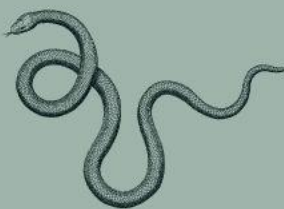




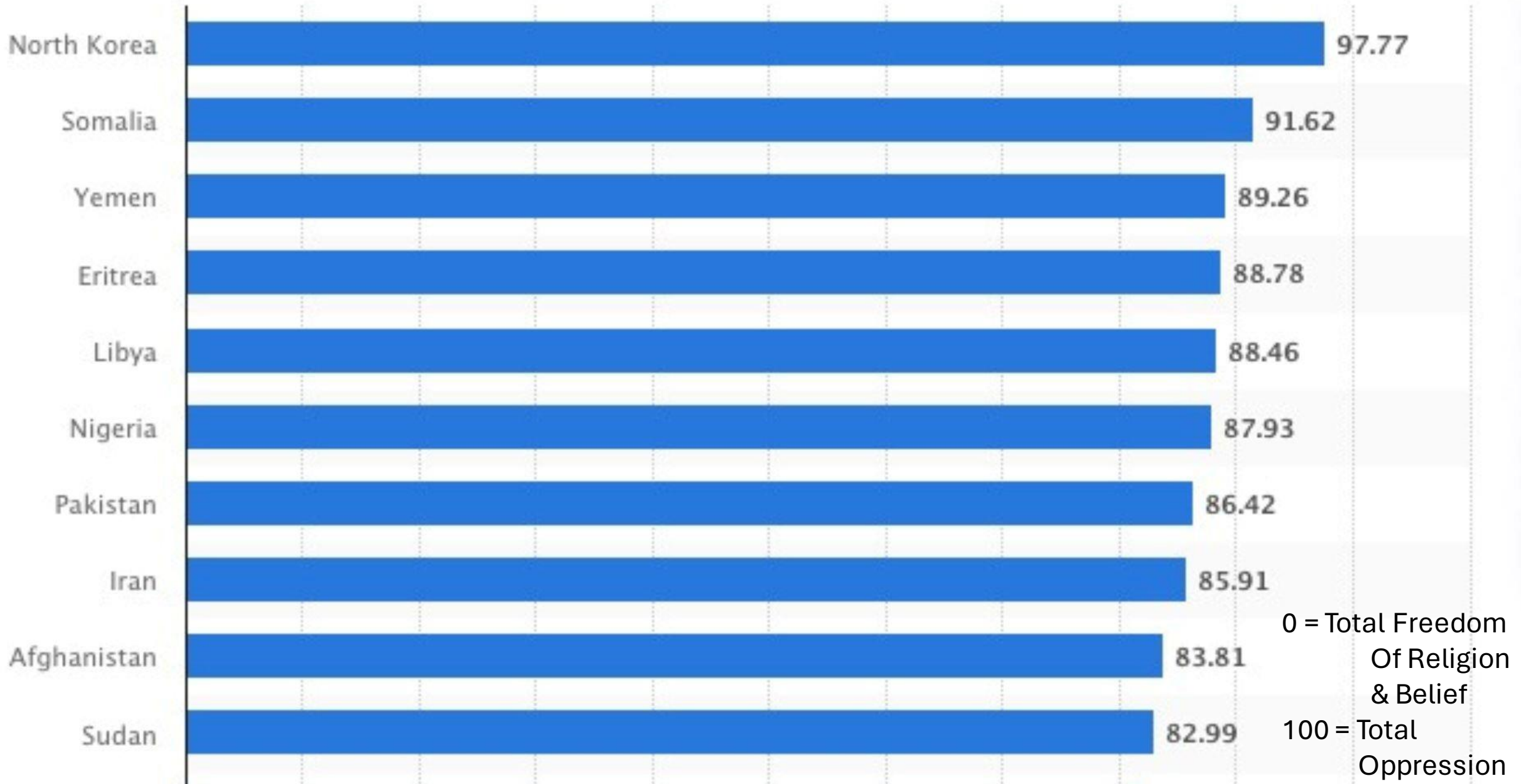
# The Coming Persecution

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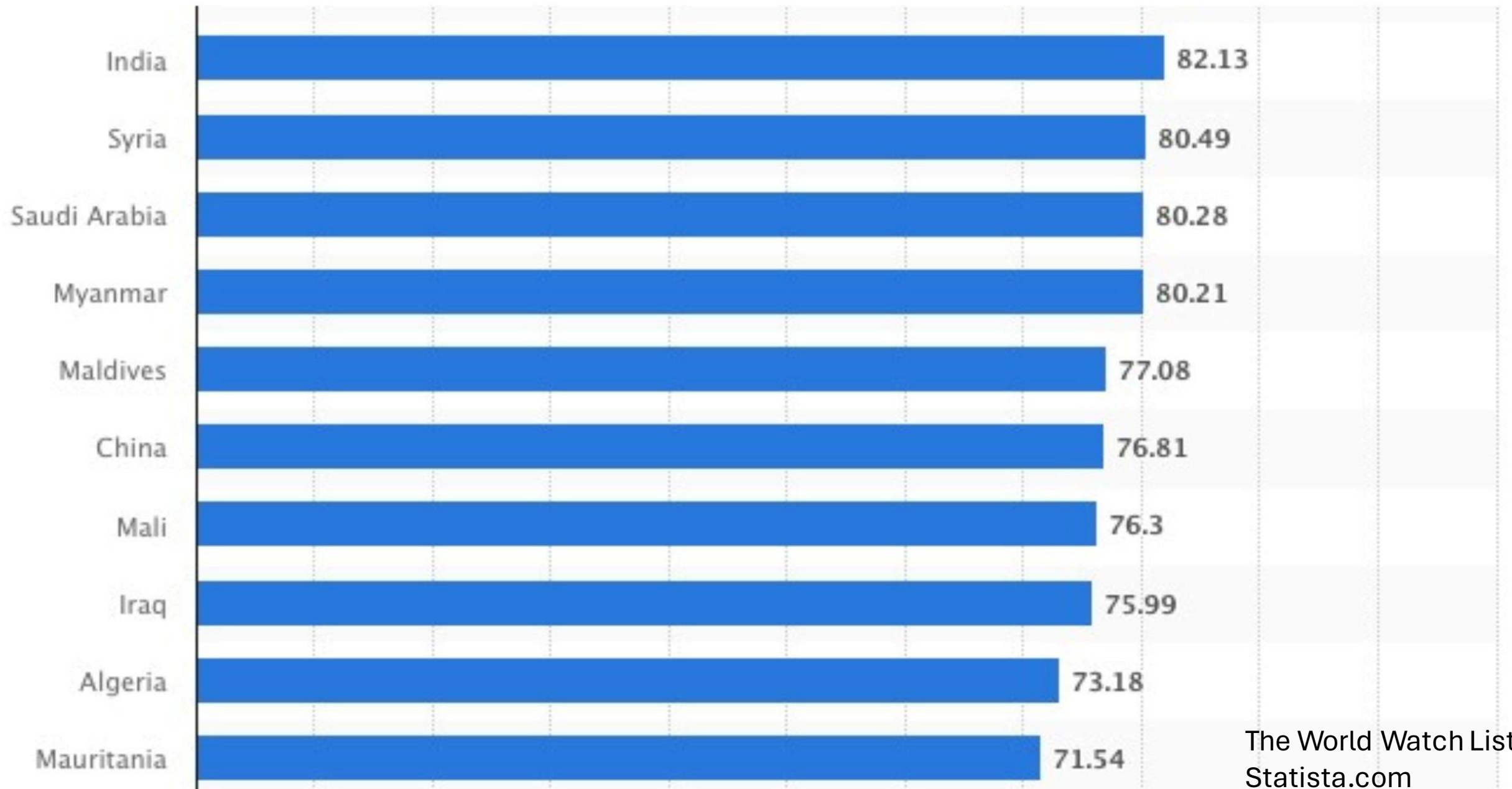
Season of Persecution  
Evangelism Series Part 33



# Index of Persecution of Christians Worldwide 2023 (Top 10)



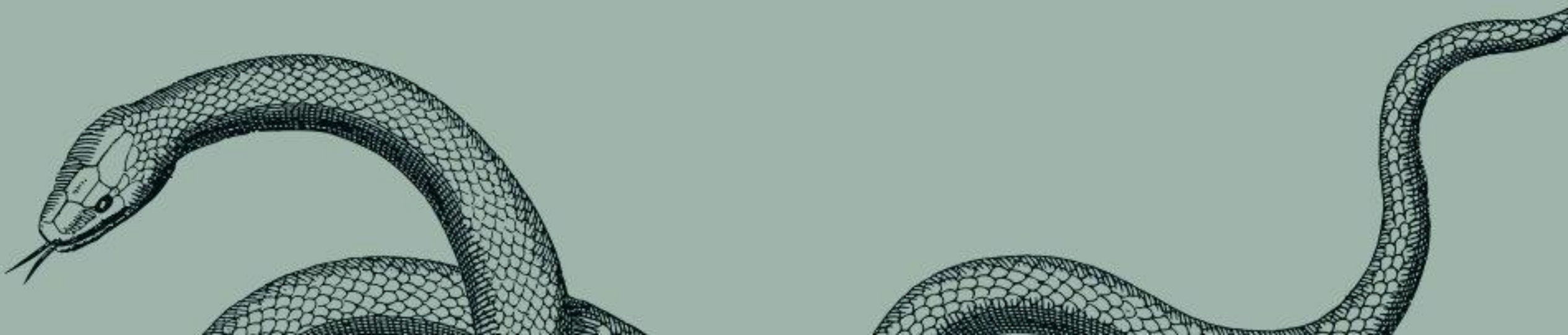
## Index of Persecution of Christians Worldwide 2023 (#s 11-20)



## Matthew 10:16-23

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they *persecute* you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

# Persecution *Classified*



## Persecution

*Gk. Diōkō*

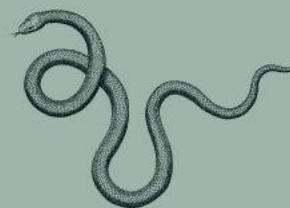
chasing, fleeing, pursuing, driving away

Connotation is pursuing someone with the  
objective to do harm –  
physical harm in particular



## Matthew 5:10-12

10 “**Blessed** are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 **Blessed** are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



“I don't believe we are facing persecution in the west. In fact, I think it's an insult to persecuted Christians to say that we're facing persecution in the west, because we're not.”

- Dr. Voddie Baucham





“There’s a difference between persecution and suffering. Make no mistake about it, persecution is a form of suffering, but everybody suffers. Life is suffering. That’s just a product of the fall. We suffer and we die. Persecution is different than just plain old suffering or just plain old death. Persecution is a suffering that we endure at the hands of our adversary, specifically because of his hatred for our Lord, and Master, and Savior, Jesus Christ. And what that means is that while suffering is something that is inevitable, and every man will suffer, it is not so with persecution.

Persecution can be avoided; all you have to do is compromise. So, persecution is suffering with a choice; it's suffering with an option; it's suffering that you don't have to go through if you just stop preaching. If you just stop believing, or, at least, just say that you've stopped believing. If you just stop going that way and go this way. If you just stop pressing on this particular point. If you just stop raising this particular issue. If you just stop putting the em-PHA-sis on that syl-LABLE. But those who are persecuted have this in common: they come to a place where faced with that choice, and given that option, that say, 'I can't.'"

- Dr. Voddie Baucham



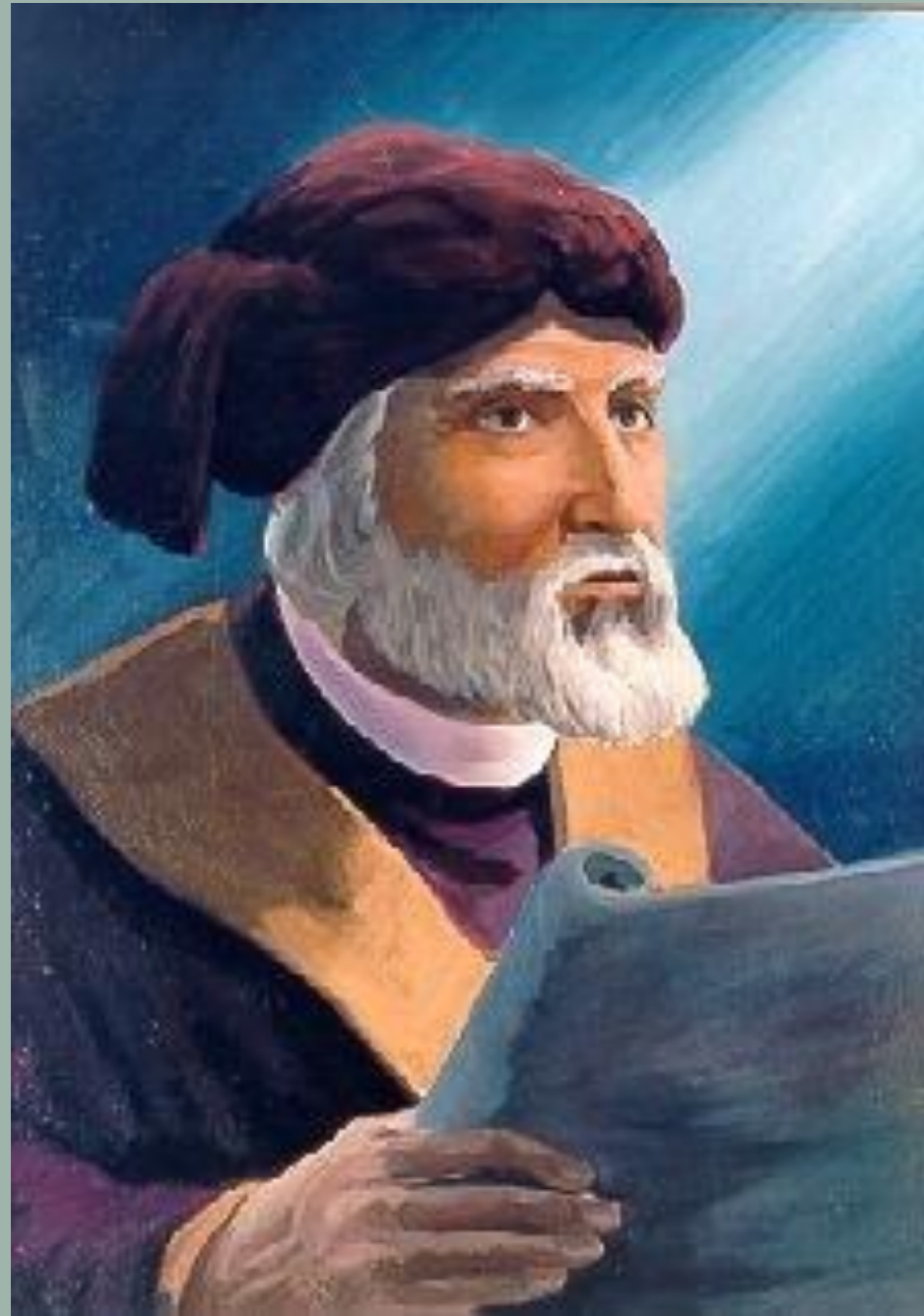
## What Should We Do?

- Be thankful for the season of peace the Lord has given us
- Boldly share the gospel while we can
- Don't be a victim



## 1 Peter 3:9, 13-17

9 "Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing...13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."



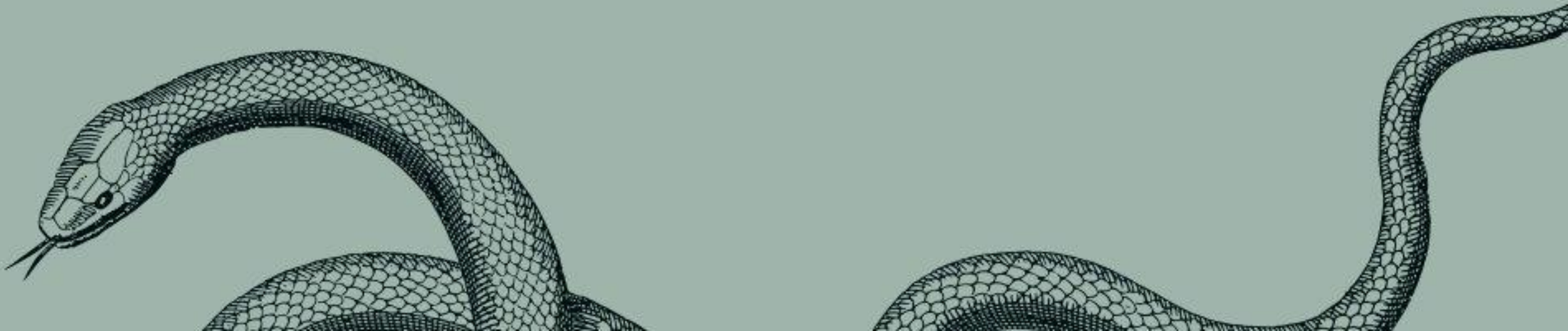


“Our Lord made it clear from His earliest teaching, and His opponents made it clear from their earliest reactions, that following Him was costly. Those who entered His kingdom would suffer for Him before they would reign with Him. That is the hard honesty every preacher, evangelist, and witness of Christ should exemplify. We do the Lord no honor and those to whom we witness no benefit by hiding or minimizing the cost of following Him.”

- John MacArthur



“...To live is Christ and to die is gain.”  
Philippians 1:21



# Persecution *Cautioned*





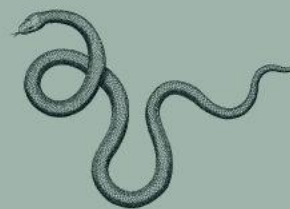
### Luke 21:10-13

10 "Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. 12 But before all this they *will* lay their hands on you and *persecute* you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you *will* be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness.'"



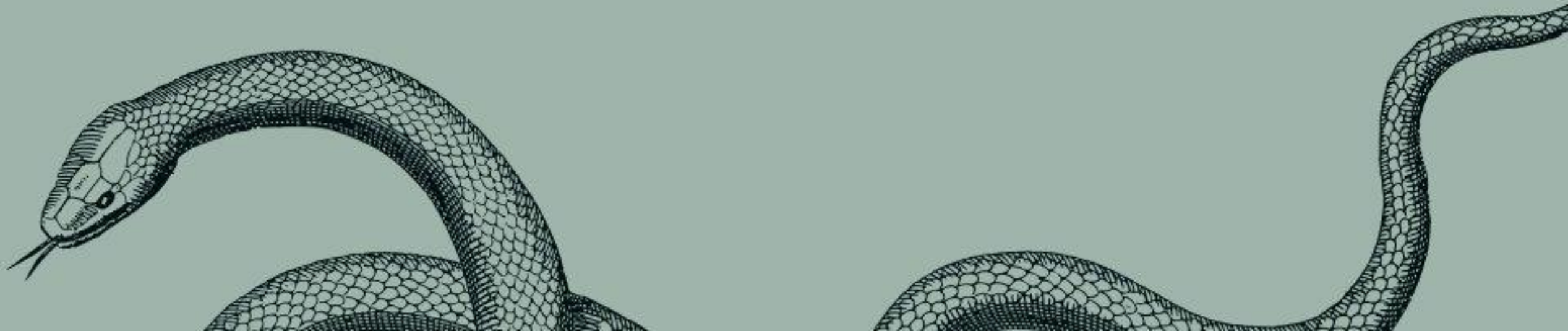
## 2 Timothy 3:12

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”



## 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

8 "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"



## Galatians 4:28-29

28 "Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now."



Matthew 10:17

17 **Beware** of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,

Beware

*Gk. prosecho*

Literally, to hold to; to attach oneself to. Referred to mooring a ship or to tie something up.

Figuratively, to pay careful attention and remain alert as if on guard against something.

Matthew 10:22-23

22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they *persecute* you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”



## Matthew 24:9-14

9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”



## 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

