

Glenn Beck: The Declaration of Independence Story Most Americans Never Heard

For many Americans, the Fourth of July brings images of fireworks, cookouts and patriotic celebration. But according to commentator Glenn Beck, the true story behind the Declaration of Independence is far less comfortable—and far more inspiring.

During a recent presentation commemorating Independence Week, Beck urged listeners to look beyond the traditions and remember what actually unfolded inside Philadelphia in the summer of 1776.

“What happened in that room was not a celebration,” Beck said. “It was the most frightened, most courageous act grown men will ever make.”

By the time delegates gathered to debate independence, the Revolutionary War had already been raging for a year. Blood had been shed at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. Yet many colonists still hoped reconciliation with Britain remained possible.

That hope was shattered when King George III refused even to receive the colonies’ Olive Branch Petition—a final plea for peace—[and instead declared them to be in open rebellion.](#)

“The king had already declared war,” Beck said. “He’d already named them traitors. He’d already hired men to kill them.”

Following Parliament’s passage of the Prohibitory Act, Britain cut off colonial trade, seized American ships and hired mercenaries to fight against its own subjects. According to Beck, those actions answered the question of whether

reconciliation remained possible.

Into that growing uncertainty came Thomas Paine's influential pamphlet *Common Sense*. Beck described it as the moment someone finally gave voice to what many Americans had quietly been thinking all along.

"It was common sense because he said, 'I'm saying the things out loud that everyone has been too frightened to say,'" Beck explained.

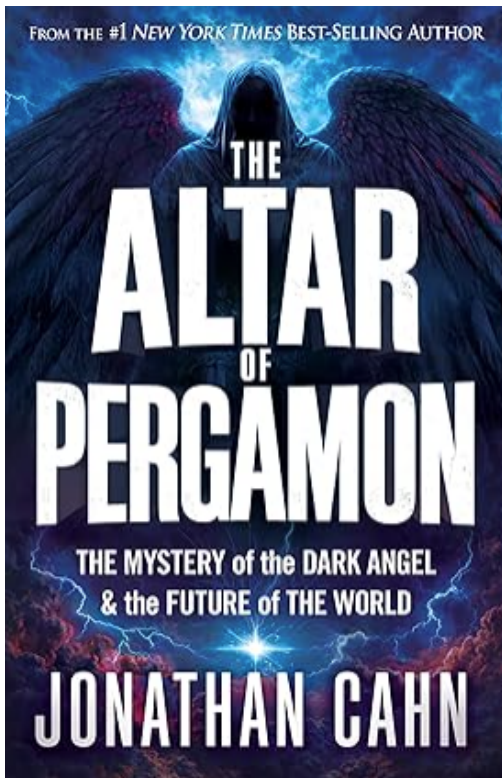
Even after public opinion began shifting, independence was anything but inevitable.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced the historic resolution declaring the colonies "free and independent states." Rather than celebration, Beck says the room fell silent.

Among those urging caution was John Dickinson of Pennsylvania. Beck praised Dickinson's integrity, noting that his hesitation came not from cowardice but from genuine concern over the overwhelming military odds facing the colonies.

"It took more courage to stand alone against the rising tide of that room than it did to write it," Beck said.

Congress ultimately delayed the vote to allow delegates to consult their colonies, while simultaneously appointing a committee to draft what would become the Declaration of Independence. That committee selected a quiet, 33-year-old Virginia lawyer named Thomas Jefferson.



[To order Jonathan Cahn's new book, The Altar of Pergamon, visit Amazon.com.](#)

Beck noted that Jefferson initially believed he was simply preparing a committee report, unaware that his words would become one of history's most influential documents.

The story serves as a reminder that courage often begins long before victory becomes visible. Throughout Scripture, men and women of faith repeatedly obeyed God while facing impossible circumstances—[from Moses standing before Pharaoh](#) to Esther risking her life before the king to the apostles preaching Jesus as risen from the dead despite threats of imprisonment and death.

America's founders were not perfect men. Yet their willingness to sacrifice comfort, reputation and even their lives for convictions they believed were right offers a powerful reminder that freedom is rarely preserved through convenience. As the nation celebrates Independence Day, it is worth asking whether we possess the same courage to stand for biblical truth—even when the outcome remains uncertain.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

Dinesh D'Souza Reveals the Forgotten Truth About 'The Pursuit of Happiness' That Could Save America

America has long celebrated the promise of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” But according to author and commentator Dinesh D'Souza, many Americans have forgotten what that final phrase was originally intended to mean—and the consequences could be far-reaching.

Today, the pursuit of happiness is often defined as personal fulfillment, self-expression or doing whatever feels right. Yet America's founders envisioned something far different.

Drawing on the writings of the second President John Adams, D'Souza argues that true happiness was never meant to be rooted in self-gratification but in the lifelong pursuit of virtue.

“We think today of happiness in relativistic terms, [something](#)

[each person pursues in their own way](#),” D’Souza says. “To John Adams...this was bad advice.”

The contrast becomes especially striking when compared with the famous line from Shakespeare’s Hamlet: “To thine own self be true.”

While modern culture often embraces that sentiment as a guiding principle, Adams believed human nature was far too flawed to simply trust every impulse.

“Adams understood that people are an imperfect amalgam of the admirable and the abominable,” D’Souza explains. “That being yourself does not automatically lead to good character. It’s more likely, in fact, to lead to self-absorption.”

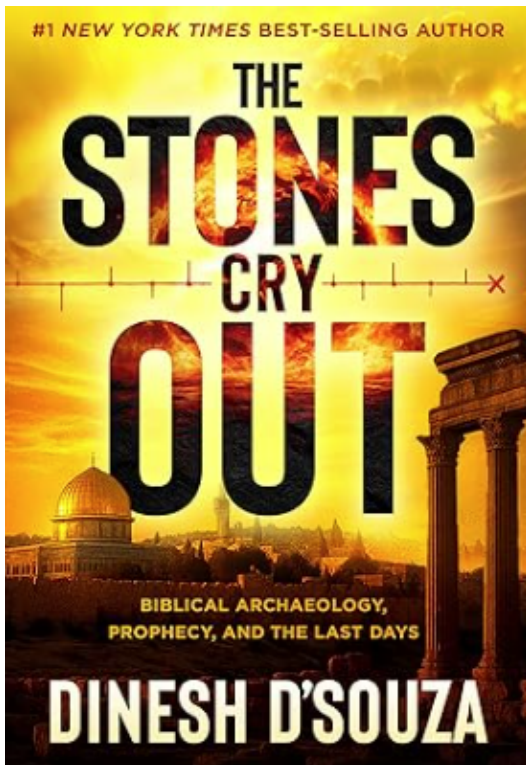
Instead, Adams believed character had to be intentionally cultivated.

“The only way to attain a good character is, like everything else, to work at it,” D’Souza says. He describes how Adams encouraged people to imagine a noble character and then intentionally strive to become that person. “Walk like that character, think like him, feel like him, act like him. Over time, through the result of continual effort and the slow working of habit, one can become that person.”

According to D’Souza, Adams himself modeled that philosophy, earning a reputation as an incorruptible and deeply honest public servant.

That commitment reflected an even older idea first articulated by Aristotle.

“The founders subscribed to the Aristotelian belief that genuine happiness is achieved when the activity of the soul is in perfect harmony with virtue,” D’Souza says.



[To order Dinesh D'Souza's new book, The Stones Cry Out, visit Amazon.com.](#)

For Adams, this wasn't merely personal advice—it was the foundation upon which the American experiment would either stand or collapse.

“Without virtue,” D'Souza notes, “he believed America could not succeed.”

Adams famously warned, “The preservation of liberty...depends on the intellectual and moral character of the people.”

That conviction shaped his understanding of constitutional government. Unlike a monarchy, where political responsibility rests primarily with the king, Adams believed a republic places that responsibility squarely on its citizens.

“In a republic...the people are the government,” D'Souza says. “So the virtue of the state is a reflection of the virtue of the people.”

Recognizing humanity's sinful tendencies, Adams never assumed virtue would develop naturally. D'Souza explains that Adams

believed faith in God, education and [a clearly defined Constitution](#) all worked together to restrain corruption and empower citizens to remove leaders driven by selfish ambition.

His warning feels increasingly relevant today.

“We’re more likely to think of pursuing happiness in narcissistic terms than in the way that Adams and the founders perceived it,” D’Souza observes.

Scripture echoes this same timeless principle. Proverbs 14:34 declares, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (MEV). America’s greatest challenges may ultimately be spiritual before they are political. Laws and elections certainly matter, but lasting national renewal begins with transformed hearts.

As believers pray for revival across the nation, Adams’ reminder deserves fresh consideration: A free republic is sustained not merely by its Constitution, but by the character of the people who live under it. If America hopes to preserve its liberty for generations to come, the pursuit of happiness may first require a renewed pursuit of virtue.

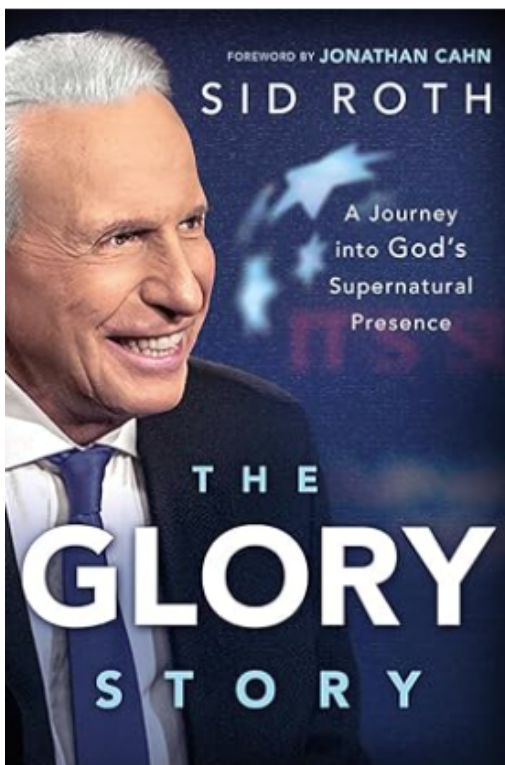
Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

Sid Roth, Jonathan Cahn Say Prophetic Signs Point to the Coming 'Greater Glory'

As headlines continue to spotlight rising antisemitism, escalating global unrest and growing uncertainty, longtime ministry leaders Sid Roth and Jonathan Cahn believe the church is standing on the threshold of something far greater than another news cycle. They believe it is the beginning of what Roth calls “the greater glory.”

During a recent conversation, [Roth issued a bold prophetic declaration](#) that the greatest move of God’s Spirit is not somewhere in the distant future—it could begin at any moment.

“I believe, and I know Jonathan believes, the greatest move of God’s Spirit is going to hit the world any second now,” Roth said. “What’s its name? The greater glory.”



[To order Sid Roth's new book, The Glory Story, visit](#)

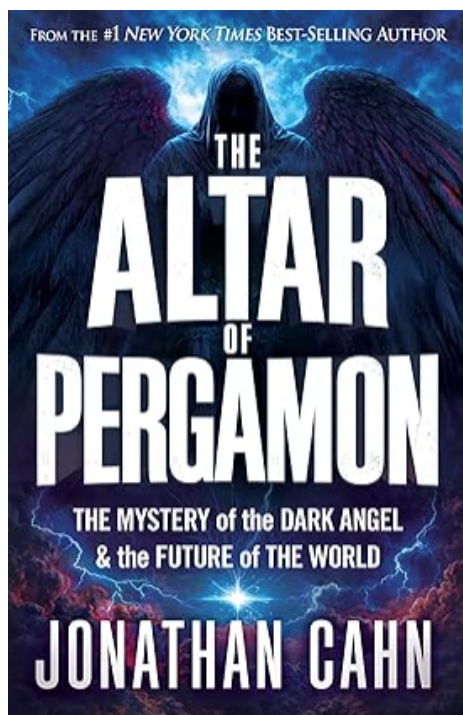
[Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com)

For Roth, this coming outpouring will not simply be another revival meeting or spiritual awakening. He believes it will be an unprecedented manifestation of God's presence and power unlike anything believers have witnessed before.

"In this greater glory, you and I and anyone that has made the Messiah, Jesus, their Lord will walk in greater power than anyone you've ever read about in the Bible," Roth said. "Then it'll be that devil's worst nightmare."

Cahn agreed that the church is living in uniquely prophetic days, citing Israel's modern restoration and the intensifying spiritual battle surrounding the Jewish people as evidence that God's redemptive plan continues to unfold before the world's eyes.

"We are living in the days we've seen the redemption of Israel," Cahn said. "These are prophetic times, and we have to pray for the fullness of what God has."



[To order Jonathan Cahn's new book, The Altar of Pergamon, visit Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com)

Throughout the conversation, both men repeatedly returned to God's heart for Israel and the salvation of the Jewish people. Cahn reflected on Jesus weeping over Jerusalem and the Apostle Paul's deep burden for his fellow Jews, emphasizing that Scripture connects Israel's spiritual awakening with worldwide blessing.

"What will it be when they come?" Cahn asked. "It will be life from the dead. It will be resurrection. It will be redemption for the world."

According to Cahn, this is precisely why the spiritual battle surrounding Israel remains so intense.

["The enemy knows what God has,"](#) he said. "That's why there's so much trying to stop the Jewish people."

Roth also warned that believers should not allow the rise in antisemitism or global instability to overshadow what God is preparing to do. Instead, he encouraged Christians to remain expectant, believing that the Holy Spirit is preparing the church for a historic season of miracles, bold evangelism and supernatural power.

Roth and Cahn's profound message carries a common thread that echoes throughout Scripture: God is not finished with Israel, He is not finished with His church, and His purposes continue moving toward biblical fulfillment.

This is not the moment to respond to headlines with fear. It is the moment to respond with faith, prayer and expectancy, believing that the days ahead could reveal not merely greater darkness, but the greater glory of God.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly

released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

‘My Songs Are Open Doors’: Brandon Lake’s Bold Vision for Reaching the Lost

Brandon Lake has become one of the biggest names in Christian music, but if you ask him what matters most, it isn't the awards, the sold-out arenas or the billions of streams. It's whether his music opens the door for someone to encounter Jesus.

During a recent interview with CBS Mornings, the six-time Grammy Award-winning worship leader shared the heart behind his rapidly growing platform, explaining that every concert is designed to be something much deeper than entertainment.

“This isn't just about entertainment,” Lake said. “This is like an encounter. People's lives are being changed. They're walking out better than they came in.”

For the 36-year-old artist, whose latest live album, *King of Hearts*, has continued his remarkable rise in Christian music, [every song carries a purpose beyond the stage](#).

“I feel like music is what God has called me to, the gift that He's given me, and that's how I'm able to share this message and reach people,” he said.

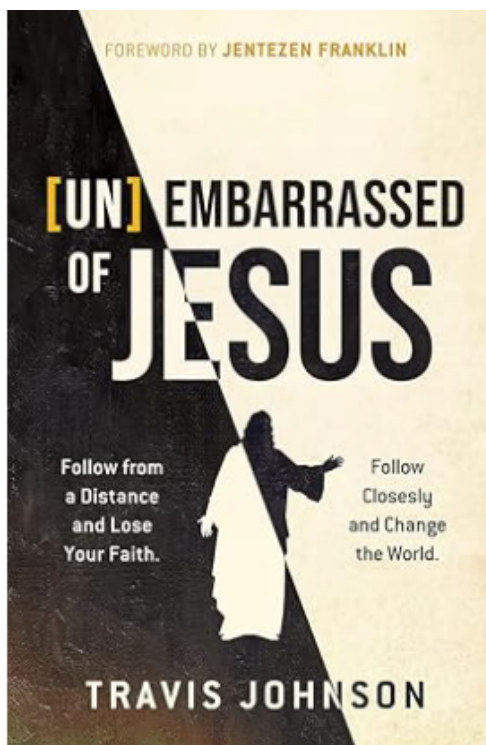
That message has clearly resonated. CBS reported that Lake has

amassed more than 4 billion streams while filling arenas across the country. Collaborations with artists including Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson and Cody Johnson have introduced his music to audiences far beyond traditional Christian circles.

But Lake says those partnerships aren't simply about expanding his career.

"Here's the thing," he said. "The songs are cool, but I think God loves collaborations."

Raised as a preacher's kid in South Carolina, Lake says his parents helped shape his understanding of what church should be.



[To order Travis Johnson's book, \[Un\]Embarrassed of Jesus, visit Amazon.com.](#)

"My parents just—they made it fun," he recalled. "And I think what church is supposed to really be about, and that's community and sharing and everything that you have."

That same spirit of community carried him through the earliest days of his ministry. Unable to afford recording his first

independent album, *Closer*, Lake launched an unconventional fundraiser, promising supporters he would tattoo their last names on his leg in exchange for financial backing.

“So I have 23 last names tattooed on my thigh,” he said with a laugh. “I was willing to do anything short of sin to get this record done.”

While his ministry flourished, however, Lake revealed that success brought an unexpected battle.

“When I didn’t have the next songwriting invite or I didn’t have the next song I was excited about or the next show, I started to panic,” he said. “But I was too prideful to tell my wife what I was experiencing. So, I’m having some weird thoughts, dark thoughts.”

Looking back, he said one realization surprised him.

“I guess I’d say a lot of people’s lowest moments come from a low moment,” Lake reflected. “And mine came from a high moment.”

Through that difficult season, he says God, along with the support of his family and close friends, helped restore his perspective. Today, much of that balance comes from spending time with his wife and three sons on their South Carolina farm.

Perhaps the most compelling moment of the interview came when Lake explained why he intentionally writes songs that invite rather than condemn.

Asked what his music offers people [who may not consider themselves religious](#) or even believers, Lake pointed to the power of personal testimony instead of pressure.

“The best thing I can do is offer my story, what God has done in my life, and allow God to do the rest,” he said. “Like I’m not out here trying to beat people with a Bible and, you know,

fire and brimstone. I don't think that's effective."

Instead, he believes every song can become an invitation to something greater.

"I think my songs are offerings," Lake said. "And they're open doors."

In a culture increasingly skeptical of Christianity, that perspective offers a refreshing reminder for believers. Lake's approach reflects the heart of Jesus—meeting people where they are, sharing what God has done and trusting the Holy Spirit to transform lives.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

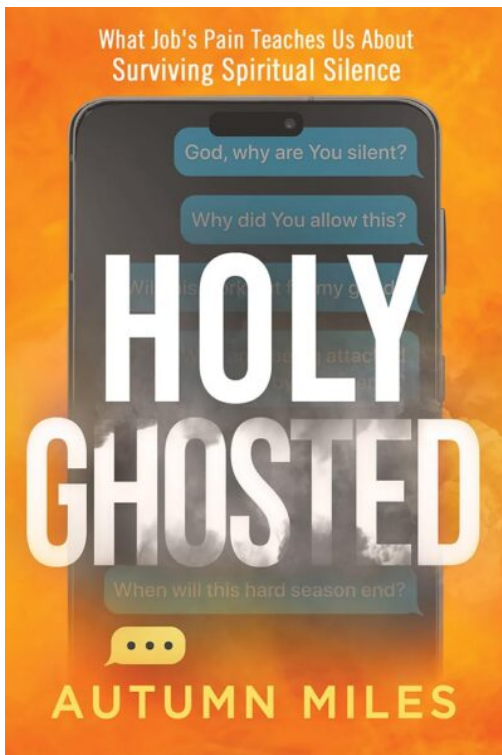
Beloved California Pastor Dies During Venezuela Earthquake While Celebrating Birthday

The Worship Church Ministries family in Riverside County, California, is mourning the loss of a beloved pastor whose life was cut short during the catastrophic earthquakes that

devastated parts of Venezuela, transforming what was meant to be a birthday celebration into an unimaginable tragedy.

Pastor Romildo Delima died after sustaining injuries when the hotel where he and his wife were staying was damaged during the powerful earthquakes, according to CBS Los Angeles. His wife survived the collapse but [remains hospitalized with serious injuries.](#)

According to CBS Los Angeles, the couple had traveled from Southern California to Brazil to visit relatives before continuing to Venezuela, where family members planned to celebrate Delima's 69th birthday. Their trip was nearing its end when the earthquakes struck.



[To order Autumn Miles' new book, Holy Ghosted, visit Amazon.com.](#)

CBS Los Angeles reported that a collapsing wall inside the hotel critically injured Delima. Although emergency responders transported him to a hospital alive, he later died from his injuries. His wife suffered a broken hip and a broken leg and underwent surgery.

For approximately 20 years, Delima faithfully led Worship Church Ministries in Riverside County, building a reputation as a pastor who invested deeply in the lives of those he served. Members of the congregation remember him as more than a preacher—they describe him as a trusted friend, counselor and spiritual father [whose compassion reflected the heart of Christ.](#)

“We will miss him all the time,” Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Mateo told CBS Los Angeles. “He’s like a best friend for me.”

In the days following the tragedy, church members have gathered to honor Delima’s memory by sharing photographs, listening to saved voicemail messages and praying together for his family, CBS Los Angeles reported.

Pastor Romildo’s son told CBS Los Angeles that relatives are now working through the difficult process of securing visas so they can travel to Venezuela.

An online fundraiser has been established to help cover the cost of returning the pastor’s remains home, assist with his wife’s medical care and ease the financial burden facing the family during the crisis. On the family’s GoFundMe page, they noted that it is part of his final wish to be “laid to rest in Brazil, beside his mother and surrounded by the rest of his family.” So far, over \$21,000 has been raised.

As Delima’s church continues to pray for his injured wife and support his family, his legacy of faithful ministry serves as a powerful testimony that a life surrendered to Christ leaves an eternal impact far beyond the years spent on earth. During their time of grief, lift up Delima’s family and friends in prayer right now.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master

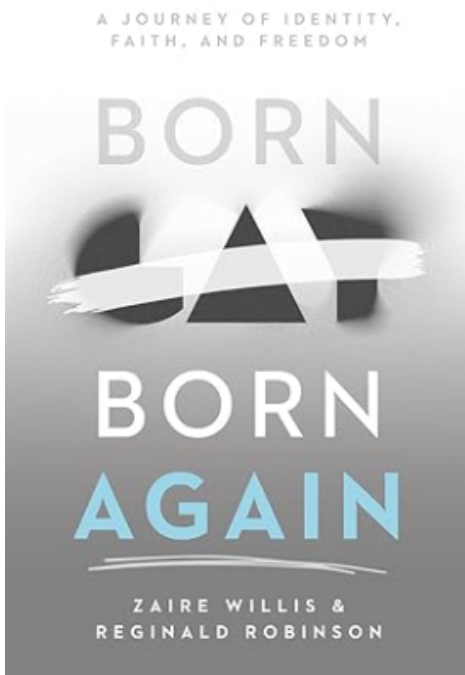
of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

From Israel to New York: Jewish Pride March Comes After Israel's Controversial Dead Sea Celebrations

Thousands of people filled the streets of Manhattan for the 56th annual New York City Pride March on Sunday, one of the world's largest LGBTQ celebrations, drawing an estimated 75,000 participants and roughly 2 million spectators under the theme, "For All of Us."

According to reporting by The Jerusalem Post, citing the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), multiple Jewish LGBTQ organizations [participated in the march, including Jew York Pride and Zioness](#).

The Jerusalem Post reported that members of Jew York Pride were greeted with applause and cheers in portions of the route, while participants marching with Zioness later encountered anti-Israel chants from some spectators. The publication noted that security personnel accompanied Jewish groups during the event amid heightened concerns surrounding demonstrations connected to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.



[To order Zaire Willis and Reginald Robinson's new book, *Born Gay Born Again*, visit Amazon.com.](#)

The New York City march comes right after thousands gathered for the annual Pride Land festival near the Dead Sea in Israel, an event held in close proximity to the biblical region traditionally associated with Sodom and Gomorrah. Ahead of the celebration, Israeli police announced an expanded security presence to protect Pride Month events across the country. [Tel Aviv also hosted its annual Pride celebrations.](#)

While these celebrations have generated significant cultural attention, they point to something profoundly disturbing: the sins that God clearly destroyed cities for in the Old Testament are back at the forefront of the news.

In Genesis 19, the Bible records God's judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah after describing the cities' pervasive wickedness and rejection of His ways. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, those cities are repeatedly referenced as enduring examples of divine judgment against persistent rebellion and immorality.

The prophet Isaiah likewise issued a sobering warning to

societies that blur the distinction between righteousness and sin: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness” (Isa. 5:20).

As Pride events continue to unfold around the world—from New York City to Tel Aviv and the shores of the Dead Sea—Christians are reminded that God’s standard of truth does not shift with culture.

While public opinion may change from generation to generation, Scripture calls believers to stand firmly on His Word, discerning right from wrong according to His unchanging truth.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

8 Life-Changing Biblical Habits Every Christian Should Practice

In a world dominated by endless scrolling, constant notifications and the pressure to always do more, Christian YouTuber Gabe Bult believes this is the moment to return to the timeless habits found throughout Scripture.

In a recent video, Bult shared eight biblical disciplines that

he says have dramatically changed his own life, offering practical wisdom on everything from spiritual growth and finances to physical health and productivity. While the advice is deeply practical, Bult repeatedly points viewers back to the example of Jesus and the principles found throughout God's Word.

1. Spend Time in the Wilderness

Bult begins by encouraging Christians to seek seasons of solitude with God intentionally.

"Almost every major figure in the Bible spent some time alone," Bult says. "And it wasn't always punishment; sometimes it was preparation."

Pointing to Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness before beginning His earthly ministry, Bult says believers today are often too overstimulated to hear God's voice. Instead of constantly filling every quiet moment with music, podcasts or social media, he encourages Christians to embrace silence, prayer and time alone with the Lord.

2. Practice Contentment

The second habit is learning to be satisfied with what God has already provided.

Quoting Paul's words in Philippians about being content in every circumstance, Bult says contentment is [one of the greatest antidotes to comparison and consumerism.](#)

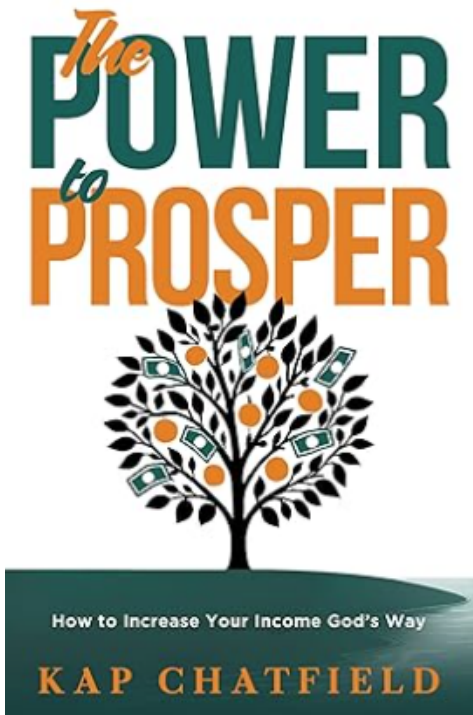
"When we're content with what we have, whether it's a little or it's a lot, then we have true power," he says.

Rather than constantly chasing what others have, Christians can experience greater joy and peace by trusting God's provision.

3. Stay Out of Consumer Debt

Bult next turns to biblical financial stewardship.

Referencing Proverbs' teaching that "the borrower is slave to the lender," he warns against unnecessary consumer debt and encourages Christians to pursue financial freedom.



[To order Kap Chatfield's new book, The Power to Prosper, visit Amazon.com.](#)

"If you're in debt," Bult says, "you should treat it like an absolute emergency."

While acknowledging that investments such as real estate can be different, he cautions against allowing credit card debt and unnecessary loans to become lifelong burdens.

4. Pursue Excellence for God's Glory

Drawing from 1 Corinthians 10:31, Bult challenges believers to approach every responsibility with excellence.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do... do it for the glory of God."

Instead of doing the bare minimum at work, at home or in ministry, Bult encourages Christians to give their very best because ultimately they are serving Christ.

5. Honor God by Caring for Your Body

Bult also emphasizes physical stewardship, pointing to Paul's teaching that believers' bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

"If your body is a temple," he asks, "do you just throw your old junk in a temple?"

He encourages healthy eating, regular exercise and caring for one's body—not merely for appearance, but to better serve God, spouses, children and others.

6. Remember the Sabbath

One of Bult's most personal admissions comes when discussing rest.

"I've been admittedly struggling with this," he says before explaining his efforts to intentionally observe a weekly Sabbath.

After years of working every day, Bult has begun protecting Sundays by stepping away from emails, work projects and constant productivity.

"It's okay to unplug," he says. "It's okay to have times of rest."

He believes intentional rest allows believers to recharge spiritually and physically while resisting the cultural pressure to always stay busy.

7. Live a Life That Counts

Bult then points to John 21:25, which says the world could not contain all the books that would be written if everything Jesus did were recorded.

Reflecting on that passage, he encourages Christians to spend [less time consuming entertainment](#) and more time investing in meaningful experiences.

“You and me can do so much stuff in three years,” Bult says.

Whether serving others, spending intentional time with family or growing spiritually, he believes Christians should pursue lives filled with purpose rather than passive routine.

8. Create More Than You Consume

Bult closes with perhaps his most distinctive challenge.

“The first thing we hear about God... God created,” he says.

Because humanity is made in God’s image, Bult argues that Christians were also designed to create rather than endlessly consume.

“When I create, I feel fulfilled,” he says. “Try to create more than you consume.”

Whether writing, building, serving, teaching or making something that blesses others, he believes creating reflects God’s nature far more than endless hours spent scrolling through digital content.

As distractions continue multiplying in today’s culture, Bult’s eight habits serve as a reminder that spiritual maturity is often built through simple, consistent disciplines rooted in Scripture. Jesus repeatedly withdrew to pray, modeled faithful stewardship, valued rest and lived every moment with purpose. These biblical habits offer more than

practical advice—they provide a roadmap for living intentionally in a world constantly competing for their attention.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

Christian Student Says She Was Forced to Make an Unthinkable Graduation Choice

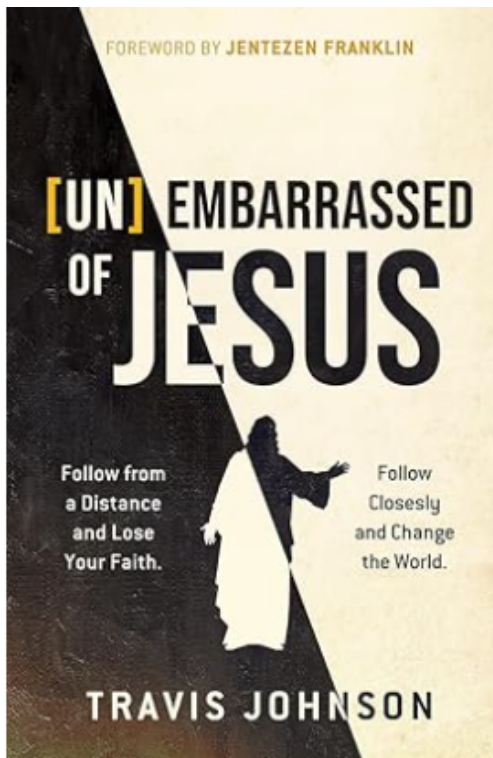
A Wisconsin graduate says she was allowed to walk across the stage—but not to publicly acknowledge the God she credits for getting her there.

The dispute is now raising fresh questions about religious liberty, free speech and whether Christian students are being treated differently from their peers in America's public schools.

According to Fox News, Sarianne Beronja, a 2026 graduate of Arrowhead High School in Wisconsin, alleges school officials [barred her from including a Bible verse](#) in her graduation slideshow just one day before commencement.

Beronja had submitted Proverbs 3:6 as the message to accompany

her senior photo: “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”



[To order Travis Johnson's book, \[Un\]Embarrassed of Jesus, visit Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0995311111)

She says the verse wasn't simply a favorite Scripture—it reflected the foundation that carried her through high school.

But less than 24 hours before graduation, an associate principal informed her that religious messages were not permitted in the slideshow, according to Fox News.

“My faith is a huge part of who I am,” Beronja said, arguing that removing any reference to God stripped away an important part of her story. She also said she hopes speaking out will help protect the rights of future students, according to Fox News.

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL), which is representing Beronja, argues the district crossed a constitutional line by censoring religious viewpoints while allowing students to express other personal messages.

Deputy Counsel Cory Brewer told Fox News that once a school opens a forum for student expression, it cannot discriminate against speech [simply because it is religious](#).

School officials strongly disagree.

Superintendent Conrad Farner told Fox News that students had been instructed beforehand that slideshow messages should be limited to thanking family members or discussing future educational or career plans. Because the slideshow was considered school-sponsored speech rather than private student expression, Farner said the district had the authority to prohibit both religious and political statements.

This issue reaches far deeper than a senior slideshow.

Scripture reminds us not to be ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). Throughout history, followers of Christ have faced moments when publicly acknowledging their faith came at a cost. While courts will determine the constitutional questions surrounding this case, it also serves as a reminder that faith is not meant to be hidden when it becomes inconvenient.

As legal battles over religious expression continue across the nation, many believers will be watching to see whether the freedom to speak about Christ remains protected in America's public square.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

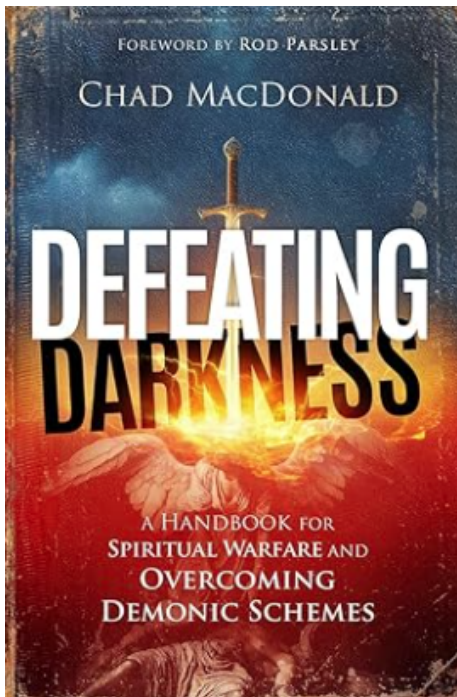
After Devastating Fire, First Baptist Dallas Begins Rebuilding Its Historic Sanctuary

The sound of shovels breaking ground marked not only the beginning of a construction project for First Baptist Dallas—it also marked the next step in the congregation’s recovery after a fire that devastated one of the church’s most treasured landmarks.

Church leaders and members gathered on June 7 to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new Historic Sanctuary, nearly two years after a four-alarm fire destroyed much of the original 1890 building.

According to The Christian Post, the replacement sanctuary is being designed to preserve the architectural character that made the historic structure a recognizable fixture in downtown Dallas while equipping it for years of future ministry.

When the fire erupted on July 19, 2024, thick smoke billowed above the city as firefighters worked for hours to contain the blaze. [As Charisma previously reported](#), although the sanctuary sustained extensive damage, everyone on campus was safely evacuated.



[To order Chad MacDonald's new book, Defeating Darkness, visit Amazon.com.](#)

In the aftermath of the fire, Senior Pastor Robert Jeffress reminded the congregation that the church's foundation extends far beyond its buildings, quoting Romans 8:28 for encouragement.

Now the congregation is preparing to rebuild a sanctuary that has served generations of believers.

According to The Christian Post, the new design will incorporate many of the historic features church members remember, including stained-glass windows and a carved Bible with an anchor that was restored from the original building. Right now, [the hope is that the new sanctuary](#) will be completed for Easter of 2028.

This rebuilding effort reflects a biblical pattern seen throughout Scripture. Time and again, God meets His people in seasons of loss with the promise of renewal. While bricks and beams can be restored, the greater testimony is the faithfulness of believers who continue serving Christ through every trial.

As construction moves forward, First Baptist Dallas is offering a reminder that even after devastating loss, God continues to build His church and write new stories of hope for generations to come.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment](#). For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.

Miracle in the Rubble: Mother Reveals What Kept Her and Her Baby Alive Beneath Venezuela Earthquake Ruins

As rescue crews continue combing through the wreckage left behind by Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes, one extraordinary survival story has captured the world's attention—a mother who says the determination to protect her infant son kept her alive while the two were trapped beneath the rubble.

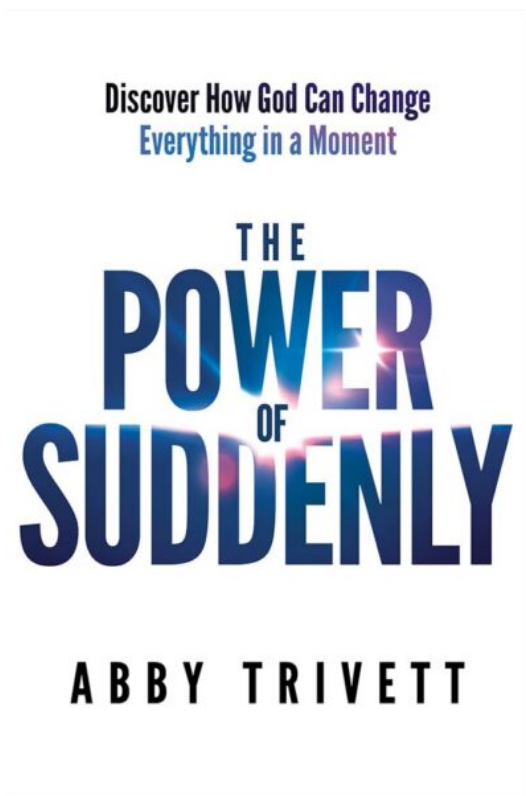
According to the BBC, baby Juan David was rescued from the collapsed Vistamar apartment complex in the coastal town of Caraballeda and reunited with his father. Rescue workers later pulled his mother, Diana, from the debris alive after the pair

[endured hours buried beneath the remains](#) of their building.

For Diana, every moment beneath the concrete became a battle to remain conscious—not only for herself, but for the tiny life beside her.

Speaking to the BBC from a clinic in Caracas where she is recovering, Diana said her infant son became the reason she refused to surrender to exhaustion.

“He was my driving force,” she said. “So I stayed awake and alert. Every now and then, I touched his nose. When he cried, I knew he was breathing.”



[To order Abby Trivett's new book, The Power of Suddenly, visit Amazon.com.](#)

Those quiet checks became an anchor in the darkness, reassuring Diana that her son was still alive and giving her the resolve to keep fighting for both of their lives until rescuers arrived.

Their rescue comes as Venezuela faces a mounting humanitarian

crisis following two powerful earthquakes that struck within seconds of each other near Caracas along the country's northern coast. The BBC reported that more than 1,700 people have been confirmed dead, while tens of thousands remain unaccounted for as emergency [crews continue searching collapsed neighborhoods.](#)

Stories like Diana's point beyond human endurance alone. They remind us that hope can remain alive even when circumstances appear impossible. As families across Venezuela continue praying for miracles and mourning tremendous loss, the survival of Diana and baby Juan David offers a powerful reminder of the precious gift of life and the strength that can emerge in the darkest moments.

As Psalm 46:1 declares, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." While rescue operations continue and many families still await answers, let us join in prayer together for comfort for the grieving, endurance for first responders and miracles for those who may yet be found alive beneath the rubble.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, [The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment.](#) For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@charismamedia.com.