

Wake Up, Royal Princess, and Seek the Savior's True Love

She didn't care about who she married as long as she could get married in Disneyland. Reading about this young 17-year-old Arab teen and her conversation with her girlfriends in Saudi Arabia was eye-opening. She and her girlfriends had grown up watching Disney movies. They knew they had no control over choosing a prince—that was for their parents to arrange, but somehow they believed that if they could have a Disney wedding at one of the theme parks, all would work out in the end.

I put down the article and wanted to scream. "Has the world been so consumed with fantasy that we've lost touch with reality? Wake up!"

God asks us to engage with Him and escape what would distract and consume our lives. His Word isn't a book of fantasy stories and promises. Our true prince Jesus is fighting through the snares and distractions of life's underbrush, demons and the dragon's breath of media noise to get through to us. He wants to kiss us with His eternal life, and He is preparing a place for us that's not a fantasy, according to John 14:2.

The question is, will we wake up in time to seek His true love instead of the myths of our culture?

The world today is consumed with self-interest, self-accomplishments and selfies. We can't help seeking something more and away from the ordinary. We're on an endless search for an escape and to find fulfillment. It's why we find it so easy to plunge into adrenaline-rush experiences and even theme parks. What we often forget is that when God created us, He ingrained in our souls the desire to search for His royal bloodline. He wants to engage our minds, surrender our hearts

and seek His true eternal freedom, and we can't escape our Creator's purpose.

There is never a bottom to the wishing well. We will always want more, and it is so easy to get sucked into the deceiver's endless offers. But the truth is, it's empty. When you choose the selfish box, you've pricked your finger, bitten the poison apple and fallen asleep. The Bible says in Proverbs 31:30, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." God wants you to invest in Him. When we value what He values, the world comes alive, and we see things that were once hidden. Our blind eyes see and our deaf ears hear. It's the mystical key that opens doors and wakes us up to find the ultimate truth.

True freedom, love and peace comes by surrendering to the all-encompassing love of our Savior. When we choose the Prince of Peace, we choose "happily ever after" for real. It's an arranged marriage that will never go wrong. No Disneyland, no Fantasyland and no earthly prince can compare to all that God's planned for us right now—today (Rom. 8:38-39). {eoa}

Kathleen Cooke's *devotional*, *Hope 4 Today: Stay Connected to God in a Distracted Culture encourages readers to engage with God. As co-founder of Cooke Media Group () and The Influence Lab, she publishes a bi-monthly journal (). Find out more at or on Twitter @KathleenRCooke*

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Spiritual Forces Collide With

National Day of Prayer, Ramadan

Two spiritual forces collide this week through the vehicle of prayer as the Christian community comes together to pray on the National Day of Prayer (May 2), and the Muslim community begins 30 days of fasting and prayer from May 5-June 4.

However, the two roads do not lead to the same destination.

This is an alert to pray into what is being released in this hour.

Christians have a mandate to “love your neighbor as yourself” and to “go into all the world and make disciples.” Our goal is to share the love of God and the message of the gospel. What if someone won’t listen? That is their choice. Ours is simply to share with them and make it available.

Not so with Islam.

There are approximately 1.6 billion Muslims around the world who will unite together for Ramadan—which is considered a holy month of fasting and prayer. What is Ramadan? The Prophet Mohammed once said, “When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of heaven are opened, and the gates of hell are closed and the devils are chained.”

Yet is that what really happens? Is it a holiday similar to Christmas for Christians as some claim? Or during Ramadan, are the gates of hell opened as demonic opposition is released?

To understand the issue, it is first necessary to understand that Islam is not simply a religion. It is a political ideology that affects every aspect of society. According to writer Abuh Alam, “Islam is a complete way of life that governs all facets of life: moral, spiritual, social,

political, economical, intellectual, etc. It is a set of rules by which to live by.”

What are those rules? These can be discovered from the trilogy of writings on which it is established—the Quran, Hadith and Sira implemented through Sharia Law.

According to the Quran, Muslims are instructed to:

- Fight them until faithlessness is no more, and religion becomes [exclusively] for Allah. Then if they relinquish, there shall be no reprisal except against the wrongdoers. Quran 2:193

Two *hadiths* also reveal the violent intent of this ideology:

- Muslim 001, 0031 Mohammed: “I have been ordered to wage war against mankind until they accept that there is no god but Allah and that they believe I am His prophet and accept all revelations spoken through me.
- Bukhari 4, 52, 196 Mohammed: “I have been directed to fight the Kafirs until every one of them admits, ‘There is only one god and that is Allah.’”

Who or what is a “*Kafir*?”

According to the Center for the Study of Political Islam (CSPI International) the definition of “*Kafir*” encompasses not only Christians and Jews, but any non-Muslim.

“Non-believers are so important that they have several names. Christians and Jews are called ‘People of the Book’ or ‘infidels.’ Other religious names for non-Muslims are ‘atheist,’ ‘polytheist’ and ‘pagan.’ But the Quran uses one word that includes all of the religious names. That name is *kafir*, an Arabic word.

“‘*Kafir*’ is usually translated as ‘unbeliever,’ but that translation is wrong. ‘Unbeliever’ is a neutral word. The Quran is very clear about the *karfir*. Indeed, the Quran

defines the *kafir* by how it speaks of them. *Kafirs* are the lowest and worst form of life. *Kafirs* can be robbed, murdered, tortured, enslaved, crucified and more.”

A *kafir* is any person who falls under a different moral code from the Muslim.

Tolerance for Islamic Sharia (Islamic law) is being pushed as never before. Sharia is practiced in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Sudan. That is probably no surprise, but did you know Sharia is now in penetration phase 4 in the United Kingdom? (Note: There are only five phases. The last is called “Imposition,” which is when the Muslim population becomes the majority, and/or Islam gains control of a region and then can implement Sharia.)

The U.K. now has over 3,000 mosques. American has over 1,200. (Mosques represent a place of domination.) In 2008 the Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of Church of England, conceded that adopting elements of the Sharia law into U.K.’s court system was “unavoidable.”

Today, the U.K. has over 130 Sharia law courts!

And they have set their sights on America already with a strong foothold in Minnesota which is now represented by Muslim Congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

So while the Christian community in America unites together on May 2 for the National Day of Prayer to pray for our nation and the world. The Islamic community under the strict religious code of Ramadan come together to pray and fast according to Muhammad’s instruction for the spread of Islam, which is no longer practiced only in Middle Eastern countries. Today, 80% of all believers of Islam live outside the Arab world.

Isn’t it time to pray?

Will you join me for a 30-day (May 5-June 4) declaration of prayer and protection of our nation? Also that the eyes of those who are trapped or blinded by the religion and political ideology of Islam will be opened to the truth of Jesus Christ as their Savior?

30 Days of Prayer Over our Nation—Psalm 31

In You, Lord, we have taken refuge; let us never be put to shame; deliver us in Your righteousness. Turn Your ear to us, come quickly to our rescue; be our rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save us. Since You are our rock and our fortress, for the sake of Your name, lead and guide us.

Keep us free from the trap that is set for us, for You are our refuge. Into Your hands we commit our spirit, our nation; deliver us, Lord, our faithful God.

We refuse to cling to worthless idols; instead, we put our trust in You, Lord. We will be glad and rejoice in Your love, for You saw our affliction and know the anguish of our soul. You have not given us into the hands of the enemy but have set our feet in a spacious place.

Be merciful to us, Lord, for we are in distress; our eyes grow weak with sorrow, our soul and body with grief. Because of all our enemies, we are held in utter contempt by those who used to be neighbors and friends.

We hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!" as they conspire against us and plot to take our lives and our nation. But we trust in you, Lord; we say, "You are our God." Our times are in Your hands; deliver us from the hands of our enemies and from those who pursue us. Let Your face shine on Your servants; and save us in Your unfailing love. Let us not be put to shame, Lord, for we have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and be silent in the realm of the dead.

Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. How abundant are the good things that You have stored up for those who fear You, that You bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you. In the shelter of Your presence You hide us from all human intrigues. You keep us safe in Your dwelling from accusing tongues.

Praise be to the Lord, for You have shown us the wonders of Your love when our nation was under siege. In our alarm we said, "We are cut off from Your sight!" Yet You heard our cry for mercy when we called to You for help.

Love the Lord, all you His faithful people! For the Lord preserves those who are true to Him, but the proud he pays back in full. We will be strong and take heart, for we hope in You, Lord. {eoa}

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7 Spiritual Keys to Fulfill Your God-Given Assignment

In today's culture of increasing identity confusion, there is a need for believers to understand and model a healthy identity and purpose that is Christ-centered and kingdom-focused. When we know who we are, why we're here and where we're going, we will offer to the world a picture of what a true son and daughter of the kingdom looks like. Here are seven keys that may help start the process in learning how to

know your true identity in the kingdom of God in order to fulfill your call and assignment.

1. Determine to love Jesus more than anyone or anything.

Simple? Yes. Easy? No. We become what we focus on—who we focus on. As we fix our eyes on Jesus and determine to please Him above all else, our hearts and affections will be rightly placed. In order to make wise choices and determine God's will, loving Jesus first and foremost is foundational to everything else. We will never know who we really are apart from learning who Jesus really is. We are to be a reflection of Him.

2. Walk in the fear of the Lord, not the fear of man.

Once we have settled to love Jesus most, we can expect to be tested in it. The fear of the Lord keeps us faithful to His purposes even when others may misunderstand us, mock us or challenge us. Though I can walk with sensitivity towards people's needs and perspectives, I don't have to bow to them or change my beliefs for validation. Especially in the current atmosphere of hostility towards those who seek godly truth, we must guard ourselves from compromise at the altar of "acceptance." Walking in a healthy fear of the Lord provides wisdom, protection and confidence in all things eternal and right.

3. Seek a reputation in heaven more than on the earth.

In today's social media, the more friends you have, the more tweets you post and the more "likes" you get, the more likely you are to draw a crowd. But getting attention is a lot different than having influence. Standing out in the crowd isn't hard to do in our shock-driven, entertainment-saturated culture. What's a lot more challenging is saying or doing something that will cause heaven to move on your behalf to change entire cities and even nations. Sometimes those in the secret place are changing history a lot more than those in the public eye. Seek to move heaven first and then watch the earth respond.

4. Know your spiritual gifts. You have been given a measure of spiritual gifts that have marked you from creation. The seven gifts listed in Romans 12:3-8 point to the motivations and passions your heavenly Father put within you from birth: prophesying, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading and showing mercy. When you can identify your primary "motivational gift," you can better know your strengths and weaknesses and where you best fit in the body of Christ. Though these gifts do not necessarily define who you are, they do point to what you're good at and what will bear the most fruit in your life.

5. Know your call. Where your spiritual gifts explain your primary motivation, your calling is what you were born for, or better yet, who you were born to reach. God's priority is always people, and our calling will be a reflection of His heart to reach someone. This may take a lifetime to fulfill, but you will know it is His call because it continues to burn in your heart, keep you up at night and never quite goes away regardless of challenges or setbacks. It will require faith and is bigger than you are, but your call is what draws your heart and inspires your journey.

6. Know your present assignment. If your life story was written as a book, your calling would be the title. Your spiritual gifts would shine in the unique writing style and illustrations. The individual chapters would highlight the various assignments throughout your journey. Specific assignments will come and go and serve to advance the kingdom, increasing the measure of grace on your life to ultimately fulfill your call. Some may seem like side roads to your destination, but all will lead to His purposes as you trust His heart in knowing how to prepare and equip you.

7. Measure your success by the fruit. Regardless of our call, gifts and assignments, the true measure of success will be in the fruit that follows us. If we are walking in the fullness of our identity, the people around us will recognize it, grow

from it and encounter Christ through it. God's grace will flow out of us and will exponentially increase in those around us. Look for disciples, not just followers. Look for reproduction, not just reputation. Look for transformation that lasts, not just a fascination that quickly fades.

Ultimately, knowing who you are is not about "finding yourself," but losing yourself in order to find Christ. Seek to know His heart above your own and trust His plans in molding and shaping your life to be a perfect representation of Him. There won't be any identity confusion. In the end, the world won't see you anyway; just Him! {eoa}

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How Porn Is Affecting Single Men

A man's pornography addiction has devastating impacts on himself, his wife and his family. Countless marriages and broken families are the direct result of men's porn usage.

Unfortunately, porn is equally damaging to a single man. It can keep him single longer or prevent him from having a lasting relationship.

A 2018 Gallup Poll revealed that the percentage of unmarried Americans (both male and female) who find porn morally acceptable increased 15 percentage points since 2017. That's the largest increase among subgroups.

Sam Perry, an assistant professor of sociology and religious studies at the University of Oklahoma, noted:

“Perhaps it’s not being unmarried that makes people more inclined to think porn is OK, but that the more people think pornography is just fine, the less likely they are to get married.”

Perry cites two reasons viewing porn may lead single people to delay marriage:

“Pornography could either make marriage seem like an outdated, boring institution. Or pornography (and specifically masturbating to pornography) could remove the ‘need’ to get married as the source where one can find sexual fulfillment.”

Porn Lessens Your Desire for Real Relationships

Of course, there are many reasons why a man may be single. But pornography usage creates unique challenges.

According to Michael Johnson of Covenant Eyes, “When we get our sexual desires ‘satisfied’ by porn, our sex drive doesn’t drive us to marriage. It drives us to more porn. You may want to be married, but porn is just so much easier. The result: You satiate your sexual appetite in a cheap, artificial sort of way, instead of letting your desire drive you to prepare and seek God’s calling in marriage.”

Mark Regnerus, a University of Austin professor and the author of *Cheap Sex*, said, “At best, porn will augment—or compete with—sex, and stall marriage. At worst, sexual technology threatens to undermine coupled sex altogether.”

Mark Ballenger, a writer at Apply God’s Word, noted a significant problem for Christian men:

“Their use of porn lessens their desire for real women. It

also causes them shame and makes them feel they are not prepared for a Christian marriage; therefore, they do not pursue a woman like they would if they did not have the shame from their porn use. They feel they are not prepared to be a Christian husband because of their porn addiction, and so they remain single for much longer.”

Will My Desire for Porn Go Away When I Get Married?

Many single men mistakenly believe that their porn usage will stop when they get married. But too often, their porn addiction will follow them into their marriage.

Paul Leininger, the executive director at Petra Church in New Holland, Pennsylvania, said:

“I struggled with it for 28 years of my life, even into my marriage. I thought marriage would solve my problem. But, no, it didn’t.”

Craig Gross, a pastor and speaker, noted that porn addiction does not simply stop when you get married.

“Porn is so easy,” he says. “It’s so accessible. It’s teaching you so much so to be selfish. ... People are saying, ‘Hey, I’m not having sex, but I just look at porn.’ I think in the Christian world the mindset is ‘Ahh, but I’m still a virgin.’ ... This is cheating made pure ... but in reality it’s like you’re not helping anybody. You are probably hurting yourself more by bringing that addiction into your future relationship.”

Gross added, “You are setting yourself to want something by watching something that you’re not going to be able to get in marriage. Ultimately, it’s teaching you to treasure just all about what you want, what you desire. But in reality you can’t approach sex or marriage that way and have a successful marriage.”

Dannah Gresh, author of *What Are You Waiting For?*, agrees.

“The lure of porn is never quenched by marital sex,” she says. “Because porn has almost nothing to do with real love and real sex. It’s as counterfeit as a counterfeit can be.”

Using Porn As a Sexual Release

Some single men justify their porn addiction by saying they need the sexual release they get by using porn and masturbating.

Noah Filipiak, a pastor and the author of *Beyond the Battle*, said, “In fact, porn can almost feel like an act of righteousness for some singles—their way of making sure they aren’t having premarital sex. A Christian single man recently told me he has to look at porn because it’s his way of making sure he doesn’t have premarital sex.”

God has created the majority of us with an energy designed to drive us closer to Him. That same energy drives us as single men to seek a Christ-focused wife. In pornography our affections and energy are turned back on ourselves. Serving only our selfish desires.

Andy Farmer, a singles’ pastor at Covenant Fellowship in Philadelphia, said, “Self-gratification through using pornography is the opposite of what God intended, not a premature enjoyment of what God intended.”

Christian author and apologist C.S. Lewis recalled:

“For me the real evil of masturbation would be that it takes an appetite which, in lawful use, leads the individual out of himself to complete (and correct) his own personality in that of another (and finally in children and even grandchildren) and turns it back; sends the man back into the prison of himself, there to keep a harem of imaginary brides.”

God created sex for the benefit and enjoyment of a couple within the bounds of marriage. Sex in any other form—whether alone or with someone else—is rebellion against God’s plans.

Take Advantage of the Opportunity

If you are single and plan to get married, now is a great opportunity for you to begin overcoming your porn addiction. Join a small group that has Christian men who have broken free from pornography and can help support and encourage you.

Also, the development of the brain’s pre-frontal cortex continues until the age of 25. The prefrontal cortex involves such functions as personality development, proper social behavior, and decision making.

According to Mental Health Daily, “If you are under the age of 25 and your brain is not yet fully developed, you may want to take advantage of this critical period. This means that you can effectively be a co-creator in how your brain decides to mold itself. Engaging in healthy behaviors and giving your brain optimal stimulation will help ensure healthy prefrontal cortex development.”

Dealing with your porn usage after you are 25 will be harder. So dealing with it now is a great opportunity.

Remember that once you are married, it will start to affect your wife and family members. So choose to be a man that stands with integrity now. What a great testimony that will be for your wife!

Also, find opportunities to use your energy in ways that will improve your mind, talents and ambitions. Start preparing now to become the man that your future wife will be proud of. Train to be a man who will make your wife feel secure and cherished.

And spend time drawing closer to God. Lean into Him as you need His grace and strength today as you battle porn. Develop intimacy with God now, so in time you can make Him the centerpiece of your marriage.

You May Feel Alone, But You Don't Struggle Alone

Over 1 million men are starting their journey to freedom through the Conquer Series. It consists of 12-DVDs packed with strong biblical teaching, scientific information about how porn affects the mind, powerful testimonies and engaging action footage.

You can use the series personally or talk to your church leaders about bringing the Conquer Series to your church.

Abram Johnston of Montpelier, Ohio, wrote:

“In the last two years God changed my course to search for healing instead of working so hard to gain sobriety. This journey led me last year to the Conquer Series which helped me to intentionally walk through this healing with other men, instead of trying to do it on my own. I can now say that I have been clean longer now than I have been in 20 years.”

Order the Conquer Series and start your journey to freedom today.

Pat Robertson Calls Young-

Earth Creationism 'Embarrassing,' 'Nonsense'

Pat Robertson denounced young-earth creationism—the view that God created the earth roughly 6,000 years ago—as “embarrassing” and “nonsense” on Tuesday’s episode of *The 700 Club*. Robertson’s remarks came during a question and answer segment, in which he responded to a viewer named Sheila who wrote, “Pat, I learned in church that the time of creation was 6,000 years ago. How does that work, compared to science saying dinosaurs are thousands or millions of years old?”

Robertson replied:

One of the reasons I have added a course in what’s called cosmology to the curriculum at Regent School of Divinity is that I wanted to counter this business. There was a Bishop Ussher who added up all the years the Bible speaks about between Adam and Eve and us, and he added up 6,000 years. Well, the truth is that you know the dinosaurs were extinct maybe 200, or 100, or 50—excuse me, I’ll get it right, about 50 billion years ago. And this planet has been around much longer than that. There’s a course that they were trying to hustle around called “Creation Science.” It was just nonsense. And it was so embarrassing. So we wanted to make sure we told the truth.

You know, this universe that we live in is 14 billion years old, and there’s no question about it. And we have tremendous geological records and all the rest of it. And that 6,000-year stuff just doesn’t compute. But we as Christians need to know the truth. When you know the truth, you stand in awe of the God who created everything. That’s His name. His name is He who caused everything to be. He brought it all into being—the vast solar system and the galaxies and the stars. There are about a billion trillion stars outside of our sun

in the universe. It's huge! So let's give God credit for what He did and not try to limit him to 6,000 years, all right?

To hear Robertson's remarks, watch the *700 Club* episode embedded above. He begins discussing creationism shortly before the 45-minute mark.

What Christian Parents Need to Know About 'Ugly Dolls'

"Who told you that you were naked?"

God's words to Adam and Eve from Genesis 3 echoed as I processed the themes of *UglyDolls*, the new animated musical from STX Films. Those words from a loving Father confronted a voice that attempted to shame them, much like what happens when happy, well-adjusted dolls from Uglyville venture beyond their safe community. As Moxie (Kelly Clarkson) and her cute and unusual friends encounter the perfect toys inhabiting Perfection, led by the narcissistic Lou (Nick Jonas), they're told the true meaning of the word "ugly," meaning they are unlovable and rejected.

With town names such as Uglyville and Perfection, and songs like "The Ugly Truth" and "All Dolled Up," the message of the film isn't particularly subtle, but that doesn't make it any less important, especially for its intended audience. Comparison is a heartbreaking trap, and perfection isn't achievable, so everyone should extend compassion, understanding and love to all, regardless of how they appear, "for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7b).

My three elementary school-age girls, who listened to every note and hung on every word of dialogue, will hopefully recall some of the lines and songs of the film as they encounter those who would seek to create confusion, doubt and insecurities. Growing up isn't always easy, so a positive and encouraging message movie is something I as a parent can wholeheartedly embrace.

Clarkson and Jonas lead an all-star cast that also includes Janelle Monae, Blake Shelton, Wanda Sykes, Gabriel Iglesias, Wang Leehom and Pitbull. Their musical firepower comes in handy with an impressive soundtrack of pop-infused songs that will appeal to kids and their parents alike. The opening combo of "Today's the Day" and "Couldn't Be Better" are as infectious and high-energy as The Lego Movie's "Everything is Awesome," if not more so.

UglyDolls, based on the toy line created in 2001 and directed by Kelly Asbury (*Shrek 2*, *Gnomeo and Juliet*), releases May 3 from STX Films.

DeWayne Hamby is a communications specialist with Four Rivers Media and longtime journalist covering faith-based music, entertainment, books, and the retail industry. He is the author of the book *Gratitude Adjustment*. Connect with him at or on Twitter – @dewaynehamby.

**You Can't Accurately
Interpret the Bible Without**

This Perspective

One of my favorite artists paints amazing pictures of biblical text using the text itself to make the picture. In other words when he paints a picture of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, he uses the Hebrew text in different sizes and colors to bring forth the artwork. Each letter upon the canvas becomes a part of the greater picture. If you stand back from the painting, all you see is a beautiful piece of artwork, but as you get closer you see that the entire painting is made up of text from the Holy Scriptures. And if you get even closer, you see the beautiful scribal work that forms each individual letter.

As I was reading the Bible this week, I was thinking about this artist and his work and how beautiful it was that he could visualize the final picture and put all of those individual tiny letters of different colors in the right order and the correct place to become a part of the whole. His artwork is viewed first as the whole picture, and then as you get closer, you see all of the small parts that together make the whole picture visible.

As I looked at one of these pictures, I realized once again how the Bible is very much a work of art just as these pictures are. Every letter, word, sentence, phrase, paragraph, page, chapter and book in the Bible was perfectly designed by the master artist. Only when each letter, word, sentence, phrase, paragraph, page, chapter and book are in their right place is the picture able to be seen as intended. So we start with the whole Bible and as we get closer we see the fine detail of each smaller part that brings our focus to the exquisite beauty that makes the Bible such a unique piece of artwork.

The more I thought about this concept, the more, I realized just how important it was that we saw each letter written in

Scripture not individually and separate but as part of the whole text. While an individual phrase might be beautiful on its own, its full beauty can only be recognized and viewed when it is in its proper place and context.

Unfortunately for many Bible readers the full context of G-D's artistry is never seen because passages of the Bible are removed from their full context as if to be displayed as a completely separate work of art. The Bible is divided into Old and New Testaments, The Gospels are separated from the epistles, and even the epistles are divided by authors as if they were not inspired by the same G-D. The more we divide the parts of the Bible into individual works, the less we see of the absolute beauty of the original designed masterpiece.

To often today people start by looking close up and focusing in on the tiny individual letters of the picture and never see the whole painting. Verses then become completely out of the context of the original design, and while these small letters or even sections are beautiful, they are not complete and cannot be understood totally because they are not viewed as part of the entire work.

The reason so many people claim to believe in the same Bible yet are divided into so many different denominations is because each is viewing the individual letters and believing that they are seeing the complete masterpiece. The body of Messiah will only become truly *one* when we step back from staring at parts of the whole and embrace the absolute beauty of the complete intended masterpiece from Genesis to Revelation, believing that every letter, phrase, sentence, paragraph, page, chapter and book is relevant to us today if we are going to see what G-D intended the painting to be.
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Eric Tokajer is author of *With Me in Paradise*, *Transient Singularity*, *OY! How Did I Get Here?: Thirty-One Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me Before Entering Ministry*, #ManWisdom: With

Eric Tokajer *and* Jesus is to Christianity as Pasta is to Italians.

Prophet Says He Prophesied an Earthquake 10 Days Before It Happened

In a recent YouTube video, Global Fire Ministries International's Jeff Jansen says he prophesied a coming earthquake which happened 10 days later. From April 11-14, Jansen—accompanied by James Goll and Wesley and Stacey Campbell—was ministering at The Voice Global Fire Ministries Prophetic Summit in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On April 14, Jansen says he received a prophetic word based on Ezekiel 37.

“As we were transitioning out of the worship time into the word, Wesley was getting ready to preach, and we got caught up into this swirl of the Holy Ghost and I started prophesying about Ezekiel 37,” Jansen says. “Ezekiel 37 [is] about the valley of dry bones. and there's a new eagle bird coming and a brand-new Ezekiel-type company that's arising in the earth. and they're going to have the power to raise the dead. much like Paul Cain had talked about with the stadium vision. But that this new Ezekiel company was going to have resurrection power.”

The video features an audio clip of Jansen's prophecy from the event. He says, “I'm telling you, all of heaven is listening. All of the earth is listening. Listen to me, I see this 37. It's Ezekiel 37, but it's also a revelation: three seven. ... This army is rising today. I prophesy, according to Ezekiel 37, ... 3.7 on the Richter scale. ... 3.7 for resurrection power.

... So Lord shake the earth. We release the word of the Lord, as Paul Cain released the word of the Lord. As Bob Jones released the word of the Lord.”

Dyersburg, Tennessee, was the site of a 3.7 magnitude earthquake on Wednesday, April 24. WTOP11 reports the earthquake left “little to no damage” to the community. Dyersburg is roughly 200 miles west of Murfreesboro, where Jansen delivered the prophetic word. Jansen says this earthquake confirms the validity of his prophetic word.

“This is a powerful confirming word that even the earth confirmed by a 3.7 earthquake that happened just days after I gave this prophetic word,” Jansen says. “God bless you. Get ready. God is raising up a new-breed eagle, and you’re part of that glory generation.”

He says the takeaway from this confirmation is that God is raising up “new eagles” that will be able to raise the dead.

“I believe that God is raising up a brand-new eagle ... that carries a new sound, and this Ezekiel company will raise the dead,” Jansen says. “These new eagles are not just prophesying eagles, but they move in the spirit and power of Elijah for running.”

Watch the video to hear the rest of Jansen’s prophecy.

**WATCH: Pastors, Politicians
Address America for the**

National Day of Prayer

Internationally renowned faith leaders will address the United States for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, in a tradition that began nearly 250 years ago.

“Americans have always found power and unity through prayer,” says President Donald Trump. “In 1988, the Congress, by Public Law 100-307, called on the president to issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a ‘National Day of Prayer.’ Today, on this National Day of Prayer, we once again come together to give thanks to Almighty God for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed on our great nation and to ask for His unfailing counsel. We also acknowledge our dependence on God’s love to guide our families, communities and our country away from harm and toward abundance and peace.”

Events are scheduled around the country on Thursday and will culminate in an address featuring Andrew and Norine Brunson, Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, Rev. Anthony B. Thompson and Julio Arriola, among others.

The White House will broadcast a ceremony at 11 a.m. ET. WATCH it here.

The National Observance will begin at 7:30 p.m. ET and conclude at 9:30 p.m. ET. WATCH it here.

To commemorate the event, Trump issued a proclamation:

Our nation acknowledges that religious liberty is a natural right, given to us by our Creator, not a courtesy that government extends to us. The First Amendment recognizes the freedom of religion and safeguards this right against government infringement. The United States’ steadfast commitment to upholding religious freedom has ensured that people of different faiths can pray together and live in

peace as fellow American citizens. We have no tolerance for those who disrupt this peace, and we condemn all hate and violence, particularly in our places of worship.

Throughout our nation's history, Americans have consistently turned to God for guidance at pivotal moments. In 1775, the Continental Congress first declared a day of prayer, asking American patriots throughout the colonies to pray in earnest for divine help in forming our Republic. Seventy-five years ago this June, President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation in prayer as courageous Americans stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. He prayed: "Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor ... Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith." Today, we also pray for strength for our nation and our Armed Forces as we face new challenges at home and abroad.

Our nation's honored tradition of prayer has sustained us and strengthened our trust that God will continue to watch over and accompany us through the best of times and the darkest hours. May we as Americans never forget the power of prayer and the greatness of our Creator. On this National Day of Prayer, let each of us, according to our own faiths, call upon God for His guidance and express our gratitude for the love and grace He bestows on us and our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2019, as a National Day of Prayer. I invite the citizens of our nation to pray, in accordance with their own faiths and consciences, in thanksgiving for the freedoms and blessings we have received, and for God's guidance and continued protection as we meet the challenges before us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.

Several faith leaders, politicians and Christian organizations shared their prayers via social media:

I encourage you to join me and Christians across America in praying for our nation today. #NationalDayOfPrayer #Pray #Prayer #Nation #Leaders #President #VicePresident #Congress #SupremeCourt #God #Jesus

– Pastor John Hagee (@PastorJohnHagee) May 2, 2019

Today is the #NationalDayofPrayer. Dr. Graham, along with members of the Prestonwood Music worship team, will be in attendance at the National Day of Prayer Service in the Rose Garden. You can tune in to watch the event live-stream on today at at 11AM EST.

– PowerPoint (@PPTMinistries) May 2, 2019

On this #NationalDayOfPrayer, asking God that he would make our nation a more kind, civil society. Praying we would assume the best, give the benefit of the doubt, & extend grace to the level Jesus did for us on the cross.

– J.D. Greear (@jdgreear) May 2, 2019

My father @BillyGraham said, "Prayer is more than a wish; it is the voice of faith directed to God." That's a good reminder since today is the #NationalDayofPrayer. Our country faces many challenges, but the most important thing we can do is pray. 1/4

– Franklin Graham (@Franklin_Graham) May 2, 2019

It's striking that Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom haShoah) and the #NationalDayofPrayer occur on the same day this year.

With attacks on places of worship prevalent, let's all recall the most important lesson of genocide: Never Again.

– Ivanka Trump (@IvankaTrump) May 2, 2019

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– BGEA (@BGEA) May 2, 2019

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It makes a difference when you pray. Let's join our hands and hearts as we celebrate the National Day of Prayer. #NationalDayOfPrayer

– Lakewood Church (@lakewoodchurch) May 2, 2019

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#NationalDayOfPrayer*

– Lakewood Church (@lakewoodchurch) May 2, 2019

Lauren Daigle: Miley Cyrus Was 'The Beginning' of My Career

On Wednesday, Lauren Daigle shared how Miley Cyrus helped launch the beginning of her music career. Daigle shared the story while being interviewed on the red carpet at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards.

Daigle said, "OK, so it was the day I was kicked off American Idol. I ran into Miley Cyrus in this nail salon, and she said, 'Mom, Mom, you've got to meet this girl. I can tell just from the way she talks she needs to be on radio.' And so I flew and met her mom, like just one day, so she didn't manage me or anything, but we met up and she was really encouraging.

"And then—talk about another full circle moment—we were at the Grammys about to perform, and Miley heard me backstage with her manager and someone in the management team, and they came running up, and they're like, 'Girl, thank you for doing this. Like we love your music.' I was like, 'Miley was the beginning. Like, she figured it out.'"