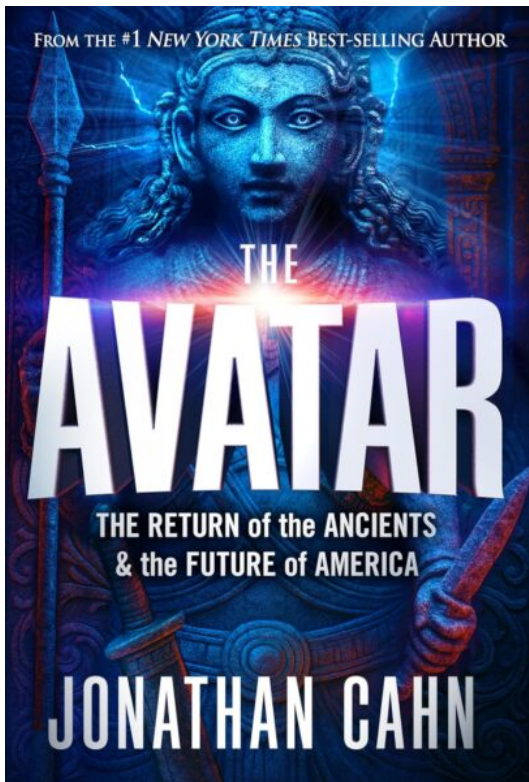


China's Disturbing Push for Pregnancy Robots Raises Alarming Ethical Questions

CBN News is reporting that [China is developing pregnancy robots](#) complete with artificial wombs to help couples struggling with infertility. Host Raj Nair called the development "absolutely wild," quoting Dr. Zang Quiang, the doctor leading the project, who said: "The artificial womb technology is already in a mature stage. And now it needs to be implanted in the robot's abdomen so that a real person and the robot can interact to achieve pregnancy allowing the fetus to grow inside."

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Nair was joined by Billy Hallowell, who did not hold back in his reaction: "This is horrifying on a number of levels. You know, a God designed the body in a very particular way... a baby growing inside the womb of a human mother, there's a connection point there that you want to see happen that is not happening in this case."



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Hallowell warned that not only is the technology deeply unnatural, but its testing would almost certainly [lead to the loss of human life.](#)

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Together, the two broke down the disturbing implications of what such technology could mean:

- Robots are being priced around \$14,000, far cheaper than human surrogacy which ranges from \$100,000–\$200,000.
- Hallowell stressed that science is moving so fast it won't be surprising to see this happen, but the ethical costs are severe.
- Both highlighted that robots should never be used to replace the God-ordained role of mothers or the sanctity of life within the womb.

- Hallowell urged Christians to start with prayer: [“God, is this of You? Is this not of You?”](#)

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This disturbing report highlights just how unnatural and dangerous this pursuit is, crossing moral lines in the name of science. To hear the full conversation between Raj Nair and Billy Hallowell, watch the video above.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

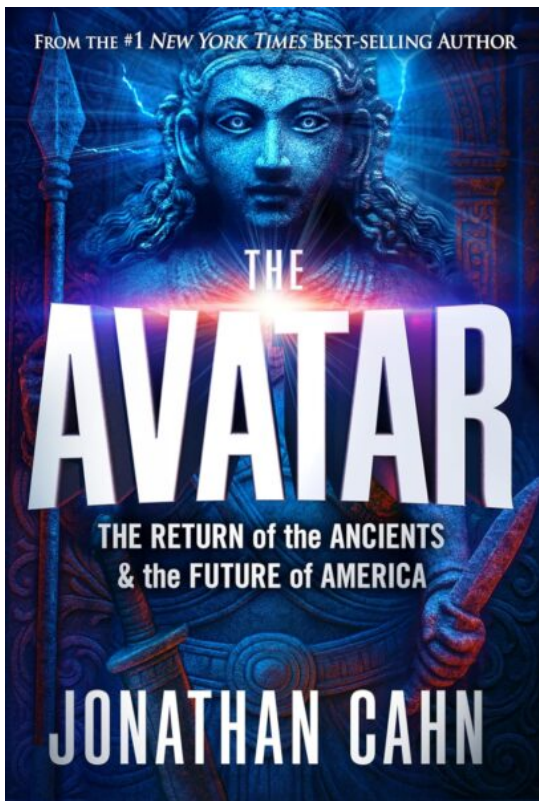
End-Times Mystery: Rapture or Second Coming? Here's the Difference

Prophecy Watchers host Gary Stearman and author Jonathan Brentner recently discussed [the uniqueness of the rapture](#) and how today's world events point to prophecy unfolding.

Brentner stressed that the rapture is distinct from the second coming of Christ. “It's not part of the Second Coming. It's different from the Second Coming,” he said. The difference comes down to timing. “When the rapture happens in 1 Thessalonians 4, Jesus raises the dead in Christ first. At the Second Coming... it might not even be the same day. It might be several days later.”

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He added that the groups raised are not the same. “He raises the dead in Christ. But when at the second coming, it’s just a subset of believers as tribulation saints.”



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The conversation also touched on global turmoil, especially the Oct. 7 invasion of Israel and the alarming rise of antisemitism. “Antisemitism... as we speak, and you know the Palestinians are perfectly willing to kill all the Jews,” Brentner warned. He noted the disturbing calls to wipe out Jews “from the river to the sea.”

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Both Stearman and Brentner said these events reflect deeper spiritual forces at work. “We see that the same today in Iran. It’s almost as though that spirit is alive and well,” Brentner said, connecting current hostility to the ancient enemies of Israel.

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Despite the dark outlook, Stearman reminded believers that Scripture also promises hope. “The world is preparing for something unspeakable,” he said, but added that the Bible provides assurance for those in Christ. Brentner agreed, saying [the rapture points to](#) “something that’s going to happen to Christendom... at the very near future. And it’s a beautiful thought to be having at this time in history.”

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

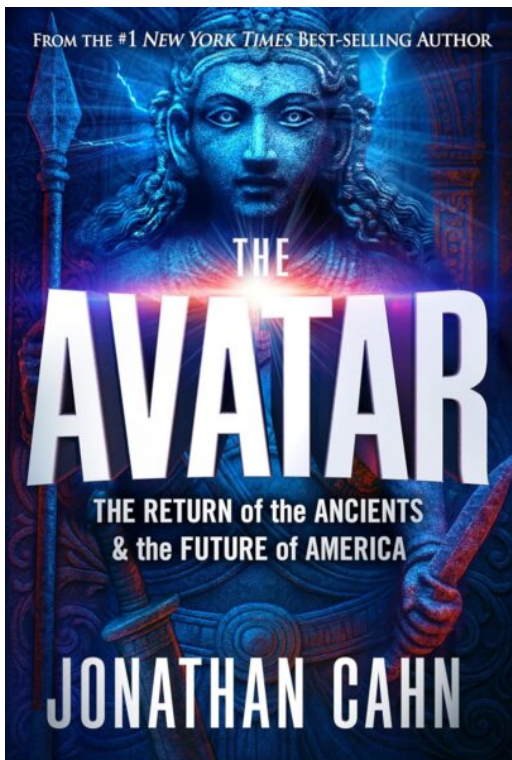
Eric Metaxas: What Dietrich Bonhoeffer Can Teach the American Church Right Now

What would you do if you saw evil rising in your nation while most people looked the other way? That was the reality for [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#), the brilliant German pastor who recognized the threat of Adolf Hitler long before the world understood the full scope of Nazi terror. Author and radio host Eric Metaxas says Bonhoeffer’s story isn’t just history, it’s a prophetic warning for Christians in America right now.

“Bonhoeffer was one of those voices who...was trying to wake up the church, because he knew just as we know today the Lord has appointed the church to be the voice of the nation, to be the conscience of the nation,” Metaxas said in a recent interview on Daystar. “The pagans aren’t going to be held accountable. We are the ones that are supposed to know.”

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Metaxas explained that while it's easy now to say the Nazis were obviously evil, that wasn't how it felt in Germany at the time. "Most Germans at the time had no clue when the Nazis were beginning to take power who they really were. Nobody could dream of the Holocaust and the death camps, trust me when I tell you they couldn't dream of it," he said.



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Bonhoeffer stood firm even as many churches, both liberal and conservative, chose silence. "They all have good reasons to kind of keep their head down," Metaxas said. "But he sees pagans saying, 'I'm going to stand up against Hitler.'" Bonhoeffer eventually joined the plot to assassinate Hitler, believing God expected both prayer and action. "The Lord says, 'Yeah, well I expect you to pray but I also expect you to act,'" Metaxas said.

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The Nazis executed Bonhoeffer in 1945, just weeks before the end of the war. To Metaxas, his life is a heroic example but also a prophetic warning to today's believers. "Exactly what happened to the German church is happening to the American church now," he said. "If you don't speak up...it's the famous quote we don't know who said it, but it's often attributed to Bonhoeffer: ['Silence in the face of evil is itself evil.](#) God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.'"

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Metaxas said Christians who claim they are "just preaching the gospel" while avoiding difficult issues are missing God's command. "God is not buying that lie," he said. "When He calls you to speak the truth, don't tell them you're going to preach the gospel. Speak the truth."

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Trump Says Pursuit of Peace Is About More Than Politics: 'I Want to Get to Heaven'

As he pushes to bring an end to the bloodshed between Russia and Ukraine, President Donald Trump made it clear this isn't just about politics, diplomacy [or even the Nobel Peace Prize.](#) For him, it's about something bigger, he's thinking about

eternity.

“If I can save 7,000 people per week from being killed – I want to get to heaven, if possible; I’m hearing I’m not doing well,” Trump said in a televised phone interview Tuesday morning. “If I can get to heaven, this will be a reason.”

"I want to get to heaven."

President Trump makes a humble admission as he pushes to end the war between Ukraine and Russia.
pic.twitter.com/r5r0TuUuPM

– Fox News (@FoxNews) [August 19, 2025](#)

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A President Focused on Peace

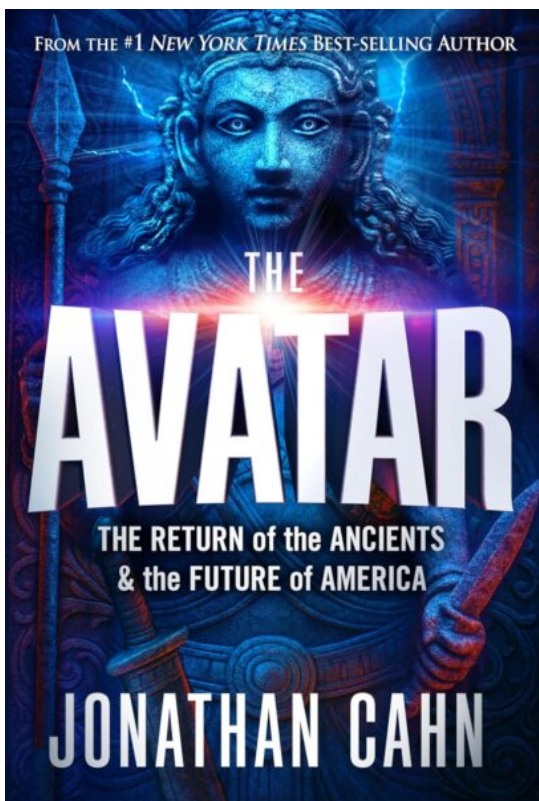
Trump’s words came after a whirlwind of calls and meetings with European leaders [and even Russian President Vladimir Putin](#), who, according to Trump, eagerly answered a late-night call from the Oval Office. The urgency, he said, couldn’t be delayed.

“One gentleman said, ‘Let’s meet in another month or two,’” Trump recounted. “I said, ‘A month or two?! You will have 40,000 people dead. You do it tonight.’”

Unlike many of his predecessors, Trump’s message is plain: time is short, lives are at stake, and peace is worth pursuing immediately. “I want to get things done,” Trump said. “If it works out, I’ll go to the trilat [trilateral meeting] and close it up.”

Contrasting With Other Leaders

Trump hasn't been shy about drawing a line between his leadership and that of other presidents. On Crimea, he pointed squarely at former President Barack Obama: "Obama gave it away. They took the most valuable piece surrounded on four sides by ocean, a beautiful piece of property. Why the heck did he do that to them? In one of the dumbest real estate deals I've ever seen."



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On NATO, he contrasted his approach with that of former President Joe Biden. "Since I've been there, we don't pay," Trump said. "I got NATO to go from 2% to 5%. We sell to NATO, and NATO pays us immediately. [Then they give it to Ukraine.](#)"

Secretary of State Marco Rubio even noted that Trump is the only one in the world who can bring Putin to the table. And Trump himself added, "France and Germany, and the U.K., they want boots on the ground. Putin is tired of it; they are all

tired of it.”

A Leader Surrounded by Faith

In many ways, Trump’s desire for peace highlights something deeper. While he often frames his efforts in terms of saving lives and “getting to heaven,” the Bible makes clear that no one earns heaven by their works, no matter how noble.

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The apostle Paul wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).

Jesus Himself declared, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). That means peace initiatives, historic deals or even saving countless lives cannot open the gates of heaven, only faith in Christ can.

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As President Trump works tirelessly to bring peace where so many others have failed, it is a reminder that his quest for peace is a noble one. Yet Scripture is crystal clear that eternal life does not come through great accomplishments or historic treaties, but only through faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray that President Trump, even as he pursues peace on the world stage, comes to the full realization of what the Bible teaches about salvation, and that his heart is drawn to the One who is the true Prince of Peace.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

Annabelle Doll Tour Sparks Fears of Real Demonic Activity

Spiritual warfare is not a metaphor or a superstition, it is a present reality. The Bible warns that demonic forces seek to kill, steal and destroy, and when Christians dismiss this as fiction, we leave ourselves and our families vulnerable. Culture has long painted the occult as entertainment, but recent events surrounding the infamous Annabelle doll remind us that the spiritual battle is deadly serious.

Annabelle on Tour

As reported by The Blaze, the doll at the center of the Conjuring film franchise is now traveling across the country on [the “Devil’s on the Run” tour](#). Ticket-holders are invited to pose for selfies, laugh, and even touch the case holding the doll. “Although well intentioned, this tour is exceptionally irresponsible,” Christopher Reese wrote, warning of the dangers of trivializing demonic power.

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Reese recalled that Ed Warren himself placed a sign on the doll’s case that read, “Warning, positively do not open.” Yet videos show attendees mocking the doll and treating it as a spectacle. Reese asked soberly: “If the stories of those who made light of the doll are true, what might happen to scores or hundreds of other people now engaging in similar behavior?”

A History of Darkness

The true story behind Annabelle is far more chilling than Hollywood portrays. According to Reese, the doll began moving on its own, leaving messages like “Help us,” and even manifested drops of blood on its chest. Violence escalated when a man was attacked with “seven claw-like slashes across his chest.” The Warrens concluded the doll was not haunted by a child’s spirit, but was a vessel for a demon.

The Warrens also documented incidents where individuals who mocked the doll suffered fatal accidents the same day. To Reese, this shows that “all the evidence pointed to demonic activity.”

A Tragic Warning

In July, [tour organizer Dan Rivera died suddenly](#) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, after hosting an Annabelle event. He was only 54. The coroner said there was “nothing suspicious,” but Reese raised a sobering question: “Given that this doll, which has allegedly killed or severely injured people in the past, was being transported around the country and made into a carnival-like spectacle, one has to wonder if his death was more than a coincidence.”

Even the Warrens’ grandson, Chris McKinnell, rebuked the tour: “My grandfather’s warning still stands: ‘Positively do not open.’ If they keep doing this without understanding what they’re handling, someone is going to get seriously hurt.”

False Safety and True Power

Reese pointed out that many in the paranormal community claim protection through rituals, crosses, or holy water. But these are powerless without Christ. “It’s not holy water or rituals that protect a person from the attacks of Satan,” he wrote, “but the fact that through regeneration the person has been delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.”

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Quoting Scripture, he reminded believers of the authority given through Christ: “Because Christians have become children of the King, they gain his divine protection and can call upon his authority to drive away the enemy” (Luke 10:19; Eph. 6:11-13; James 4:7).

This Is Spiritual Warfare

Reese warned against trivializing the demonic, stressing that Annabelle is not simply an object with “negative energy,” but one attached to “a spiritual being with a will and intelligence” whose “intentions are malevolent.”

He compared today’s fascination with the doll to the failed exorcism of the sons of Sceva in Acts 19, who were overpowered by a demon because they lacked the authority of Christ: “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” The result was humiliation and injury—a reminder that demons are not to be toyed with.

Time To Take the Fight Seriously

The rise of occult tourism, paranormal entertainment, and now even plans to turn the Warrens’ home into a paranormal Airbnb

is a sign that our culture has forgotten the seriousness of the demonic. Reese's conclusion is sobering but essential: those without Christ have "no defense from demonic attacks," while even Christians must avoid reckless curiosity.

The truth is simple but urgent: only Jesus Christ has the power to break demonic chains, and only the Holy Spirit equips believers to stand firm in the evil day.

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It is time for Christians to stop treating spiritual warfare lightly. We are not called to play games with the enemy but to put on the full armor of God and resist him. The devil is on the offensive, and the church must no longer sit back in complacency. It is time to take the fight to him.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Why Are So Many Pastors Leaving Ministry? New Report Reveals Top Reasons

A new Lifeway Research report reveals that many pastors step away from the pulpit not because of retirement, but due to challenges such as conflict, burnout, and shifts in their personal sense of calling. The findings shed light on [the difficulties clergy face](#) in leading congregations and the toll ministry can take on their lives.

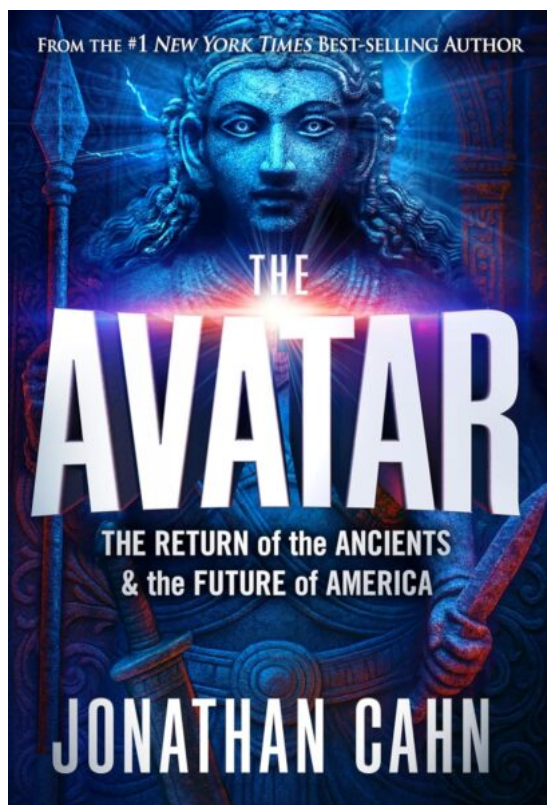
As reported by The Christian Post, Lifeway surveyed 730 former pastors from four Protestant denominations and found that

around one-third pointed to either burnout or church conflict as reasons for leaving. The study noted that while some pastors remain in ministry in a different role, many left the pastorate earlier than expected due to significant struggles.

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“The lead stated reason was a ‘change in calling,’ with 40% of respondents citing this as the cause of their departure,” the report said. “Other cited reasons included family issues (10%), personal finances (10%), illness (6%), being a poor fit with a church (6%), denominational issues (4%), and the church closing due to the COVID-19 lockdowns (3%).”

Conflict proved to be a particularly damaging factor. According to the survey, 87% of pastors experienced conflict at some point in their last congregation, with nearly half (49%) reporting a “significant personal attack.” Additionally, 56% said the disputes arose from proposed changes within the church.



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Lifeway also found that [many pastors had relatively short tenures](#). "Forty-three percent reported leaving their positions as pastor after serving just one congregation, while another 43% reported serving as a senior pastor for 10 years or less before leaving," the report explained.

Despite these difficulties, over half of former pastors remain in ministry in other capacities. "Lifeway also reported that, despite leaving the position of pastor, 53% of respondents said that they continue to work in ministry, though in a different capacity," the report noted.

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The study also drew comparisons to a similar 2021 survey, showing both consistencies and shifts in the top reasons pastors step away:

- 2024 study: 40% change in calling, 18% conflict, 16% burnout
- 2021 study: 32% change in calling, 18% conflict, 13% burnout

The broader context shows these struggles are not isolated. The Hartford Institute for Religion Research reported that 53% of clergy had seriously considered leaving ministry at least once since 2020, citing the strain of shepherding congregations through the pandemic and other challenges.

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As the church continues to face cultural and spiritual

pressures, this report showcases the need for prayer and support for pastors. Christians are called to lift up those who serve, asking God to strengthen, encourage and sustain them as they lead His people.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Why the Great Tribulation Will Be Harder Than Anyone Imagines

The Bible warns us of a coming seven-year tribulation, a time when God's wrath will be poured out on a world that has rejected Jesus Christ. For many, it's easy to pass over that phrase quickly, "seven years of tribulation," without truly grasping the weight of what it means. But when you stop and think about the length of that time, and the suffering described in Scripture, it becomes clear why the Bible says it will be unlike any other period in human history.

On a recent episode of the Watchman River podcast, host Tom Cote shared how the reality of this hit him powerfully. "Last night, I was really thinking about this and something hit me like a freight train," Cote said. "I've never literally thought about how long that seven years is for the people that are here. I don't know why. I just kind of always say [seven-year tribulation, seven-year tribulation](#). Yesterday, I think the Lord gave me a glimpse where He put it in my heart to realize how long that seven years is."

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Cote explained that while Christians often focus on the rapture and the marriage supper of the Lamb, it's easy to forget what those left behind will endure. "We talk about the shock that will happen to the world a day or two after the rapture," he said. "But what about a month after the rapture? What about two months after the rapture? What about a year or two after the rapture?... It's terrifying. It's a long time."

He went on to describe what life may look like in those years. "Probably no toilet paper during the seven-year tribulation. Probably no clean running water. It's a different world. God is showing his wrath to a Christ-rejecting world," he said. "It's a nightmare. You don't want to be here for the seven-year tribulation. War, famine, pestilence, death, inflation."



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Turning to Revelation 6, Cote highlighted the third seal, where a black horse rider brings food scarcity so severe that a full day's wages would only buy a small amount of bread. "I just think, 'Oh, that day would be really bad. You got to work a whole day for a loaf of bread.' [It's every day. It's a seven-year tribulation,](#)" he said.

Cote added that for those who come to faith in Jesus during the tribulation, persecution will be brutal. "People who believe in Jesus during the seven-year tribulation will be hunted down and basically beheaded for their faith," he warned. In his view, martyrdom may even seem merciful compared to trying to survive the full seven years.

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Ultimately, he reminded listeners that Jesus Himself said if He did not return at the end of the tribulation, “there’d be no flesh living. Nobody would be alive. It’s a horrible time.”

A Call to Repentance

The sobering reality of the Great Tribulation gave Cote a renewed sense of urgency to call people to Christ. “When you start understanding how long that seven-year tribulation is, you just want to tell everyone about Jesus today,” he said. “It gave me an urgency last night thinking about this of just sharing the gospel with everyone and just trying to get as many people on that ark, trying to get as many people to repent, meaning turning from unbelief to belief in the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. I don’t want anyone to be left behind.”

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“Seven years is a long time. Please keep listening and believe in Jesus today because what’s coming to this world, and it’s coming soon, that seven-year tribulation is speeding toward us right now.”

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Flesh-Eating Bacteria and Bubonic Plague Resurface in

US, Echoing Bible Warnings

From new plagues to pestilences, outbreaks of strange and deadly diseases have long been seen as part of the signs Jesus warned [would appear before His return](#). A rise in flesh-eating bacteria along the Gulf Coast and the reemergence of pneumonic plague in Arizona are the latest reminders that even in an age of modern medicine, the world remains vulnerable to ancient scourges described to us in the Bible.

As reported by Israel365 News, “a recent surge in deadly infections, including flesh-eating bacteria along the Gulf Coast and a rare case of pneumonic plague in Arizona, has drawn eerie comparisons to the biblical plagues of Egypt and prophetic descriptions of the end-of-days War of Gog and Magog.”

While Jewish scholars have noted parallels to Zechariah, we as Christians can also point to Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:7 that “there will be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” as signs of the approaching end of the age.

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Public health officials have confirmed a sharp rise in cases of *Vibrio vulnificus*, a dangerous strain of bacteria commonly found in warm saltwater and brackish environments. “So far in 2025, at least eight people have died and 22 others have been infected by the bacteria, which thrives in warm coastal waters,” the report said.

The Louisiana Department of Health noted that 17 cases required hospitalization, with four deaths, more than double the state’s annual average for the past decade. Florida reported 13 cases and four deaths as of late July.



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The Cleveland Clinic warns that infections can progress quickly and cause "blistering skin lesions, fever, sepsis, internal bleeding, organ failure, and in some cases, necrotizing fasciitis, a severe infection that kills flesh around an open wound." Health officials urge beachgoers to take precautions, such as avoiding raw shellfish, not entering the water with open wounds and using protective footwear.

Alongside the Gulf Coast outbreak, plague has also resurfaced in the American Southwest.

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"A person died from pneumonic plague in Arizona last week, the first death from the disease in this region in nearly two decades," according to the report. The bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, was the cause of the Black Death in the Middle Ages, killing tens of millions. The World Health Organization now categorizes it as a re-emerging disease, with nearly 50,000 human cases worldwide in the past two decades.

We must use biblical discernment to see such events as [reminders of the brokenness of creation](#) since the fall of man in Genesis 3 and warnings of the times to come. Scripture speaks of pestilence as part of God's judgment, yet also as a call to repentance and faith in Jesus before the fullness of the Great Tribulation unfolds. Revelation describes devastating plagues that will strike the earth during the end times (Rev. 6:8; 16:2-21).

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While medical experts emphasize prevention and treatment, we

must interpret these “wake-up calls” as opportunities to return to the hope of the gospel message. As pestilences reappear even in an age of advanced science, believers are reminded that Christ’s words remain true and that His return is drawing near.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

‘Zombie’ Squirrels Spotted In the US: Are These Pestilences a Biblical Warning?

Grotesque-looking gray squirrels [covered in wart-like tumors](#) have been spotted skulking through backyards across the United States, sparking alarm among residents and fascination among wildlife experts.

Photographs shared online show the animals with oozing sores and hairless patches on their heads and limbs, leading some to dub them “zombie squirrels.” Sightings have been reported in Maine and parts of Canada, with cases dating back to mid-2023 but surging again this summer, according to the Daily Mail.



Evelyns Wildlife Refuge

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“At first I thought it was eating something from my front beds, but then I realized it was on its face,” one Reddit user posted July 31 after spotting a gray squirrel with a large tumor on its mouth.

Wildlife experts say the squirrels are most likely suffering from squirrel fibromatosis, a viral skin disease caused by leporipoxvirus. The virus spreads through direct contact with infected saliva or lesions and can resemble herpes transmission in humans.

The disease is often mistaken for squirrelpox, which is more common in the UK and often fatal to red squirrels. Fibromatosis, however, typically runs its course in four to

eight weeks. In severe cases, the growths can spread internally and lead to death.



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Despite their frightening appearance, experts insist the squirrels are no danger to people, pets or birds.

"It's like when you get a large concentration of people. If someone is sick and it's something that spreads easily, others are going to catch it," Shevenell Webb of Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife told the Bangor Daily News. Webb said backyard bird feeders often act as transmission points because infected squirrels leave saliva or fluid behind on seeds.

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The unusual squirrel sightings come [as Colorado officials warned of a separate outbreak](#), the so-called "bunny blight." Cottontail rabbits have been spotted with black, tentacle-like growths sprouting from their heads, caused by the Shope papilloma virus.

The Biblical Perspective

While wildlife officials view these outbreaks as naturally occurring diseases, we as Christians can see them as reminders of a deeper spiritual truth. In the Gospels, Jesus warned that before His return there would be "pestilences" affecting the earth (Luke 21:11, Matt. 24:7). These warnings were not limited to human sickness but speak to a broken creation groaning under the curse of sin.

From the moment Adam and Eve fell in the Garden of Eden, the

entire earth was subjected to corruption (Rom. 8:22). That curse has touched every part of creation, from humanity to the animal kingdom. Outbreaks like squirrel fibromatosis and rabbit papilloma remind us of that fallen state.

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Though unsettling, these events can point believers to the hope that one day Jesus will return and restore creation, wiping away disease and death forever (Rev. 21:4). Until then, they stand as warnings and signs, reminders that the world is not as it was meant to be and that the day of the Lord draws nearer.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

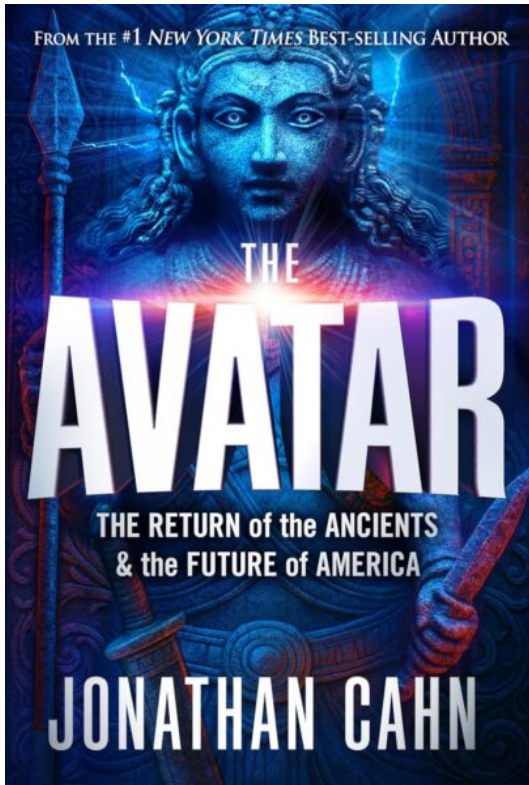
Muslims in Gaza Describe Life-Changing Dreams of Jesus

On a recent episode of The Rosenberg Report, Joel Rosenberg shared the story of a man in Gaza who had a dream where “Jesus appears to him and says, ‘You’re my man. You’re my man in Gaza. Tell everyone about me.’” He has embraced that mission, [**leading Muslims to faith in Jesus**](#) even in the midst of war.

According to Rosenberg’s guest Tom Doyle, “Once they come to faith in Christ... God replaced the hate with love,” with new believers even praying for the Jewish people they once considered enemies.

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Joanne Doyle described meeting women in Gaza who live “desperate lives,” with abuse so common that “literally every single woman no matter their age” in one gathering admitted to experiencing it. Many have dreams about Jesus, saying, “I have felt safe in the presence of a man when I’ve been with Jesus.”



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Doyle also told the story of “Dina,” a preschool teacher who refused to teach jihad during Hamas training camps, saying, “I don’t want to do that. I want to teach them that Jesus is the good shepherd,” even though she knew she “could be killed for that.”

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The Doyles noted that political solutions cannot accomplish what only the Gospel can. “I don’t think the UN can pull that off... [Jesus can transform a heart](#) and then they change,” Tom Doyle said.

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Despite persecution, a “secret church” is growing in Gaza, with believers meeting quietly to study God’s word and share their faith. Rosenberg closed with a challenge: “Pray that there would be a Holy Spirit revival in Gaza... We just need to saturate the strip with prayer.”

If you would like to hear more about the miraculous visions of Jesus, watch the video above.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*