

700 Hamas, Islamic Jihad Rockets Rain Down on Israel

There was anger and dismay on the Israeli side of the Gaza border on Monday after two days of rocket blasts and air-raid sirens that ended with a ceasefire.

The dawn deal restored general calm after a barrage of nearly 700 Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets, the most serious outbreak of violence between Israel and Palestinian militants for months.

But the cessation was greeted with little enthusiasm in the Israeli cities, towns and villages where Israelis were fuming, as well as weary of having to run to shelters.

"In a month, in two weeks, in a month and a half, it will all happen again—we achieved nothing. I think Israel needs to strike them very, very hard so that they learn their lesson," said Haim Cohen, 69, a retired electrician from the coastal city of Ashdod 15 miles (25 km.) north of the Gaza Strip.

Behind him, cleaners were sweeping shattered glass outside a house where an Israeli was killed by a Gaza rocket on Sunday when running for cover. He was one of four Israelis killed.

The Islamist Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007, two years after Israel pulled its troops and settlers out of the small Palestinian coastal enclave. Since then, the two sides have waged three wars and engaged in repeated tit-for-tat barrages.

Some Israelis who live close to the Gaza border believed their government agreed to a truce with Hamas because it did not want rockets raining down during the upcoming Independence Day holiday, or the Eurovision Song Contest finals that begin on May 14 in Tel Aviv, just 50 miles (80 km) up the coast from Gaza.

“Eurovision set the agenda and not us, the residents of the south,” said Ofer Liberman, from Nir-am, a kibbutz – or agricultural village – near northern Gaza. He said he felt abandoned, adding: “I want the government to make Hamas too scared to launch rockets at us.”

“I think that a ceasefire is a mistake. You don’t do a ceasefire with a terrorist organization. If this cycle isn’t finished properly and if Gaza isn’t cleansed of these terrorists then nothing will help,” said Jack Mandel, 57.

In Ein Hashlosha, a kibbutz about a mile and a half from Gaza, Meirav Kohan, 46, said she was shocked and disappointed at the truce.

“This is a war of attrition and the government is not looking for a long-term solution to bring us peace. There’s no policy. We’re just pawns in a game,” she said. {eo}

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Pastor Says Easter Sermon About ‘Violent Muslim Purge’ Was Misunderstood

On Easter Sunday, Rev. Carl Johnson told his Lutheran congregation that he wanted to confess his sins.

In particular: his wish that Muslims—whom he fears will take over France—would be expelled from France in the wake of the Notre Dame fire.

Johnson’s comments put him and the church in the spotlight

after his comments came to the attention of the news media.

Now he says the congregation misunderstood what he wanted to say.

“I’m really sad about that. Obviously, that wasn’t my intention in any way, shape or form,” said Johnson.

Johnson, pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Kittanning, a small town in northwest Pennsylvania, told his congregation that when he heard the news about the Cathedral burning, he immediately thought of the terrorists who had plotted to blow it up in 2016.

“It is the symbol of Christian unity in France,” he said.

The fire at the French Cathedral is believed to have been started by accident. Johnson admitted that in his comments on Easter. But he said that initially he was disappointed by the news.

“I was hoping it was Muslim terrorism so that, hopefully, there would be a violent purge of Muslims from France. I wanted that because France is lost,” said Johnson.

After some comments on the difference between the general French birth rate and that of Muslims, Johnson told his congregation that he believed Islam would soon be the majority religion in France.

“It’s going to take a generation, maybe two, before France is Muslim, and there’s no stopping it,” he said.

Approximately 9 percent of the French population in 2017 was Muslim, according to the Pew Research Center, though that percentage is expected to grow.

He told the congregation he hoped a violent response by France to a terrorist act would stop that trend. But he admitted that hope could lead to disaster.

"I thought this could be it, we will fight evil with evil, we will fight fire with fire. There's a problem with that, is that evil can only beget evil," he told his congregation.

Since his hopes about the fire were dashed, Johnson said he took comfort in his faith on Christianity's holiest of days.

"So it is that I need Jesus. I need to hear 'Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia,'" to an answering chorus from the congregation.

In a phone call to Johnson seeking explanation, he said he believes that French Muslims want to turn their country into a Muslim nation.

"I assume that Muslims in France want France to be a Muslim country. I assume that Christians in France want France to be a Christian country. Obviously, those who are secular want all of France to be secular. I've never met an atheist who didn't want everyone to be an atheist."

Johnson said his comments on Muslims had been completely misinterpreted.

"I was trying to compare and contrast the way of the world with the way of Jesus. The world teaches violence against our enemies. Christ teaches love, forgiveness and mercy."

Sadly, he added, confessing what he termed a "horrible thought" has been wrongly construed as a statement of his own belief.

"Words have been put in my mouth that are diametrically opposed to what I intended," he said.

He said he wished that attendees who were offended by his remarks had approached him in person.

Johnson's words shocked some listeners.

Visitor Sarah Assali said she walked out during the sermon. Then she went back and listened to the sermon several times on YouTube before it was taken down.

“I remember sitting there with my mouth gaping looking around at others [sic] reactions and saying, ‘is this serious?’ I was very offended,” said Assali, a general surgery resident at Allegheny General Hospital, in an email to RNS. “I thought at first that maybe it would lead in a direction where he apologized for having those thoughts about an entire ethnic population, that anti-Islam or racist thoughts are wrong and that these are people too, that we should all love one another. I thought he’d find a way to make it a talk about forgiveness, love and peace. But he did not.”

Assali said that St. John’s was her boyfriend’s family’s church. She intends never to return and says she has no plans to contact Johnson.

“I do not believe a simple conversation would suffice as his words were inflammatory, dangerous and irresponsible,” she said. “This topic needs to be brought to light and exposed so that an example can be made that the entire community can learn from.”

But lifelong parishioner Jeff Boarts said he had no problem with the pastor’s words, nor had he heard anything negative from others in the congregation.

Boarts felt his pastor’s words were well-intended.

“I was fine with it,” he said. “When he made comments about Muslims. he qualified the statement by saying he knew he was wrong, he knew he was wrong, (that) he needed to be more like Jesus who preached love and forgiveness and peace. It’s possible they didn’t hear that qualification.” It’s regrettable, he said, that those troubled by it didn’t speak directly with Johnson.

Johnson's comments were deliberately designed to put Muslims in a bad light, argues Ebrahim Moosa, a professor of Islamic studies at Notre Dame University.

"He turned the sermon into an inquisition of Muslims," said Moosa.

St. John's is a member of the North American Lutheran Church, a national coalition of congregations formed in 2010 that broke off from the larger Evangelical Lutheran Church in America after disagreements over doctrine and practice. Gay ordination in the ELCA, though not the only issue, was the precipitating one, according to Luther Seminary church history professor Mark Granquist.

Though a member of the ELCA, Granquist said he has many friends in NALC and attends their conventions.

"NALC is pretty moderate," said Granquist. "Where this guy is coming from, I have no clue."

NALC, which tries to navigate "a fine line down the middle," itself isn't much given to making public social statements of any kind, according to its director of communications, Andrew Fuller, who described the controversy over Johnson's sermon as based on a misunderstanding.

"He was literally saying what he said as a confession, as a thing that is wrong, and they are trying to make it seem like he believes exactly the opposite," he said.

Granquist disagrees.

"The old line is that you are responsible, not for what you think you say, but how people understand you. I just feel that he had no clue as to how he might be interpreted."

In the ELCA, his own denomination, while there have been scattered initiatives toward greater mutual understanding, said Granquist, he doesn't see a trend toward ecumenical

outreach between American Muslims and Christians.

His main takeaway?

“Anything said about a neighboring faith needs to be done with some care. Even if you have good intentions, it may not come out the way you intend it. I don’t know what his (Johnson’s) intent was. I can’t judge it,” Granquist said.

It’s time for Christians to become more tolerant of those who don’t share their beliefs, said Moosa. Asked how to make that happen, he suggested that they find ways to visit mosques, synagogues and other places of worship, both to socialize and to learn more about other faiths.

“I think this pastor would benefit from the opportunity to talk and interact with Muslims in his community in Pennsylvania,” he said.

But Johnson, who calls himself a sinner and apologized to anyone who may have been offended, says that he is being misjudged. “Only through Christ do I have a chance of getting it right. I’m called to go into battle with the Word of God and acts of love and mercy.”

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Reflecting on the Death of Progressive Christian Rachel Held Evans

Rachel Held Evans, wife, mother, blogger and influential Christian author, is dead at the age of 37. Although we never

met, and despite our serious theological differences, I am truly saddened by her passing. It was just last month she was hospitalized with the flu, and that quickly, she is gone.

My ministry reached out to her on more than one occasion to dialogue about our differences, but without success. At no point, though, did I question Rachel's sincerity. That she came to very different conclusions than I (and other evangelicals) did, especially in terms of God's view of LGBT issues, was a cause of deep concern, given her influence. But I always felt she arrived at her (wrong) conclusions after wrestling with Scripture and interacting with people.

You might say to me, "Out of respect for her family and followers, now would be a good time to be quiet. We don't need to hear about your differences."

But that's not why I'm writing this article.

I believe what I believe, based on Scripture, and I will continue to preach and teach with conviction. That is not in question. And I will continue to warn and confront.

What is in question is how we respond to news of the tragic death of this young wife and mother who leaves behind a husband two children.

When I learned about Rachel's passing, I tweeted, "I had strong differences with some of the Christian expression of Rachel Held Evans but am truly saddened and shocked to hear of her death at age of 37. May God comfort her husband and family."

In response, one conservative Christian wrote, "How could you be sad? I pray for these kinds of things to happen."

I tweeted back, "Those are ugly and dangerous prayers to pray. You might find yourself the victim of your own praying one day."

He responded with, "1 Corinthians 5 says we judge the church. The lady was misleading the church, defiling it."

I wrote, "Paul did not teach the Corinthians to pray for the death of sinning church members. He taught them to excommunicate them. (My last comment to you. May God give you the grace to see things from His perspective.)"

He continued to defend his position, citing other scriptures, but by then I had muted him.

Sadly, he was not alone in his attacks. As a progressive pastor tweeted to me, "I appreciate your irenic words and spirit. We've seen some really mean stuff from the Christian Right out here today. Peace and every blessing."

That is why I wrote this article, because the way we judge others is the way that we will be judged. Do we really want to ask God to kill those with whom we differ? Are those the kinds of prayers we should be praying?

Again, my differences with Rachel Held Evans were serious and substantial (see [here](#) and [here](#)). And my differences with the aforementioned progressive pastor are even more serious and substantial. I believe he is in serious error, and I believe that he is leading his people astray on certain key issues.

At the same time, it's not my role (or yours) to play God, and my prayer for those with whom I differ is not judgment and destruction. It is grace and mercy: "Father, lead them into the truth. Show them their errors. And grant them the courage and the humility to follow You and Your Word wherever it leads, regardless of cost or consequence."

Even if I am sure they are wrong, my prayer is not for the Lord to strike them down. God forbid! Rather, I pray that He will give them space to repent and change their views.

And I also pray for myself, "Father, show me my blind spots.

Show me areas where I have misrepresented You in any way. And grant me the courage and the humility to follow You and Your Word wherever it leads, regardless of cost or consequence.”

Am I 100 percent sure about the foundations of my faith? Yes, 100 percent.

Am I willing to die on these convictional hills? Yes, without a doubt.

Truth is truth. It doesn't change with each new social fad or contemporary movement. It is not relative. It is absolute.

Consequently, if the Word of God is clear to me on a subject, especially after years of study and prayer, then to compromise my convictions would be a grave sin against my Lord.

But that does not give me the right to damn others to hell or to pray for their demise. To the contrary, I pray for mercy.

It's one thing if ISIS terrorists were about to wipe out a Christian village and we prayed, “Oh God, deliver Your people,” after which lightning struck from heaven, consuming all the terrorists.

It's another thing when a brother or sister in the faith begins to go down a path we feel is wrong or even dangerous.

That's why I warned this conservative Christian about praying down judgment on those whose views he deems theologically incorrect. In doing so, he might inadvertently pray judgment on himself.

From all I could tell, Rachel's theological shifts were due to her desire to be consistent in her Christian faith. And she was open and honest about her struggles with the Bible and her faith.

I truly hope she in the presence of the Lord today with her questions fully resolved.

As for those of us who are still in the land of the living, if we can't be civil and gracious when a 37-year-old wife and mother passes away, we had better do some serious questioning of our own faith.

Deliverance Minister: How to Close Doors to Demons Oppressing You

Kathy DeGraw never meant to get involved in deliverance ministry. But 13 years ago, God threw her into what she calls "deliverance boot camp."

It started when the DeGraw began to notice paranormal activity going on in her church. She knew she had to grow in understanding deliverance and spiritual warfare.

"[We were] hearing music in our registers, in our heater, in our furnace, when there wasn't even music on," she says. "We were experiencing things that the normal person doesn't experience, so that put me on a journey to seek the Lord, not just to seek deliverance but just to seek the Lord and fellowship with the Lord."

After that intense spiritual battle, DeGraw spent two years on her face before Jesus, worshipping Him and studying His Word. She learned keys to deliverance ministry that she couldn't have learned from another source.

Over the years, DeGraw has helped countless people break free from demonic oppression. And she's also noticed several major ways Christians open themselves up to demons.

Listen to the interview to find out how to expose and close those doors in your life. (Click here or scroll up to listen.)

Friends of Zion Honors the Fight Against Anti-Semitism

The Friends of Zion Museum has honored the American ambassadors, diplomats and Hollywood stars who, as part of U.S. President Donald Trump's initiative to fight antisemitism, participated in the March of the Living and then traveled to Jerusalem.

The delegation was led by U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman. After the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem last year, Trump recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights in March. The administration encouraged several U.S. ambassadors to take part in the initiative to combat the global surge of antisemitism.

At the ceremony, Friedman stated: "I want to thank the president once again; Israel truly has no greater friend than President Donald J. Trump and the United States of America."

The American delegation included: U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell; U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein Edward McMullen; U.S. Ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher; U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland; U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra Duke Buchan; U.S. Ambassador to Portugal George Edward Glass; U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Callista Gingrich; U.S. Special

Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism Elan Carr and Paul Packer, chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The delegation also featured celebrity actress Suzanne Somers and her husband producer Alan Hamel.

The Friends of Zion, which recently surpassed 60 million members on social media, is one of the largest pro-Israel sites in the world, fights anti-Semitism on all of its global platforms.

Friends of Zion honored the March of the Living delegation, giving the "Friends of Zion Defender Award" to U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein Edward McMullen.

Friends of Zion also bestowed the "Friends of Zion Heritage Award" on Packer, chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. According to Packer, "We (the delegation) were very moved by the Friends of Zion Museum. To quote the museum, "When we accepted President Trump's appointment to serve the United States of America, we all said '*Hineni*' ("Here am I") to our important roles."

After receiving the award, McMullen explained that following his trip to Auschwitz with March of the Living, his visit to the Friends of Zion Museum inspired and motivated him further to act.

He stated, "I want to thank the Friends of Zion Museum for their incredible work. Receiving this honor is something I could have only dreamed of."

The Friends of Zion Museum has honored Trump, 43rd U.S. President George W. Bush, President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala, President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, Fourth President Rosen Plevneliev of Bulgaria, and the Trump administration's Middle East Peace Envoy Jared Kushner for their unwavering support for the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

Stranded Christian Teens Rescued at Sea by Boat Named Amen

Two Florida teens are celebrating the power of prayer after a fun beach day turned into a nightmare.

Tyler Smith and Heather Brown, who've been friends since fourth grade, were swimming off the coast of Vilano Beach when they suddenly became stranded in the open water.

They drifted two miles away from shore and quickly realized how much danger they were in.

The pair desperately fought the waves for two hours and held on to each other to stay above water.

That's when they turned to God for help.

"I cried out, 'if you really do have a plan for us, like, come on. Just bring something.'" Smith told Fox 30.

Before long, a boat captain sailing from South Florida to New Jersey happened to spot the teens on the verge of drowning.

"I started swimming towards it. I was like, 'I'm going to get this boat. Just stay here. I'm going to get this boat. We are going to live.'" Brown said.

Captain Eric Wagner and his crew pulled the teens out of the water and saved their lives.

"Over all the wind, waves and engines, we thought we heard a desperate scream," Wagner told Fox 30. "Exhausted and near the

end, the boy told me he called out for God's help. Then we showed up."

[Click here](#) to read the rest of this story from our content partners at CBN News.

Christian Artist's Gift of Music Can Soothe Your Depressed Soul

Depression is a serious problem in our culture. In fact, suicide in the U.S. is on the rise, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention—and much of it is linked to depression.

Many even in the body of Christ struggle with depression and, sadly, not many get the help they need. But a Christian music artist named Ben Ferrell has a burden to minister through his music to those struggling.

Ben is a friend and distant cousin of mine from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and he's experienced significant success with his music. He's recorded several videos of songs he's written and played—all of which point back to the Savior. I even shared the audio of one of those videos on my "Strang Report" podcast, which you can listen to [here](#) or in this article.

In this recording, Ben plays some peaceful, soothing music. I found it so relaxing that I listened to it several times.

"If you have been plagued by depression in your life—or maybe you're experiencing a panic attack right now, maybe anxiety-ridden, or maybe you're going through a time in your life when

you feel like you don't want to live—I want you to know that I understand,” Ben says. “I've been there myself. I want you to know that there's hope.”

Ben says he knows that people who are struggling with depression—which he calls a plague in our society—often feel there's no hope. But he says Jesus is right there with any one of His children who is walking through a dark season.

“You're not alone,” Ben says. “You're going to get through this. You can overcome this. This does not have to control your life. This does not have to define who you are. You are a beautiful child of God. ... His presence is with you, and will get you through this.”

I encourage you to listen to the podcast to hear Ben's encouraging words and soothing songs. His heart for the Lord is evident in every note he plays.

If you want to watch the video, visit [and](#) click on the video titled “Defeating Depression 2.” You can also visit [to](#) learn more about Ben.

If you're struggling with depression, please know you're not alone. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help. And of course, if you're struggling with suicidal thoughts and are in crisis, call 1-800-273-8255 or visit [.](#)

I hope Ben's music encouraged you. If you know someone struggling with depression or anxiety, please share this article with them.

Jonathan Cahn's Next Book, 'The Oracle,' Out This Fall, Considers Past and Future

New York Times' best-selling author Jonathan Cahn has written several smash hit books topping many best-seller lists, and devoted readers clamor for his work.

Next, Cahn is releasing his newest, much-anticipated book, *The Oracle: The Jubilean Mysteries Unveiled*, on Sept. 3.

The Oracle will help readers know what the future holds and what the past is hiding, as well as open their eyes to groundbreaking mysteries that will impact not only how they understand the past, but also how they can be ready for the future.

In *The Oracle*, Cahn, author of the *New York Times'* best-sellers *The Harbinger*, *The Mystery of the Shemitah*, *The Book of Mysteries* and *The Paradigm*, opens up the Jubilean prophecies and a mystery so big that it has determined everything from the rise and fall of world empires to two world wars, the current events of our day, the future, end-time prophecy and much more. Ultimately, *The Oracle* will reveal the secret that lies behind end-time prophecy and the mystery of the end of the age.

As with *The Harbinger* and *The Book of Mysteries*, Cahn reveals the mysteries through a narrative; a traveler is given seven keys, each for the opening of one of seven doors. Behind each door lies one of the seven streams of the Jubilean mysteries. Readers are taken on a journey through each door and vision to uncover the ancient secrets that lie behind the world-changing events of modern times.

And as with Cahn's other works, readers will find that the

mysteries revealed within the pages of *The Oracle* are absolutely real, amazing, life-changing and mind-blowing, as they build upon Cahn's vast knowledge of prophecy.

Cahn's earthshattering book *The Harbinger* became an instant *New York Times*' best-seller and brought him to national and international prominence, followed by three more best-sellers. Long before writing these books, he was known for opening the deep mysteries of Scripture and bringing forth messages of prophetic import. He leads Hope of the World ministry, an international outreach of teaching, evangelism and compassion projects for the needy. He also leads the Jerusalem Center/Beth Israel, a worship center made up of Jews and Gentiles, people of all backgrounds, just outside New York City, in Wayne, New Jersey. He is a much sought-after speaker and has been called the prophetic voice of our generation. He has spoken at the United Nations, on Capitol Hill and to millions of people around the world.

For more information on *The Oracle*, visit [. The Oracle](#) is published by FrontLine, an imprint of Charisma House.

Warning: Jezebel Spirit Is Waging War Against America, Church

The biblical figure Jezebel died 3,000 years ago, but her spirit lives on today, and in fact, is at war with America and the American church.

This is the bold focus of a soon-to-be-released book by Dr. Michael L. Brown titled *Jezebel's War with America: The Plot*

to Destroy Our Country and What We Can Do to Turn the Tide.

In *Jezebel's War with America*, out Aug. 6, Brown illustrates how Jezebel's spirit is active in America and how readers can protect the church.

Jezebel was the most wicked woman in the Bible, a powerful seductress who killed the prophets, led Israel into idolatry and immorality, and emasculated men. She was seductive and determined to snuff out the voices coming against her, because these voices were calling out for repentance.

"In 21st-century America, Jezebel is not a person, but it's as if her spirit is alive again," Brown says. "The influence of the same demonic force is being felt in the massive increase of pornography and sexual temptation, the militant spirit of abortion, the rise of radical feminism and most importantly, in the attempt to silence prophetic voices. Just as Jezebel clashed with strong men almost 3,000 years ago, the demonic spirit of Jezebel is powerful in America, and it is going after the church."

Brown's eye-opening book not only unveils the satanic plot to destroy America, beginning with an all-out assault on the church, but it will equip every believer with tools to defeat the enemy in their own personal lives as well as in the nation.

For example, *Jezebel's War with America* seeks to accomplish the following:

- Reveal how the spirit of Jezebel is at work in the 21st century through sexual immorality, abortion, radical feminism and even the fascination with witchcraft and sorcery
- Show how, just as the biblical Jezebel was on a collision course with Jehu, this spirit is on a collision course with President Donald Trump
- Equip readers to defeat the spirit of Jezebel on a

personal and national level

Dr. Michael L. Brown is founder and president of AskDrBrown Ministries and president of FIRE School of Ministry. The author of more than 35 books, including *Saving a Sick America* (2017), he is also the host of the nationally syndicated daily talk radio show "The Line of Fire," as well as the host of shows on GOD TV, NRBTV and METV. His syndicated columns appear on many leading websites, and his scholarly publications range from biblical commentaries to articles in Semitic journals and theological dictionaries. He has served as an adjunct or visiting professor at seven leading seminaries and has debated gay activists, agnostic professors and Orthodox rabbis on university campuses.

"Jezebel's War with America" by Dr. Michael L. Brown will be released Aug. 6 by Front Line, an imprint of Charisma House, which publishes books that challenge, encourage, teach and equip Christians.

How 'End Game' Reveals Serious Implications About the End Times

An electromechanical suit of armor, enhanced human physicality, gamma radiation causing monstrous strength, altered DNA that bestows superpowers and a genetically engineered mercenary are just a few of the characteristics of the central figures in the new blockbuster film *Avengers: Endgame*.

Apparently, moviegoers were intrigued, as they shelled out

\$1.6 billion worldwide on the opening weekend.

Superheroes, supervillains and everything in between are big business in Hollywood, but what about the possibility of a supervillain in real life? asks pastor and author Mark Biltz, who wrote *Decoding the Antichrist and the End Times: What the Bible Says and What the Future Holds*.

An Oxford philosopher is wondering the same thing.

Nick Bostrom is the founding director of the Future of Humanity Institute and, according to The Next Web, his "latest research paper seems to indicate our species could be on a collision course with a technology-fueled supervillain."

"Will a deranged lunatic soon have the capabilities to take the entire world hostage?" Bostrom writes in his paper, titled "The Vulnerable World Hypothesis." "Can our nation's leaders do anything to stop this inevitable tragedy? Will the caped crusader rescue his sidekick before the Joker's sinister trap springs?"

In *Decoding the Antichrist and the End Times*, Biltz writes about this same concept, but in relation to the coming Antichrist.

"As technology becomes more and more a part of our everyday lives," Biltz says, "we must consider theories about the Antichrist and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, Siri, Alexa, Watson, 5G and more, which are creeping into our lives on a daily basis and changing our perspective of how things could possibly play out even in the next few years.

"It is no longer difficult to imagine the Antichrist as some kind of hybrid human cyborg able to project himself all over the world at one time as a hologram that demands to be worshipped," he added. "With all the advances in technology—the ability to produce avatars, holograms and

computer software installed in our bodies so our thoughts and emotions, as well as our purchases and our movements, can be monitored—there is no doubt that we are at the culmination of one age and entering the threshold of another.”

The central theme of *Decoding the Antichrist* is the role of technology in our future, as Biltz takes an in-depth look at some of the deepest questions surrounding the Antichrist:

- What does the Bible say about the Antichrist, his tactics and his motivation?
- Will he be a Muslim, a Jew or a professed Christian—or something else?
- Will the Antichrist work through modern technology to seize control?

“I believe we are truly entering the final chapter on this world’s stage, and the curtain will soon be coming down or rolled away,” Biltz says. “I am not claiming to know how many pages are left in God’s script, but those who have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit of God is saying know it is time to start packing your bags, spiritually speaking.”

Mark Biltz is founder of El Shaddai Ministries and a well-known and popular commentator on the feasts of the Lord. In fact, he has produced a series of DVDs on the feasts that have gone around the world. Biltz is also the author of *Blood Moons* and *God’s Day Timer*. His research and theories have led to guest appearances on both radio and television as well as being featured on the covers of magazines.

Decoding the Antichrist and the End Times was released last month by Charisma House, which has published books that challenge, encourage, teach and equip Christians, including 14 *New York Times*’ best-sellers.