

# Abandoned Megachurch Provides Unique Window to the Past

*Editor's note: This documentary contains mild language as well as explicit graffiti.*

For all of the nastiness that is found on social media and the internet these days, every once in a while you find a true gem that captures your attention and imagination, filling you with gladness over what you just witnessed.

Recently, the YouTube channel Ruin Road posted a now-viral video featuring the abandoned megachurch complex of the Akron Baptist Temple.

But something about Akron Baptist has struck a cord with many viewers as it is well on its way to becoming the channel's most-watched video to date, currently sitting at 750,000 views since Apr. 6.

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A crew from the YouTube channel embarked on a mission of discovery into the halls that once held thousands of worshippers on Sunday mornings.

Boasting a massive radio and ministry media for its time, the church is littered with abandoned cassette tapes and VHS recordings of old sermons, as well as in-house produced gospel music tracks and a radio program.

Leaning into a deep-history lesson as they walk the abandoned rooms throughout the church grounds, you feel as though you are living the history of that church with those in attendance over the decades.

"Sitting in the southern side of Akron, Ohio, lies the

decaying remains of the Akron Baptist Temple a vast expanse of building that was one of the first mega churches in the United States,” the documentary shares. “Akron Baptist Temple would get its modest beginnings in 1935 with just 80 members it was headed by Dallas F. Billington, a southern evangelist who had moved to Akron to work at Goodyear Tire.”

Throughout the church’s history it endured much, from expansive growth and new constructions to a devastating fire in the 1970s, suspected to be from arsonists.

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As the short documentary closes with before and after video of what the Akron Baptist Temple looked like during it’s heyday, to the tune of “It Is Well With My Soul” sung by the Akron Baptist Chorale, one can’t help but think back on our own past histories of church attendance.

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media*

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# **Do Not Fear God’s Prophetic**

# Warnings

The recent total solar eclipse on Apr. 8, has sparked intense discussions about its potential significance when it comes to biblical prophecy.

Jim Staley of Passion for Truth Ministries shared his insights on the celestial event during an interview with Charisma News. [Staley delved into the eclipse's deeper implications](#), addressing its meaning according to biblical prophecy and the prevailing anxiety surrounding the end times.

Staley initiates the conversation by pointing out the profound impact of celestial phenomena on world events throughout history.

“Anytime there is an event like this in the skies that’s significant, prophecy buffs are talking about it,” he notes.

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Drawing parallels to biblical accounts, such as the solar eclipse coinciding with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Staley emphasizes the need to interpret such events through the lens of Scripture.

Central to Staley’s explanation is the rarity of the 2024 eclipse, which he describes as an “extraordinary event” with profound implications. Citing its alignment with Nisan 1 on the biblical calendar, a day marked by significant historical milestones in Judeo-Christian tradition, he underscores its prophetic importance, “This is a very, very significant day on the Biblical calendar,” he asserts, linking past eclipses with subsequent biblical events such as:

- The New Year on God’s calendar
- The day Hezekiah cleaned the Temple

- The day Noah opened up the ark
- The day Nehemiah left to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem

Delving deeper into the spiritual and biblical meaning of the eclipse, Staley suggests that it serves as a “prophetic warning” for the people of America. He draws attention to the alignment of ancient Hebrew letters over the United States as a symbol of spiritual awakening and repentance. “I truly believe that God is calling these people to repent,” he declares, emphasizing the importance of embracing spiritual renewal amid turbulent times.

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Transitioning to the pervasive anxiety surrounding end times scenarios, Staley offers insights grounded in Scripture. “Anxiety is not the root. The root of anxiety is a lack of understanding and trust,” he explains, highlighting the importance of [cultivating a faith-based perspective amid uncertainty.](#)

In navigating the trails of the days we live in, Staley advocates for a mindset of resilience and spiritual preparedness by asking ourselves, “What do I need to do in my life to get more in alignment, so that that not only my stress level will come down, but that I will be able to be effective in this entire scenario?”

“We’re living in the most exciting times of all times right now,” Staley remarks, urging individuals to embrace tribulations as opportunities for growth and spiritual transformation.

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[ophetic-events/](#)

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media*

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# **Pastor Denounces 'Blasphemous' 'God Bless the U.S.A.' Bible**

When Donald Trump endorsed the "God Bless the U.S.A." Bible on Truth Social, it caused mixed reactions from the faith community.

[Some viewed it as a positive thing,](#) seeing a presidential candidate endorse the Bible as opposed to lighting the White House up in rainbow colors and push irreversible medical procedures onto children.

There were many others, however, who viewed it as a sacrilegious stunt and an "Americanizing" of the Word of God.

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Pastor Loran Livingston of Central Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, rebuked support for this particular version of the Bible, calling out those who think it's a good thing in a now-viral sermon.

"If you don't read [the Bible] and pray, you'll think it's a good thing that there's a Bible now that has the Constitution

on one side, and the Bill of Rights on the other,” Livingston says in the first of two services he addressed the Bible in on Apr. 14.

“Some of you think that’s good? [That somebody produced a Bible, the holy Word of God,](#) and decided to Americanize it. ...Are you telling me, that you would take a document that says ‘This is of the people, by the people and for the people’ and stick it up beside the holy Word of God that is infallible, eternal and is not about me but it is about Him?” Livingston asks.

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For those thinking along the same lines as Livingston, this addition to the Bible goes against the warnings in both the Old and New Testaments regarding adding to Scripture, especially things of man such as the Founding documents.

“The gospel is not an American gospel,” Langston said in a rising voice. “It is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!”

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# Prophetic Dream: Angels at the White House Gates

The spiritual warfare taking place in our nation's capital is at a fevered pitch.

Recently, [author Dutch Sheets shared a prophetic dream](#) that his brother, Tim Sheets, had concerning the uprooting of Baal's roots that have taken hold of the White House.

In the dream, Sheets saw a massive angel, a soldier he explains, carrying a battering ram toward the White House grounds and asks the angel what he and the other three angels surrounding the building were doing.

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"Sir, we're here to break down Lucifer's protective barriers," the angel replied in the vision. "We are here to breakdown Lucifer's protective barriers of Baal's roots."

America is dealing with a lot these days. There are physical manifestations, such as the difficult economy, lawlessness and persecution of the ways of God taking place, but there are spiritual battles happening behind these events.

Of course, seeing a direct spiritual assault on the strongholds over this nation's leadership, Sheets asks the angel why he was even being showed this vision, what is the reason behind this?

"Sir," the angel replied. "Permission to proceed."

Dutch reveals the role the church has in America for the chains to be broken over the nation.

"[The angel is] waiting for the apostolic decree from the

ecclesia. To carry out, to be the voice of the Lord, so they could carry out their assignment,” says Dutch.

The war being waged in the spiritual realm is in need of Christians participation. This military conflict of the supernatural is detailed to us throughout Scripture, and the important role of believers. Paul exhorts us to put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11) because we are going into battle by proclaiming the name of Jesus.

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Paul also tells us, specifically, our battle is not with each other but with the principalities, powers and rulers of darkness, again, in the spiritual realm (Eph. 6:12), and that our warfare is not of the flesh but is instead spiritual in nature (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

As the dream comes to an end, Dutch shares the words his brother Tim gave to the angel upon the realization that they are waiting on the ecclesia to give the word: “Soldier, proceed,” he says.

“He finishes his account by saying [Michael and his angels will be releasing battering rams](#) to unlock this nation and they will,” Dutch says.

God sends His angels to help us in times of crisis, some as warrior angels, some as ministering angels and messengers. It is up to us to lift up prayers to the Lord as Daniel did, and He will answer us in turn.

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**James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.**


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# Kirk Franklin's Dance Routine at Gospel Event Alarms Fans

Taking the stage as one of the headlining acts at the 65th anniversary of "Fun in the Son," an annual music event in National Stadium, Kingston, Jamaica, [musician Kirk Franklin caused quite the stir](#).

Sponsoring the event is Best Dressed Chicken, think of them like the Jamaican version of Chick-fil-A wherein they put faith at the forefront of their business, who is owned by another faith based company, Jamaica Broilers Group.

For some reason, Franklin decided to put on a dance number that turned off many in the crowd, with reports of people leaving during the performance.

*Kirk Franklin performing in Jamaica*  [pic.twitter.com/2CSFUC52Wf](https://pic.twitter.com/2CSFUC52Wf)

– *The Tropixs (@Tropixsofficial)* [April 21, 2024](#)

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While wearing a tank-top and cut-off shorts is no surprise on the tropical island nation of Jamaica, it was Franklin's thrusting and gyrations that put people off who compared it to an Usher or Chris Brown concert, not a celebration of Jesus festival.

The event's sponsors have made it as clear as day that the festival is about Jesus, and it is meant to thank Him for His

faithfulness to their respective companies.

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Despite these companies making it clear [what kind of content and performances are expected](#) at the “Fun in the Son” event, Franklin clearly didn’t get the memo, and even drew the ire of one of the executives in charge of Jamaica Broilers Group.

In a statement to The Christian Post, Jamaica Broilers Group President and CEO Christopher Levy says, “When we engage an artist, it is with a degree of trust that the artist will be aware of and sensitive to their audience. We expected more from Mr. Franklin.

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## **Biden Blesses Abortion at Rally, Outrage Ensues**

President Joe Biden sparked furor among people of faith at a recent rally in the deep-red state of Florida.

While on stage with Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki

Fried, who lost to former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist in the 2022 primaries by double digits (Crist then went on to lose to Gov. Ron DeSantis by double digits as well), bemoaned the state's six-week abortion ban.

With DeSantis winning the Florida governorship by the largest margin in 40 years, including the formerly blue Miami-Dade county by 11 points, Democrats in the state have turned to abortion as a way to try and gain back the massive amount of votes they have lost in the free-state of Florida.

"We come back here to the state of Florida, where Ron DeSantis felt like he needed to run for president, so 15 weeks wasn't good enough," says Fried. "We had to go to six weeks."

*Biden the self-described "devout Catholic" makes the sign of the cross in support of this woman's desire to kill babies up through 3 months of pregnancy.*

[pic.twitter.com/jEkL850JP3](https://pic.twitter.com/jEkL850JP3)

– Buck Sexton (@BuckSexton) [April 24, 2024](#)

**[Breaking News.](#) [Spirit-Filled Stories.](#) **Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!****

During Fried's comments, Biden, standing next to her, performs the Sign of the Cross.

As reported by Fox News, "The Sign of the Cross is an ancient expression of piety that has existed since at least the third century and is commonly used by Catholic and Orthodox churches as a form of blessing."

Predictably, members of the Catholic Church which Biden claims to be such a fervent follower of, were infuriated by this gesture while discussing the killing of human babies.

"Biden's use of the Sign of the Cross in support of abortion

is a disgusting insult toward all Christians, but especially of Catholics whom he claims as his own,” President of CatholicVote Brian Burch said to Fox News Digital after the event went viral.

“The Sign of the Cross is a sacred gesture used by believers to bless themselves, ask forgiveness or to protect them from temptation. Instead, Biden has turned this ancient Christian practice into an endorsement of abortion extremism,” he adds.

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This hammering by Catholics comes on the heels of another leader within the church calling Biden “stupid” the week before his abortion faux pas.

“I don’t have any anger towards the president. I feel sorry for him. I’m not angry at him, he’s just stupid,” said Bishop Robert Gruss of the Diocese of Saginaw. “It’s not stupidity in the derogatory way, it’s stupidity in the sense of [...] he doesn’t understand the Catholic faith.”

If Biden did understand his Catholic faith, he would know that it is vehemently against the termination of life inside the womb, an act that he and his administration has supported with what could be called “demonic fervor.”

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# Prophetic Warning: 'America, You Have 2 Years'

In a recent episode of the Strang Report podcast, prophetic voice Chuck Pierce shared profound insights about the current geopolitical landscape surrounding Israel, the current spiritual course the United States is on, and the prophetic significance surrounding the events taking place in the world today.

Pierce's message was clear: [America has two years to realign with God's covenant plan.](#)

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The discussion began with the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, particularly the attacks on Israel by Hamas and Iran. Pierce emphasized the gravity of these events, stating, "this attack by Hamas on Oct. 7, has now dragged on six months... Israel, in my opinion, has to defend itself, and yet the world seems to be turning against Israel." He points to the importance of Israel in God's plan, referring to Israel as "the central covenant choice for Him to display His will in the earth realm amongst the nations."

## **God's Love for Israel**

Pierce highlighted God's special relationship with Israel, referencing the Hebrew Scriptures to emphasize God's love and protection for His chosen nation. In Isaiah 49:16 (MEV), it is written, "See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me." This verse illustrates and confirms God's unwavering commitment to Israel, always watching over and protecting them putting to rest the argument that Christians have somehow replaced Israel as opposed to being grafted into the tree of salvation with them.

The very birth of the modern state of Israel is a fulfillment of prophecy according to Pierce, saying, "Could a nation be born in a day? There's no other people on Earth that was dispersed in the same way that Israel has been for almost 2,000 years and then reemerged." He recounts the miraculous survival of Israel against numerous attacks throughout its history, highlighting God's protective hand over the nation.

### **Warnings to America**

The warning to America was stark and urgent. Pierce stated, "God said America, I'm going to give you two years to make choices to realign with my Covenant plan." He shares concern over America's shifting stance towards Israel, noting a growing anti-Israel sentiment since the Oct. 7, attacks. Pierce urged Americans to recognize the importance of their choices, reinforcing the old adage that "elections have consequences."

Scripture warns about the consequences of cursing Israel. In Genesis 12:3, God says to Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse." This verse serves as a powerful reminder of God's promise to protect and bless those who support Israel and the dire consequences for those who oppose or harm them.

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### **Global Geopolitics and God's Plan**

Pierce also delves into the intricate relationships between Iran, China and Russia, emphasizing their impact on global geopolitics. He points out China's emerging role in the world and its relationship with Iran, stating, "I think Iran would prefer China to become that world power, [and] God showed me that is possible by 2026." He highlighted the growing dependency between Russia and Iran for weaponry, noting the

changing dynamics in the Middle East.

Pierce then mentions signs from God, such as the recent eclipse on Apr. 8, as messages urging nations to align with His plan. He stated, "I actually believe that was a sign when the moon and the sun aligned and that path formed across America that the Lord said 'I'm giving America a new path if they'll choose in the next two years.'"

The prophetic warning from Chuck Pierce [serves as a wake-up call for America](#) and the global community. It underscores the significance of aligning with God's covenant plan and supporting Israel, God's chosen nation. As believers, we must heed these warnings, pray fervently and align our actions with God's Word.

Let us remember the words of Isaiah 62:1, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet." As Christians, let us stand with Israel, pray for our nation's alignment with God's will, and trust in His promises of protection and blessing.

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*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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**Netflix's 'Testament: The Story of Moses' Takes Audiences on a Journey of**

# Faith and Discovery

[Netflix's newest sensation](#) is captivating audiences worldwide with its three-part docudrama, "Testament: The Story of Moses." Currently at the top spot as the most-watched streaming show, the series chronicles Moses' remarkable journey from an outcast in exile to a revered prophet and leader.

Narrated by actor Charles Dance, the series offers more than just a retelling of familiar biblical tales. It delves deeper into Moses' life, uncovering lesser-known aspects and presenting a richer understanding of this pivotal biblical figure. Interviews with experts are seamlessly woven into the narrative, providing insightful commentary on the complexities of Moses' story.

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Producers Emre Sahin and Kelly McPherson were drawn to exploring the nuances of Moses' life, moving beyond the grandiose events like the burning bush, the plagues, Passover, the parting of the Red Sea and the Ten Commandments. They focused on Moses' internal struggles, his journey of self-discovery, battles with self-doubt and his inherent humanity, offering a more relatable and humanizing portrayal of the prophet.

The success of "Testament" on Netflix is particularly noteworthy given the platform's broad range of trending content. Joining other faith-based films like "Jesus Revolution" and "The Chosen" on the trending list, "Testament" continues to build momentum for faith-based offerings on Netflix. The series is paving the way for more innovative and thought-provoking content that resonates with audiences seeking deeper spiritual narratives.

In contrast to other Christian-based faith films, “Testament” offers commentary from all three of the Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

All three episodes of “Testament: The Story of Moses” are currently streaming on Netflix, inviting viewers to delve into the profound and timeless story of one of history’s most influential figures.

### **The Enduring Importance of Moses to Christians and Jews**

Moses holds a significant place in the hearts and minds of both Christians and Jews. For the people of Israel, Moses is not just a historical figure but a foundational leader who played a pivotal role in their liberation from slavery in Egypt and the establishment of the covenant with God at Mount Sinai.

His obedience to the Lord, despite facing numerous challenges and doubts, serves as a powerful example of faith, resilience, and commitment. Christians often view Moses as a precursor to Jesus Christ, seeing parallels in their roles as saviors and leaders who guide their people towards spiritual freedom and redemption.

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For Jews, Moses is revered as the greatest prophet and lawgiver, who received the Torah directly from God. His teachings and commandments form the basis of Jewish law and ethics, shaping the religious and cultural identity of the Jewish people for millennia.

Today, the story of Moses continues to inspire and resonate with believers of both faiths. His journey from a reluctant leader to a fearless prophet reminds us of the transformative power of faith, the importance of obedience to the Lord’s

guidance and the enduring legacy of a life lived in service to God and humanity.

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# Remembering Mandisa: A Life of Faith, Struggle and Victory

[The recent passing of Mandisa Hundley](#), known to many as simply Mandisa, has left a hurt in the hearts of family, friends and fans worldwide. As authorities continue their investigation into her unexpected death, the focus remains on celebrating her remarkable life—a life marked by faith, resilience and triumph.

To date, the Franklin, Tennessee, Police Department has ruled out any “suspicious or criminal activity.”

*The Franklin Police Department is continuing to investigate the death of a woman found inside a Beamon Dr. residence last Thursday evening.*

*Over the weekend, a medical examiner identified the deceased individual as Mandisa Hundley, 47.*

*At this time, there is no indication the...*  
[pic.twitter.com/DheG38KqSi](https://pic.twitter.com/DheG38KqSi)

– Franklin Police Department (@FranklinTNPd) [April 22, 2024](#)

Born in California, Mandisa Hundley's passion for music led her to Fisk University in Nashville, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in music in 2000. Her talent didn't go unnoticed; soon after, she found herself working as a session and backup vocalist for renowned artists like Trisha Yearwood and Shania Twain.

In 2005, Mandisa captured the nation's attention with her audition on "American Idol." Throughout the competition, she not only showcased her incredible gospel vocals but also stood firm in her Christian faith. Despite facing criticism, notably from Judge Simon Cowell about her weight, Mandisa responded with grace and forgiveness, saying, "I've forgiven you and that you don't need someone to apologize in order to forgive somebody."

Her resilience and faith continued to guide her through life's challenges. Mandisa openly shared her struggles with weight, which she described as "a hindrance my whole life." Yet, she turned these challenges into opportunities for growth, using them as motivation to lead a healthier lifestyle. Her faith played a pivotal role in this transformation, teaching her about obedience to God and viewing her body as a temple.

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However, Mandisa's journey was not without its trials. She faced personal losses and traumas that tested her faith and led her into a three-year depression. Yet, with the support of friends and faith communities, she sought counseling and gradually found her way back to joy and purpose.

In 2022, Mandisa released her memoir, "Out of the Dark: My Journey Through the Shadows to Find God's Joy," where she courageously detailed her struggles with depression. Through her book and interviews, she aimed to spark conversations about mental health and encourage others to seek help and

support.

Her music also reflected her journey of faith and resilience. Songs like “It’s Not Over,” sung with Jasmine Murray and Rita Springer, served as anthems of hope and encouragement. Mandisa believed that God was still writing her story and that He was not done with her yet.

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“God’s grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in my weakness,” she often said, echoing the comforting words of 2 Corinthians 12:9. Mandisa’s life exemplified the transformative power of faith, forgiveness and perseverance.

[\*\*While we mourn the loss of this talented artist,\*\*](#) we also celebrate her legacy—a legacy of faith, struggle and victory. Mandisa’s life serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the sustaining power of faith in God.

As we remember Mandisa, let us hold onto the hope and comfort found in the words of Psalm 34:18: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Mandisa’s many fans around the world can find solace in knowing that she is now in the arms of her Savior, experiencing the eternal joy and peace she so deeply believed in.

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# God's Miracle Protection Amid Missile Bombardment

In a recent interview with Charisma News, Byron Stinson shared his firsthand experience of [God's protection over Israel during a missile attack from Iran](#).

Stinson, currently in Israel, recounted the event, saying, "When Iran sent missiles into attack Israel just a few days ago... I slept nine hours, and when I got up, it was the most peaceful morning that I've experienced here in a long time."

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Despite the ongoing threats and attacks, Stinson emphasized his unwavering faith in God's protective hand over Israel. "I've been here in Israel for many years, and there's been many attacks of rockets... but what I look for is how many actually hit something. In 2014, out of 5,000 rockets, only one hit something," he shared.

Stinson is also deeply involved in bringing red heifers to Israel, which have garnered global attention. He sees these red heifers as a physical manifestation of biblical prophecies. ["The red heifers, this perfect red heifer, caught the world's attention...](#) God intends to bring about a physical kingdom of God on Earth," Stinson says.

While many hoped the red heifer ceremony would occur soon, it has faced delays. Yet Stinson remains optimistic about its occurrence in the future. He stressed the importance of global unity and understanding between Jewish and Christian communities, saying, "We're called by the Word to be one tree... These physical things are there to help us start really delving back into the Torah and understanding Hashem, the God of Abraham."

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Stinson and a team from Oral Roberts University are working on live-streaming the red heifer ceremony to the world. He believes this event will be a pivotal moment aligning with biblical prophecies. "I just had... a gentleman from Oral Roberts University... they intend to help us livestream the event when it happens to the entire world," Stinson shared.

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