

DAY 10: APRIL 14

Qashqai

There are 2.1 million Qashqai in Iran, with **almost no known followers of Jesus** among them. Very little is known about their history, except that they left Central Asia in the 11th century AD and settled in Iran. In the mid-18th century, the ruler of southern Iran appointed a Qashqai as the tribal leader of a province.

Despite their diverse nomadic origins, the Qashqai identify as "Turks." Their **language is only spoken and has no written form**, so many use Farsi in daily life. They migrate with their herds between summer and winter pastures and are known for their carpets, weaving traditions, and their rich culture of music and dance.

They profess Shia Islam, the state religion of Iran, but most have **little connection to Islamic practice** and relate to it mainly for cultural or political reasons.



Scripture

"At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison."

Colossians 4:3

Prayer Points

- ✓ Pray that God would **tear down spiritual strongholds** among the Qashqai.
- ✓ Pray for the **rapid completion of the Bible translation** into their dialect, as the New Testament was made available as an audio Bible in 2024.
- ✓ Pray that God will raise up Spirit-filled, courageous leaders among them and **strengthen them amid persecution** (Iran is ranked 10th on the World Watch List).
- ✓ Pray for the Qashqai people in Shiraz, who have been **affected by recent military attacks**, that God would protect, comfort, and bring them peace.