

Witchcraft Murder: The Rising Pagan Danger in America

In recent years, there has been an increase in the popularity of [paganism, Wicca and other occult practices](#).

The Pew Research Center's 2014 Religious Landscape Study found that approximately 1.3 million people in the U.S. subscribe to "New Age" religions, a number that continues to grow. While many practitioners claim their beliefs are harmless, there is a darker side to paganism that can lead to dangerous behaviors. Historically, human sacrifice and other violent rituals were often associated with paganism, practices that diminished as Christianity became the dominant faith in the West.

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Proving this point, a Kentucky woman accused of dismembering and cooking her mother's body is said to have been engaging in witchcraft before the crime was discovered, as reported by The Christian Post. The case, which unfolded in Mount Olivet, Kentucky, highlights the growing concern over the rise of paganism and its practices in the U.S. and the associated dangers, both spiritual and physical.

Torilena May Fields, 32, was arrested after police found her mother, Trudy Fields, dismembered on their property. The horrifying discovery included severed body parts, a blood-soaked mattress and a pot in the oven containing human remains. Authorities believe Torilena was performing witchcraft, casting spells and behaving in a confrontational manner in the days leading up to the murder. While the investigation is ongoing, the incident is drawing attention to the resurgence of pagan practices in the U.S.



[Order John Ramirez's "Exposing the Devil's Playbook" on Amazon.com!](#)

The resurgence of these practices [poses both physical and spiritual dangers.](#) The Bible commands Christians to engage in spiritual warfare against the demonic forces behind such rituals. Ephesians 6:12 reminds believers, "For we do not wrestle 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."

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As paganism grows, so too does the need for Christians to stand firm in their faith and reject these influences. Failing to do so allows demonic forces to draw people away from God and into destructive, demonic practices. The Bible calls Christians to fight against these forces through prayer, standing as the light in a world filled with darkness.

Despite the evil in the world, there is hope. Jesus reminds His followers in John 16:33, “In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” Through Christ, Christians can resist the spiritual dangers of demonic practices and stand victorious.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Saddleback’s Andy Wood: Voting Is a Call to Biblical Action

Saddleback Church Lead Pastor Andy Wood is encouraging Christians to [take advantage of their freedom to vote](#), reminding them that their [faith should guide their choices on Election Day](#).

As reported by The Christian Post, Wood emphasizes that Christians have a responsibility to engage with the political process and make informed decisions that align with biblical values. He urges voters to consider which candidate “more closely aligns with the Word of God” as they [decide between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump](#) in the upcoming presidential election.

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Wood points out that millions of Christians are at risk of not

voting, referencing data from pollster George Barna, which indicates that 32 million churchgoers could abstain. "This is problematic," Wood says, noting that believers have a duty to participate in shaping society. "If you are a follower of Jesus, you have a responsibility in culture. [...And this includes our vote.](#)"

He also warns against voting blindly, encouraging his congregation to read and understand the policies of each candidate. "You can today, go home and download it and read it," he says, referring to the platforms of both political parties. "Look at what they've done in the past. The best indicator of future performance is past behavior."

Wood's message highlights the biblical command that Christians are not just passive observers but are called to be the salt and light in a world in need of godly influence. By choosing not to vote, Christians are opting to sit on the sideline and remain in the shadows, rather than impacting the world in the name of Jesus.

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In his sermon, Wood reminds his congregation that voting is an opportunity to glorify God. Citing 1 Corinthians 10:31, he says, "Whether you eat or drink or vote or whatever, you do it all for the glory of God." By casting their vote, Christians put their faith into action and influence the culture around them.

Pastors across the nation are joining Woods by encouraging believers to trust in God's sovereignty, no matter the outcome of the election, but to get involved nonetheless. "God causes kings to rise and fall. He is supreme," Wood says. "Yes, your vote matters. Go and make a difference."

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Jonathan Cahn Destroys the Altar of Ishtar in Powerful Act

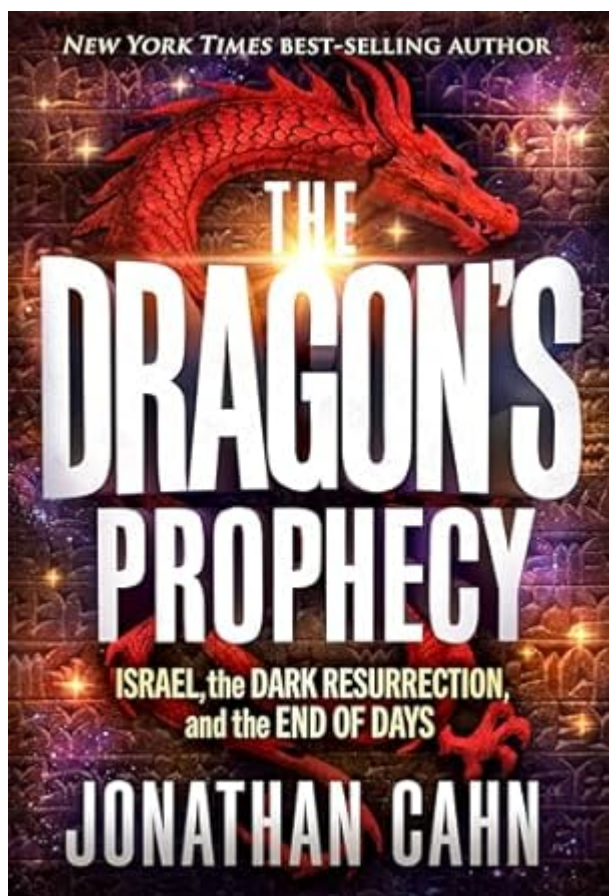
In a powerful display of spiritual warfare, [author and speaker Rabbi Jonathan Cahn](#) led a prophetic act on the National Mall, where he smashes an altar of Ishtar, symbolizing the breaking of demonic strongholds in America. This act is part of his broader message on repentance, deliverance and spiritual freedom from the forces of darkness gripping the nation.

Speaking at the gathering, Cahn draws parallels between the Yom Kippur scapegoat and the spiritual battle faced today, stating, “At the end of Yom Kippur, the sins are laid on the scapegoat, and the scapegoat carries it out of the land. The darkness is cast out of the land.”

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Cahn emphasizes that the battle is not against individuals but spiritual principalities, citing the ancient pagan deity Ishtar (also known as Ashtaroth in the Bible) as a manifestation of immorality in our culture. “You women of God, you are Esther,” he declares. “[And Esther cancels out Ishtar](#)—the sexual immorality that enslaves this culture, that has led to the destruction of marriages, families and life.”

He goes on to unveil the altar of Ishtar, which he explains represents the various evils in society, such as abortion, sexual immorality, and pornography. “This is the altar of abortion, the altar of sexual immorality, the altar of pornography, the altar of transitioning children, and the confusion of sexuality,” Cahn proclaims, as he prepares to smash the symbolic structure.



[Order Jonathan Cahn's "The Dragon's Prophecy" on Amazon.com!](#)

In a moment charged with righteousness and conviction, Cahn lifts a hammer and smashes the altar, leading the crowd in a prayer for national deliverance. “We pray, Father, that You would cast out the spirit of Ishtar, cast out the spirit of pornography, cast out the spirit of sexual immorality, cast out the spirit of trafficking of women and children,” he says. “We proclaim the blood of Yeshua, Jesus.”

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The event crescendos as Cahn calls for the crowd to “release the roar” in victory, symbolizing [the breaking of spiritual chains over the nation](#). Shofars sound victoriously across the National Mall as he urges those in attendance to pray for deliverance across the country and in their own lives, declaring, “We are going to keep doing it until that altar is smashed and gone.”

The gathering marks a divine moment of spiritual intercession, as Cahn leads the prayer for revival and mass deliverance in America, proclaiming the power of God over the forces which are holding the nation in bondage.

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Demons, Portals and End-Time Lies: L.A. Marzulli Issues Urgent Warning

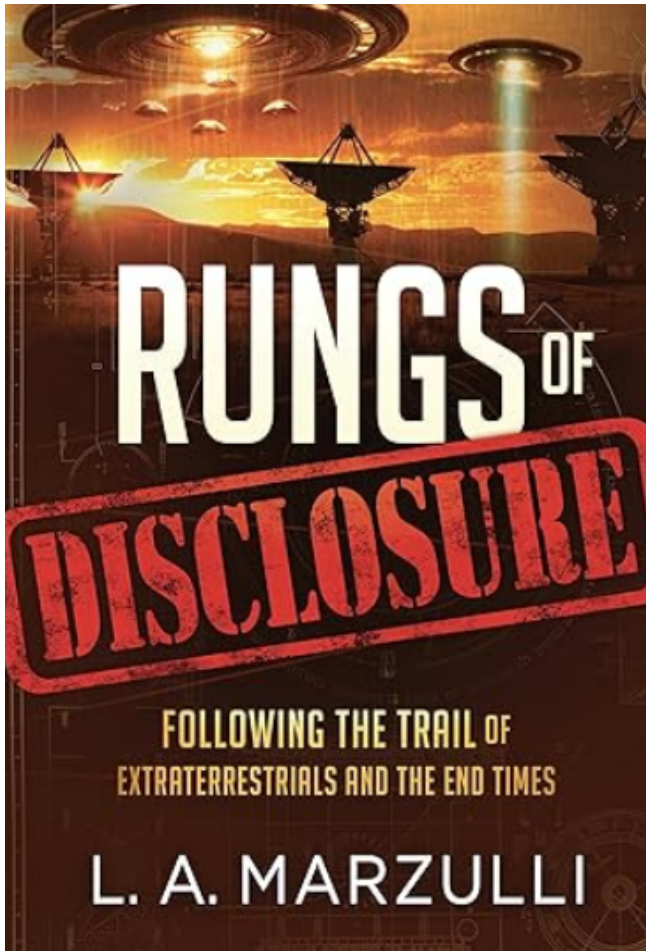
In a recent interview with Charisma Media, renowned [author and researcher L.A. Marzulli](#) leapt into the topic of supernatural portals and their connection to the biblical promised land of Israel. Known for his expertise in the fields of the paranormal and spiritual warfare, Marzulli raises concerns 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.”

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Marzulli references 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. “The conquest of the promised land was the culmination of the seed war,” he explains, [referring to Israel’s battles with the Nephilim tribes.](#) Marzulli suggests that just as the Israelites faced off against these beings in the past, modern Israel may still be contending with their influence in a spiritual sense.



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

Marzulli also touches on the significance of the Middle East in biblical prophecy, specifically highlighting Damascus and its connection to the last days. He points to Isaiah 17:1: "The burden of Damascus. See, Damascus will cease from being a city; it will become a ruinous heap," underscoring the city's critical role in end-time events.

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.

"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.

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Hoping to wake the body of Christ to the reality of what we are facing, Marzulli warns that humanity is on the brink of unprecedented deception, particularly involving extraterrestrial beings and paranormal activity. Citing Matthew 24:24, he says, "False Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." Marzulli believes that portals and gateways play a significant role in this great deception, leading people away from biblical truth.

He soberly issues fellow Christians a word of caution: "We are living in unprecedented, uncharted waters. There are forces at play that most people don't even see, but they're real. If we're not vigilant, we're going to be deceived."

Marzulli's warning leaves with it a sense of urgency, reminding us that the spiritual battle over the earth is not just a historical event from the Bible, but an ongoing struggle between good and evil.

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Healing and Renewal: A Plan for Rebuilding the Church

In the aftermath of [numerous scandals and moral failures](#) in the modern church, author and speaker Natalie Runion believes it's time for Christians to rebuild from the rubble. Speaking with Charisma Media, Runion dives into the heart of her latest book, "The House That Jesus Built," which serves as a guide for restoring the foundations of a fractured church.

Runion, who previously authored "Raised to Stay," addresses the deconstruction movement—a growing trend where believers dismantle aspects of their faith due to spiritual abuse, disillusionment and disappointment with church leadership. For Runion, deconstruction is not inherently negative. "We have this huge task as a generation to rebuild," she says, "and thankfully we have a blueprint for that in the word of God."

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Drawing on the story of "The Three Little Pigs," Runion uses the nursery rhyme as a metaphor for the church's current state. She likens the pigs who built hastily with weak materials to modern church leaders who, in some cases, have rushed to build on shaky foundations. "Now we're seeing the enemy come in and huff and puff and blow our churches down through moral failures, sheep that are being abused—all the things that led us to this deconstruction," she explains.

Runion is quick to clarify that while [many have turned away from the church](#) due to spiritual abuse or celebrity culture, there is hope for renewal. Reflecting on feedback from her online community, Runion highlights the need to confront these foundational issues. "A lot of it came down to being severely disappointed and hurt by people who should know better and are

behaving badly,” she says, adding that financial misconduct and the rise of a consumer mindset in the church have also contributed to its decline.

Despite the grim reality, Runion emphasizes that not all is lost. She draws inspiration from the early church as depicted in the book of Acts, particularly Acts 2, where Peter’s message to the first church provides a clear foundation: “Repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, communion, worship, the word of God.” According to Runion, returning to these basics can restore the church. “It’s actually not having to recreate the wheel. If we as the church just went back to that second chapter of Acts...what if we were to go back to those foundational basics?”

Runion also addresses the struggles church leaders face when they feel guilty by association due to scandals in other congregations. “I know a lot of good shepherds. There’s more good shepherds than bad shepherds,” she says, acknowledging that healthy pastors often bear the weight of distrust from a wounded generation.

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However, she stresses that deconstruction does not have to lead to deconversion. “Deconstruction isn’t necessarily deconversion; it can just be a detangling of things that people have placed on us that aren’t even scriptural or aren’t the Lord,” she explains.

Offering encouragement to those disillusioned with the church, Runion reminds them that there are still more healthy churches than unhealthy ones. “If you can’t go back to church, don’t give up on Jesus,” she says, “but know that His family is pretty cool, too.”

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Election Warning: Don't Make the Mission Field Your Enemy

In a recent reaction video, Vlad Savchuk, the pastor and head of HungryGen ministries, addresses the viral message delivered by Pastor Jonny Ardavanis, Lead Teaching Pastor of Stonebridge Bible Church in Franklin, Tennessee. Savchuk also dives into the pressing questions surrounding the upcoming U.S. elections [and the role of faith](#) in the political landscape.

“A lot of people in the world are talking about it,” Savchuk says, emphasizing that churches are divided on whether to engage with political issues. He notes the common questions being raised: “Should we refrain from voting if we don't like either candidates? Can we vote the lesser of two evils?”

In a portion of his sermon that took off on social media, Ardavanis made a bold declaration regarding the Democratic Party, stating, “The Democratic Party is a demonic death cult under the power and influence of Satan.” He explains his reasoning, emphasizing that “to vote for the Democrats is to vote for a platform that is building their platform upon everything God hates.” He further accuses the party of promoting “the mutilation of bodies, the annihilation of babies in the womb and the sexualization of your children,” asserting that these beliefs are their “calling card.”

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Savchuk emphasizes the importance of voting responsibly, echoing Ardavanis' call to "vote for the option that best stems the tide of evil." He explains that while "there are no perfect candidates," it is crucial for Christians to prioritize policies that promote life and family values. "A failure to vote is a failure to express our gratitude to the men and women that have died for our country," Ardavanis states in the video, [reinforcing the need to actively participate](#) in the democratic process.

However, Savchuk also highlights a vital point made by Ardavanis: "Who is in the White House is far less important than who is on the throne in heaven." He stresses that political power does not dictate the advancement of the gospel. "The advancement of the gospel isn't reliant a single ounce upon who is President," Ardavanis declares. He then reflects on how Christianity often thrives in countries where believers face persecution rather than freedom, stating, "Where Christianity spreads the fastest and the farthest are in the nations that are persecuted the most. Not where there is the most religious freedom."

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In addressing the church's mission, Savchuk cites Ardavanis' warning about focusing on political issues to the detriment of evangelism. "We should speak out against the evil of our day," says Ardavanis, "but you should never turn the mission field into your enemy."

"That's a word right there," Savchuk reacts. "We should speak about the evil but never turn the mission field into our enemy because we are called to reach the world, disciple nations."

We're called to teach them the things that Jesus taught us and and it's possible to go on this crusade and this campaign for issues that are very important and forget why we exist as a church, not only to speak for righteousness but to save the lost."

Ardavanis and Savchuk agree with many other believers in this: do not let your political views overshadow your Christian identity.

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Jaguar Wright's Claims Revive Interest in Kim Clement's 2014 Prophecy

Donné Clement Petruska, daughter of the late prophetic voice Kim Clement, has recently revealed a connection between singer-songwriter Jaguar Wright's explosive claims and [her father's prophetic words from years ago.](#)

In a video posted on her YouTube channel, Petruska delves into what she believes is growing evidence of occult practices infiltrating high levels of society, globalist organizations and politics, shining a light on the evil in the world today.

Wright, who has become known for her outspoken criticism of the music industry and its leading figures, including Sean "Diddy" Combs, Jay-Z and Beyoncé, made headlines recently by endorsing Donald Trump for the 2024 presidential election. In

a surprising turn for someone not typically aligned with conservative politics, Wright declares, "It has to be Trump, because if we vote DNC, we're voting for liars. It's just that simple. The DNC is lying." Petruska admits she was shocked by Wright's comments, explaining, "This is not a person who is traditionally Republican or conservative at all."

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However, it wasn't just Wright's political stance that caught Petruska's attention. She links Wright's public commentary to a prophecy her father gave on Feb. 22, 2014, in which he warned of efforts to place a "witch in the White House." Petruska recalls how, during the 2016 election, this prophecy was widely interpreted as referring to Hillary Clinton. But now, Petruska believes it holds new relevance, considering the current political landscape. "We know he prophesied that they will do everything in their power to put a witch in the White House," she says, suggesting that the prophecy might not be as time-bound as once thought.

Wright's recent remarks about Beyoncé have added another layer of complexity to Petruska's concerns. Wright accused the artist of promoting witchcraft, referencing a performance where Beyoncé's choice of song, "Freedom," and the associated symbolism struck her as deeply troubling. "She's recognizing and pointing out witchcraft," Petruska says, highlighting Wright's growing awareness of the occult themes present in modern entertainment.

Petruska sees these public displays of witchcraft as part of a larger, more disturbing trend: the normalization of occult practices within global organizations. She points to institutions like the United Nations, the World Economic Forum and CERN, questioning the strange and often ritualistic events that take place under the guise of "art."

“Why would they choose to do ritualistic, Luciferian or Satanic things?” she asks. Petruska recounts an encounter with a hacker who allegedly witnessed occult rituals at CERN during its 2012 reopening. “She hacked into the security cameras because she was curious,” Petruska explains. “And she said they were doing Luciferian rituals before the opening of CERN.”

These revelations, Petruska believes, point to [a larger spiritual battle](#) that has been unfolding for decades, one that her father also foresaw. She references occultist Aleister Crowley, a well-known figure who claimed to have opened a “doorway” through occult practices in the late 1800s or early 1900s. According to Petruska, what came through this portal was a being named “Lamb,” which she describes as eerily similar to modern depictions of gray aliens. “It was after that that people began to have these experiences of being abducted by the little gray aliens,” Petruska says, linking these paranormal events to occult activities.

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Petruska also connects these occult practices to pivotal moments in modern history. She suggests that a deal made during one of these rituals in 1972, involving military psychics and remote viewers, led to the landmark Roe v. Wade decision in January 1973. She notes that this same period also saw the founding of the World Economic Forum by Klaus Schwab, an organization she views as part of the globalist agenda prophesied by her father.

“My dad prophesied about the rise of the Fourth Reich,” she says, recalling Kim Clement’s warnings of a spiritual battle that would spread across nations. “He prophesied that from the Netherlands and from France.” Petruska sees the growing influence of occultism and globalism as signs that these

prophecies are coming to pass. “The spirit of God said truth will prevail,” she quotes from her father’s words. “The spirit of the Fourth Reich shall be overcome.”

A call to action is being issued to the body of Christ in response to the growing satanic influence in society. We, as Christians, must pray and engage in spiritual warfare, recognizing the spiritual battle taking place behind these cultural and societal shifts. As stated 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.”

The Bible’s message is clear: Christians must remain vigilant and spiritually aware as these changes unfold. The time has come for believers to stand firm in prayer and take action. The body of Christ is being called to rise up, recognize the spiritual battle and use the weapons of faith and prayer to combat these forces. It is essential not to ignore what is happening but to confront these challenges with spiritual strength.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Miracle Baby Born as Hurricane Milton Strikes

As Hurricane Milton barreled toward Florida’s Gulf Coast, [a miracle unfolded](#) in the midst of chaos.

Kenzie Lewellen and her boyfriend, Dewey Bennett, braced themselves not just for the storm, but for the arrival of their baby boy. At 4 a.m. Wednesday, with the hurricane looming, Lewellen went into labor at their Port Charlotte home.

“My mind was just running a million miles an hour, like, what am I going to do?” Lewellen said according to NBC News. For Bennett, memories of Hurricane Irma in 2017 added to the tension. His father had passed away during the storm when emergency services couldn’t reach them. “My dad had a massive heart attack because the ambulance could not come out to us during the storm,” Bennett shared.

Now, with his own child on the way, Bennett feared history might repeat itself.

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The couple faced another dilemma: their home was taking on water before Milton even made landfall. “If she didn’t start having contractions until during the storm, the roads would have been flooded,” Bennett said.

As the storm raged, Lewellen labored for over four hours before they embarked on a risky drive to Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Her mother drove them cautiously through heavy winds and rain. At the hospital, only Bennett was allowed to accompany her, leaving Lewellen to FaceTime with her mom, a source of [strength and comfort for her.](#)

In the delivery room, Lewellen’s view of the hurricane was a surreal backdrop to the most intense moment of her life. As trees uprooted outside, the real storm came when she learned the baby was in the wrong position, requiring a cesarean section. In pain from epidural complications, she leaned on the hospital staff. “If I didn’t have the doctors and nurses that I had, it would have been a whole lot worse,” she said.

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At 11:45 p.m., amidst the storm, their son, Dewey Lester Bennett IV, was born—a healthy, 8-pound baby boy. It was a moment of overwhelming relief and joy.

[“He is a miracle baby,”](#) Lewellen said, holding him close.

The timing of Dewey’s birth, in the heart of a natural disaster, serves as a reminder of something greater. No matter how big the storms of life are—both literally and figuratively—God is always bigger. As Psalm 107:29 says, “He made the storm calm, and the sea waves were still. They were glad because the waters were quiet, so He brought them to their desired harbor.”

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Jimmy Evans Reveals Satan’s Influence in the White House

In a recent episode of “Tipping Point,” host Pastor Jimmy Evans delves into a thought-provoking discussion about [U.S. foreign policy toward Israel](#) and its prophetic link to natural disasters.

Evans raises serious concerns about the Biden administration’s actions, particularly regarding the proposed two-state

solution between the Palestinian Arabs and Israelis, and how these policies may be connected to recent catastrophic weather events.

“This book right here,” Evans says, holding up a copy of William Koenig’s “Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel,” “gives 126 examples of when American foreign policy was against Israel—especially when it involved dividing their land—and the natural disasters that followed in the United States.”

Evans references the impact of recent hurricanes, including Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, asking, “Could there be a connection between these massive hurricanes hitting America and what’s happening in Israel at the same time?” He adds, “Some very troubling things are happening concerning the Biden administration’s policies, and it makes you wonder if these events are more than just coincidence.”

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According to Evans, the stakes are high. “When we go against Israel, especially when we’re dividing their land, the consequences are severe. Could the hurricanes be part of those consequences?” He points to what he calls a “bizarre development” in the Middle East, where the U.S. is allegedly “trying to bribe Israel not to strike certain targets in Iran.”

Evans’ perspective on U.S.-Israel relations is a stark reminder of his view that biblical prophecy plays a critical role in modern geopolitics. “Right now, some very troubling things are happening concerning the Biden administration’s policies,” he warns, urging viewers to pay attention to the link between America’s treatment of Israel and the natural disasters the country faces.

If people truly want to put “America First,” then they must

starting putting God first.

Joining Pastor Evans on the podcast was [Pastor Billy Crone](#), who discusses the deeper spiritual issues he believes are affecting America. Crone says that the leaders behind movements like the Great Reset, including figures like Klaus Schwab and Joe Biden, are part of a “Luciferian agenda” bent on global domination.

“They worship Lucifer,” Crone declares. “That’s not hyperbole; that’s literally the bottom line. These people are part of the World Economic Forum, purposely destroying our country to bring in the Antichrist kingdom.”

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Crone traces this influence back to occult societies, linking their origins to Hitler’s rise to power. “We’ve already demonstrated that Schwab has taken what Hitler did—the Third Reich—and changed it into the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” he says. “The key phrase is ‘secret doctrine,’ which traces back to Madame Blavatsky, who started the Luciferian order.”

Evans echoes Crone’s concerns, stating, “There is a spirit behind what’s happening right now, and it’s not of God. The Bible is the only book on earth that tells us in advance what’s really going on.”

The two men agree that this demonic influence has infiltrated even the highest levels of American leadership. “When Biden got into the White House, one of the first things they did was a ‘smudging’ ceremony,” Crone explains. “That’s witchcraft—cleansing the White House of Trump’s influence. We’re talking about people in high places, worshipping Satan.”

As Christians navigate a world filled with increasing turmoil, we must stand firm in our faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible

says we are the salt of the earth and the light unto the world, and we must live out this reality every single day. “Now is the time for us to humble ourselves, seek God’s face and turn from our wicked ways. That’s when true revival can begin,” Evans says.

In a rapidly changing world, we as Christians must use biblical discernment, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and remain steadfast, shining as beacons of light amidst the growing darkness.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Gateway Church Faces Lawsuit Over Money-Back Guarantee on Tithes

Gateway Church, a prominent megachurch in Southlake, Texas, is facing [a new legal challenge](#) after four members filed a class action lawsuit alleging misuse of tithe money.

The lawsuit, filed by Katherine and Garry Leach, along with Mark and Terri Browder, claims that Gateway Church, under the leadership of disgraced founder Robert Morris and other top leaders, failed to honor promises of transparency and accountability regarding church funds. Specifically, the members allege the church did not allocate 15% of tithes to global missions and Jewish ministry partners, as previously stated.

The lawsuit accuses Gateway Church leaders, including Morris, former executive pastor Tom Lane, and current executive global pastor Kevin Grove, of fraud, misrepresentation and breach of contract. The plaintiffs argue that despite assurances from Morris that dissatisfied members could receive a refund of their tithes, these promises were not upheld. The legal filing states, "This lawsuit is about transparency, brought by members whose concern is not money in their pockets but rather biblical stewardship."

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The case also highlights concerns about Gateway's Global Ministries fund, which the church claimed would receive 15% of tithe dollars. However, the plaintiffs allege that Gateway failed to prove these funds were distributed as promised, and attempts to seek transparency were "rebuffed by Gateway elders."

[In response to the allegations](#), Gateway Church spokesman Lawrence Swicegood declined to comment on the specifics of the lawsuit, citing the ongoing litigation. He emphasized the church's commitment to ethical financial practices, saying, "Funds donated to our church are sacred, and it is important that we hold ourselves to the highest biblical standards of ethics and integrity."

As reported by The Christian Post, "The church members contend that despite repeated promises from Morris and other leaders that congregants would get a refund of their tithes if they weren't happy with the results of their donations, Gateway Church leaders refused to honor that promise."

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This lawsuit comes at a difficult time for Gateway Church,

which already was dealing with the fallout from Morris' resignation in June. Morris stepped down after it came to light he had been sexually abusing a child in the 1980s, Cindy Clemishire, who was 12 years old at the time the abuse began, adding to the church's mounting challenges.

As the legal battle unfolds, lift up the community of Gateway Church in prayer. Pray for healing and clarity for the church as their community faces another painful situation, and that the Lord's will be done in all things.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.