

Opportunity Knocks

Matthew 28:16-20





**¹⁶ The eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”
(Matthew 28:16-18)**



**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:19-20)**



1. Opportunity knocks for those who worship Jesus

**“The twelve” became “the eleven” because Judas resisted the worship of Jesus.
(John 12:1-6)**





1. Opportunity knocks for those who worship Jesus

Likewise, Muslims have been conditioned to resist the worship of the one God who is named Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (v. 19)



1. Opportunity knocks for those who worship Jesus

**Jesus will send worshippers if we are willing, even though we are not perfect (example, doubting, v. 17).
Maturity = child-like faith in Christ**



2. Opportunity knocks for discipling and teaching nations

Here the terms “disciple” and “nations” (*ethnos*) are linked (v. 19). Jesus’ command included “all nations.”



2. Opportunity knocks for discipling and teaching nations

We are being disciplined as well as discipling others.

We are being taught as well as teaching others.

Those from a strong discipling and teaching church like this one will be well positioned to disciple and teach the nations.





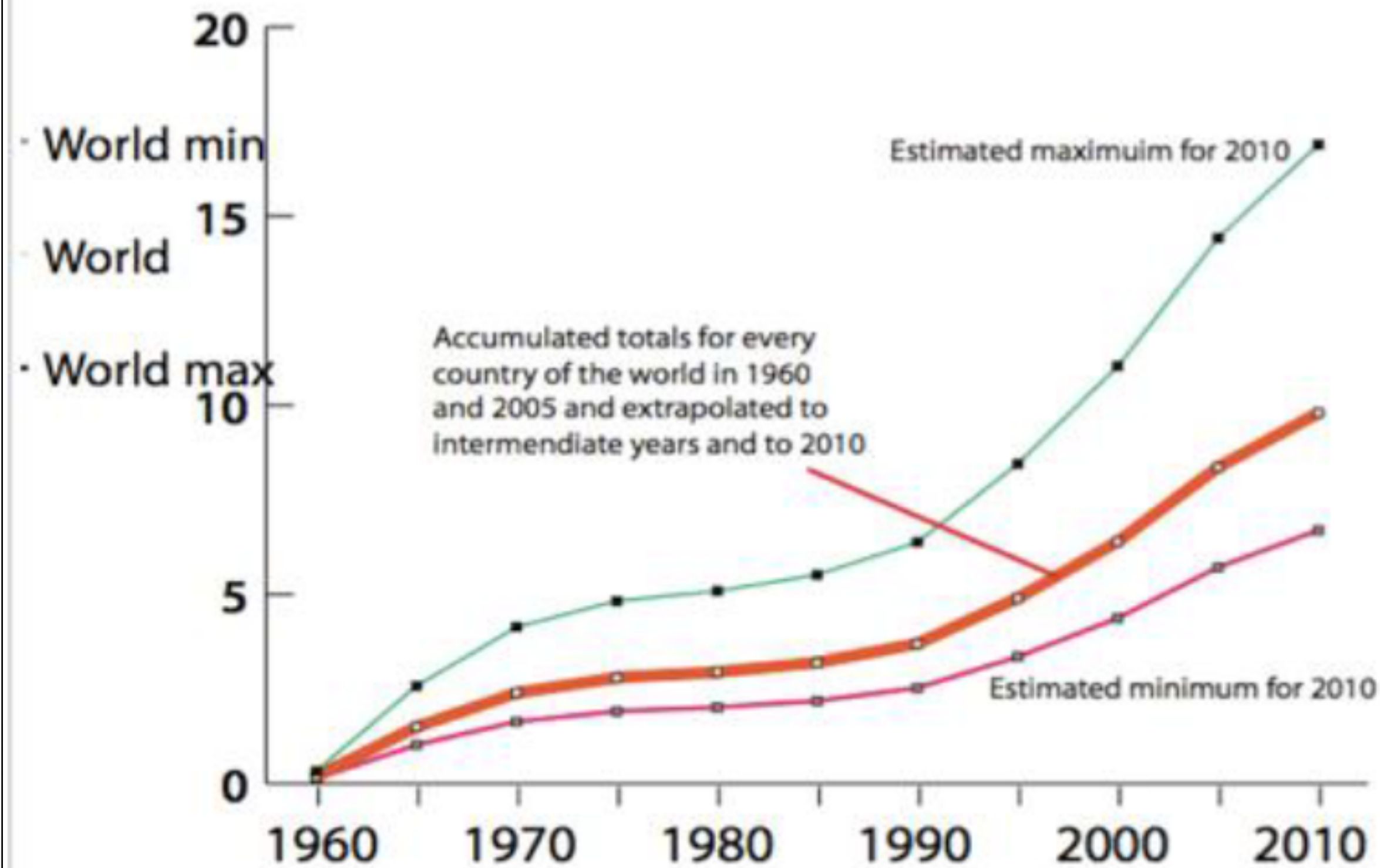
3. Opportunity knocks for those who live in Jesus' presence and exercise Jesus' authority

“All authority has been given to me in heaven and upon earth.” (v.18)

The Church has Jesus' authority even in the midst of suffering.



Figure 1: Estimate for Believers in Christ from a Muslim Background: 1960–2010



Source: Patrick Johnstone and Duane Miller, 2015. "Believers in Christ from a Muslim background: A Global Census." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, Vol 11, Article 10, page 11.



Countries with the Fastest Growing Evangelical Population from Operation World

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210228041754/https://www.operationworld.org/hidden/evangelical-growth>

Compared with Open Doors Persecution List 2022

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>



Persecution List 2022	Islamic Persecution?	Rank	Growth List	Muslim Majority?	Ann Growth
Afghanistan	x	1	Iran	x	19.6%
North Korea		2	Afghanistan	x	16.7%
Somalia	x	3	Gambia, The	x	8.9%
Libya	x	4	Cambodia		8.8%
Yemen	x	5	Greenland		8.4%
Eritrea		6	Algeria	x	8.1%
Nigeria	x	7	Somalia	x	8.1%
Pakistan	x	8	Mongolia		7.9%
Iran	x	9	Kuwait	x	7.3%
India		10	Tajikistan	x	6.9%







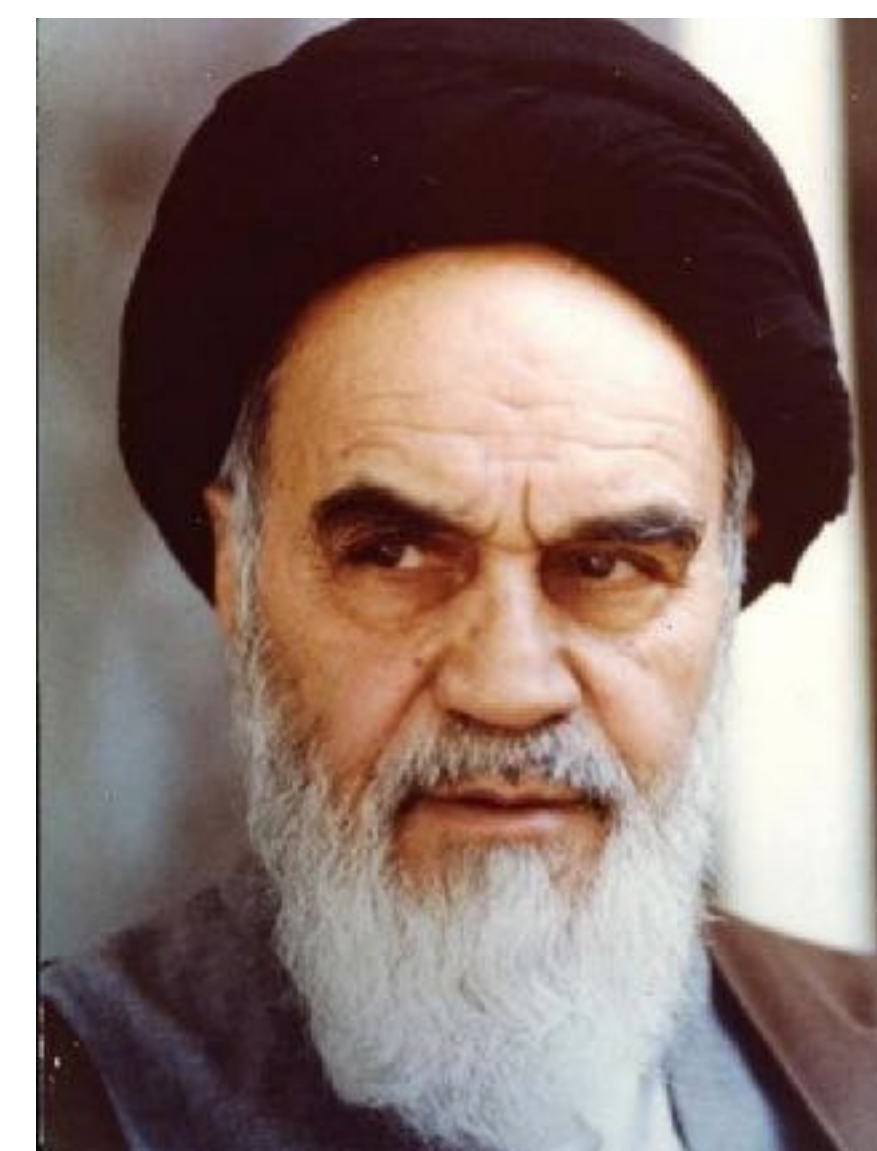
An Islamic Renaissance movement has been occurring in our times, in which Muslim leaders have sought to implement Islamic Law. In Christian parlance, this would be like bringing in the Kingdom of God, or the days of heaven upon earth.



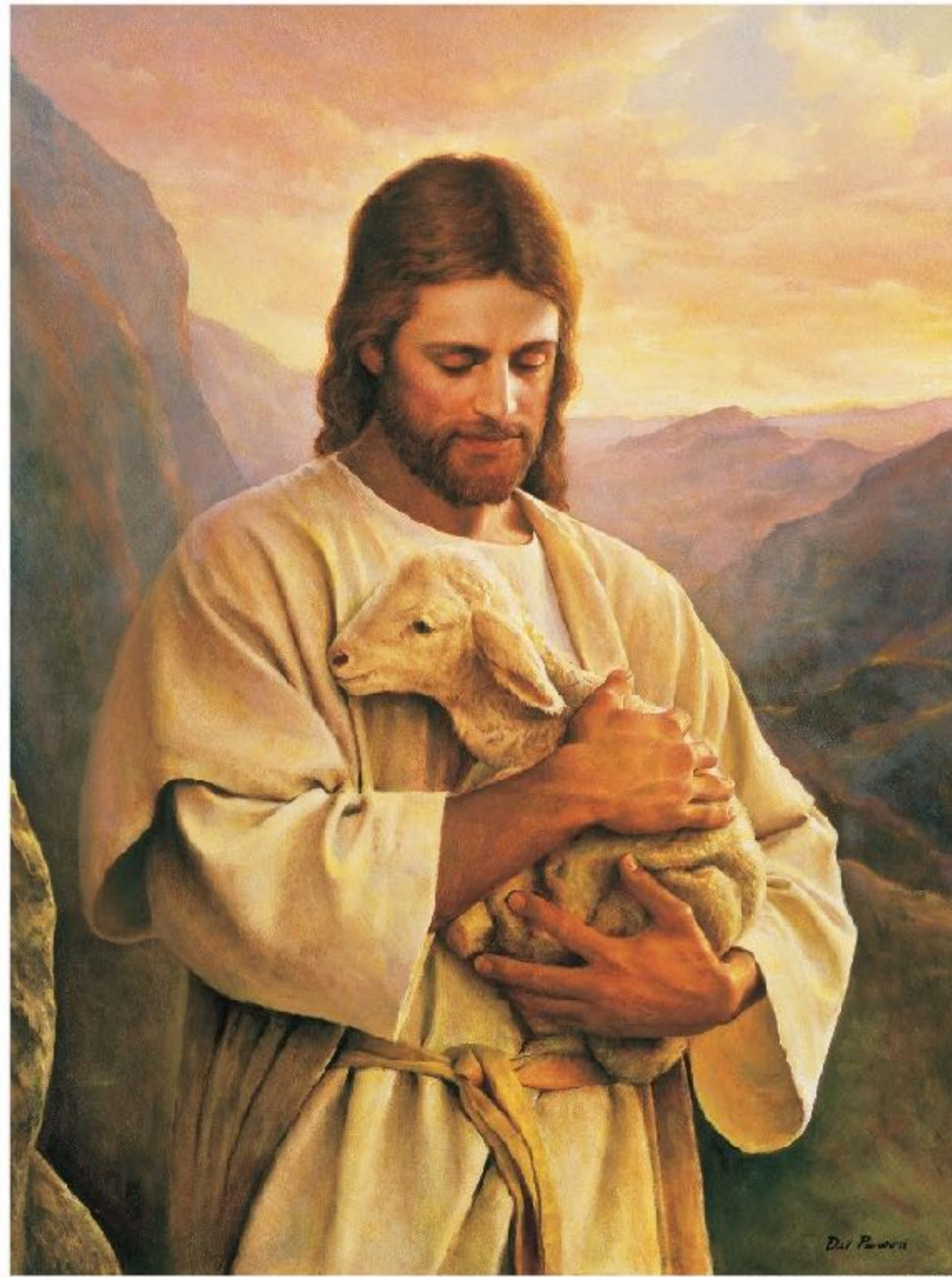
Many Muslims have become disillusioned with Islam. They seek to flee Islamic Law. As such, they are the newest generation of Islamic commentators.



The Taliban upon taking over Afghanistan in Aug 2011.

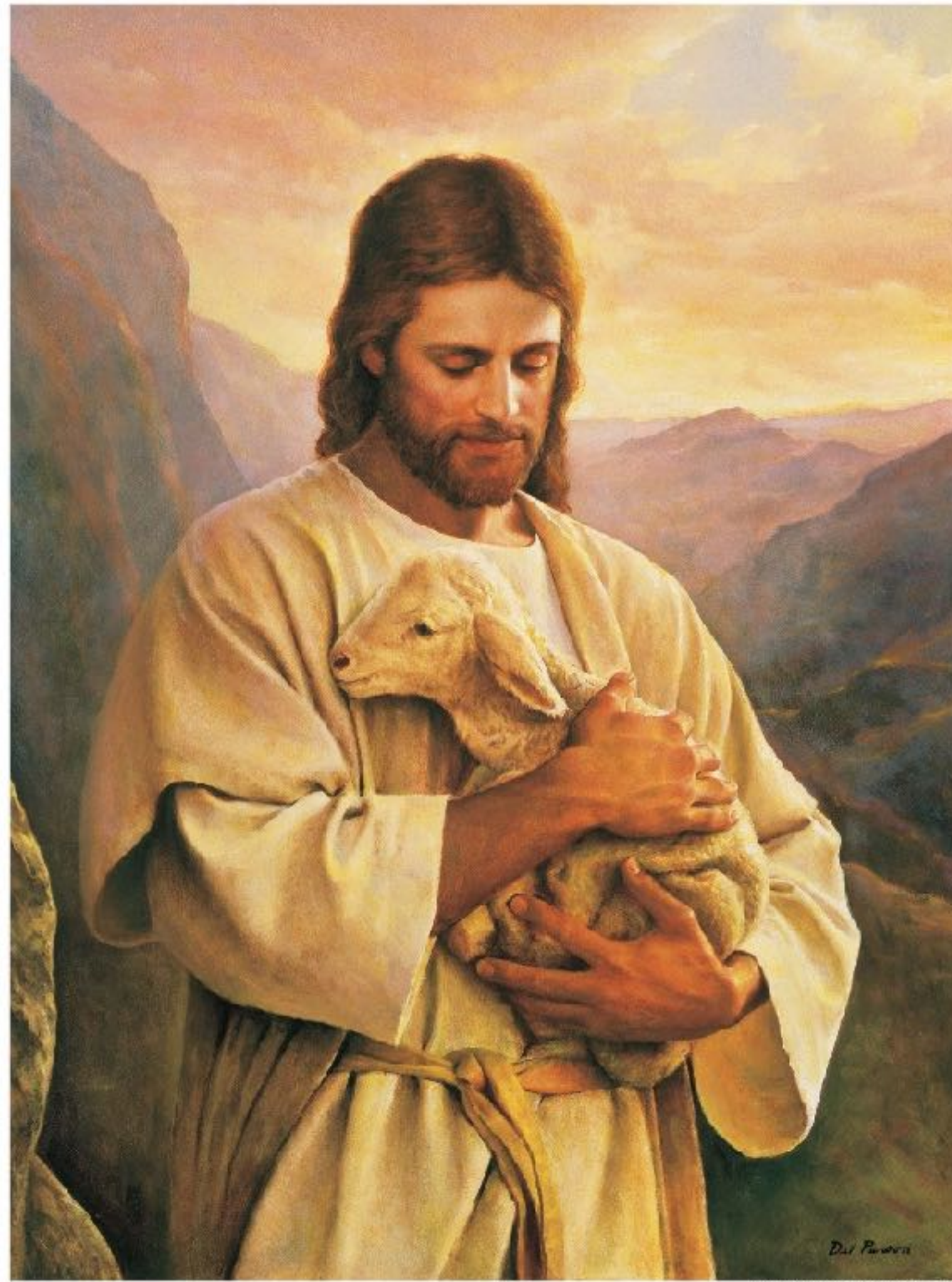


Iran: the fastest growing church in the world!



**3. Opportunity knocks
for those who live in
Jesus' presence and
exercise Jesus' authority**

**“Lo, I am with you
always, even to the end
of the age.” (v. 20)**



**“Lo, I am with you
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of the age.” (v. 20)**

**The love of God is the
foundation of our lives
and ministry.**

Conclusion: The Great Commission is still active. The time is urgent. What is our role going forward?

