

Jesus' Return and the Great Silence

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The most advertised event in human history is about to take place. That's right: bigger than the flood, bigger than the crossing of the Red Sea and bigger than Pentecost. It has to do with the church but the church is almost silent! This event is read about by millions of believers around the world every day and is known about by every believer who's ever gone to a Sunday school class. In fact, this event will change everything.

What is it?

It is, in fact, not just one but a series of earth-shattering events leading up to, and including, the return of Jesus and the rapture of the church. The most life-altering time in the history of humankind is quickly approaching, and there is a deafening silence from the people who should be talking about it most.

Just when the church should be the most excited, the vast majority are silent. Why?

Let's clear up any confusion about the end times and start speaking about what is most important: the return of our Lord, Jesus Christ! {eoa}

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served in the House of Prayer setting as director as well as prayer leader and mentor. Tom developed The School of Prayer, The Foundations of Worship-based Prayer series 1 & 2, The WordWatch devotional series, authored two books and created teaching tools that have been translated internationally. He has spent the last 23 years in focused, prayerful study of the Word of God, which he believes is clear regarding the return of Jesus, and in teaching this from the Word. His passion is to see the church no longer confused about the end times but focused and ready for the return of Jesus.

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Detained and Interrogated: In ISIS' Backyard

We were just miles from what was ISIS-controlled territory and had paused in a border region. Suddenly, I found myself detained, along with several of the local pastors who were with me. As the Muslim soldier pointed his rifle toward me, he demanded my cellphone and began to inspect what contents I had on it. Standing there on the side of the road, in about 120 degree heat, it seemed like our plans were about to take a serious detour.

I had been in this nation, preaching the gospel, all week, and we had been holding a powerful open-air crusade in the local soccer stadium. The people had been pouring into the stadium and God had moved so powerfully. Scores of people were being delivered from severe demonization each day. Many were being healed each night by the power of God, and many more were

bowing their knees to Jesus Christ and confessing Him as Lord. The cross of Christ was being embraced in a region that had rarely seen the gospel preached in demonstration and power.

One thing was sure, the forces of darkness were not pleased; and they were now attempting to shut it down. This was an attempt by the devil to stop the advancing of the kingdom.

Suddenly the soldier issued another command and briskly brought us into a building and placed us in front of a large figure, who was clearly the commander.

Immediately he confiscated our passports and began to interrogate me. They wanted to know if I was CIA and why I was in their nation. Over and over they grilled me while thumbing through my passport.

He looked at me again and said, "Why are you here?"

Suddenly, I felt the Holy Spirit whisper to me that He had all of this under control. I looked at the commander and answered him, "I am here to preach the gospel, to help your people and pray for the sick."

I knew this was no time to hide my intentions, and I was prepared to suffer for the sake of the Lord if necessary. In that moment, I was not worried for myself nor even for my wife, who was back in the United States 8 months pregnant with our son. The concern that was heavy on my heart was that I would be unable to continue the assignment I had been sent there to accomplish. I did not want the crusade to be brought to an end. Souls were hanging in the balance and I needed to get back out to the crusade field later that night.

I sat there and looked at the commander in front of me as he flipped through my passport. He then stared back at me, took a deep sigh and said, "You may go, but under two conditions. Condition No. 1, you must delete any photographs off of your phone and condition No. 2, you must agree to pray for me."

It was right there in the middle of that room that God turned what Satan had intended for evil into an opportunity to minister to the very commander of those Muslim soldiers.

I prayed for that man and his family right in that very room, and we continued the crusade that week unhindered.

Let me encourage you with this last word. The safest place you can be is in the will of God. It is more dangerous to be at a picnic out of the will of God than it would be to be in the most dangerous nation on this planet, as long as you walk in the will of God.

Know this: Whatever opposition Satan throws at you, if you are in the will of God, He will force those very attacks to work in your favor. Nothing and no one will thwart the plan of God. The Lord is about to turn it around! {eoa}

Chad MacDonald is the founder of Revival Fire World Ministries, an international prophetic voice, revivalist, published author and host of The Voice of Revival on the Charisma Podcast Network. Carrying an apostolic anointing, Chad travels extensively through the United States and internationally. His meetings are marked with the tangible presence of God and accompanied by powerful signs and wonders. His heart burns to see a return to true Pentecostal power and the body of Christ equipped to carry the glory of God. Chad currently resides in Chattanooga with his wife and three children. You can check out more at .

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Israeli Expert Reveals Long-Term Effects of Pfizer COVID Vaccine

While the American Food and Drug Administration says it is not certain of long-term effects of the new Pfizer coronavirus vaccine, an Israeli medical official claims he believes “there is no true reasons to think” there would be, The Jerusalem Post has reported.

Tal Brosh, head of the Infectious Disease Unit at Samson Assuta Ashdod University Hospital, says he cannot claim to know what is going to happen in the next 10 years, but has a positive outlook on the effectiveness of the new vaccine and the potential for problems.

Brosh told the Jerusalem Post that “there is no other vaccine that was evaluated for a decade before approval and that there is not an example of another vaccine—although no other vaccine is an mRNA vaccine, that has been linked to any significant long-term effects.”

Michael Linial, a professor of biological chemistry at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, says if the reaction to the vaccine wasn't immediate, most likely it wouldn't happen at all.

“There is no evidence of something happening unless it happened in the first two hours, two weeks or two months,” Linial says. “We do not know of any other examples in which the immune system decided to suddenly react that was given 15 years prior.”

The Jerusalem Post reported that more than 2 billion people worldwide have been vaccinated against COVID-19, with more than five billion doses distributed. Approximately 210 million Pfizer mRNA doses have been distributed in America. In Israel,

more than 8.5 million doses have been administered.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Jerusalem Post reports, says mRNA vaccines “teach our cells how to make protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.”

But Brosh says that does not mean the vaccine changes people’s genetic code. {eoa}

For more of this story, read The Jerusalem Post.

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‘Sabina, Tortured for Christ,’ Shares Powerful Story of Faithfulness, Love and Forgiveness

Turmoil and hardships often cultivate outstanding character. Releasing in theaters Nov. 8-10, Fathom Events’ latest special, *Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years*, tells the powerful true story of Sabina (Oster) Wurmbrand and her husband, Richard. Sabina and Richard Wurmbrand are the co-founders of the nonprofit The Voice of the Martyrs—an interdenominational missions organization that serves persecuted Christians around the world.

“Richard and Sabina were exemplary biblical disciples. Their

story pushes each of us to rethink our concept of forgiveness and what it looks like to love our enemies as Jesus instructed,” said Todd Nettleton, chief of media relations and message integration for The Voice of the Martyrs–USA and host of VOM Radio. “Sabina’s life is ultimately a testament of how God’s love can transcend pain and struggle—and even transform the lives of those around us. This story is truly inspiring. It will encourage every viewer to be transformed from the inside out by the power of God.”

Set during World War II and spanning the years between 1938 to 1944, the film will take viewers on a journey through Romania to discover why Sabina, a Jewish Christian, would risk her life to offer a kind hand to German soldiers—enemies who killed her entire family. *Sabina* conveys the realities of religious persecution and the cost of following Christ when faith is forbidden.

“Making a period piece like *Sabina* was a delightful artistic challenge –re-creating what Romania looked like in the 1930s and 40s down to every fine detail like fashion, automobiles and storefronts,” said Director John Grooters. “But even more substantially, I find Sabina Wurmbbrand to be one of the greatest women of the 20th century, and it’s a joy getting to introduce her to modern audiences.”

Winner of Best Feature, Audience Choice and Best Original Film Score awards at the recent Christian Worldview Filmmakers Guild and Festival, *Sabina*, which was filmed on-site in Romania and produced by a Romanian crew, is receiving high praise and recognition. *Sabina* is a prequel to The Voice of the Martyrs’ *Tortured for Christ* film, which focuses on the inspiring story of Sabina’s husband Richard Wurmbbrand as he endured 14 years of prison and torture while never ceasing to shine the light of Christ even in the darkest of places.

The film features an original song “It Is Well” from modern hymn-writers Keith and Kristyn Getty. The Gettys reinvent

traditional hymns that teach Christian doctrine by crossing the genres of traditional, classical, folk and contemporary music composition.

“It has been our great privilege to partner with The Voice of the Martyrs on their upcoming film, *Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years*, said Keith and Kristyn Getty. “This stirring story of faith and triumph in the midst of adversity and the courage of the Wurmbands in the face of unspeakable evil is an urgent call to believers everywhere to fight the good fight of faith and build the kingdom of Christ, no matter the opposition. We highly recommend you get your friends, family or church together to share in this amazing experience.”

Tickets are now available for purchase. Individual ticket purchasers may also claim a free copy of *Wurmband: Tortured for Christ, The Complete Story*, which provides a more in-depth look into the Wurmbands’ story, via the film’s website at . Group study kits focused on the life of the Wurmbands are offered free with group ticket sales.

“Religious persecution is real and is still happening today,” said Nettleton. “There are modern-day Richard and Sabina Wurmbands right now living out their own stories of faith, suffering and forgiveness. As Christians, we must not allow fear to stop us from boldly proclaiming the gospel and extending Christ’s grace and love to all.”

Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years will show in theaters nationwide on Nov. 8, 9 and 10, following the observance of the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians on Nov. 7. To learn more and to purchase tickets for *Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years*, visit {eoa}

The Voice of the Martyrs is a nonprofit, interdenominational missions organization serving persecuted Christians in more than 70 nations around the world. Founded in 1967 by Richard

and Sabina Wurmbrand, VOM is dedicated to inspiring believers to deepen their commitment to Christ and to fulfill His Great Commission—no matter the cost. For more information, visit .

In operation since 1891, **Lifeway Christian Resources** is one of the leading providers of Christian resources, including Bibles, books, Bible studies, worship music, VBS and church supplies, as well as camps and events for all ages. Since 1979, Lifeway has been creating camp environments focused on life change and spiritual growth through Jesus Christ. Lifeway is also the world's largest provider of Spanish Bibles. Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Lifeway receives no denominational funding and operates as a self-supporting nonprofit. For more information, visit .

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Why Michelle McClain-Walters Is Calling Women to a New Kind of Greatness

We often hear the term “legend” applied to sports figures, movie stars or others the world considers memorable. But Apostle Michelle McClain-Walters says God is redefining what it means to be legendary—and she is joining Him by calling others to the greatness He has placed within them.

“We really believe greatness is all about being on the television, being first, when Jesus says, ‘The greatest of you is the servant,’ McClain-Walters tells Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network.

Her new book, *Legendary Woman: Partnering With God to Become the Heroine of Your Own Story* (Charisma House, 2021), offers women that new and more biblical paradigm.

“What I do in *Legendary Woman*, I begin to show women that with their love, their compassion, the faith that they have, they can leave a legend of compassion for other women to follow. So I take a look at the characteristics of God, the small things that we do that no one sees on a platform, but it could be legendary in the lives of someone who’s the beneficiary of your actions.

“What I try to do in this book is redefine what greatness is,” she says. “I take it back to looking at what Jesus said, how Jesus told us, you know, ‘There’s no greater love than this, that we lay down our lives for a friend.’ ... In the book of Acts, the Scripture says about David that ‘he served his generation by the will of God.’ So I just believe serving our generation can lead to being legendary.”

McClain-Walters says in her training with Apostle John Eckhardt, she was the only woman on most of the apostolic teams. “You need to raise up women like you,” the men told her, but she didn’t understand what they meant.

“So they began to give me definition about being a woman of courage, understanding my word and the authority to preach. And they said, ‘You need to reproduce yourself.’

McClain-Walters says she’s long known that the kingdom advances through reproduction. “One generation is supposed to teach the next generation,” she says. “So that started my passion to see other women like myself, to see them raised up in their destiny to understand they they’re powerful, but they can be feminine. ... I found that the best blueprint for that was given in the Bible.

✘ For much more from McClain-Walters on legendary women and how God is raising them up to make an eternal difference,

listen to the entire episode of *Greenelines* at this link, and subscribe to *Greenelines* on your favorite podcast platform for more inspiring stories like this one. Find *Legendary Woman* wherever fine books are sold. {eoa}

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Military Dogs Still in Danger, Await Rescue From Afghanistan

While the last U.S. military troops withdrew from Taliban-overrun Afghanistan on Monday, many Americans and Afghan allies were abandoned. But they weren't the only ones left to that fate.

A total of 51 contracted working military dogs were abandoned in Kabul. Veteran Sheepdogs of America, which tweeted it had raised \$ million—the cost for a 737 plane out of Kabul—had hoped to evacuate the dogs, but an animal rescue organization, American Humane fell through with its share of the funds, Fox News reported.

'So, we are scrambling to cover their (American Human) amount of \$500,000 of the \$ million, Veteran Sheepdogs tweeted.

1/3 UPDATE!

51 contracted military working dogs are safe & being cared for in their crates. We had all funds for the plane, but an animal rescue org fell through. So we are scrambling to cover their amount of \$500,000 of the \$ million.

– *Veteran Sheepdogs of America (@VetSheepdogsUS) August 31, 2021*

Monday afternoon, Veteran Sheepdogs of America tweeted that the dogs are “being watered and fed by a contractor and an Afghan refugee family we are rescuing. They are safe. Working on last-minute details in complete chaos of Kabul.”

UPDATE: The 51 working dogs are being watered and fed by a contractor and an Afghan refugee family we are rescuing. They are safe. Working on last minute details in complete chaos of Kabul.

– *Veteran Sheepdogs of America (@VetSheepdogsUS) August 30, 2021*

Efforts are still being made to get the dogs out of Afghanistan, but their safety is not guaranteed considering the actions of the Taliban and other terrorist organizations over the past week there.

Fox News reported that American Humane—an organization committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of animals—said Monday it was “standing by to help transport K-9 soldiers to U.S. soil and provide for their lifetime medical care.”

In a statement, *Fox News* reported, Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane, said, “It sickens us to sit idly by and watch these brave dogs who valiantly served our country be put to death or worse. In order to prevent this tragedy from occurring, these K-9’s should be loaded into whatever cargo space remains and flown to safety.

“I am devastated by reports that the American government is pulling out of Kabul and leaving behind brave U.S. military contract working dogs to be tortured and killed at the hand of our enemies,” Ganzert added. “These brave dogs do the same

dangerous, lifesaving work as our military working dogs, and deserved a far better fate than the one to which they have been condemned.”

3/3 Working on funding for plane, quarantine in Germany for 30 days,& flights to US so dogs can be donated to police departments in need.

– Veteran Sheepdogs of America (@VetSheepdogsUS) August 31, 2021

Follow breaking news like this on our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.

Convoy of Hope Working Through Struggles to Reach Ida Victims With Relief

Over the years of humanitarian ministry, team members at Convoy of Hope have had to learn to improvise and “play things by ear” when it comes to natural disasters.

Such is the case with Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 storm that ripped through Louisiana over the weekend and left catastrophic damage in its wake. Many media reports have said Ida was a stronger hurricane than Katrina, which devastated the Gulf Coast 16 years ago to the day on Sunday.

Convoy of Hope Vice President of Public Engagement and National Spokesperson Ethan Forhetz, who is on the ground with 23 other members of the Convoy team, said Monday in a phone interview with Charisma News that this storm has caused

particular problems in the organization's efforts to get relief supplies to people who need them. Those issues, however, have not deterred the team from carrying out its mission or its overall kingdom mission, "to feed the hungry and bring help and hope to communities that need it most."

"The roads in and out and have been extremely difficult to get through, and some are even under water," Forhertz says. "Some of these areas have been hit very hard, and there are a lot of issues here. We've had communication issues with some of the churches and some of the cities we've been wanting to get to. People have been unable to take our calls because of the power outages and other things. We've sent scout teams to see how we can navigate where we're going, and it's been difficult.

"But honestly, we have the best people working at Convoy of Hope," he adds. "Their hearts are so genuine, and it's very uplifting for me to see it. They're working very hard. We've learned to be very flexible, to call audibles. That's what we're doing now."

Monday evening, more than 24 hours after the storm struck landfall with 150 mph winds, Convoy of Hope's team set up camp at Household of Faith Church in Gonzales, a small town of about 11,000 people an hour north of New Orleans. With 19 service "giant" emergency vehicles, Forhertz says the team was forced to consolidate relief supplies into smaller vehicles so they could make their ways into areas to help the victims of the storm.

In communication with as many church officials as possible, Forhertz says he has learned that some churches in cities like Houma, an hour and seven minutes north of New Orleans, and La Place, 34 minutes north of New Orleans, have been decimated and some even destroyed.

Through it all, however, Forhertz says many victims of the massive storm have told him that "things could have been

worse” and that “their faith has seen them through.”

“They’re grateful because it always can be worse. We’re talking about a storm stronger than Katrina,” Forhetz says. “It can be an overwhelming feeling, but there is hope that tomorrow will be a better day.”

Forhetz says Convoy will continue to work through the struggles and issues it is currently experiencing to make sure food, water and other supplies reach the people who need them most.

Stay tuned to for more updates on Convoy of Hope’s relief efforts in Louisiana. {eoa}

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Are You Resting in the Lord ... Or Sweating?

Here's an honest confession: I struggle to rest in the Lord when I'm doing His work. The apostle Paul told the Philippians: "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13). It is a wondrous truth that God uses flawed human vessels to do His will. But He can't work through us if we are anxiously trying to do the job ourselves.

In Old Covenant times, God instructed the priests to dress in

linen garments instead of wool so they wouldn't perspire while they worked. Ezekiel 44:18b says: "They shall not gird themselves with anything which makes them sweat." God doesn't need our perspiration to accomplish His purpose. He can't work through us if we are anxious, fretful or pursuing our own agendas.

He works through people who trust Him. Our job is not to strive in the flesh but to rest in the Spirit. If you want God to use you powerfully, you must learn the difference between the sweat of the flesh and the sweet oil of heaven. There is a big difference.

As I have prayed for more of the Holy Spirit's power in my life, I've realized that we often manufacture our own version of the "anointing" so it looks like God is blessing what we do. Often this is because we have a distorted understanding of what the true anointing of God looks like. We must discover the following truths:

The anointing isn't in numbers. We place so much importance on church size today, yet God doesn't seem impressed by crowds. I have nothing against megachurches, as long as they preach the gospel (and some of them do a better job of it than small churches). But we're headed for disaster if we think seating capacity reflects God's approval. Stop striving to fill chairs and just minister to the people God brings!

The anointing isn't in eloquence. Some people have an uncanny way with words (including non-Christian motivational speakers), but persuasive skill isn't the same as spiritual anointing. The oil of heaven is holy; it brings conviction and repentance. True preaching doesn't exalt preachers – it crucifies them and focuses all attention on the Son of God. Stop trying to be a celebrity and just let God speak through your brokenness.

The anointing isn't in looks. In today's evangelical scene, we

worship what's cool. Rock star pastors are expected to be sexy, and everyone in the praise team needs trendy clothes. There's nothing wrong with dressing to reach your audience, but I hope we don't think the Holy Spirit is impressed with hipness. The grandmother with orthopedic shoes might have a word from the Lord for the congregation – but will we allow her on the stage? Today, we need a demonstration of the Spirit more than we need a show.

The anointing isn't in technology. I love to use digital graphics when preaching. But some of the most anointed meetings I've been in were in poor countries where we didn't even have reliable electricity, much less projectors and big screens. When genuine anointing falls on a preacher, he or she can talk for two hours without having to entertain.

The anointing isn't in emotionalism. In many churches today, lack of anointing creates a vacuum that is filled by screaming and other forms of religious theater. It doesn't matter what is preached – it is “anointed” as long as the preacher punctuates it with enough volume and the people shout back. Remember: Backslidden Israel shouted so loud that the earth quaked, but by the end of that day the Philistines had plundered them (see 1 Sam. 4:5-11). The anointing isn't determined by volume!

The anointing isn't in contrived manifestations. I love it when the Holy Spirit does miracles. But when people fake the supernatural in order to get an audience response (or a big offering), I run for the door. If we had the fear of God, we would never pretend to have the anointing by stretching the facts in a testimony, pushing people to the floor or sprinkling glitter on ourselves and pretend it is “glory dust.”

Charles Spurgeon referred to the Holy Spirit's anointing as “unction,” and he said this of it: “Unction is a thing which you cannot manufacture, and its counterfeits are worse than

worthless.” Let’s turn away from every false form of anointing and ask God to soak us with His heavenly power.

Rest in the Lord. Pray and surrender your heart to His will. Trust Him to work through you. Instead of sweating and striving, relax and be a conduit for His powerful presence.{eoa}

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