

# Shooting at Christian School Leaves 3 Dead, Several Injured

[A tragic shooting](#) at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, on Monday left three people dead, including a child and the suspected shooter, with several others injured, according to Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes.

The shooting occurred at the nondenominational Christian school, which serves around 390 students from kindergarten through high school. Police have blocked off roads around the school as they continue their investigation.

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“This remains an active and ongoing investigation,” Madison police said in a statement, urging the public to avoid the area. Officers were joined by federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as they worked to process the scene.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers expressed his concern, saying, “We are praying for the kids, educators and entire Abundant Life school community as we await more information and are grateful for the first responders.”

Details on the motive for the attack and the identities of the victims have not yet been released.

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**A Call to Prayer**

As this community begins to work through the devastating loss of life and injuries sustained, let us come together in prayer. [May God bring comfort](#) to the grieving families, healing to those injured and strength to the educators, students and first responders affected by this tragedy. Pray for peace and restoration in the face of such heartbreak.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## Looking Back: 5 Major Prophetic Events of 2024

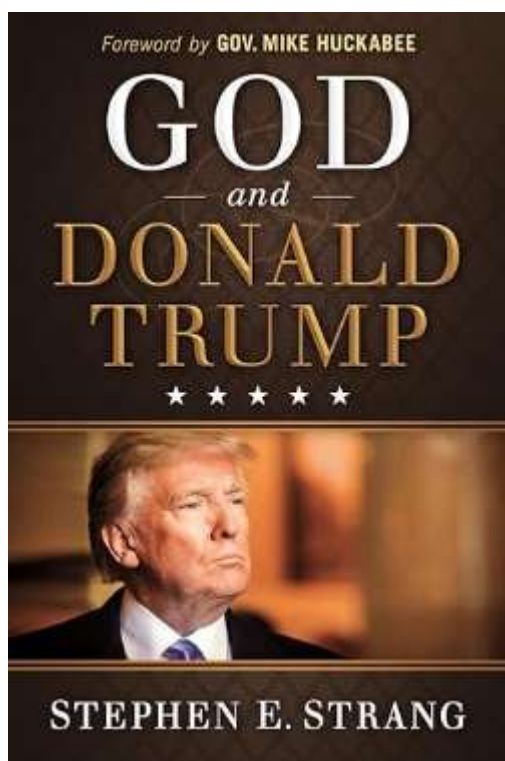
The year 2024 has been a historic and prophetic year that seemed to fly by in the blink of an eye.

No corner of culture was spared the unprecedented wave of events that marked the past year, and massive change has come to not just America, but to the world.

God is moving, and we are seeing the evidence of this all around us. From [college campus revivals](#) breaking out to [the historic reelection of Donald Trump](#) as president of the United States, here is a brief breakdown of major events that took place in 2024.

**1. Donald Trump wins the 2024 presidential election in a landslide.** Donald Trump's win is the biggest political comeback in modern history. As the country has become less moral and lurched toward socialism in recent decades, millions of Americans (including most Bible-believing Christians) have

had enough. We prayed that God would change the downward direction by giving us a leader who would change the course. God answered with a decisive win for Trump, whose life God spared—twice—for such a time as this.



[Order Stephen Strang's bestselling "God and Donald Trump" on Amazon.com today!](#)

There is a spiritual aspect to this election that most in the media ignore. They focus on issues they think swung the election—the economy, the border crisis and foreign policies. But they ignore the fact that millions of us consider abortion murder; that we refuse to allow the ever-growing list of perversions to be crammed down our throats; and that we just resent the ungodly trend toward more government that manifests itself in so many ways.

Those who oppose Trump also oppose what we believers consider to be godly values. Trump famously once said, "They aren't against me; they are against you, I'm just in the way." They called Donald Trump a fascist and those of us who support him "deplorable," "Nazi" and this time, "garbage."

Trump's election is a fulfillment of prophecy documented in Stephen E. Strang's book "God and Donald Trump." Ten years before Trump announced his first candidacy, Kim Clement and others said God was going to raise up someone who would not be a praying man when he went into the White House, but would become a man of prayer. In other words, as imperfect as Trump may be by evangelical standards of behavior, God would use him for His purposes.

There's so much that must be done. At least now, we have a reprieve. And we know that in the same way God spared Trump's life on July 13, God has spared America on Nov. 5. But our work is just beginning. It's more than making America great again. We must work and believe that America can be godly again.

**2. God cleaning his church out of sinful leadership.** Are principalities and powers behind the timing of some of the controversies coming out of Dallas megachurches?

Within just a few months, we've seen famous pastors and their megachurches in the Dallas, Texas, area come out with controversy and scandal, from Tony Evans stepping down from Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship due to "sin," to Robert Morris of Gateway Church confessing "inappropriate sexual behavior with a young lady," the number of leaders falling continues to grow. While not in the same area, we also saw the founder of the International House of Prayer Kansas City, Mike Bickle, fall from leadership due to sexual acts, including with a minor, that happened years ago.

The falling of these pastors from leadership roles due to sin shows that perhaps there is more happening behind the scenes than we may think in a genuine and spiritual way. The state of Texas is a place of major influence for our entire nation. It is also the border to our nation, where there is a real crisis related to immigration. Do these cases speak directly to how careful we are supposed to be with what we allow into our

lives?

As we approach the return of Jesus, there will be a real falling away, a separation of wheat from chaff. In a 2024 prophetic word with Charisma Media, Bishop Alan DiDio said that this year would be a year of a changing guard that had to do with “mega pastors.”

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“There is coming in 2024 mega pastors, not all; there are many wonderful mega pastors, but mega pastors who are more concerned about the crowd and appeasing the populace than they are about speaking the prophetic word of God,” DiDio said.

“There’s going to be a lot of dog whistles, if you will, within the Christian community where people are signaling that they’re on the side of Saul ... so there’s a changing of the guard that’s taking place right now, and the body of Christ is to make a decision of what side of the line we’re going to be on because judgment’s going to fall on the ignorant if they’re unprepared,” he continued.

The moment has come for darkness to be exposed by the light, and those who are committed first and far most to the Lord will stay committed to Him regardless of what news breaks about their favorite pastors and churches.

### **3. The return of the red heifer and end-times implications.**

The Bible story of the red heifer is found in the Old Testament in Numbers 19. The red heifer is a ritual element in the Jewish tradition’s purification process. God instructed Moses and Aaron to raise a red heifer, unique in that it was required to be completely red and without blemish.

The purification ritual procedure involved sacrificing the red heifer outside the camp, then burning its carcass with cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet material. The ashes were mixed with

water and used in the ceremonial purification ritual. One of the last pieces needed to restore the third temple is the ashes of a pure, red heifer.

Having a pure, red heifer of age is an indicator for Christians that these days are fast approaching. Evil is permeating the world just like in the days of Noah, perhaps even more so with how wickedness seems to manifest every week across every sphere from entertainment media to government to academia.

No, we do not believe, as the Jews do, in the purification through the blood of the red heifer. We believe in the purification through the blood of the Lamb. But these things must come to pass before the return of Jesus Christ.

**4. The rapid increase in supernatural events.** In a recent interview with Charisma Media, renowned author and researcher L.A. Marzulli leapt into the topic of supernatural portals and their connection to the biblical promised land of Israel. Known for his expertise in the fields of the paranormal and spiritual warfare, Marzulli raises concerns about the spiritual battle that exists both in the natural and supernatural realms.

“There are gateways and portals over the promised land, there’s no doubt about that,” Marzulli states, emphasizing that these openings allow entities to pass through from other realms. He draws a direct connection between the supernatural activity in Israel and the spiritual forces described in the Bible. “Just like there are gateways and portals in other places on the Earth, this is how these entities pass through.”

Through 2024 there were both natural phenomena, such as the Great North American Eclipse, along with earthquakes, wildfires, and supernatural signs and wonders that Marzulli references in the book of Daniel to provide a biblical foundation for his claims. He points to Daniel 10:13, where an

angel sent to deliver a message to Daniel is delayed for 21 days by the “prince of Persia,” a demonic territorial spirit. Marzulli believes that similar spirits are still active in regions like Iran and Gaza today. “There are territorial spirits,” he explains. “The Bible tells us who the Prince of Persia is. I would posit that the Prince of Persia is still operating.”

He further connects these supernatural events to the ancient Nephilim, the hybrid offspring of fallen angels and human women mentioned in Genesis 6:4. Marzulli also touches on the significance of the Middle East in biblical prophecy, specifically highlighting Damascus and its connection to the last days.

Believing the turmoil in the region is tied not just to geopolitical tensions but also to spiritual forces at work, Marzulli suggests that ancient portals in the Middle East may be linked to the Nephilim, influencing human history throughout the ages.

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“I think these portals are ancient and have been used to access our world by beings that have influenced human history,” Marzulli explains. He warns that the escalating spiritual war is directly connected to events unfolding in this region, namely Israel’s war with Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran, emphasizing the need for believers to remain vigilant as these signs align with the fulfillment of end-time prophecies.

**5. Revivals across America.** Students at Texas A&M Corpus Christi are rejoicing at the joy and salvation being found on campus.

A student event hosted by New Life Church and the New Life Young Adults ministry saw “nearly 1,500 students” attend and

62 baptisms take place, according to New Life pastors Mike and Bonnie Fehlauer's Facebook post.

New Life Young Adults Pastor Tarik Whitmore detailed how his message to those gathered was focused on Isaiah 6, which details the "conviction, cleansing and commissioning that follows a genuine encounter with God."

"This was followed by testimonies from students and former students—sharing how God saved them, set them free, healed them physically and is now using them to change the lives of others," Whitmore shared.

This magnificent surrendering to God by America's young people is a continuation of the movement that has been taking place in greater numbers ever since the Asbury Awakening in February 2023. Just a week before the event held at Texas A&M took place, members of The Ohio State football team held a similar event the group had been praying over for a long time.

As previously reported by Charisma News on the event at Ohio State, "The number of those in attendance varies, with some reports claiming 800-1,000 people, and others saying some 2,000 attended the spiritual awakening.

"We were praying for years and years for an event like this, and we were praying with expectation—we serve a miracle-working God," Ohio State wide receiver Emeka Egbuka says. "So we definitely had an expectation when it came out, but God did increasingly and abundantly more than what we thought. So, we're just so blessed and thankful."

## **Looking Ahead to 2025**

We are living in prophetic and accelerated times, and thank the Lord, He has granted America a period of reprieve. Now is the time for the church to step forward and fulfill the Great Commission, sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ with

a world in need of hope and truth. Just as Christ showed us His love through sacrifice and compassion, the church must embody that same love in action and word, reaching out to the lost, the hurting and the overlooked. This calling is not just a duty but a profound privilege, empowering us, His church, to be His hands and feet, carrying the message of salvation to every nation, just as Jesus commanded.

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*James Lasher is staff writer and copy editor at Charisma Media. His first book, ["The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary,"](#) will debut in October 2025.*

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## **The Hidden Battle: Tony Merkel on Spiritual Warfare and the Fight Against Demons**

In a gripping interview with Charisma Media, [podcaster Tony Merkel](#) shared an unnerving account of a spiritual encounter that forever changed his understanding of spiritual warfare. Merkel's chilling experience is a reminder of the unseen battle believers face daily and the necessity of being spiritually prepared.

Merkel recounted a pivotal moment before launching his podcasting career when he was approached by a man expressing suicidal thoughts and curiosity about God. Despite a strong warning from the Holy Spirit about impending spiritual warfare, Merkel agreed to meet the man at his home. What followed was a surreal and harrowing three-hour encounter.

“The Holy Spirit started speaking to me, telling me, ‘You are going to encounter strong spiritual warfare, very dark spiritual warfare,’” Merkel explained. “I didn’t quite understand what to do with that because this guy’s asking me about the Lord. In my mind, on Saturday, he’s coming to Christ...like this guy is hungry for the Lord.”

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When Merkel arrived at the house, he noticed red flags. The home was completely dark, with pinup girl posters covering the walls, and the man ominously remarked, “Most people don’t come.” Merkel was directed by the Holy Spirit to sit in a specific chair, avoiding another near a door that led to the basement. During their conversation, the man admitted the house was haunted by “seven ghosts” and later revealed he was a member of the church of Satan.

“This is what God was trying to warn me about,” Merkel said. “He gets up, walks over to a bookshelf, and pulls out satanic literature, putting it on the table in front of me. He says, ‘I want you to take these out of my house.’” While Merkel agreed to dispose of the books, the man shouted at him not to burn them, further intensifying the eerie atmosphere.

After leading the man in a prayer to accept Christ, Merkel noticed disturbing behavior. The man would violently shake, exhale deeply, and cling to Merkel in full-body hugs. “I’ve done street ministry before...and I’ve never seen anybody act that way after a salvation prayer,” Merkel admitted. Looking back, he realized the exhalations were likely an attempt to transfer demonic entities onto him.

“I think he was trying to mimic what he thought the Holy Spirit would be,” Merkel reflected. “But what he was doing with that exhale, I’ve been told by many people, was him releasing demonic entities onto me. I had no frame of

reference for it.”

The spiritual repercussions of the encounter lingered for nearly a decade, leaving Merkel feeling “spiritually numb.” He finally found relief after a deliverance minister prayed for him, lifting what he described as a “spiritual weight” that had burdened him since the incident.

Reflecting on his experience, Merkel emphasized the importance of staying spiritually vigilant. “People need to understand that they need to be strong in their faith but also understand that the attack is real,” he warned. “It comes at you when you least expect it, and you need to be constantly prayed up...because that interaction becomes spiritual warfare.”

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Merkel’s story shows the reality of spiritual battles and the enemy’s subtle strategies to undermine believers. “The enemy knows to push certain buttons now because the domino effect five years from now will mean that this person’s so far gone spiritually that they’re just in this spiritual desert not knowing which way’s up,” he explained.

[\*\*The spiritual fight we face is real,\*\*](#) and preparation is vital. “If you’re claiming Christ, you have attack coming towards you,” he said. “Not everything is just a coincidence.” Staying grounded in faith, prayer and community is essential to navigate and withstand the attacks of the enemy.

Merkel’s testimony serves as both a warning and a call to arms for believers to recognize and engage in the ongoing spiritual battle. “We need to practice engaging in spiritual warfare on a daily basis,” he urged, “constantly.”

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

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# Isaiah Saldivar: Why Deliverance Matters in a Troubled World

In an age when society seems increasingly plagued by chaos, addiction and brokenness, deliverance minister and revivalist Isaiah Saldivar argues that the church has overlooked one of its most critical callings: [the ministry of deliverance](#). In a recent interview with Charisma Media, Saldivar shared his perspective on why deliverance is essential and how it directly addresses the rise of demonic influence in our world.

## A Biblical Mandate for Deliverance

“The ministry of deliverance is not optional for Christians,” Saldivar said. “It was a core part of Jesus’ ministry and should be a core part of ours.” He pointed to passages such as Mark 16:17, where Jesus said, “These signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.” This Scripture shows the authority that we as believers have over unclean spirits and the responsibility to remove them.

Saldivar also highlighted the spiritual war described in Ephesians 6:12: “For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” According to Saldivar, [ignoring this reality leaves Christians vulnerable](#). “If we’re not

engaged in spiritual warfare, then the enemy is free to operate unchecked in our lives and communities,” he warned.

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## **The Rising Tide of Demonic Influence**

Saldivar argued that modern culture has seen a surge in demonic activity, often disguised as entertainment or self-help. “We’re seeing demonic influence normalized through music, movies, and even social media,” he said. “People don’t even realize they’re opening doors to the enemy.” He pointed to instances of mass shootings, rampant addiction, and increasing depression as evidence of a deeper spiritual crisis. “The devil is not hiding anymore,” Saldivar emphasized. “He’s working overtime to destroy lives, and the church needs to wake up.”



**[Order Isaiah Saldivar’s book “How to Cast Out Demons” on Amazon.com!](#)**

This perspective aligns with biblical warnings about the devil’s schemes. In 1 Peter 5:8, believers are urged to “Be sober and watchful, because your adversary the devil walks around as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” Saldivar believes that many Christians around the world have underestimated this adversary and, in doing so, have left themselves spiritually defenseless.

## **Deliverance as a Tool for Restoration**

“Deliverance is not about making people feel bad or focusing on demons,” Saldivar said. “It’s about setting people free so they can live the abundant life Jesus promised.” He referenced John 10:10: “The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Saldivar shared testimonies of individuals who experienced life-changing freedom through deliverance. "I've seen people instantly set free from years of addiction, depression, and torment," he said. "That's the power of Jesus working through deliverance ministry."

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### **Equipping the Church for Battle**

One of Saldivar's key concerns is that many churches are ill-equipped to address spiritual warfare. "We've turned church into a self-help seminar," he lamented. "People are walking in with spiritual baggage and leaving with the same chains because no one is teaching them how to fight."

Saldivar urged pastors and leaders to prioritize equipping their congregations for spiritual battle. "Teach them to pray, teach them to fast and teach them to stand on the Word of God," he said. "We can't afford to ignore this any longer."

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Pastor Jack Hibbs: 2025 is a**

# Year of 'Urgency'

As we enter a new chapter in history, Pastor Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills has sounded a clarion call for all believers. The word for the year ahead, he declares, is 'urgency.' In a time of spiritual warfare and cultural turmoil, this message is meant to inspire Christians to rise to the occasion with renewed fervor for righteousness and gospel proclamation.

"Urgency is a biblical response in these last days," Hibbs states. This powerful reminder sets the tone for a year of action, reminding us that we live in extraordinary times. As Hibbs points out, "We just came off a profound act of mercy... [regarding our U.S. elections last November](#), and there are some really good things being implemented."

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While there is much to celebrate, he cautions believers not to grow complacent.

"The danger for the Christian... is to now settle back and say, 'Well, we did our job.' And that cannot happen because [we are fighting darkness](#)," he warns.

This fight isn't merely political or societal—it's a spiritual battle. Hibbs calls attention to the profound attacks on God's creation, warning of worldly ideologies that seek to "reinterpret and reconfigure" humanity itself. "Your feelings can never trump the truth of God's Word," he says, urging Christians to anchor themselves in Scripture rather than the shifting sands of cultural sentiment.

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But Hibbs' message is not one of despair. Instead, he points to hope and opportunity. "Good things are happening," he assures. He envisions a future where believers actively bring the gospel to every corner of society. "Wherever there's human beings, we need to be there... from the streets to the halls of power representing Jesus." This vision is a direct reflection of Christ's Great Commission, a call to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

Pastor Hibbs' call to action is greatly needed in a world desperate for hope and truth. "This year of 2025, we are going to push forward and move on with what God has given us in this act of mercy," he declares. He challenges fellow Christians to pray for leaders who will answer this call. "Pray with me that God would raise up pastors who have seen the call to battle... and to lead their congregations throughout these United States in the fight for righteousness while preaching the gospel at the same time."

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# **Chris Reed Sounds Alarm on Drones, Encourages Prayerful**

# Response

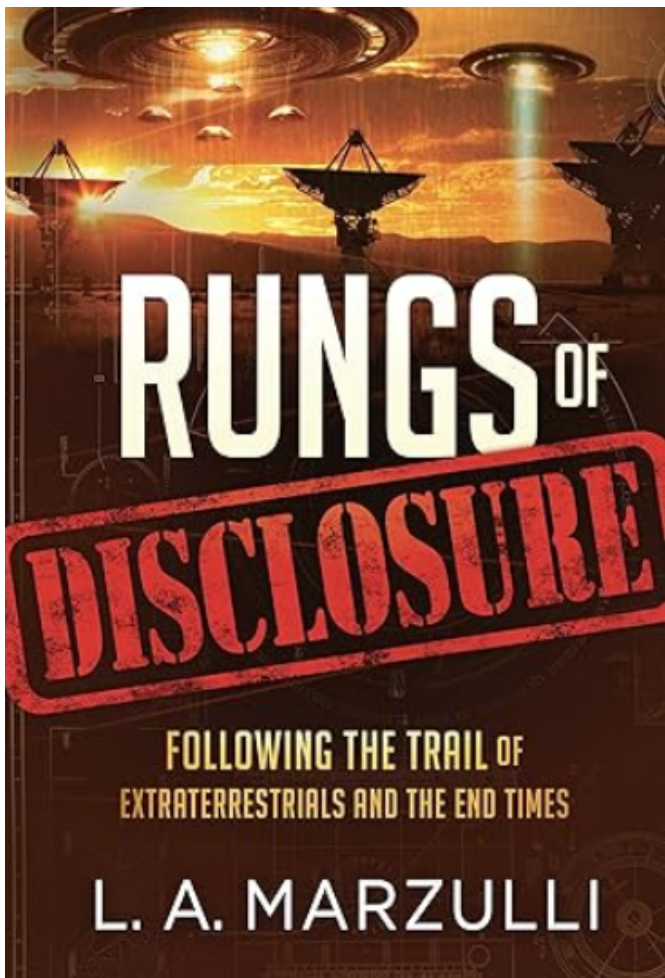
The recent [sightings of massive drones](#) over New Jersey and New York have sparked a wave of speculation and concern. With reports of drones as large as SUVs hovering in the skies, the issue has become a hot topic of debate. Congressman Josh Gottheimer has pointed the finger at Iran, asserting that these drones are part of an orchestrated operation. However, the Pentagon has pushed back against these claims, denying any direct evidence linking the drones to Iran. Amid this unfolding mystery, prophetic insights from ministry leader Chris Reed offer a spiritual lens through which we can view these events.

Reed has issued an urgent call to prayer in light of the drone sightings. "Let me tell you about these drones that are in the Northeast right now; we have got to pray," Reed says in a recent broadcast. Sharing his prophetic experience, he warned, "Iran is behind this, and it's very disturbing that President Biden is not more involved." Reed's concerns echo those of many who feel the federal government's response has been lackluster. He highlighted the drones' alarming size, emphasizing, "We're talking about drones the size of SUVs that, if they fell from the sky, could kill people."

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This prophetic insight suggests that these drones are [part of a larger scheme](#) involving Iran, its proxies and even indirect involvement from China. "I believe these drones are sent," Reed explained, connecting the dots to a potential terrorist threat. "Iran and its proxies are scouting out areas right now to cause terrorism in the United States in the Northeast. There is a terrorist attack planned in the next few weeks, and we have to pray."

While Reed's warnings are grave, he draws parallels to biblical accounts where prayer changed the course of events. "Just like Hezekiah was told, 'Get your house in order; you're going to die,' but because he turned his face to the wall and prayed, the Lord added 15 years to his life," Reed explained. He also referenced the story of Nineveh, where collective repentance averted destruction. "The prophetic word wasn't wrong; it was a conditional word," he clarified, urging believers to intercede in prayer to avert potential disaster.



[Order L.A. Marzulli's book "Rungs of Disclosure" on Amazon.com!](#)

Reed's prophetic vision included a grim scenario: an explosion at the top of a building in New York. "I've seen an explosion of a building in the Northeast," he revealed, adding that other prophetic confirmations have pointed to similar threats. He warned that these drones are part of a coordinated effort, with terrorists scouting locations to deploy IEDs or other

attacks. "There's lots of drones flying over America, and they're looking for the right places at the right time to hit," Reed said, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation.

While these warnings may evoke fear, Reed's message ultimately points to the hope found in Christ. He reminded believers that God reveals such threats not to instill panic but to call His people to action through prayer. "God gives us these things; He reveals these things so we can pray to avert them, minimize them or lessen the damage," Reed explained.

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As Christians, we must remain grounded in the Word of God during times of uncertainty. Scripture provides the foundation needed to discern truth from deception and to stand firm in faith. As the Bible instructs in 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, "Do not despise prophecies. Examine all things. Firmly hold onto what is good." Every prophetic word, including this one from Chris Reed, must be tested according to Scripture and the spirit in which it is given to ensure it aligns with God's truth (1 John 4:1).

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**James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.**

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# Nick Vujicic's Warning to the Church: Stop the Decline, Start the Revival

The Western church is in a precarious position, and evangelist Nick Vujicic is sounding the alarm. With piercing clarity, he warns that the church has drifted far from its mission, resembling a “country club and a social gathering” more than the body of Christ. [His call for repentance and renewal](#) is not merely timely—it is urgent.

Vujicic's critique of the modern church is sobering. “We are seeing the fruit of us not really discipling the next generation or having accountability,” he told *The Christian Post*. In his estimation, the church's shift toward entertainment-driven services has stripped the Gospel of its depth and transformative power.

“A lot of Western churches in the USA changed their approach and actually started watering the Gospel and bringing a little bit more entertainment, a little bit more fun,” he explained. “They went from meat to milk.”

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The results, according to Vujicic, are dire. The younger generation is adrift, grappling with addiction, depression and lacking moral grounding. Gen Z, he observes, is spending over seven hours a day on screens, succumbing to technology addiction and the pitfalls of an increasingly hypersexualized culture. “Today, we have Gen Z swearing, saying the F word, sleeping around, and everyone knows it, but no one's really keeping anyone accountable,” he lamented.

Vujicic's diagnosis points to a fundamental problem: [the](#)

[church has lost its focus on Jesus.](#) Without making Him the priority, the church cannot hope to fulfill its mission of transforming lives and preparing hearts for eternity. “We don’t talk about the things that we need to talk about,” Vujicic said. “For as long as we don’t start healing the broken hearts that need healing, and for as long as we don’t bring in boundaries, as long as we don’t hold our leadership accountable, I am very afraid of what’s ahead.”

These warnings are not mere criticisms but a plea for revival. The church’s role in shaping the next generation is critical, and it must return to the principles of discipleship and accountability. Pastors and leaders must shift their focus from entertaining to equipping. Preaching must return to biblical truths that challenge sin and call for holy living—the “meat” that strengthens believers.

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Vujicic’s reflections also shine a light on the broader societal issues that intertwine with the church’s failings. The staggering number of abortions carried out by churchgoers and the unspoken trauma that follows is just one example of how silence and complacency have taken a toll. As Vujicic aptly put it, “Of the 25 million abortions in this country, many were carried out by women who regularly attended church. We’re not talking about the PTSD that comes with that.” Healing can only come when the church addresses these painful realities head-on, offering the hope and redemption found in Christ.

The path forward requires courage and conviction. It demands that the church cast aside distractions and set its eyes firmly on Jesus. Only by prioritizing Him can the church fulfill its mission to be a beacon of light in a dark world. Vujicic’s call to repentance is a wake-up call to a body of

believers that has, for too long, been lulled into complacency. “The first thing Jesus did was flip tables and crack a whip with the church and correct the church. And the last thing Jesus wanted, He expressed in prayer that we would be one,” he warns.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Rabbi Jason Sobel Decodes Ancient Prophecies Linked to Modern Conflicts**

In a eye-opening interview with Charisma Media, [Rabbi Jason Sobel](#) delved into the ancient realm of biblical numerology, or Gematria, to reveal hidden insights into the spiritual forces at work in today’s world. For those unfamiliar, Gematria is the ancient practice of assigning numerical values to Hebrew letters, uncovering hidden connections between words and concepts within Scripture. “In Hebrew,” Sobel explains, “letters and numbers are interchangeable. When God speaks, what is He doing? He’s coding creation.”

### **A Mathematical Creation**

Sobel opens discussing the foundational idea that God’s act of creation embedded a mathematical structure into the universe.

“There are no numerals in the Bible. Every Hebrew letter gets assigned a value,” he says, emphasizing that this alphanumeric system reflects God’s order. By speaking creation into existence, Sobel posits, God not only formed the physical world but also its underlying mathematical and spiritual framework. “When man sins, it’s like a virus in the system that causes it to crash,” he remarks, painting a vivid picture of sin’s disruption of God’s perfect design.

## **Ancient Strongholds and Modern Conflicts**

Turning to the modern-day conflict in Gaza, Sobel connected the ongoing violence to unresolved spiritual battles from biblical times. He traced the roots of these conflicts to the Nephilim—a race of giants mentioned in Genesis. “The descendants of the Nephilim, the Anakim, were never fully defeated,” Sobel explains. “That territorial spirit... was never conquered, was never fully removed. That spirit is still in existence today.”

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He drew a direct line between these ancient spiritual forces and the Oct. 7, attacks in Israel, attributing the violence to what he described as a [“demonic Nephilim spirit.”](#) Sobel argues that if the Israelites, under Joshua’s leadership, had fully vanquished the Nephilim in Gaza and surrounding regions, these spiritual strongholds might not persist.

## **The Consequences of Disobedience**

Biblical history, Sobel notes, offers a cautionary tale about the cost of disobedience. He pointed to King Saul’s failure to eliminate the Amalekites, a command given by God. “Why was God so upset?” Sobel asks. “Because the Amalekites are connected to Amalek, the first person to attack Israel when they came out of Egypt.” That disobedience allowed future adversaries,

like Haman in the Book of Esther, to arise and threaten genocide. "It's the same thing," Sobel says. "If they would have destroyed the Canaanites and especially the Anakim in the land, things would be different."

Sobel then revealed a striking numerical connection between ancient and modern adversaries. "The sons of Anak in Hebrew... all those letters equal up to 282. Why is that important? Arab equals 282 in Hebrew," he said. Sobel clarified that he was not labeling Palestinians as demonic but rather highlighting the spiritual forces behind terrorist groups. He linked this numerical pattern to broader biblical themes, including the "seed" of the Messiah. "Seed equals 282," he explains, tying it to the promise in Genesis 3:15 of a Messiah who would crush the serpent's head.

## **A Call to Understanding**

Sobel's insights are both illuminating and essential. They highlight the interconnectedness of Scripture, history and current events, urging fellow believers to discern the spiritual realities behind worldly conflicts. Sobel emphasized that Gematria is not about deriving new theology but about gaining deeper insight into God's Word. "The connections are illustrative," he says, "and give deeper insight."

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**James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.**

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# Alan DiDio: 9 Prophetic Signs of Jesus' Return

As believers, we are entrusted with a dual mandate—to actively fulfill the Great Commission and to remain vigilant for [the signs of Christ's return](#). Bishop Alan DiDio's recent message on the nine signs indicating we are nearing the end times reminds us of the balance Christians are called to maintain: spreading the Gospel while staying spiritually alert. The urgency to evangelize and share the hope of salvation is underscored by the prophetic markers unfolding around us.

Here are the nine end-time predictions that DiDio reveals occurred before the birth of Jesus, and may signal the end of the current age with His return:

**1. Dreams and visions.** “Joel chapter 2 says In the last days I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men will dream dreams and your young men will see visions.’ So if the first Advent was preceded by dreams and visions, it would be fair to assume especially when you read the prediction in Joel chapter 2, that the second Advent will be preceded by a swirl and an acceleration of dreams and visions,” DiDio says.

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**2. A darkness that became defensive.** “Something happened surrounding this first Advent where darkness became defensive,” DiDio reveals. “How was it manifested? The first time, interestingly enough, it was manifested as abortion. The moment word came that the Messiah would be birthed into the

Earth, what did the king do? [He] began to kill children.”

**3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit.** “Jesus first appearance was preceded by the baptism in the Holy Ghost,” DiDio explains, “...when Jesus is in His mother’s womb, and gets in the same room with another child His age, the Bible said He was baptized in the Holy Ghost, leaped in His mother’s womb.”

**4. The literal fulfillment of prophecy.** “We can see how the prophecies concerning the first Advent took place, did they happen figuratively? Or spiritually? Or allegorically? Was it symbolic? Or representative? Or did every single detail that was predicted even though it seemed absurd happen exactly as He [God] said it was going to happen,” DiDio asks.

**5. Angelic intervention.** “Angels don’t hearken to you. They hearken to the voice of the Lord our God. But when you speak God’s Word they’ll hearken to you because it’s not you talking, it’s God’s Word talking through you,” DiDio says. So speak the Word only, and when you speak the Word only, angels will begin to move.”

**6. An understanding of the heavens.** “The Magi understood what was happening by what was happening in the stars,” DiDio explains. “And haven’t you noticed that in the last few years there’s been an unusual revelation in the body of Christ concerning the stars?”

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**7. Phases of fulfillment.** “Will His [Jesus] second Advent be accomplished in phases as well?” DiDio asks. “Only a few were privy to His conception, a few more were privy to His birth, a few more were privy to His visitation when He was 12 years of age in the temple and even more at 30 years of age. Then the whole wide world. Will we see the same thing happen? Will He appear first to a remnant, snatch them away and then be

revealed to the whole wide world?”

**8. Time in the house of God.** “The first appearance of Jesus was preceded by time in church in prayer and in fasting,” DiDio shares. “Jesus’ first appearance was accomplished in a time, in a manner, that they were not expecting. Prayer, fasting, time in church and the Word prepared the remnant to receive Him.”

**9. Unexpectedness.** “Jesus is coming once again, and He’s not coming for everybody. He is coming for those who are waiting for Him. He’s coming to rescue His own and to complete [the work of redemption,](#)” DiDio warns.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Vatican to Unlock 5 ‘Sacred Portals’ on Christmas Eve Ahead of Jubilee Year**

The Vatican’s announcement of [opening sacred portals](#) for the first time in 25 years has raised eyebrows and sparked intrigue. Set to coincide with the 2025 Jubilee Year, the ceremony involves the opening of five “Holy Doors” at ancient basilicas, with one “hypothetical” door at Italy’s Rebibbia prison. While the Catholic Church claims this tradition upholds a “doorway to salvation,” one can’t help but question:

What exactly is the Catholic Church attempting to achieve with this elaborate ritual? And more importantly, where in the Bible is any of this remotely supported?

According to The Daily Mail, the Holy Doors are located at some of Rome's most venerated basilicas, such as St. Peter's and St. John Lateran, and are ceremonially bricked up and unsealed only during Jubilee Years. Pope Francis, who initiated the ritual on Dec. 2, describes it as a time to focus on hope and spiritual renewal amidst global crises like war, the lingering effects of COVID-19 and climate change. He has also extended this symbolic act to prisoners, aiming to deliver a message of hope. The Jubilee Year's theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," reflects these aspirations.

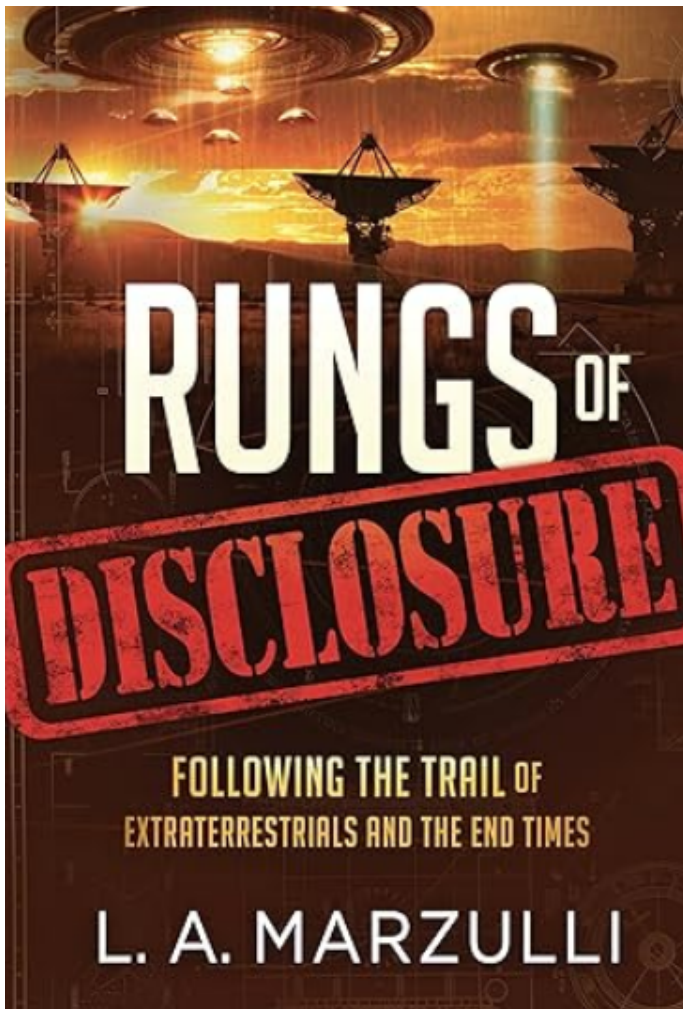
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While the Pope's sentiment is admirable, the ritual itself is baffling. The "opening" of doors—requiring the removal of brick walls—is described as a "symbol of salvation," but this imagery finds no precedent in Christian Scripture. Nowhere in the Bible is there a mention of "Holy Doors" that must be ceremonially opened to signal divine grace. If anything, Jesus Christ Himself declared, "I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9). This verse proves that access to salvation is found in faith in Christ, not through elaborate rituals or symbolic structures.

This glaring lack of biblical foundation raises questions about the origins of such practices. The Jubilee tradition, first Christianized by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, appears to be rooted more in medieval Catholic innovation than in scriptural truth. While proponents argue it inspires hope and encourages acts of mercy, others may see it as a distraction from the simplicity of the gospel message.

## The Portal Debate: Ritual or Something More?

Adding another layer to this mystery is the broader conversation about portals—spiritual gateways between realms. Nephilim expert, author and researcher [L.A. Marzulli has long explored the concept of supernatural portals](#), particularly in the context of biblical prophecy and spiritual warfare. Marzulli points to examples like Daniel 10:13, where an angel is delayed by the “prince of Persia,” a demonic principality, as evidence of unseen battles in the heavenly realms. He warns that portals may serve as entry points for spiritual entities, both good and evil, influencing events on Earth.



[Order L.A. Marzulli's book, "Rungs of Disclosure" on Amazon.com!](#)

“There are gateways and portals over the Promised Land,

there's no doubt about that," Marzulli states, emphasizing their role in supernatural activity. He connects these phenomena to the ancient Nephilim and suggests that portals could be conduits for demonic deception in modern times. According to Marzulli, these portals are not merely the stuff of speculation but are deeply tied to end-time prophecies, where spiritual forces seek to deceive even the elect (Matt. 24:24).

Given Marzulli's warnings, could the Vatican's Holy Doors be more than symbolic? Are they inadvertently engaging in a spiritual practice they may not fully understand? The Bible warns against rituals and practices that open the door—literally or metaphorically—to spiritual forces outside God's will. If these "Holy Doors" are seen as spiritual gateways, one must ask: What, or who, might come through?

## **Where Does This Leave the Body of Christ?**

Christians should approach this development with discernment. While the Catholic Church claims these rituals encourage spiritual renewal, they risk obscuring the simplicity of the gospel. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was "once for all" (Heb. 10:10), and His Resurrection opened the ultimate "door" to eternal life. No amount of brick-removal ceremonies can add to that truth.

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Moreover, Marzulli's insights serve as a cautionary reminder that we are engaged in a spiritual battle, one that requires vigilance. Rituals like the Holy Doors may be well-intentioned, but they should not distract from the centrality of Christ's finished work or inadvertently open pathways to spiritual deception.

As we observe the unfolding of these events, let's remember that our hope does not rest in rituals, traditions or even the opening of physical doors. It rests solely in the person and work of Jesus Christ, the true doorway to salvation. Anything else is, at best, a distraction—and at worst, a potential gateway to forces we are not called to engage.

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