

# IT MIGHT BE TODAY

## "The ISIS Crisis"

Week-after-week for the past seven years we have presented a Prophecy Update.

Sir Isaac Newton once said,

About the time of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition.

We believe that time is now.

Thomas Ice says,

Prophecy is seen by many in the church as something that is non-essential. Many see it as a secondary issue merely reflecting preferences that cannot be ultimately resolved by Bible study. Yet, to think that about 25% of Scripture can be viewed this way should be an unacceptable approach for any evangelical.

According to estimates by scholars, somewhere between two-thirds and three-fourths of the nearly 2500 prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled **to the letter**.

We therefore expect the remaining last days prophecies to be literally fulfilled.

Since that is the case, we should be able to look at news and trends in the world and see things lining up for their fulfillment.

The persecution of Christians, throughout the church age, was prophesied by Jesus when He told His followers, "in the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33).

In Second Timothy 3:12 we read,

2Ti 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Christians are perhaps the single most persecuted group in the world today. Stats are hard to come by, but I've seen figures as high as 150,000 Christians martyred each year.

Certainly Christians are being cruelly persecuted right now in Iraq. On July 19, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, more commonly referred to as ISIS, ordered Christians to convert to Islam, pay taxes levied upon non-Muslims, or be killed.

In the region around Mosul – what we know as Nineveh in the Bible – there is not a single Christian left.

FOX News reported,

Mosul, a home to Christians for two millennia, has been purged of them. Long a minority on the vast Ninevah plains, and accustomed to persecution, they nonetheless survived alongside Muslims. But when the bloodthirsty jihadist marauders known as Islamic State moved in, seizing Iraq's second-largest city and announcing a caliphate of strict Shariah law, Christian homes were marked with the letter "N," for Nasare – a Muslim term for Christians which derives from Nazareth. They were told to convert to Islam or die. Those who could, fled.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/08/19/painful-exodus-mosuls-christians-recount-flight-from-historic-home-under-isis/>

Think about that. There is not one Christian left in the ancient heart of Iraqi Christianity. A 2,000-year presence wiped away before our eyes in just a matter of weeks.

More than just a prophecy update, since this involves genuine suffering, we ought to make ourselves aware, **and** suggest some ways to respond.

Our friends at Samaritans Purse are helping the Iraqi Christians. Their website states:

Samaritan's Purse is providing shelter, food, clothing, and more to families fleeing from Islamic militants. We are continuing to supply emergency food and other supplies as refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria are pouring into northern Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. We also support local ministry partners throughout the region as they provide physical relief in Jesus' Name to suffering people.

You can contribute to their relief efforts at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org).

On a political level, a Republican Congressman from Virginia, Frank Wolf, has been daily addressing this crisis and calling for action. On his website he outlines a 5-point plan of action, including the following challenge for President Obama:

You can sign the bipartisan legislation approved by the House and Senate to create a special envoy to promote religious freedom in the Middle East that has been sitting on your desk this week. It is just waiting for your signature. You can name someone to fill this post who can immediately deploy to the region to work with the Kurdish and Iraqi governments.

[http://wolf.house.gov/issues/christianity-in-iraq#.U\\_Or92K9KK3](http://wolf.house.gov/issues/christianity-in-iraq#.U_Or92K9KK3)

I contacted our Congressman, David Valadao, via e-mail, urging him to support the efforts of Congressman Wolf. Go to Valadao's website and you can do the same <http://valadao.house.gov>

If you would like more information in general on the persecution of believers around the world, to help you pray for them, *Voice of the Martyrs* is a good resource, at <http://www.persecution.com>

Prayer... Practical help... and Political pressure. Three things you and I can do.

By itself, the persecution of Christians - even though a fulfillment of prophecy - doesn't prove these are the last days. But when you consider that Israel is a nation again... That Europe has arisen as a united world power... That the technology exists so that we could all participate in a cashless, global economy by virtue of some sort of "mark" *in* us or *on* us... And that the professing church is growing more-and-more apostate - taken together there is compelling prophetic evidence to say we are close to the end.

Will we, in the U.S., face greater persecution? Time will tell. I do know we will not suffer the greatest period of persecution the earth has ever known - the Great Tribulation. The Lord is coming to resurrect and rapture the church prior to that great and terrible day.

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