

2023: A Year of Transition

With Christmas only days away, many people are hustling to stores, buying ingredients galore to make cookies and other sweet treats, and most of all, preparing for the festivities planned with family and friends. Yet, as we draw nearer to Christ's return, we can be certain that the days will be darker and the need for hope will only continue to grow. However, even in the middle of turbulence God's faithfulness is still true and can be trusted.

What was so meaningful about the first Christmas was the fact that God had finally fulfilled His promise, even if in the strangest way possible by bringing a baby into the world to a teen girl in a manger. And today, what makes Christmas even more special is that as we see the signs of the end times creeping upon us, it is a reminder that God will be good and faithful to once again do as He said and return to His people.

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Revelation 22:6 is a powerful verse of Scripture as it says: "The angel said to me, 'These words are faithful and true. The Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show to His servants the things which must soon take place.'"

There are things that must happen. The wars and rumors of wars, the birth pangs, the coming of the Antichrist—everything must happen that was foretold. However, not only must they happen, but they will happen because God's Word is faithful and true, and it never returns void. And while many of the things to come are painful and pressuring, it means we are getting closer to uniting with the One we love: Jesus.

Revelation 22:17 says, "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'"

Let him who hears say, 'Come.' Let him who is thirsty come. Let him who desires take the water of life freely."

While we are living in a time where we see Israel under attack, the indoctrination of children growing more rampant and political divides continue to grow, we are also experiencing revivals, seeing people delivered from the demonic oppression and the gospel is reaching to the very ends of the earth. All of these events collectively point to the buildup for the greatest event still to come, and that's the return of Christ for His bride, where we will forever experience the wonder of His presence and what it means to be filled with His living water.

So, even though it could be easy to reminisce about past Christmases and longing for what already has been, where we are headed, while difficult for a time, will bring about the deepest and most joyful day still to come. As we approach Christmas and remember the birth of the Savior, we can also, with great expectation and assurance, look to His return and an eternity with Him that will be more than anything we ever could have hoped for or imagined.

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Steve Strang Responds to Mike

Bickle's Personal Statement Amid Investigation

Recently a Virginia rabbi's request to perform a menorah lighting at a local art and music festival was denied.

Despite being in the middle of the Hanukkah season, the rabbi's request was denied, according to Fox News, because the festival organization "does not permit religious celebrations." However, this claim is largely different than the response that Rabbi Mendy Heber received in a private text message from the event organizer.

"Unless we could get an Islamic group to participate at the same. We are about Peace, Love & 't want to make it seem we're choosing a side—supporting the killing/bombing of thousands of men, women & children," the text message read.

This text clearly implied that the menorah lighting was considered to be a sign of support with Israel, which the event organizers did not want to show. However, Heber claimed that a proposed idea from the festival demonstrated a clear choosing of a side.

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"They came back to us and said, 'Hey, we would be ready with the proposal if we would have a cease-fire banner under the menorah,' clearly taking a political side and welcoming the menorah under certain circumstances," Heber said.

In a separate statement, the event founder, Shirley Vermillion said, "In 14 years this street festival has never had a religious program as one of its events. This is not a

discriminatory act but one based on the objectives of the organization and the sincere desire to make this monthly event a place where all people can come together to enjoy music and art.”

There seems to be a discrepancy between the public reasoning against the menorah lighting and the private reasoning given to Heber as to why the lighting could not take place. Not showing support for American Jews because of something happening in another country seems harsh, regardless of the thought behind it.

As Christians, we must remember to never back down from having a heart for the Jewish people, the lineage in which our Savior descended from. When God first called Abram to make a great nation out of him, He said: “I will bless them who bless you and curse him who curses you, and in you all families of the earth will be blessed,” (Gen. 12:3). Because God’s Word is never void and never fails, His Word and His promise to the Jewish people today still holds true, now and forever.

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Finding Hope: Celebrating Christmas Amid Crisis

In a recent video, Jonathan Cahn revealed the end times mystery of apostasy as it relates to Hanukkah.

“People have a picture that it’s going to be suddenly evil comes on the world as if the Antichrist just flew in from another world, turns everything upside down, takes over some evil government, comes into power. That’s not the way Hanukkah happened; it’s not the way it’s going to happen in the end times either. First, there will come an apostasy.” Cahn said.

Cahn first explained that what makes the Hanukkah menorah different than others is that it has nine lights instead of seven, including one in the middle which is meant to be the light assisting all the others by lighting them up, just as the Messiah is the light of the world.

“The lights of Hanukkah are the lights of dedication,” Cahn said. “In the Gospel of John it says something that most believers have seen but they don’t realize what it is and most Jewish people have no idea of it. It says in John 10: ‘And it was the Feast of Dedication, it was winter time in Jerusalem...’ And the Jewish people came around him and said, ‘how long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah tell us plainly.’”

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Cahn points out that this conversation happened during Hanukkah, making what Jesus said to the Jews His “Hanukkah words.”

“He said, ‘My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me.’ And He said, ‘I and My Father are One.’”

These words not only bring light and truth to the world today, but Cahn says that this light which Christ represents for those who seek Him can also help us to discern an end times apostasy that is currently all around us.

“Hanukkah, I share is the most detailed revelation of the end

times of the holy days of Israel,” Cahn said. “Just one example, Hanukkah involves the account of Antiochus, this evil man who last who called himself Epiphanes, which means ‘God manifest...’ Antiochus is a foreshadow of the Antichrist and what happened in Hanukkah is a foreshadow of what’s going to happen in the end times, and what happened with the Maccabee’s is a key for how we are to live in the end times.”

Cahn points out that we can see the connection of Hanukkah and the end times through Daniel 11. He also says that the world will ultimately prepare for the arrival of the Antichrist.

“America’s and the world’s apostasy is going to prepare for the Antichrist,” Cahn said.

As the world sees Hanukkah from a different point of view this year with the ongoing devastation in Israel, it’s important that we see that the One who created the world is still in the midst of it now just as He always has been.

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2023: The Year Jesus Went to the Movies

Pastor Todd Coconato is stepping up to share with Christians what it means to walk in godly consecration and anointing that is pleasing to the Lord.

In a recent episode of the Strang Report podcast, Coconato urged Christians to spend time in the Word of God and seek out a life of consecration that is focused first and foremost on the mission that Jesus has for us as a remnant people in a time of mounting darkness.

“It’s the anointing that destroys the yoke of bondage,” Coconato said. “What are we dealing with? good portion of our country is in bondage and so we have the authority in Jesus’ name and by the power of the Holy Spirit to show people how to break those chains and have deliverance and healing and all the things that a lot of people have been afraid to talk about.”

It’s understanding this greater power of the Holy Spirit that Coconato is saying that we cannot back down from. It is by the Holy Spirit that we have the ability to overcome the problems we face in the world.

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“We literally have the Holy Spirit living in our heart,” Coconato said. “The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. That’s our body. We are the body of Christ, and so when someone lives in a way that pleases the Lord we actually, we’re not just hearers of the Word; we’re doers. So we’re people of action.”

Coconato says that as Christians live in a way that is satisfying and pleasing to God, He will ignite the gifts and the talents

He desires us to have, so long as we use those same gifts to glorify the Lord.

“God puts different talents and gifts and a calling and a passion and a fire in you,” Coconato said.

One of the keys to protecting this anointing, according to Coconato, is to not yoke yourself unequally with unbelievers.

“Don’t allow areas of compromise,” Coconato said. “You’re not involved in repetitive sin, you’re not yoking with unbelievers, you’re areas of darkness in your life. You’re guarding your life, you’re guarding your family, you’re guarding the ministry that the Lord has given you.”

Coconato learned that this type of consecration was critical for believers after an angelic visitation where he was in awe of an angel of the Lord who told him that believers needed to “come out from among them.” Coconato retells this miraculously incredible story in his new book, “Come Out From Among Them.”

“I was paralyzed with fear,” Coconato said. “I realized there was a peace that came on me. I believe it was the Holy Spirit and just let me know this is of me, this is not a demon, it’s not something evil, this is of the so the angelic being said two things: said come out from among them and said be consecrated.”

You can read Todd’s incredible story in more depth by going to .

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The 400-Year Wait for

Christmas Had a Purpose

As 2023 wraps up, the questions could be asked: “Which prophetic words were fulfilled?” and “Which ones we should still be on the lookout to see what comes to pass?”

As the Lord would have it, the state of Israel was placed on the hearts of many, mere months before war broke out. There are also some key warnings that America must heed in light of the events that have come to pass in Israel. While we see the devastation and the chaos unfold overseas, here are some of the top prophetic words and events about the state of Israel from 2023.

Back in May, the International House of Prayer Kansas City spent a three-week initiative known as the Isaiah 62 fast committed to praying and fasting for the people of Israel. What is in Isaiah 62? Isaiah 62 focuses on the salvation and the promises that God has for Israel. While none of us could have known that just a few months later Israel would find themselves completely war-torn, this event in itself acted as a covering and a preparation for what would come, fixated completely on the biblical promise that God has not forsaken His people.

IHOPKC is not the only group that had Israel on their hearts. As Charisma magazine reported, Rabbi Kirt Schneider had a revelation back in July of what was coming for Israel.

“The Lord spoke to me in early July as I was up one morning doing my devotional reading from the book of Esther,” Schneider said. “It was like a bomb of revelation and prophecy filled me and dropped right into my heart, and instantly with no thought involved I knew that Jewish people were about to face the greatest attack that they had ever faced since the Holocaust.”

As we've seen in the news, Schneider's words unfortunately came true on October 7. God revealed even more specifics to Schneider as he was shown how the media would betray Israel.

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"The way that the media was going to portray it is that Israel was this terrible oppressor and tyrant and they were taking out a disproportionate revenge on those that had attacked them, and that the devil was going to use this to turn the whole world against Jews with an antisemitism that we have not witnessed since Nazi Germany," Schneider said.

Amanda Grace of Ark of Grace Ministries also shared with Charisma magazine that God had previously shared with her a couple of years ago about an Ayatollah and a Dragon coming together with "the purse prize being the destruction of Israel."

While Grace's word spoke about the merging together of China and Iran to attack Israel, Grace provided an even larger, stark warning about the need to pray for Israel as the enemy in the spirit realm was ready to attack it. This need for prayer included peace for Israel, wisdom for Netanyahu during a difficult season ahead and for the covering of Israel from its enemies.

"Israel is in the middle of a hornet's nest, there's no doubt about this," Grace said. "[Pray] that the enemies surrounding it, that the Lord puts a hedge of protection around them."

Grace also acknowledged a coming war against Israel known as the "Ezekiel war."

"It talks about in the end days an enormous army marching on Israel. It will be called the war of Ezekiel," Grace said.

Other prophetic warnings about Israel also had implications for America's future, including a warning from Chris Reed, as he had a dream that what had happened to Israel was coming to America. However, with Reed's warning, America still has time to repent and find its way back to the plan and the purpose that God has for it.

"One of the first things obviously we can do, is we can pray against this," Reed said. "The second thing that I knew that we could do, is as if we got everybody—if we got everybody, everywhere—to call their U.S. representatives, their senators and demand that Congress take action on the , developing, even bringing training into your churches of situation awareness," Reed said.

As prophetic warnings and prayers were sent forward for Israel in 2023, America too must heed the warnings that connect it with Israel.

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