

# Denzel Washington Opens Up About a Profound Encounter with God

Western culture—and its roots in Judeo-Christian values—is a phenomenon worth celebrating, according to Welsh actor John Rhys-Davies.

The famed “Lord of the Rings” star recently spoke with CBN News, explaining the Western world ought to be “so proud” of the culture it has created, noting its mooring in Christian principles.

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He described the current generations as “the inheritors of one of the most glorious accomplishments that mankind has ever had,” referring to “Western, European, Judeo-Christian civilization.”

“Has it got flaws, yes,” he said. “But let’s not forget it was actually those Christians who said, ‘Slavery is morally wrong and we must get rid of it. ... We must extirpate it in the world,’ and they did so. ... Our whole democracy comes from those early Christians.”

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Speaking of Western styles of government—which, in the U.S., is a constitutional republic—Rhys-Davies credited Christians and deists with establishing the freest form of self-governance in the world.

Early believers, he said, argued, "Surely, what I believe in and my devotion to my God must trump the emperor's insistence that I worship him." The actor explained Christians advocated for the "right of individual conscience," to "associate with people who think the way you think," the freedom "to express what you think," and the "right not to be imprisoned for your beliefs."

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## **Winner of 'The Voice' Praises 'Lord Above' After Miraculously Surviving Gunshot Wound**

Jason "Sundance" Head, winner of season 11 of NBC's "The Voice," is praising God after surviving an accidental gunshot wound to the stomach.

The 46-year-old singer was out in the woods by himself for a solo camping trip on Nov. 15, when the bullet pierced his stomach, barely missing his vital organs, his agent told USA Today.

In a video posted to his Facebook account, Head—the son of

rockabilly singer Roy Head—recounted the harrowing incident, explaining he always travels with a .22-caliber revolver, one that “looks just like the kind of gun you’d see in a Western movie.” He said he keeps the gun in a quick-draw holster.

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“I really don’t know what happened still,” he recalled, remembering putting on his backpack with the holster sitting in the passenger seat. Head said he was shot as he turned and began walking away.

“It happened that fast,” he added. “That revolver slid out of the case and it hit the doorjamb on the Jeep on the floor step and it shot me.”

The transgender issue reaches far and wide and affects hundreds of thousands of Americans, and now churches are starting to address it. One in northern Virginia, outside of Washington, D.C., has started a support group for parents with trans-identifying children.

It’s an issue almost no one discussed five years ago but today is impossible to ignore. The transgender crisis affects an estimated 1.6 million Americans and is now so common that pastors are weighing in.

Marty Baker is the senior pastor at Burke Community Church in Burke, Virginia.

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“As gender ideology began to surface in 2017-2018, began to be infiltrated into the school systems, taught to children, that type of thing, well by definition, you started having parents wondering, ‘what is this?’” Baker said in an interview with CBN News.

He wrote his doctoral dissertation on transgenderism and consistently teaches on it from the pulpit.

“We’ve taught [the congregation] a lot about the information, the apologetics of it, how to defend, how to push truth as opposed to error, those types of things, so they’re very educated on that, but what do you do with all of the life stories? And there’s lots of those,” Baker explained.

He says those life stories came up during a women’s retreat at the church. More than 100 women had questions and needed wisdom.

Ed Stetzer, the dean at Biola University’s Talbot School of Theology, told CBN News, “I think a lot of churches five years ago weren’t talking about this. But the last five years has seen such an acceleration, I think it’s time for churches to be teaching more on the topic.”

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Stetzer says Christians need to speak on this issue in a biblical way that’s filled with grace. He sees a big opportunity for the church.

“I think this is an opportunity for the church of Jesus Christ to actually put forth a beautiful image of sexuality and gender that I think will actually call to people who are living in a confused – and we’re all in a broken world – but just unsure about those things,” he explained. “Let’s say, ‘The Bible gives us a path. We want to walk with you on that path.’”

Burke Community Church member Dr. Susan Ashton-Lazaroe deals directly with teens on this path as a pediatrician.

“Thankfully the number of children presenting with gender

dysphoria has decreased in the past couple of years, which is truly encouraging,” Ashton-Lazaroe told CBN News.

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## **Netanyahu, Gallant Targeted by ICC with Arrest Warrants**

There is much talk now of Israel annexing the West Bank (biblical Judea and Samaria) or at least vast swaths of it, to protect the Jewish communities inhabiting the land.

Eytan Gilboa, professor of American-Israel relations at Tel Aviv’s Bar-Ilan University, noted, “What happened in Gaza really destroyed the chances for the establishment of a Palestinian state, as well as peace.”

Currently, Jewish cities and towns are so mingled with Arab population centers, and it’s difficult to see how they could be cleanly divided into two nations.

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“I think it’s impossible to speak about a two-state solution because it will never happen. You cannot draw a line that can

divide and separate the population,” said Israel Ganz, head of Samaria’s Binyamin Regional Council.

Regardless of Donald Trump’s views on Judea and Samaria, his choices for foreign policy positions come with strong pro-Israel backgrounds, including Marco Rubio as secretary of state, Elise Stefanik for U.N. ambassador, and a choice many are praising – former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee for U.S. ambassador to Israel.

“I look forward to going to work for my country, my president, and for the people of America and to be an able representative to my friends in the Jewish state of Israel,” Huckabee told CBN’s Gordon Robertson on The 700 Club on Monday.

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Huckabee, who first came to Israel more than 40 years ago, says he is passionate about his calling. He believes the U.S. president should not decide weighty matters such as annexing Judea and Samaria. That should be Israel’s call alone.

Huckabee has said he doesn’t consider a two-state solution to be practical and he has called Judea and Samaria the “Promised Land.”

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