

Benjamin Watson: Rise of ISIS Sign of Christ's Soon Return

Benjamin Watson, the NFL player whose statements on Ferguson went massively viral, is now speaking out on ISIS and the soon coming of the Lord.

Watson made news headlines last November when he said sin is the root of racism. He was later cut off during a CNN interview after he started glorifying Christ.

Watson's latest concern: the images that keep flooding our timelines and newsfeeds. He points to men being burned alive or beheaded by masked assassins. He talks of stories of families on the run, fleeing their homes while they are pillaged and burned. He said their testimonies hold a familiar chord: "Convert, Pay or Die!"

"The persecution of Christians is not a new concept. As early as the first century we read about the Spirit-filled boldness of Christians like Stephen and Paul who proclaimed the gospel through beatings and imprisonment, torture and death," he wrote on his Facebook page. "We remember Christ's disciples, most of whom were killed just like their master. Roman emperors like Nero, executed Christians in the most ghastly ways, using them as torches to light the evening sky."

In spite of all this adversity, Watson said, Christianity continued to spread because men and woman, empowered by the Holy Spirit stood strong in the face of certain death; some being delivered and others falling.

"As I sit here in a 21st century United States, I can't help but wonder when we too will face martyrdom for our faith. On this very day nearly 50 countries have laws that restrict or outlaw Christianity, leading to the harassment, imprisonment and death of those who follow Christ," he said.

"On this day, in countries like North Korea and China, Christians gather for church underground to avoid being arrested by police. On this day, in Nigeria thousands mourn the deaths of their loved ones killed by Boko Haram in their quest to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state. On this day, in Cuba, Christian ministries continue to risk their freedom as the countries continues to feel the effects of Communist rule."

But, he continued, on this day, Jesus' words in Luke still ring true:

"And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8).

Watson said he trembles with fear at the thought of facing such incredible atrocities for the sake of Christ. How could he stand firm, he pondered, staring down the barrel of a gun, the life of my family in the balance?

"I shudder, thinking of that day," he said. "I feel so inadequate. Rest assured, fellow Americans, if it hasn't already, our day WILL COME."

Watson then offers another Scripture:

"When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say" (Luke 12:11-12).

"My only hope in such trying times is the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the X factor. He will give us the strength, words and vision when our backs are against the wall. Jesus promised the believer many things. Eternal life, abundant life, peace, purpose and forgiveness to name a few. He also

promises that they, like Him, WILL be betrayed, hated and persecuted, even to death. (Luke 21:12-19)

“The Internet has brought close what used to be foreign. Shocking, disturbing worldwide news is available in the palm of our hands. As we see these videos and images we must remember in prayer our brothers and sisters who are suffering for Christ. We must support them in any way we can for they are being witnesses to their oppressors.

“Secondly, we must WAKE UP from our slumber, be on guard and stand firm. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Spiritual unity in the body will help us weather the coming storms. We must REMEMBER that as terrible as things are and will become, they are simply signs pointing to one thing; His Imminent Return.”

Watson ended his post with Luke 21:28: “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”