

Worship Is for God, Not 'Bubba'—Why Brandon Lake's Words Miss the Mark

Brandon Lake is one of the biggest names in contemporary Christian worship music today, and his recent sweep at the 12th annual K-LOVE Fan Awards is a testament to his popularity.

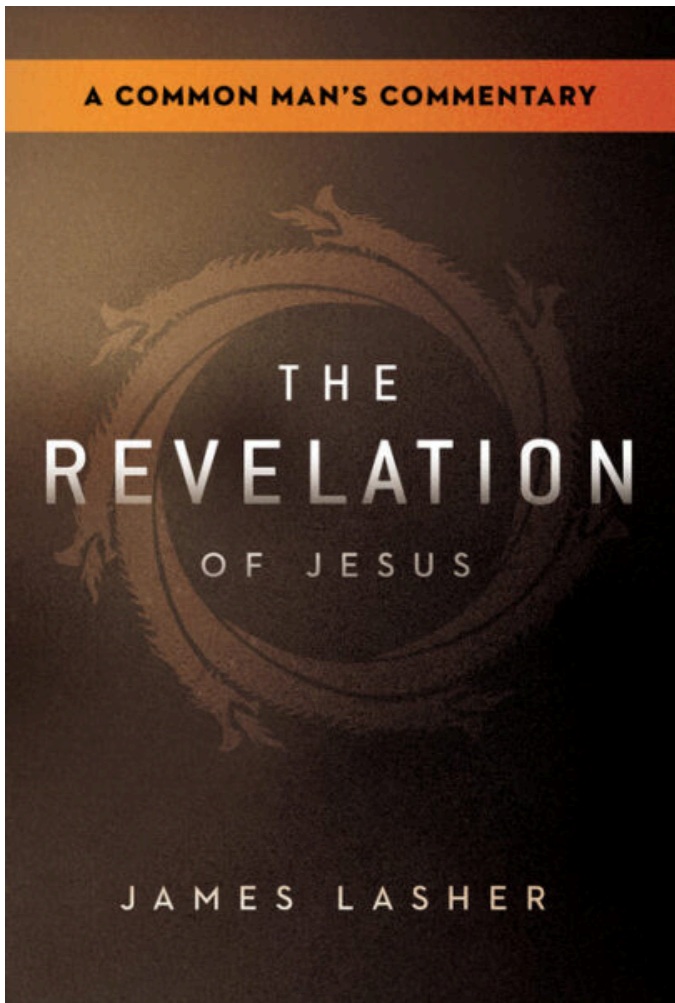
But in a viral podcast clip that resurfaced this week, [Lake made comments about worship](#) that were not only disappointing to hear, they were deeply troubling.

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In an interview on the Bryce Crawford Podcast, Lake warned that certain worship songs, especially those with biblical language, might alienate unbelievers. Specifically, he raised concern about lyrics like “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,” which appear in Revelation 4:8, the very words sung by the four living creatures before the throne of heaven. He said such lyrics might confuse someone unfamiliar with church, joking that they might associate “holy” only with profanity.

“I love when your first song is like, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty,’” Lake said. “I think [Bubba]’s going like, ‘What does ‘holy’ mean? Like, holy ____? What?’ I don’t know.”

There is something profoundly disheartening about hearing a worship leader diminish the power of the very words spoken in heaven, words so sacred that angels repeat them without end and written down multiple times in the Word of God.



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As reported by The Christian Post, [Lake shared his vision of designing worship sets](#) with “Bubba”—a fictional man dragged to church by his wife—in mind. “And I just don’t know if, when your opening song or the most of your songs have so much Christianese language, I think he has a hard time going, like, ‘Can I sing that? Like, I’m not there yet,’” he said.

With all due respect, worship was never intended to cater to unbelievers. Worship is not a seeker-sensitive strategy, it is the outpouring of the heart to God alone. It is for His glory, not our comfort. The throne room of heaven is not shaped by what “Bubba” can comprehend, and neither should the worship by the church be diluted for the sake of cultural relevance. “Holy, holy, holy” is not just a lyric; it is a divine declaration that echoes from Isaiah to Revelation, reverent,

eternal and beyond human critique.

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Lake defended his approach by suggesting his song Hard Fought Hallelujah could help bridge the theological gap.

“Hopefully that’s what some of my music can continue to do,” he said, referring to helping people “find themselves” in the song. But the goal of worship isn’t for us to find ourselves, it’s for us to find God, to adore Him, to fix our eyes on Jesus.

Keith Getty, in a 2019 interview with The Christian Post, warned that modern worship music too often prioritizes cultural relevance over spiritual truth.

“I believe that the modern worship movement is a movement for cultural relevance. It’s a de-Christianizing of God’s people. It’s utterly dangerous,” he said.

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Getty’s words now echo with even greater clarity.

Brandon Lake is a gifted artist with immense influence in the church. That’s precisely why it is so painful to hear him speak as though the language of Scripture, the same language sung before the throne of God, is a problem to be fixed. Pray that he is surrounded by mature, biblically grounded believers who will lovingly help him see the danger in this line of thinking. Because in the end, if the words of heaven aren’t good enough for our praise, then we are singing to someone other than God.

Let us never forget: Worship is not about us. It is not about “Bubba.” It is about the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is

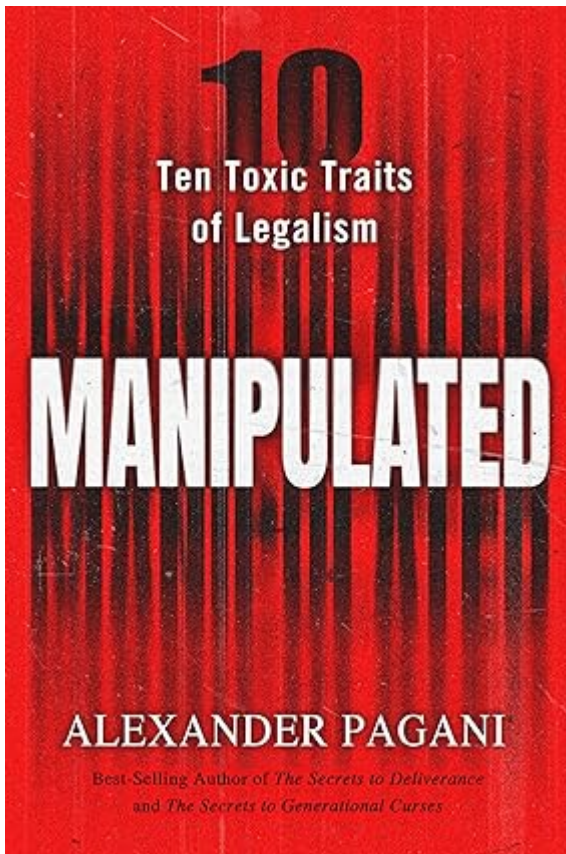
and is to come. May our songs reflect that eternal truth boldly, unapologetically and forever.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

3 Powerful Keys to Victory in Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare continues to trend in modern ministry circles, [but Alexander Pagani says](#) what many call deliverance ministry today is often missing its foundation. During Media Day 2025 presented by Charisma Media, the deliverance pastor and author explained what believers need to understand and how they can walk in victory.

“Deliverance is not a power encounter. It’s a truth encounter,” Pagani said. “The number one or primary way to have effective spiritual warfare is you got to be submitted into the word. The word is sharper than any two-edged sword.”



[Pre-order Alexander Pagani's Newest Book Manipulated on Amazon.com!](#)

Pagani laid out three specific keys to effective spiritual warfare that all believers can apply immediately:

1. Be Grounded in Scripture

“The first practical step for any Christian to engage in spiritual warfare is they need to be literally grounded in scripture,” Pagani said. He emphasized that the Bible is not just a reference book, but a weapon. “Scripture has to be the primary thing.”

2. Submit to God in Every Area

Quoting James 4:7, Pagani said, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and then he would do what? He’d flee.” Submission, he explained, is more than obedience—it’s surrender. “We’re submitting to the Word of God. We’re

submitting also to the spirit of God. And we're submitting to our relationship with the Holy Spirit as well."

3. Stay Connected to the Body of Christ

Pagani used a vivid analogy: "Being part of a herd... there's safety in numbers." He pointed to James again: "'Confess your faults to one another.' And he starts talking about things about spiritual warfare and then prayer." Fellowship, whether in a local church or a group of believers, is critical. "That can be found within the context of fellowshiping... where two or three are gathered."

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[*As spiritual deception increases,*](#) Pagani also warned about the growing influence of artificial intelligence and digital content in shaping faith. He urged believers not to fear the advancement of technology but to remain dependent on the Holy Spirit for discernment.

"This is where the person in the role of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is the revealer of that which is hidden," he said. "If the church would emphasize and press in in their relationship with Holy Spirit... it will be hard for us to get deceived."

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Instead of being driven by emotionalism or culture, Pagani called for a return to Scripture-based living empowered by the Spirit: "We don't want to be experience-driven Christians. We want to be Word-driven Christians."

Ultimately, he said, the Holy Spirit will guide believers into truth and bring to remembrance the words of Jesus: “It becomes a little bit harder for the Holy Spirit to guide us if there’s nothing in us to be guided by.”

That is why, according to Pagani, spiritual warfare must begin with truth, not theatrics.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

God Is Calling Watchmen: Why Every Believer Must Rise and Stand in the Gap

As cities across the world face spiritual decay and moral confusion, minister and author Micah Wood believes God is issuing a prophetic call for believers to rise as watchmen—[vigilant intercessors burdened with heaven’s agenda](#).

In a recent episode of Joni Table Talk on Daystar Television, Wood shared insights from his book *Or Cities Will Be No More*, detailing a divine encounter that launched him into a sobering revelation about God’s heart for cities and the urgent need for spiritual accountability.

“God is looking for watchmen or cities will be no more,” Wood declared, recounting a dream where a holy whirlwind interrupted a church service and delivered this message through him. “I’m seeing in my mind’s eye, men and women of God, taking spiritual responsibilities for cities in the place of intercession.”

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But what does it truly mean to be a watchman?

Wood drew a sharp contrast between genuine watchmen and what he calls spiritual “watchdogs.”

He explained, “What do watchdogs do? They make a lot of noise about what they see. But they don’t give any counsel about what to do about it.” The difference, he emphasized, lies in the source of revelation. “Way too often as Christian leaders, we make a lot of noise about what we see. But it’s not releasing the counsel of the Lord that brings repentance.”

A watchman, on the other hand, operates from a place of intimacy with God. “As watchmen... we have to be rooted in the counsel of the Lord. Not our own understanding of the way things are working around us,” he said.

This calling is not reserved for pastors or prophets alone. Wood made it clear: “There is a watchman dynamic that God gives to every single one of us. And I say that because in Mark 13:37, Jesus says this to His disciples: [‘What I say to you, I say to all, watch.’”](#)

The whirlwind in his dream, Wood believes, symbolizes the disruptive love of God. “The heart of God is forceful. The heart of God is disruptive... but ultimately, it’s affectionate behind it.” Citing Ezekiel’s vision of a burning whirlwind filled with the color amber, he added, “I believe the heart of God is a burning amber heart. It is filled with passion, and it is filled with love.”

This divine whirlwind, Wood warned, must not be experienced

and then ignored. “They encountered the whirlwind, but they didn’t really allow themselves to be interrupted by the message... They experienced God, but they didn’t embrace the call that God gave them.”

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His message is one of deep hope and serious responsibility. “We are a people of Scripture, we are a people of hope. Hope is the simple belief that things can change. So if we will take that hope and take it into the place of prayer, things will begin to shift in our cities and in our nation.”

The charge is practical. “Do we see ourselves as just living in cities without any sort of responsibility attached? Or do we see ourselves as living on assignment from God?” he asked. That assignment includes prayer for families, communities and cities. “When we begin to think as people of responsibility, I think that’s the first step to being watchmen for the places God has called [us] to be.”

Even moments as ordinary as a daily coffee run can become divine appointments. “I’m showing up to a coffee shop, not just to get coffee, but to be a watchman,” Wood said.

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He closed the broadcast with this powerful reminder: “Not only do our prayers matter, the absence of our prayers matter.” Echoing Ezekiel 22:30, he warned, “God says, ‘I sought for a man among them who would build up the hedge and stand in the gap before Me for the land so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one.’”

Today, the call is clear. God is looking for those who will watch, pray and stand in the gap.

“Are you praying for your city?” host Joni Lamb asked. “He has placed you in your city, and your nation to be a watchman.”

Now more than ever, the church must rise, not to shout, but to intercede.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Skeptical Doctor Stunned After Blind Son Miraculously Healed

Dr. Pamela Pyle began her medical career in 1989 with no faith in God and no expectation that the supernatural could ever intersect with science. But decades later, she stands as a witness to something that defied every clinical explanation: [the miraculous healing of her blind son.](#)

“Beginning my practice in medicine ... I saw so many things – acute cases, tragedies, accidents – that I didn’t have a solution for,” Pyle told CBN News. “As a physician, it was discouraging, especially as a young physician. I had some really tragic cases early on.”

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But her world began to change when her husband had a near-death experience and encountered the reality of eternity. While she initially rejected the transformation he underwent, suspecting brain trauma, he was unfazed. “When he recovered enough to be able to kind of relate this experience to me, and

he was this transformed person, I wasn't very happy," she said. "I was so ... sure that he'd had some kind of neurologic event due to low blood flow." Yet all the neurological tests came back normal.

Still skeptical, Pyle watched her husband pray fervently for her soul. Then the unthinkable happened. Their infant son, who had been diagnosed as blind, began to see.

"He had nystagmus, which is that wandering of the eyes because there's nothing to focus on, and we just thought he was a really attentive watching everything," Pyle explained. "It was a really hard experience for a good friend who was our pediatrician having to tell us that he was blind."

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Everything changed one Sunday after a church service when the congregation prayed over their family. "He was changing his diaper ... and wearing a tie and had stripes on it. And when he threw the tie over his shoulder, our son with his little wobbly head looked at it," Pyle recalled. "It was unreal."

Doctors couldn't explain the sudden ability of their son to focus and track objects. "As a non-believer then, I'm like, 'Well ... there's a medical explanation for this,' which, it wasn't even until it was much later that [I] look back and go, ['Well, it had to have been a miracle.'](#) The doctors, they didn't have an explanation for it."

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That miracle, wrapped in prayer and wrapped around the life of a child, became the breakthrough that softened Pyle's heart. She eventually came to Christ and now shares her story boldly as both a physician and a believer.

For those still waiting on their own miracle, Pyle's journey serves as a reminder that God is not finished yet. As she testifies, sometimes the impossible doesn't just change your life—it saves your soul.

Let your prayers continue to rise, because miracles still happen today.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Scientists Astounded: DNA Links All Humans to Biblical Adam and Eve

The Bible has never needed modern science to validate its truth—but it's always refreshing when archaeology and biology catch up to Scripture. The story of Adam and Eve in Genesis is not metaphorical, but historical. And once again, new discoveries are pointing to the reliability of God's Word from the very beginning.

A recent report highlighted by Express explores the growing body of evidence [supporting the existence of a literal Adam and Eve.](#)

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Researchers note how the Bible describes Eden as a real geographical place, with a river splitting into four—the Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates. Two of those rivers still flow today, through Iraq, offering physical markers to what Genesis mapped out thousands of years ago.

Biblical archaeologist Professor Eric Cline observed, “This makes some sense from a textual point of view, because not only does the biblical account say that the garden lay ‘in the east,’ meaning to the east of Israel, but it also mentions the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in connection with the Garden of Eden.” That area, ancient Mesopotamia, is also known as the cradle of civilization, where the first domestication of animals and plants took place. In other words, Eden wasn’t some dreamland—it was a place on Earth.

But it doesn’t stop there. Science now acknowledges that all humans share DNA from a single female ancestor—coined “Mitochondrial Eve”—and all men from a single “Y-chromosome Adam.” While not all scientists agree on the timing or relationships, the fact remains: humanity is genetically connected to a single lineage.

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Dr. Joshua Swamidass noted, “Many individuals are each individually ancestors of ‘all the living.’” He further explained that this ancestral connection could apply to a specific couple—“referred to as Adam and Eve in Scripture”—from whom all people alive today descend.

These revelations echo other discoveries [that continue to](#)

[affirm biblical history](#), such as the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed a blind man (John 9), now confirmed by archaeological excavation in Jerusalem. And some researchers believe the remains of Noah's Ark have been located at the Durupinar site near Mt. Ararat, adding another layer of support to the early chapters of Genesis.

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This isn't some mere coincidence, it's confirmation.

As Scripture says in Romans 1:20, "The invisible things about Him—His eternal power and deity—have been clearly seen since the creation of the world and are understood by the things that are made, so that they are without excuse."

Truth doesn't erode under scrutiny, it shines brighter. And history continues to prove that God's Word was right from the start.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Revival Breaks Out in the Midst of War and Chaos

As the war in Ukraine rages on, another fire is spreading through the nation—one not fueled by missiles or politics, but by the Holy Spirit.

Ukrainian evangelist David Karcha gave a stirring testimony to this reality during the European Congress on Evangelism in Berlin, declaring, "In a time of peace, the gospel is powerful. But in a time of war, it is unstoppable," as

reported by Christian International Daily.

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While the secular world would expect persecution to silence the church, Karcha explained how the opposite has occurred. “Hundreds of thousands of people have walked through [the doors of Ukrainian churches](#) and encountered the love and care of God,” he said, noting that in 2023 alone, “thousands of people publicly professed their faith through baptism.”

From the trenches to trauma centers, Ukrainian churches are ministering as chaplains and caretakers, bringing the hope of Christ to those shattered by war. “We are there for the widows of fallen soldiers and for the orphans whose mothers are never coming home,” Karcha said. “We minister to those who have lost everything... bodies and souls scarred by unspeakable fragments and torture.”

The story of Viktor, a middle-aged refugee who came to Karcha’s church carrying a lifetime of pain, underscores the miraculous work happening amid devastation. “He cried. He wept. And he was born again, right in front of our eyes,” Karcha testified.

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This is far more than humanitarian aid, [it is the spark of revival igniting amidst the ashes.](#)

The Bible tells us to expect persecution. In 2 Timothy 3:12, Paul writes, “Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in

Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” But it also reminds us that God uses suffering to refine and expand His Kingdom. Romans 5:3-4 says, “We glory in tribulations... knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

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What’s happening in Ukraine is not only a testimony of endurance, but of supernatural multiplication. “God is teaching us to listen and to see where he is already at work,” Karcha said. “He’s stirring suffering into testimony, fear into faith, and small acts of love into seeds for his kingdom.”

In Karcha’s own words: “Let history bow down to the cross.”

In the world’s eyes, Ukraine may be a story of war. But in God’s eyes, it is a story of awakening.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

End Times Warning: Prophecies Unfold as the Temple Mount Shakes

Tom Hughes welcomed Israeli political analyst and Bible Bloc Party founder Avi Lipkin to Hope for Our Times, delivering a prophetic and sobering message about Israel’s role in the last days and [the increasing dangers facing Jews and Christians alike.](#)

The conversation, deeply rooted in biblical prophecy, served as a warning to the church: now is the time to discern the signs, align with God's covenant people and prepare for what is coming.

“God Has a Plan”: October 7 and Prophetic Fulfillment

Lipkin described the horrors of Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists launched a surprise attack on Israel, as a catalytic fulfillment of prophecy. “We didn’t even want this war,” he said, “but God has His own plan.”

“God had a plan to terminate Hamas,” Lipkin continued, stressing that even in Israel’s darkest moments, God’s sovereignty prevails. “And Hamas is getting terminated.”

Referencing Ezekiel 36 and God’s covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Hughes declared, “God will fulfill His purpose. He will fulfill His role. He says, ‘My name is on that covenant that I made.’”

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A New Holocaust? Warning to American Jews and Christians

Lipkin warned that what began with the atrocities of October 7, will not end in the Middle East. “There are thousands of these people who illegally gained entry into the United States under Biden,” he said, describing them as jihadis ready to strike.

He added, “America is under imminent threat of attack from the jihadis... and they are backed by the Chinese and they are backed by the Russians. I pray for America. I’m here now trying to spread the warning.”

The most alarming warning Lipkin gave was about a second Holocaust—this time in the U.S.

“You are like deer on the highway with your eyes being blinded,” he said about American Jews. “It breaks my heart. By the way, synagogues never invite me to speak. The only people who invite me to speak are you guys.”

Israel: The Prophetic Clock

[The prophetic implications of Israel's existence](#) and the current war cannot be ignored.

“If you believe in God and you believe in the Bible, then you know that His word is true,” Lipkin said. “And you’re not going to lose any sleep about it at night because everything God says happens.”

“We are at a time in history,” Lipkin added, “where so much prophecy is being fulfilled right now. Things that your people might have been alive 2,000 or 4,000 years ago and they didn’t see it—and now we are seeing everything, all the pieces of the puzzle coming together.”

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Christians Must Discern the Times

The message to Christians was clear: the church must wake up to the prophetic reality unfolding. Lipkin stated bluntly, “Christians are part of Israel. They’re not Jewish, but they’re part of the tree of Israel.”

He condemned replacement theology, saying, “Israel is the olive tree. The Jews are the roots and the Christians are the branches. Anybody who tries to kill the roots kills the

branches.”

Hughes echoed the urgency: “I’m warning Christians right now. You better be prepared... I think it’s going to come down to the wire.”

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Final Word: God Is on the Throne

Despite the dire warnings, the tone ended with hope and clarity.

“It’s good to be on the winning side,” Lipkin said. “And part of the miracles will be that the Jews and the Christians will reconcile and be together. Anybody who opts out, that’s their own problem. But those Christians and Jews who opt to be together—this is a miracle after 2,000 years.”

As Avi Lipkin and Tom Hughes made clear, now is the time to watch, pray and prepare. Israel is not just another nation—it is the epicenter of God’s end times plan.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,” Hughes concluded. “That is God’s prayer request.”

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Transhumanism Is Not the Future, It’s the Prophetic

Warning We Were Told to Watch For

As artificial intelligence and biotechnology [push the boundaries of what it means to be human](#), many are cheering these developments as breakthroughs for humanity. But prophecy experts like Josh Peck are sounding the alarm—and their warning echoes straight from the words of Jesus Christ.

During a recent appearance on Prophecy Watchers, Peck laid out the disturbing truth behind the global push toward transhumanism. This movement, which seeks to enhance or “elevate” humanity through technology, may look like progress on the surface—but underneath, it bears a chilling resemblance to the days of Noah.

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Peck reminded viewers that Jesus Himself warned in Luke 17 and Matthew 24 that the end times would be “as it was in the days of Noah.” According to Peck, that era wasn’t just marked by immorality—it was marked by supernatural chaos and genetic corruption.

“We’re seeing in many ways a return to what... was happening in the days of Noah,” Peck said. “Back then it was from fallen angels mating with humans, creating Nephilim... They sinned against the animals and the birds and everything basically.”

Today, Peck warns, this is being replayed through modern technology. “A lot of what we’re seeing is how technology is

ramping up so much that we're recreating some of the conditions of the days of Noah," he said. "Specifically in terms of hybrids."

Peck cited recent developments in animal hybridization—like genetically-engineered woolly mice and direwolf hybrids. "This is a new species that as far as we can tell... has never been on the earth before. It's brand new. God did not create it," Peck warned. "I don't believe that God honors this stuff."

But even more alarming is [the application of this technology to humans](#). "Transhumanists themselves will even use those terms and say that we are trying to elevate humans into something that's not human," Peck said. "They want to cure death through technology. They're very open. This isn't a secret."

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Peck explained that technologies like CRISPR-Cas9 and AI are being used to alter DNA and enhance the human body. But it comes at a great spiritual cost.

"There's nothing wrong with restoration... as long as it doesn't change genetics to make you something that's not human," Peck emphasized. "Jesus came to represent humanity. So let's say if the Antichrist was maybe a modern Nephilim—maybe part angel, part human—and the mark is something genetically that changes what a human being is, that would make sense why they're not eligible for redemption."

This is the root of the prophetic danger. Peck warned that Christians may be deceived if they are not grounded in Scripture and alert to what is really happening.

"If Christians don't know any better, they might be sold on the idea that this is just medicine," he said. "That's where

the deception is.”

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As believers, we cannot afford to ignore the signs of the times. Jesus didn't warn us to speculate—He told us to watch. “What I say to you, I say to everybody—watch,” said Peck, quoting Mark 13:37. “That's why we're the prophecy watchers.”

The days ahead may become darker, more deceptive and increasingly difficult to discern. But there is always hope. Hope is found in knowing the Word of God, having faith in Jesus Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

“Love for God, love for each other... that's really one of the biggest weapons, if not the biggest weapon, that we have,” Peck concluded. “Because the enemy hates love. But God is love.”

Remember, even as the world is chasing after technological immortality, it is only through Christ Jesus that we find true eternal life.

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Revival and Worship Shuts Down Hollywood Boulevard

In a stunning display of public faith, hundreds of worshipers took over Hollywood Boulevard [for a spontaneous revival](#), lifting up the name of Jesus in one of the world's most iconic and secular locations.

Ross Johnston, one of the organizers of the event, shared that this is the third consecutive year believers have gathered on the boulevard, though this time without a city permit. “Thousands of people came. And the city told us it was the first time in history that a Christian organization has shut down the boulevard,” he said.

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Despite past cooperation with city officials, Johnston revealed they were denied a permit this year – just one week before the event.

“The following weekend after our event, they had given a permit to the Pride Festival, the LGBTQ community,” Johnston said. “However, they denied our permit.” That denial didn’t stop them. “We walked into the street and started to worship, pray and praise God,” he said. “It was absolutely incredible. I’ve never seen anything like that.”

Volunteers safely redirected traffic and coordinated movements at major intersections to create a space for praise. “We had about two to 300 volunteers, which is insane. Praise God for all of them,” Johnston added.

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The worship was not just public – it was deeply personal. Johnston shared his own journey of transformation to underscore the sincerity behind the event. “I was born by artificial insemination. I grew up in a lesbian household with two moms and had never been to church my entire life. So when

I encountered Jesus... I encountered the man.”

Framing the event [as both a spiritual act and a stand for constitutional rights](#), Johnston said, “As Americans, we live in the United States of America. We have the amazing Bill of Rights... every person who is an American citizen has the right legally to actually express the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion.”

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For Johnston and many others, the event was not a protest, but a declaration – a revival in action. “What happens when a real revival breaks out? What happens when real lost people by the thousands on Hollywood Boulevard... start encountering the presence of God?” he asked. “What a privilege and what a time to be alive.”

Johnston left believers with a bold message: “All the prayers for revival and reformation are not coming. They are here.”

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Pentecost: The Day God Gave Two of His Greatest Gifts

On the biblical calendar, [Pentecost—known in Hebrew as Shavuot](#)—is not only the celebration of the wheat harvest or the remembrance of Mount Sinai.

According to Rabbi Jason Sobel, it marks the extraordinary moment when “God gave two of His greatest presents on this

day. Word and Spirit. Torah and Spirit.”

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In a recent teaching, Sobel explained that Pentecost connects both covenants: “On the 50th day, two important events happened. One, you know it from Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit was poured out on that day—the birth of the church. Actually, it was the birth of the Jewish ecclesia.” But he also noted, “on this day on the first Shavuot in history, what happened 50 days after Israel left Egypt? God comes down on Mount Sinai and He gives the Ten Commandments.”

For Sobel, the event in Acts 2 was more than the church’s beginning, it was a reenactment of Sinai.

“Acts chapter 2 is actually a second Sinai,” he said. “Just like there was lightning, just like there was thunder, just like there was fire... even the tongues of fire that were over their head connect back to Mount Sinai.”

Sobel emphasized the spiritual richness of the silence that accompanied God’s voice at Sinai: “The birds did not chirp. A dog did not bark. The waves in the ocean... did not make a sound. The entire world was silent.” He added, “Silence and stillness is key to being able to hear the voice of God.”

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He also highlighted the deep symbolism of the number 50.

“Fifty is the number of freedom,” he said. “It’s the jubilee.”

He explained that the giving of the Torah and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit both represent the liberation of God's people—"we have freedom from the word and freedom by the spirit. All connected to the number 50."

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Most powerfully, Sobel reminded listeners that [Pentecost calls believers](#) to receive anew what God has already given. "It is called the giving of the Torah. It is not called the receiving of the Torah. Why? Because we have to make the decision every day to receive God's Word and to receive God's Spirit anew."

For a deeper study, Sobel encouraged reading Exodus 19–20 and Acts 2 side-by-side, saying, "Allow God to speak through you and empower you to change the world."

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