE’

“**They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcases shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.**” (Jeremiah 16 v 4)

EVENTS IN 1686 AD

In **1686**, **Louis XIV** boasted that out of a Huguenot population of almost a million only 1,000 or so remained in France. **1686** was the peak year of the intense persecutions of **Louis XIV**.

HISTORY OF PROTESTANT PERSECUTIONS IN FRANCE

Between **1562** and **1598** there were eight civil wars in France. (See our paper [1562 AD](#)). The wars of religion mirrored a dynastic feud between the **House of Bourbon** (south of France) and the **House of Guise** (west of France). The **House of Bourbon** prevailed in producing **Henry IV** the legitimate heir to **Henry III**. The **House of Guise** rejected **Henry IV** as a heretic and allied with Catholic Spain. The **House of Bourbon** allied with the Swiss and the Germans.

In **1593**, **Henry IV** agreed to convert to Catholicism to re-unite France. War continued with hold-out rebels and Spanish troops until **1598**.

In **1598**, The **Edict of Nantes** was put into effect by **Henry IV**. It granted freedom of conscience to individuals, amnesty to Protestants and reinstatement of their civil rights; including the right to work in any field or for the State and to bring grievances to the king.

In **1610**, **Henry IV** was assassinated. His son **Louis XIII** of the **House of Bourbon** became king at age 9. His mother **Marie de Medici** ruled in his place but she mismanaged affairs. In **1614**, **Louis XIII** exiled her and executed her courtiers. In **1643**, **Louis XIII** died of tuberculosis and was succeeded by his son **Louis XIV**, who consolidated power and reigned for 72 years.

In **1681**, the persecution of Huguenots by **Louis XIV** began with the policy of ‘Dragonnades’: the billeting of Catholic troops in Huguenot homes to intimidate them into converting to Catholicism. The dragoons were free to ransack the homes if their billets did not co-operate.

A large number of Protestants — hundreds of thousands — left France over the next two decades. They sought asylum in Protestant states in Europe, the Cape Colony in Africa, and North America. They left without money but resettled successfully in their new lands.

In **1685**, the **Edict of Fontainbleu** under **Louis XIV** revoked the **Edict of Nantes** and ordered the destruction of Huguenot churches, as well as the closing of Protestant schools.

Persecution was reversed in **1787**, 102 years later, when **Louis XVI** signed the **Edict of Versailles**, which offered relief to all faiths — Calvinist Huguenots, Lutherans, as well as Jews — granting civil and legal recognition, as well as the right to openly form congregations.

PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH 16 V 4

“They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcases shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.” (Jeremiah 16 v 4)

The passage is a prophetic double-twist of events: straight - to crooked – then back to straight.

Before **1861**, life wasn't perfect for Protestants but the **Edict of Nantes** protected their rights.

In **1861**, King **Louis XIV** began to utter murderous threats against his own citizens: '**They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented...**' and implemented his regime of officially sponsored persecution. Everything went crooked. The Protestants fled. They re-established themselves in new lands. God blessed them and multiplied them.

But the moment King **Louis XIV** uttered his murderous threats the LORD in Heaven matched the very words in the heart of **Louis XIV** and turned them back on the French monarchy: '**They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented...**'

In **1793**, the French monarchy ended with the beheading of **Louis XVI**. Ironically, he was condemned to death for: "*conspiracy against the public liberty and the general safety*!"

Exactly 200 years after **Henry IV** renounced Christ as his head, and made the Pope his head by converting to Catholicism, the last of **Henry IV**'s line of royal descendants was beheaded!

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **16** of Jeremiah is the **85th** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **85** means 'Holy Communion'

The nation of France established a law to guarantee the rights of Protestants to live and work and worship side-by-side citizens of other faiths. Thus was established a 'holy communion' – sealed by law, paid for with the blood of many Frenchmen in the wars leading up to it.

It is not a small thing to destroy a holy communion. The Kings of France paid the price with the termination of their monarchy. They lost their exalted place in the nation because they did not uphold the law and honor the holy communion of all French citizens.

PART TWO

Jeremiah **16 v 4** is the **19,341st** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **19,341 = 63 x 307**

The spiritual meaning of **63** is 'God's Wrath'

The spiritual meaning of **307** is 'Palace on Fire'

This is pretty graphic. King **Louis XIV** vented his wrath upon the law-abiding Protestant citizens. Did he think God would let this sin pass? No! 'God's Wrath' In return for burning down God's house, God burned down the dynasty of French monarchs: 'Palace on Fire'.

PART THREE

Jeremiah **16 v 4** is the **1686th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The number **1686 = 3 x 562**

The spiritual meaning of **3** is 'Binding'

The spiritual meaning of **562** is 'Weeping Pilgrims Flee'

1686 was the effective end of the persecutions because so few Huguenots remained in the country to be persecuted: 'Binding' (3) of 'Weeping Pilgrims Flee'.

Dear reader, when you see such a perfect congruence between history, prophecy, and the spiritual meaning of numbers (independently researched and compiled), don't this fill you with wonder?

God superintends all time and space. God miraculously permits free will, but also demonstrates his power and justice by either rewarding or punishing man's deeds as appropriate.

God has set forth in his Word prophecies of the Modern World from 1 AD until now, in the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah, so that we will discern how the Spirit moved to arrange everything to demonstrate God's love, God's power, and God's justice.

God arranged prophecy on a one-word, one-verse basis to make it simple to trace the works he performs by connecting a specific year of history with a specific verse in the Bible.

Hallelujah!