

20,000 Letters of Support? The Controversy Surrounding 'Woke Bishop's' Sermon

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington has long been a voice for the progressive left, but her latest exploits reveal just [how far she has strayed from biblical truth.](#)

Budde, who infamously rebuked President Donald Trump the day after his inauguration in a sermon that was more political than spiritual, continues to champion leftist causes over Christian doctrine. Now, she is basking in the attention of her supposed supporters, claiming she has received over 20,000 letters of encouragement following her latest attacks on Trump and conservative values.

Budde recently posted a video on Facebook thanking her supporters, gushing about the letters, phone calls, and even gifts she has received. "I cannot tell you how much it has meant to me to receive the letters, phone calls, notes, gifts and expressions of gratitude, support and encouragement," she stated. She went on to paint herself as a courageous figure leading a noble movement, urging her followers to "stand together" and "be brave."

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This spectacle of self-congratulation raises serious questions: Who exactly are these alleged supporters? And why does she feel the need to highlight the volume of responses as if popularity equates to righteousness?

The Episcopal Church, which has seen dramatic membership decline in recent years, has increasingly embraced progressive

activism to remain relevant. Budde's letter-writing fanfare appears to be a calculated move to further entrench her as a darling of the leftist religious establishment. Rather than standing firm on biblical principles, she positions herself as a crusader for open borders, transgender ideology and government welfare programs—all while rebuking conservative policies as heartless and unchristian.

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One of the most glaring contradictions in her ministry is the Episcopal Migration Ministries, which took in \$53 million in federal funds in 2024 alone to resettle 3,600 individuals. While Budde preaches compassion and mercy, her church's refugee resettlement arm benefits directly from government money, with a structure designed to maximize financial gain. Programs like "Preferred Communities" and "Matching Grant" make EMM's efforts a lucrative endeavor, while the Episcopal Church even takes a cut from refugee travel loan repayments. This raises significant concerns about conflicts of interest, but Budde remains silent on these inconvenient truths.

President Trump, for his part, [wasted no time in exposing Budde's duplicity.](#) After she called on him to "have mercy" on illegal immigrants and refugees, Trump fired back, demanding an apology and rightly calling her out as a "Radical Left hardline Trump hater." He further highlighted her failure to address the real consequences of unchecked migration, including violent crime committed by illegal migrants—an issue that Budde and her progressive allies conveniently ignore.

Budde's brand of Christianity has become little more than a

political movement draped in religious language.

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Pastor or Conman? Church Leader Sentenced for \$500K Fraud Scheme

Another [scandal involving a church leader has made headlines](#), and it's a sobering reminder of the need for integrity in Christian leadership.

Former Assemblies of God pastor Brian Keith Herring has been sentenced to 17 years of probation, 800 hours of community service, and ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to stealing over \$500,000 from Harrison Faith Church in Arkansas.

As reported by "The Christian Post," Herring, who was also a former city councilman, was accused of stealing nearly \$525,000 in 2021. Court records show that an audit revealed he had taken funds through credit card purchases and other transactions. When investigators initially tried to contact him, his home was empty and listed for sale.

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What's concerning is how Herring framed his downfall. Instead of taking responsibility, he blamed a former friend, saying, "I remember when it all changed. I remember it was a board meeting... I had a close friend... that had some sin in his life, and I sat down and I said, 'We need to talk about some things.'" He alleged that this friend later turned on him and sought to have him removed from leadership.

Herring insisted that the accusations were unfair, claiming, "They never called me. They never asked my side of things... We were destroyed." He painted a picture of himself as the victim, even as financial evidence stacked up against him.

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When stories like this surface, it's easy to feel disillusioned. Pastors are supposed to be shepherds of the flock, [not wolves in disguise](#). This is why Scripture is clear that those in leadership are held to a higher standard. James 3:1 warns, "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."

At the same time, it's important to remember that church leaders are still human. They are not above temptation, and they need our prayers just as much as our accountability.

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Fake or Faithful? 5 Clear Signs of a True Prophet

In a time when the prophetic movement has seen its fair share of controversy and disappointment, many believers are left asking: Who can we trust?

It's a valid question. After years of hit-or-miss prophecies, public failures and even deception, it's easy to feel jaded. But before we throw the baby out with the bathwater, we should remember that [God is still raising up true prophetic voices in the earth today.](#)

Jeremiah Johnson, a well-known prophetic minister, recently spoke about this very issue, laying out five clear indicators of prophets we should listen to.

"My heart right now," he says, "is that even though there's been a lot of exposure, even though there's been a lot of heartbreak in the prophetic movement, I want to assure you that God is still raising up true prophets."

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So, how do we recognize them?

1. They Carry a Burden for the Church

True prophets aren't in the business of personal fame or feel-good messages. They are "burden bearers" who call the church

to prayer, repentance, holiness and the fear of the Lord. “Prophets build altars in the Earth today,” Johnson says. “When you get around real prophets, you’re stirred to pray, to consecrate yourself.” If a so-called prophet’s message is all about hype and lacks a call to holiness, be cautious.

2. They Strengthen the Church and Make Disciples

Prophets are not fortune tellers predicting the future. Their primary role is to strengthen the body of Christ. “In Acts 15:32, prophets are operating in the church, giving a lengthy message and strengthening the body of Christ,” Johnson points out. He warns against voices who operate in isolation, only building online platforms without accountability. “Some of the healthiest and safest prophets I know are rooted in a local community, [strengthening the body.](#)”

3. They Teach People to Hear God for Themselves

A true prophet does not create an unhealthy dependence on their words. Instead, they empower others to hear God’s voice. “Steer away from prophets who create an ungodly dependence upon their voice,” Johnson warns. He reminds us that in the Old Testament, prophets were the only way people heard from God. But under the New Covenant, Jesus is our Mediator. “The blood of the New Covenant is that we may all know the Lord, from the least to the greatest.”

4. They Prepare the Church for Christ's Return

The most important reality a prophet should point to is eternity. Johnson challenges believers: "If Jesus were to come back tonight, are you certain where you would spend eternity?" Prophets should be calling people not just to personal breakthroughs but to readiness for the second coming of Christ. "I recommend prophets who preach on the Judgment Seat of Christ, who are preparing people for eternity."

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5. They Live with Integrity and Love Their Families

It's easy to be impressed by someone's prophetic accuracy, but what about their character?

"In Matthew 7, they'll say, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name,' and He will say, 'I never knew you.'" Johnson emphasizes that integrity is more important than gifting. "Look at their marriage. Do they love their spouse? Are their kids healthy?" If a prophet is reckless in their personal life, their words—no matter how accurate—should not be trusted.

At the end of the day, we don't need to fear the prophetic, but we do need discernment.

"The need for authentic, healthy prophets has never been greater," Johnson says. It's time to return to purity, accountability and a prophetic movement that actually look like Jesus.

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China Is ‘Ready for War’: Are We Witnessing the Wars and Rumors of War?

The world just took a step closer to a global showdown.

[**China has openly declared it is “ready for war”**](#) with the United States, a chilling statement that echoes across newsrooms worldwide. This isn’t just political bluster—it’s a direct challenge to American power, and one that could have prophetic implications.

Reports from Reuters, “The New York Times,” “The Washington Post” and the BBC outline the rapid escalation. It started with President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariff increases on Chinese goods, targeting Beijing’s role in the fentanyl crisis. In response, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian didn’t mince words: “If the United States persists in waging a tariff war, a trade war, or any other kind of war, the Chinese side will fight them to the bitter end.”

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China’s retaliation to Trump administration tariffs was swift. As Reuters detailed, Beijing slapped tariffs on American

agricultural exports, aiming straight at Trump's political strongholds. But this is more than a trade war—it's a precursor to something far worse. "The Washington Post" pointed out that China has also blacklisted 25 U.S. firms and is ramping up its military might, including building a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to rival America's naval dominance.

If history tells us anything, economic battles often foreshadow military ones. China has been flexing its muscles for years, conducting live-fire drills near Australia, clashing with the Philippine Coast Guard and pressuring Taiwan. Jinping's ambitions for Taiwan aren't a secret, and with a 7.2% increase in defense spending this year alone, Beijing is preparing for a confrontation.

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The Pentagon is taking notice. "The Washington Post" reported that U.S. military strategy has shifted from counterterrorism to "great power competition." That means fewer small-scale conflicts and more focus on deterring rivals like China and Russia with high-tech weaponry. But even with all of America's military advantages, a war with China would be unlike anything we've faced before. As a defense analyst told the BBC, "This isn't just saber-rattling; it's a signal of intent backed by capability."

A Biblical Perspective on the

Coming Storm

[For those paying attention to biblical prophecy](#), this moment should not be ignored. Jesus warned of “wars and rumors of wars” in Matthew 24:6, a sign that the world is marching toward the final conflicts of the last days. Revelation speaks of alliances, betrayals and a global order that shifts in dramatic ways before the return of Christ.

China’s aggressive stance isn’t just about trade or Taiwan—it’s about power, dominance and a coming reckoning that could reshape the world.

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End-Times Prophecy Unfolding: Is Damascus on the Brink of Destruction?

The Middle East is once again on the edge of a major conflict, and this time, it’s in [one of the most prophetically significant cities in the Bible—Damascus](#).

As reported by CBN News, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the IDF to prepare for potential military action in Syria, specifically in a suburb of

Damascus, to protect the Syrian Druze community from a new Islamist regime. While the geopolitical ramifications of this are immense, there is also a deeper, biblical layer to this unfolding crisis.

For those who follow biblical prophecy, any mention of war in Damascus raises an immediate red flag. The book of Isaiah contains one of the most striking predictions about the fate of this ancient city:

“Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap,” (Isa. 17:1).

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This verse has long been viewed as an end-times prophecy, one that suggests the eventual destruction of Damascus as a city. While Damascus is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, [the Bible warns of a future where it will be left uninhabitable.](#)

Could the current military tensions between Israel and Syria be setting the stage for this prophecy to be fulfilled?

What War in Damascus Could Look Like

A direct military confrontation between Israel and Syria in and around Damascus would be no small conflict. Israel possesses one of the most advanced militaries in the world, with superior air capabilities, missile defense systems and intelligence operations. Syria, on the other hand, remains war-torn and divided, with various factions—including Iran-backed militias and terrorist groups like HTS—vying for power. However, Syria does have one thing that could escalate a war rapidly: the backing of Iran and Russian interests in the region.



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If the IDF were to engage in direct military action near Damascus, it could trigger wider involvement from Iran, which has long used Syria as a staging ground for attacks against Israel. In response, Israel would likely retaliate with airstrikes targeting Iranian and Hezbollah forces, a scenario that could pull in other regional players like Turkey and even Russia. The fallout could be catastrophic—not just for Damascus, but for the entire Middle East.

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What Comes Next?

If this military confrontation does escalate, [the future of Damascus would be grim.](#) Isaiah's prophecy foretells the complete destruction of the city, something that has never happened in history. Could a future war between Israel and its enemies in Syria lead to the fulfillment of this ancient warning?

While no one can predict the exact timing of these events, Bible prophecy makes it clear that Damascus will one day be completely destroyed, and that wars in the Middle East will escalate as we approach the end times.

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Golf and the Supernatural: When a Simple Prayer Unleashed a Demon

Spiritual warfare isn't just an ancient concept from the Bible or something that only happens in far-off missionary fields—it's happening here and now, in everyday life. Just ask Pastor Jonathan Pokluda, who came [face-to-face with a demonic manifestation](#) in one of the most unexpected places: a high-end country club in Utah.

What started as a simple moment of prayer quickly escalated into something terrifying.

“He starts coughing and then the coughing goes to growling, and then his arm flies up above his head, and then back, and then around his back, and he hunches over and he just starts convulsing and making these noises,” Pokluda recalls in an interview with “The Christian Post.” This wasn't some third-world exorcism scene—this was a well-dressed man who had just walked off the golf course.

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“I didn't expect that at all. [...] In full transparency, I was scared and praying. It gets bigger and louder, and then it calms down. He calms down and says, ‘In Jesus' name, amen.’ He just looks at me, like, ‘Wow, I didn't expect that.’ I was like, ‘Man, that makes two of us.’”

If that doesn't shake our modern, sanitized view of faith, what will?

Too often, Christians ignore the reality of spiritual warfare, dismissing it as a “fringe topic.” But as Pokluda pointed out, [“If the Bible talks about it this much, we should take it seriously.”](#) In fact, he notes that Scripture speaks more about spiritual warfare than it does about marriage. That should wake us up.

The enemy’s tactics aren’t always as dramatic as full-on possession. Often, they’re subtle—deception, distraction and destruction. “The enemy doesn’t need to make us sin outright; he just needs to keep us busy, distracted and consumed with lesser things,” Pokluda warns. And let’s be honest: how often do we pick up our Bibles only to be derailed by a buzzing phone or a social media scroll session?

But make no mistake—whether through distraction or outright attacks, Satan is after us. “You have an enemy,” Pokluda said. “He hates you. He hates your family. He hates your kids before they’re born.” If that doesn’t send a chill down your spine, nothing will.

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The Bible warns us repeatedly that Satan is prowling like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (see 1 Peter 5:8). In Ephesians 6, Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God, because we aren’t wrestling against flesh and blood, but against rulers, authorities and spiritual forces of evil. This battle isn’t optional—it’s happening whether we acknowledge it or not.

So, what can we do? The same thing Pokluda did when faced with

demonic oppression: pray. Stand firm in the Word. Live righteously.

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Trump Declares a Golden Age for America, Can Faith Make It Reality?

President Donald Trump's first Capitol Address [was nothing short of historic.](#)

From the moment he stepped up to the podium it was clear that this was not going to be just another speech, it was a declaration of what he envisions as the dawn of a new era in America.

“Six weeks ago, I stood beneath the dome of this Capitol and proclaimed the dawn of the golden age of America,” Trump boldly recalled. “From that moment on, it has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action to usher in the greatest and most successful era in the history of our country.” And action indeed—Trump has signed 81 executive orders in just 43 days, tackling everything from government corruption to restoring free speech and reaffirming America's core values.

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One of the most notable announcements of the night was the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), headed by none other than Elon Musk. “Thank you, Elon. He’s working very hard,” Trump acknowledged, highlighting the administration’s commitment to cutting waste and fraud, which he noted has cost the American people over \$500 billion annually.

Of course, the president’s stance on culture and values took center stage. He reaffirmed, “There are only two genders, male and female,” while defending the ban on transgender athletes in women’s sports and the criminalization of sex changes for children. He delivered a message to America’s youth: “A message to every child in America is that you are perfect. Exactly the way God made you.” In an era of cultural confusion, Trump’s words were a strong call for clarity and truth.

Immigration, one of the most contentious issues, was addressed with a business-like solution—the introduction of the [“gold card,”](#) allowing successful migrants to purchase a path to U.S. citizenship for \$5 million.

Whether this will be effective remains to be seen, but it signals a shift toward a merit-based approach that prioritizes economic contribution.

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Amid the opposition, the president remained unwavering in his

vision for America's future. "Fellow Americans, get ready for an incredible future," he promised. ["Because the Golden Age of America has only just begun."](#)

The idea of a "Golden Age" is compelling. But is it possible?

The Bible gives us a clear answer: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12). If America is to truly enter an era of greatness, it will not be because of policies alone, but because the nation turns back to God.

As Trump himself declared, "With God's help over the next four years we are going to lead this nation even higher and we are going to forge the freest, most advanced, most dynamic and most dominant civilization ever to exist on the face of this Earth."

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Prophetic Vision: The Outpouring of the Spirit Is Closer Than We Think

In a recent video, [Mike Thompson shared a vision he received](#) on Jan. 31, 2020, during a time of prayer.

As he sought the Lord that day, he heard a phrase in his

spirit: "Tick tock, tick tock, you won't believe the time on the clock." The words caught his attention, but no further explanation came at that moment.

Later, he was drawn into what he describes as a profound spiritual encounter.

Thompson says he saw "a large clock... it was a clock of God, it was His timetable." This was no ordinary timepiece. It extended far beyond seconds and minutes, marking days, years, and even centuries. As he watched, he was pulled into the second hand itself and saw "thousands, maybe millions of second hands," each representing different events in God's plan.

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During the vision, Thompson says he heard the Lord speak: "There are many threads in the fabric of time. Donald Trump's thread will not end yet, but others will." At the time, Trump was facing impeachment, but Thompson took this as confirmation that God's plan for him was not finished. Now, in 2025, he sees that word fulfilled, stating, "We see exactly what the Lord had planned, and it was magnificent."

The vision continued, revealing a global scene. Thompson describes seeing "a globe of the world... rotating, and suddenly faces began to come off of the Earth... faces of people that were young and old, different skin colors, different nationalities, ethnicities from every tribe and from every nation." An angel standing beside him reacted with excitement, saying, "Here they come! Here they come!" Thompson understood this to represent a great spiritual awakening, what he calls

[“the greatest revival that planet Earth had ever experienced numerically.”](#)

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According to Thompson, this was not a vision of the Rapture, but of mass evangelism.

He believes that God is bringing people into His Kingdom in extraordinary numbers. He also says the Lord instructed him to “continue running with the vision... train the eagles... teach My people about Third Heaven Authority.” For Thompson, this means helping believers understand how to operate in the spiritual realm and step into their God-given authority.

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Genesis 6, the Nephilim and the End Times: Are We Repeating History?

In a recent “Prophecy Watchers” interview, host Gary Stearman sat down with Pastor Matt Freeman to discuss one of the most overlooked yet fascinating topics in biblical history—Genesis

6, the fallen angels and their attempt to corrupt mankind. This conversation [dove deep into the implications of the Nephilim](#), the role of the book of Enoch and the ongoing spiritual warfare that believers face today.

Genesis 6: The Forgotten Rebellion

For decades, many churches avoided the topic of Genesis 6, where the Bible describes the “sons of God” taking human wives and producing offspring known as the Nephilim. Freeman pointed out how this was “a real physical rebellion against God to try to corrupt and subvert His plan for redeeming mankind.” The fallen angels sought to create their own version of humanity, disrupting the divine order.

Their ultimate goal? Preventing the Messiah’s arrival.

The consequences were catastrophic. The corruption was so severe that God responded with the Great Flood, wiping out nearly all of mankind except for Noah and his family. As Freeman explains, “These fallen entities [were] trying to have their man in their image instead of how man’s made in God’s image.” It wasn’t just an act of defiance—it was a calculated attempt to alter creation itself.

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The Book of Enoch: History, Not Scripture

One of the more intriguing aspects of the discussion was the book of Enoch, an apocryphal text that sheds additional light on these fallen angels. While the book is referenced in the Bible (most notably in Jude 14-15), it is not considered Scripture. Freeman acknowledged its historical value, [noting that it “sets the stage” for understanding the rebellious](#)

[angels](#), but he emphasized that it should not be treated as divinely inspired Scripture.

The book of Enoch describes these fallen angels descending to Earth and wreaking havoc, a story that aligns with Genesis 6. Jude's reference to Enoch's prophecy highlights how God will "execute judgment upon all"—a reminder that no rebellion against Him goes unpunished.

The Fight Continues

Freeman and Stearman also connected the Genesis 6 events to modern spiritual warfare. Though the angels who sinned in Genesis 6 are now "in chains of darkness" (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4), Satan and other fallen angels are still active. Freeman pointed to Ephesians 6:12, where Paul warns that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world."

The battle may not be as physically visible as it was in Noah's day, but it is no less real. As Freeman warned, "We have an enemy that wants to take us out. Satan roams around as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." [This means believers must be spiritually equipped:](#)

- **Know the Word of God** – "The Word of God is our shield of faith... and it's the sword of the Spirit. It's our offensive weapon."
- **Stay in Christian fellowship** – "Forsake not the gathering of yourselves together... even more as you see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:25)

- **Be aware of deception** – The enemy seeks to manipulate and corrupt, just as he did in Genesis 6.

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The End Times and What's Coming

Freeman and Stearman also discussed how these ancient events tie into the end times. Freeman referenced Daniel 12:4, which describes an increase in knowledge in the last days. Advances in AI, genetic modification and other modern technologies parallel the corruption of humanity in Genesis 6.

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Steve Deace's 'Nefarious' Sparks Spiritual Battle, Is This the Most Controversial Christian Film Ever?

Steve Deace never set out to write a book about a demonic takeover of America, but as he told "The Christian Post,"

“inspiration struck me out of nowhere, and I just had to follow where it led.”

That inspiration has since turned into a [best-selling novel, a hit film and now a highly anticipated sequel, “Nefarious 2.”](#)

What makes “Nefarious” so compelling is its unapologetic confrontation with real evil. Unlike typical horror films that rely on cheap scares, the movie forces audiences to reckon with the supernatural battle raging all around us. “We didn’t want to make a cheesy faith-based film,” Deace explained. “We wanted to confront real evil in a way that forces people to think.”

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And confront it they did. The production of [“Nefarious” faced an unusual amount of resistance](#)—both spiritual and physical.

Deace himself nearly died from a severe MRSA infection on the day of the film’s premiere. Crew members suffered car accidents and even a Catholic priest involved in the production required emergency surgery.

These unsettling occurrences only reinforced Deace’s belief that the film was exposing something the enemy did not want revealed. “If the enemy didn’t want this movie made, that just means we were onto something,” he said.

Despite this opposition, “Nefarious” resonated deeply with audiences, spending weeks as a top-selling film on Amazon Prime and drawing both believers and skeptics alike.

Deace shared that he has received countless messages from

people who found their way back to faith after watching the film. “I didn’t think I could get my son back in church. I didn’t think I’d get my prodigal daughter to come back, and your movie helped me bridge a divide,” he recalled hearing from viewers.

The upcoming sequel, [“Nefarious 2,” will dive even deeper into spiritual warfare,](#) exploring the impossibility of neutrality in the battle between good and evil. Deace warned that the protagonist, Dr. James Martin, will learn firsthand that “there’s only two sides to the war.” Neutrality, as “Nefarious” reveals, is a dangerous illusion.

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As reported by “The Christian Post,” Deace sees this project as more than just entertainment; it’s a mission. “We have to stop playing nice and start confronting people with reality.” In a culture that increasingly rejects the concept of sin and spiritual warfare, ‘Nefarious’ serves as a much-needed wake-up call.

For Christians, the battle against darkness is not theoretical—it’s real, and it’s relentless.

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