

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a smooth, light-colored stone. The hand is positioned in the center, with fingers slightly curled around the stone. The stone is a pale, mottled grey or light blue color. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blend of warm colors, including shades of orange, yellow, and green, suggesting a sunset or sunrise setting. The lighting is soft and directional, coming from the upper left, which highlights the texture of the skin and the smooth surface of the stone.

Casting Stones

Acts 7-8

*“on that day a great persecution broke
out against the church at Jerusalem.”*

Acts 8:1b



A person is shown from the chest up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or supplication. The background is a bright, hazy light, possibly from a window or a light source, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The person's face is partially visible, looking upwards. The hands are dark against the bright background.

**“Lord do not hold
this sin against them.”**

v60

**What did Jesus
say about
Persecution?**

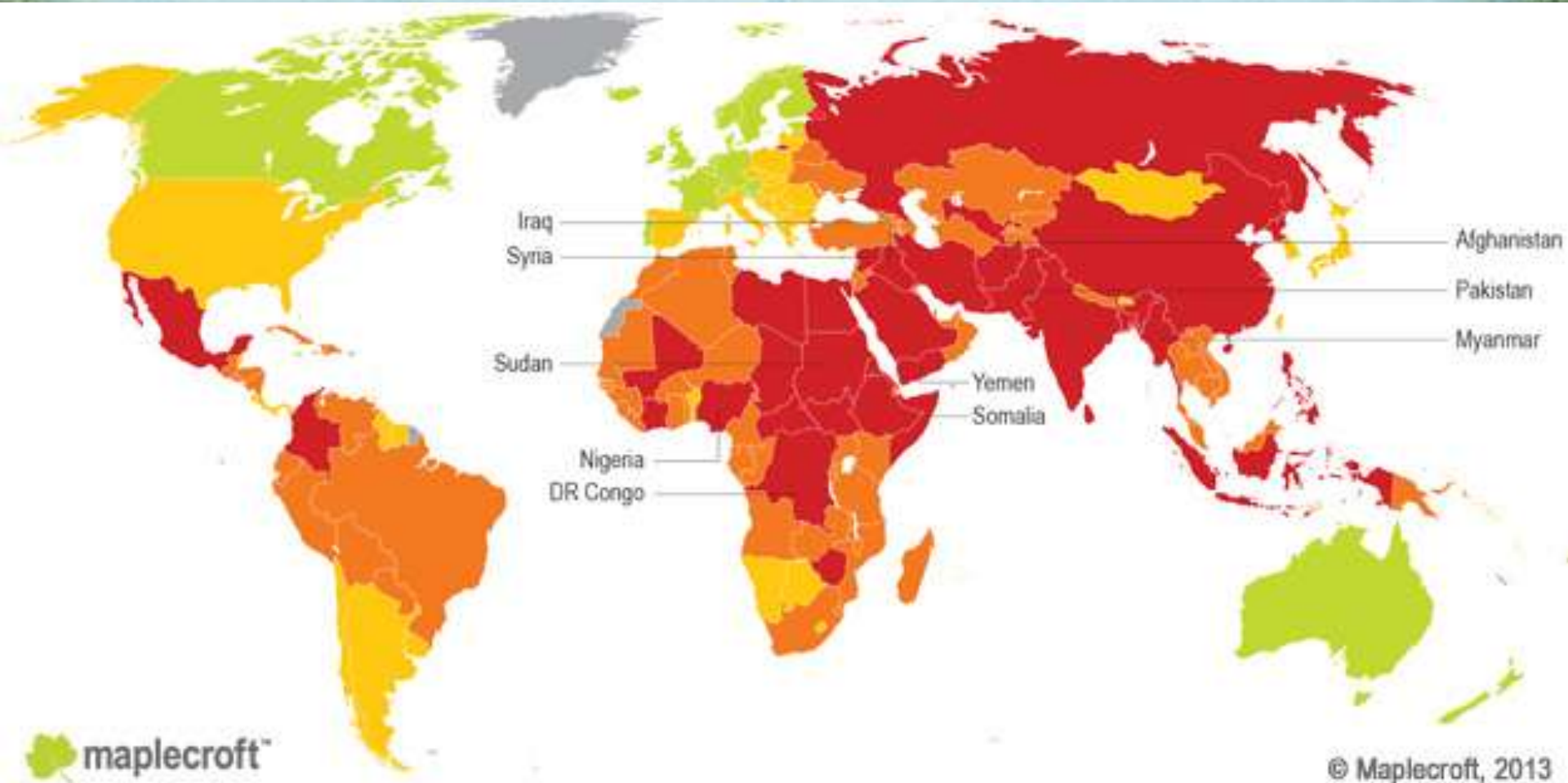
Natural

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...They will treat you this way because of my name...”

John 15:20-21

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH





Blessing

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

Matthew 5:11

Love

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:44-45

A high-speed photograph of a water droplet falling into a pool of water. The droplet is captured mid-fall, just above the point of impact. Below it, a small, elongated droplet is rising from the surface, and concentric ripples are spreading outwards. The water has a deep blue color, and the lighting creates bright highlights on the droplets and ripples.

“...all except the Apostles were
scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

Acts 8:1c

“Those who had
been scattered
preached the
Word wherever
they went.” ^{v4}





“the blood of the
martyrs is the seed
of the Church.”



“more persecution, more growth”

Why should we care?

*“If one parts suffers,
every part suffers with it...”*

1 Cor 12:26

Am I too
Comfortable
to be Persecuted?







A person wearing a red coat stands on a long, narrow wooden plank bridge that stretches from the bottom left towards the center of the frame. The bridge is composed of many wooden planks laid side-by-side. Below the bridge is a vast, undulating sea of clouds, illuminated by the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun. The sky above is filled with dramatic, layered clouds in shades of blue, grey, and yellow. The overall mood is contemplative and expansive.

ACTS

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

SUNDAY TEACHING SERIES

