

IT MIGHT BE TODAY

"ISIS Crisis"

We are now in our eighth year of presenting a Prophecy Update. This is #386 in that series.

The Bible is almost 30% prophecy, and most of the Bible's over 2500 prophecies have been fulfilled to the letter. We therefore expect the remaining prophecies of the Last Days to be literally fulfilled.

We should probably talk about ISIS.

Nearly two years ago, a relatively obscure Islamic militant group with loose ties to al Qaeda announced a reorganization and name change to reflect its goal of creating a caliphate in Iraq and Syria.

A caliphate is a form of Islamic government led by a caliph - a person considered a political and religious successor to the prophet Muhammad and a leader of the entire Muslim community.

From that point in April 2013, it was known as ISIS, for Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham.

Initially, ISIS seemed to pursue a two-pronged offensive: fight the Syrian government for control of key territory, including along the Turkish border, and seize strategic areas of Iraq. That approach bore fruit in the summer of 2014, with the fall of several Iraqi cities, the capture of the country's largest dam and attacks on a large oil refinery and an air force base.

In Syria, ISIS captured another oil field, and engaged government forces in a two-week battle at an air force base. The group also expanded into Lebanon.

In August, the United States announced airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq, primarily to stop an expected slaughter of religious minorities trapped on a mountain. Later that month, ISIS beheaded an American for the first time - James Foley, a photojournalist.

Another American, Steven Sotloff, was killed shortly after that, part of a series of beheadings of Westerners.

U.S. and allied airstrikes expanded to Syria in September, including against ISIS targets in Kobani, on the border with Turkey. ISIS was driven from that city but made other gains - including the capture of a gas field in Homs, Syria, and its first victory in Libya.

In February, ISIS beheaded two Japanese hostages and released a videotape of a captured Jordanian pilot being burned alive.

Jordan responded with airstrikes on ISIS in Syria. The day after, on Feb. 6, ISIS claimed a strike had killed its last American hostage, aid worker Kayla Mueller.

The following week, ISIS released a videotape showing the execution of 21 Coptic Christians in Libya. Egypt launched retaliatory airstrikes against ISIS in Libya.

The conflict has continued to escalate, with reports of ISIS militants kidnapping Christians from villages in northeastern Syria, and Pentagon officials describing plans by the Iraqi military to try to retake the city of Mosul in April.

ISIS' numbers continue to grow. CIA estimated that ISIS had 4,000 fighters in Iraq alone in June 2014. By September 2014 that estimate was increased to between 20,000 and 31,500. Today, other countries estimate ISIS has 200,000 fighters in the entire region.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/isis-terror-mapping-militants-march-destruction-n312596>

On February 17, Breitbart posted a story titled, **ISIS THREAT PUTS ROME ON HIGH ALERT**

Excerpts:

Rome has dramatically stepped up its security in the wake of last weekend's slaughter of Christians in Libya and the Islamic State's overt threat to the city. Outside of Rome's US embassy on Via Veneto, increased security has been stationed, and machine guns have appeared in the hands of guards. A special security taskforce has been convoked to plan Rome's response to escalating ISIS threats.

According to reports, "the ISIS threat against Italy is now real and direct," and intelligence analysts are saying that Italy "has never been so exposed."

Italy closed its embassy in Tripoli on February 15, and Italy's defense minister Roberta Pinotti said that the possibility of jihadists reaching Italy from Libya "cannot be ruled out."

The Islamic State released a video... showing the Islamic militants beheading 21 Egyptian Christians, in which the masked leader twice mentions Rome.

The video is titled “A Message Signed with Blood to the Nation of the Cross,” and the leader identifies their position as “on the south of Rome, on the land of Islam, Libya.” After the beheading, the leader says: “And we will conquer Rome, by Allah’s permission, the promise of our Prophet, peace be upon him.”

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/02/17/isis-threat-puts-rome-on-high-alert-never-so-exposed/>

FBI Director James Comey revealed that his agency is investigating suspected supporters of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in every state across the U.S.

"We have investigations of people in various stages of radicalizing in all 50 states," Comey told a winter meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/233832-fbi-investigating-isis-suspects-in-all-50-states>

FoxNews reported, "Three New York City residents - two with Uzbekistan citizenship, and one a citizen of Kazakhstan - plotted to travel to Syria to join ISIS militants and 'wage jihad,' the Justice Department announced."

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/02/25/3-arrested-in-brooklyn-for-allegedly-conspiring-to-support-isis/>

Listen to this - from a report by ABC News:

The FBI’s top counterterrorism official offered a blunt assessment today of U.S. efforts to stop ISIS from spreading its merciless message online: “We are losing the battle.”

The terrorist group wreaking havoc in Syria and Iraq as it blasts videos of beheadings to the world “has proven dangerously competent like no other group before it at employing [online] tools for its nefarious strategy,” the head of the FBI’s counterterrorism

division, Assistant Director Michael Steinbach, told lawmakers today.

In fact, while U.S. authorities have been warning that thousands of Westerners recruited to fight with ISIS overseas could pose a threat to the U.S. homeland, that threat “is a small problem” compared with the group’s ability to reach into the United States and radicalize someone without anyone else knowing.

<http://abcnews.go.com/News/fbi-losing-battle-stop-isis-radicalization-online/story?id=29241652>

How is ISIS related to Bible prophecy?

For one thing, this type of global turmoil sets the stage for the emergence of a world leader, who will seem to have solutions, and make peace.

Of course, we know that guy is going to be the antichrist - the worst dictator of all history, possessed by the devil.

For another thing, ISIS and other Middle Eastern events are causing most nations of the world to turn away from their support of Israel - and that is a direct prophecy of the last days.

I'm not sure how much of this we will see. I know that the antichrist cannot be revealed until the church is removed when Jesus comes to resurrect the dead in Christ, and to rapture those who are alive.

Are you ready for the rapture? If not, get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***