

ICYMI – LIVE With Greg Locke: The American Church Is Falling for Demonic Spirits

The one thing most of us fail to do is to discern when we're dealing with demonic spirits. However, it's important to sharpen our ability to discern evil spirits and their workings. For this, having the gift of discerning of spirits is especially valuable, but don't ever doubt that we all have to develop this discernment, especially when working in deliverance ministry. In this spiritual war, the discerning of spirits is the tip of the sword.

One of the issues we see with discerning spirits is that many people leave the faith because they followed after other spirits instead of the Holy Spirit. Take a look at this verse:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils," (1 Tim. 4:1).

In the verse above, the apostle Paul is writing to his spiritual son, Timothy, to give him a picture of the spiritual warfare at hand. Be reminded that the latter times that Paul references in this verse began at Pentecost and continues through today. Paul was living in the beginning of the last days when he said these words almost 2,000 years ago.

Now when people ask, "You've been saying that Jesus is going to return for 2,000 years, where are all the signs of His coming? Where is He?" I always respond, "If you read the Bible, you'll realize that it took Him 4,000 years to show up the first time." True as that is, the prophetic timeline is suddenly accelerating at a startling rate, so we'd better buckle up.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

In our key verse, where Paul refers to those who “shall depart from the faith,” he is not talking about ungodly individuals who stick their middle finger in God’s face, spit on the Bible and hate church. He is talking about believers who will depart from the church, from the truth of the Bible, from the preaching, from prayer, from fasting and from deliverance and miracles. And the reason they will depart is shocking. They will give heed to seducing spirits. This, of course, is not a reference to the Holy Spirit that’s spoken of in the first part of the verse. These are evil spirits, and these dark seducing spirits will eventually woo them into accepting “doctrines of devils.”

Doctrines of devils are false religions and other false teachings that dismiss the Bible: idol worship, the worship of man, the worship of objects, the worship of statues, the worship of beads, the worship of charms and amulets and crystals and horoscopes, etc.; and they will eventually defend every sort of perversion that goes against the Word of God. Church people will literally side with demons and occultism and witchcraft. If you haven’t seen that come full circle in our time, then you’ve not been paying attention. In short, Paul says there will be demonic activity in the church during the last days that will destroy the church.

The influence of demonic activity in the life of the American church is an absolute fact, and through all my efforts to battle against it, I’ve discovered you cannot appeal to the conscience of a demon. It works to destroy the conscience of its host and has no conscience of its own. A demonic spirit is void of that emotional connection to God, so it causes people to live numb and dry and lukewarm and barren, and in this context, we begin to understand that a demon is nothing more than a person without a body who has taken hold of a human

body.

As we see more and more demonic influence in our culture, we need to heed Paul's warnings. The devil is going hard after the people of God, and no one is an exception. We must buckle up with the armor of God, stick close to His Word and keep our eyes focused on Christ.



[To read more from Greg Locke's newest book, "Cast It Out," visit MyCharismaShop.com.](#)

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Food Banks to Freedom Fighter: Troy Brewer's Incredible Story of Combating Child Trafficking

In a world fraught with peril, the Christian community stands united in its fight against the grave threat of child trafficking. As believers hold fast to their faith, they respond to an urgent call to defend the most vulnerable members of society.

Child trafficking, a deeply disturbing reality that shatters lives, is met with a resounding resolve from Christians worldwide. The harrowing tales of children subjected to exploitation evoke a call for action deeply rooted in biblical

principles.

Marked by faith, Pastor Troy Brewer is employing his media platforms, prophetic efforts and church endeavors to safeguard the young souls falling victim to this grievous crime. Yet, a lesser-known fact emerges—the heart behind these initiatives is also directed towards the profound endeavor of rescuing and nurturing thousands of innocent lives.

The journey began almost three decades ago for Brewer, orchestrated by an anointing to build food banks. With an unwavering spirit, he set out to make a difference, unaware of the remarkable journey that God had laid ahead for him and his ministry.

“I have a knack for building food banks,” Brewer shares in an exclusive Charisma News interview.

“The Lord anointed me to build food banks, years and years and years ago,” he adds. “And so we started [building] food banks all over the world. And we started doing works in like trash dumps and things like that. And then in so doing, we started coming across kids that were being trafficked.”

These endeavors led to the discovery of children hidden away in the shadows of despair, their lives pawned as part of a sinister trade. A pivotal moment occurred in Costa Rica, Central America, when a distressed woman offered young girls for sale, mistakenly assuming Brewer was in the market for such a purchase.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Moved by the Spirit, Brewer’s response of—“How much?”—became the cornerstone of a mission to rescue, rehabilitate and restore. The relentless pursuit of this cause transformed into the rescue of over 10,000 children, offering them new

beginnings, shelter, education and a loving family.

“It was the first time I had ever had anybody ask me that,” Brewer recalls. “I just [felt] the presence of the Lord came on me, and before I even knew what to do, I just said ‘Yeah, I’ll buy ‘em right now. How much?’”

“And she told me and I pulled out my billfold, and I bought these two little girls and I walked off with them,” he says. “I went and found my wife ... and my team. Then we took them directly to a children’s home that we were building and actually working with.”

Remarkably, this endeavor is a twofold testament. Not only do Brewer and his ministry rescue, but they nurture as well. Over 4,000 children have found forever homes, becoming part of loving families. Education, protection and even medical training become part of the journey out of the world of trafficking.

“Usually, people either take care of the kids and they don’t rescue, or they rescue and they don’t take care of the kids, because that’s not their thing,” Brewer explains. “Now, we do both. We didn’t know any better, and we didn’t know what else to do. Now we’re in our second generation of kids, and some of them now are in their late 20s.”

The love of God in the face of adversity emanates from these actions. Matthew 18:5 guides Brewer’s path, “And whoever receives one such little child in My name receives Me.” These believers stand as modern-day examples of Christlike behavior, embodying the values of compassion and redemption as they reclaim stolen innocence.

Another striking testimony also emerges—the hand of providence that birthed unforeseen successes. The 2016 blessing of a decades-old book, “Numbers That Preach,” became an unexpected conduit of resources, funding and global awareness. This astonishing turn of events enabled the building of safe havens

just before the pandemic struck, allowing the rescue of thousands in the midst of global turmoil.

As Christians worldwide affirm their commitment to thwart child trafficking, their efforts mirror Christ's heart for the little ones. In the face of darkness, these believers ignite a beacon of hope, proving that faith-driven action can change lives and rewrite destinies.

To watch the entire inspirational interview with Pastor Troy Brewer, [click here](#).

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Parents Resist State's Move to Tear Down the Nuclear Family

California's legal landscape stirred as Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a civil rights lawsuit against a school district, sparking debates over [the role of parents and the government in children's lives](#).

Bonta's legal action comes in response to a policy adopted by the Chino Valley Unified School District, affecting over 26,000 students in San Bernardino County. The policy, implemented in July, mandates teachers to notify parents within three days if their child requests gender-related changes, such as using different names or pronouns, or

participating in activities opposite their biological gender.

“Each student deserves an educational environment fostering safety, privacy, and inclusivity, regardless of gender identity,” Bonta asserted in a press statement.

The district’s “forced outing policy” is claimed by the attorney general to impinge on the privacy rights of LGBTQ students and infringe upon the state’s constitution.

Critics argue that this approach tramples on the rights of parents to make decisions regarding their children’s upbringing, a sentiment deeply rooted in the Bible. Proverbs 22:6 states, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” This perspective champions parental responsibility in guiding children’s paths.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Furthermore, the debate delves into the essence of parental rights, enshrined in passages such as Ephesians 6:4b: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” The Bible underscores the pivotal role of parents as primary caregivers and spiritual guides.

Sonja Shaw, a fervent advocate for parental rights and president of the Chino Valley Unified Board of Education, emphasized that the policy was an attempt to foster transparency between schools and parents. Shaw expressed concern that Bonta’s actions displayed governmental overreach, potentially undermining parents’ constitutional rights.

The ongoing clash spotlights a broader concern about government involvement in family affairs. The prevailing sentiment among many Christian parents is that children are a gift from God, and [their upbringing and well-being should be](#)

[entrusted to parents](#), not to the government.

As the legal battle unfolds, California remains a pivotal battleground for the parental rights movement, resisting policies that seem to challenge the authority of parents. Republican Assemblymember Bill Essayli's proposed AB 1314 echoes the concerns of many parents, aiming to mandate schools to notify parents about gender-related changes.

The tug of war between government intervention and parental rights in education continues, with passionate advocates on both sides. As communities grapple with these issues, the essence of Proverbs 22:6 remains at the forefront: the responsibility to raise children in accordance with values and beliefs—a responsibility held sacred by parents who hold the Bible close to their hearts. {eoa}

[*Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!*](#)

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Former Psychic Highlights Spiritual Deception in Divination's Impact on Americans

Daily Wire personality Michael Knowles, host of "The Michael Knowles Show," recently interviewed a former psychic, a discussion that was unveiled on Saturday. In this exchange, they explore [the prevalent practice of divination in the](#)

[United States](#) and its connections to the spiritual realm.

During the interview, Jen Nizza shares her journey of being drawn into the realm of psychics from a young age, largely due to the influence of her mother, aunt and sister. She recounts her early encounters with tools such as tarot cards, which she describes as a bridge into other forms of divination. These experiences profoundly convinced her of a unique ability residing within her. As she persisted in her pursuits, Nizza evolved into a professional psychic.

“When I was a real psychic medium, I really wanted to help people,” she says. “I was told I had a gift from God. There’s that little that you know, and that draws you in, right? Because you’re thinking, ‘This is a gift. This is so helpful. This person is nice and compassionate,’ and we’re hugging and crying.”

Nizza reveals that her time as a psychic brought substantial financial gains, with her readings commanding fees in the “hundreds of dollars” range. Additionally, she took the lead in conducting her own sessions to teach divination techniques. However, as she continued on this path, a sense of unease started to envelop her. This eventually led her to undergo a transformation in her beliefs, and she embraced Christianity.

“I wasn’t scared until I started seeing scary things and hearing scary things and getting touched by demons because think about the devil giving you this power,” Nizza recalls. “You like to have pride. You like to have power, right?”

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Hailing from Long Island, New York, Nizza says her divination endeavors thrived in the vibrant atmosphere of New York City. She pointed out that the surge in a “godless culture” has paved the way for a heightened demand for occult practices.

Individuals seek insights and authority, often turning to practices with spiritual connection, she says. However, Nizza cautions that these practices can be deceptively appealing, often cloaked in an innocent facade—sometimes even presenting themselves as aligned with Christian beliefs.

“This is the deception, Michael, that people really do need to know ... because they’re going to use God’s words and even prayers,” Nizza says. “And that’s another way to suck you into something that is so demonic.”

Nizza also emphasizes [that divination holds an “addictive” nature](#), revealing that her psychic enterprise expanded significantly through word-of-mouth endorsements, a testament to the consistent accuracy of her readings. Knowles mentions the intriguing trend of individuals repeatedly seeking out psychics, noting that this suggests the practice doesn’t genuinely provide meaningful assistance to people.

“If the psychic came in and fixed your problem, well, I guess that person wouldn’t be a psychic,” Knowles says. “And the powers that control the psychic experience wouldn’t be who they are either.”

“Well, you hit the nail on the head,” Nizza replies. “It’s a hamster wheel, but that’s all it is. But they’re getting a taste of something that fulfills them for 50 minutes. Yeah, And then because it’s not what they’re really needing, right? They’re looking for peace. They’re looking for joy, They’re looking for answers. They’re looking for wisdom, they’re looking for knowledge. But they’re going to the wrong time for that. They’re going to the demonic side of this, not to God.”

To watch Michael Knowles’ full interview, [click here](#).

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

How to Spend Your Time With God

Once you decide to spend time each day in the presence of the Lord, you may wonder what you're supposed to do during that time.

Many people assume I spend the majority of that time praying. [I spend much of my time waiting upon the Lord and worshipping.](#) I wait upon the Lord to quicken me (Ps. 80:18).

It might surprise you to read this, but I have come to believe that prayer in and of itself is not necessarily powerful. After all, religious people pray. Even well-meaning Christians try to put a spiritual label on things they are doing in the flesh, even spiritual practices such as prayer, fasting and praise.

The problem is, there is no power in those things when they are done in the flesh. There is only power in the presence of Jesus. When we commune with the Lord, there is power. As we spend time with Jesus and He becomes real to us, there is real power.

There are two realms in which we operate: the realm of the flesh and the realm of the spirit. Only in the realm of the spirit will you see lasting results. There are no lasting results in the flesh; anything that seems like a result there is only temporary and will quickly disappear. What happens in the realm of the spirit is eternal. Second Corinthians 4:18 says, "...while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are

eternal" (NKJV).

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

We are to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 makes this very clear: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." In other words, we need to get in the Spirit and live there.

People don't just naturally know how to live in the Spirit. They don't know how to find their way to that secret place. The secret place is the world God wants us to live in. Psalm 91:1 says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." It doesn't say, "He that visits the secret place." That's the problem. Too many people visit and then leave.

Let's take another look at this scriptural promise: "He that dwelleth in the secret place...shall abide." That means it's your address, your place of residence. It's where you live.

How do you get there? The key is this: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isa. 40:31). Waiting upon the Lord is the secret. Waiting upon the Lord is the bridge between the flesh and the Spirit.

How do we wait? [The Bible says very clearly that we are to be still.](#) God never said, "Be quiet," because it's not enough to just be quiet. He said, "Be still."

There's a big difference. Quietness is soulish. Stillness is spiritual. If you allow it, quietness will lead you to stillness. When you are quiet long enough, God will bring stillness to your spirit man. Let God quicken you to stillness. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself when we are still. Stillness activates His power. Stillness releases His power in us. Stillness manifests the presence of God in us.

Stillness leads us to a deeper understanding of what it means to be in the presence of the living God.

Waiting upon the Lord disarms the flesh. It allows you time to forget about yourself and see Jesus. It dismantles the powers of sin. It gives you Holy Spirit strength in your inner man, and the flesh begins to lose its grip on your life. That is what Paul meant when he said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection" (1 Cor. 9:27).



[To order your copy of "Mysteries of the Anointing," click here!](#)

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Guided by Faith: A Christian Mother's Journey Amid Gender Transition Struggles

In a deeply personal account of her family's challenges, Tracy Shannon opens up about the painful journey her family endured as [her husband transitioned to become a woman.](#)

With unwavering faith and conviction, Shannon navigated the stormy waters of her family's upheaval, shining a light on the biblical truths that guided her through the darkest times.

Shannon's journey began with the discovery of her husband's "cross-dressing" tendencies shortly after the birth of their first child.

“There were some rather disturbing things that did happen in those years,” [Shannon says](#).

As she grappled with her husband’s evolving behavior, she found herself facing disturbing incidents, including his use of her lingerie and other alarming behaviors.

“There were some incidents of cross-dressing in the marriage that would come up. It didn’t seem extremely out of control. We would go to counseling, and he’d say he’d never do it again. So, I believed him several times,” Shannon explained.

Despite seeking counseling and receiving assurances of change, Shannon’s family soon faced a greater challenge when her husband embarked on a medical transition after connecting with someone online.

Amid the upheaval, Shannon’s pain was twofold. She not only mourned the loss of her husband, but her children also had to process the transformation of their father.

Believing that gender is unchangeably defined by God and that transgender ideology contradicts His design, Shannon witnessed firsthand the destructive impact of this belief on her family unit.

“I think that gender [ideology] is a lie. I don’t think that anybody can ever accomplish the goal of completely becoming the opposite sex. I believe it’s fraudulent therapy and fraudulent medicine. And it creates a lot of problems, not just the destruction of a family, which is serious enough. [But also] the erasure of fathers,” Shannon said.

Shannon passionately conveys her conviction that such ideologies erode the fabric of families, prioritizing individual fulfillment over commitments and roles ordained by God. Addressing the gender ideology’s destructive influence, she emphasizes the need for a return to biblical values that uphold the sanctity of marriage and family.

“There’s this idea that runs through our society with this in other areas that adult fulfillment is more important than the family, more important than the marriage, more important than commitment. And that is why it’s harming families,” Shannon adds.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

“I did worry about setting him off because I did know about some instances of cross-dressing throughout the marriage,” she said “So I would change how I dressed. I wouldn’t dress as feminine... Even all the way down to my lingerie or underwear and bras, I would just wear the basics because even though I might like to wear something prettier—that made me feel pretty good—but I wouldn’t because if I had those things in my closet, then perhaps it might trigger him to cross-dress.

“So that did affect me in that he had this other woman that he was creating for himself and enjoying by himself that felt like an affair,” she continued. “It affected me in the same way that you would imagine a woman whose husband is cheating.”

Amid the tumultuous journey, [Shannon held fast to her faith](#), relying on the wisdom of the Bible to guide her steps. Shannon’s reliance on God’s promises, her trust that He would protect her children and her eventual restoration through remarriage and a growing family illustrate the resilience that comes from unwavering faith.

“I prayed for them [her children],” she said. “They went through some horrible stuff... and I couldn’t protect them from everything. So, I had to trust that God who loves them was going to work things out. And He did. And He protected them from so much. And you’d never know that they have been through so much that they’ve been through.

“It was just very devastating time for me. But I trusted in

the Lord that He would restore everything,” Shannon reveals.

Shannon’s story, one of heartbreak, resilience and redemption, serves as a testament to the power of faith in the face of adversity.

In the midst of family struggles, she found strength in the Word of God, relying on His promises to guide her through life’s struggles. Her struggles stand as a beacon of hope for others facing turmoil, reminding them that God’s love and restoration can prevail even in the darkest moments of life’s journey.

In the end, God restored that which the enemy had tried to take away.

“I ended up remarrying and being home again with my children and had another baby,” Shannon concluded.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

MSNBC Panel Claims Christians Supporting Trump ‘Are Going to Hell’

In a recent MSNBC segment, a panel discussion took a troubling turn as hosts Joe Scarborough and Eugene Robinson mocked Christians who support Donald Trump’s 2024 campaign.

The segment drew attention to a CBS News/YouGov poll revealing

that Trump's supporters have more trust in him than in their own family, conservative media figures and even religious leaders.

The discussion quickly devolved into ridicule and religious bigotry, causing outrage among the Christian population that has been the target of such divisive comments.

During the broadcast, Scarborough and Robinson seized upon the poll's results to make sweeping and derogatory generalizations about Christian voters, particularly those from Iowa.

"We've been hearing, Gene, for so long that Iowa voters are deeply religious. 'Oh, they're truly Christian evangelicals. Oh, if you go to Iowa, then you love Jesus so much!'" Scarborough sneered, dismissing the religious convictions of a substantial portion of the state.

Robinson joined in, framing Trump supporters' trust in him as a condemning verdict on their spiritual futures, stating that "a whole lot of people in Iowa are going to hell!" The comments, tinged with sarcasm and disdain, not only belittled Christians but also propagated a divisive narrative that does a disservice to open discourse.

"It's just what those numbers suggest is that a whole lot of people in Iowa are going to hell! Right? They are not going to be redeemed!" Robinson exclaims.

The derogatory tone of the conversation was met with immediate backlash.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Co-host Mika Brzezinski's audible dissent signaled that even within the network, there were reservations about the direction the conversation had taken. It's disheartening to

witness a mainstream media outlet stoop to such a level, using biased rhetoric to attack a specific religious group.

Instead of engaging in constructive dialogue, the “Morning Joe” panel chose to cherry-pick data from the poll to fuel their mockery of Christians for political purposes. Rather than addressing the actual reasons for the trust that Trump voters place in him—such as their perception of him as a defender of their interests and the belief that the country was better off under his leadership—the panel chose to vilify a significant segment of the population.

This incident underscores the importance of responsible journalism—and the unfortunate lack of it—that respects differing perspectives and engages in thoughtful analysis.

Satan is a skilled manipulator who uses various channels, including mainstream media, to advance his own agenda. Similar to how Satan is known for twisting truths, many believe that mainstream media can sometimes promote narratives that are in no way genuinely accurate.

This intentional deception highlights the need for discernment and careful consideration, urging individuals to approach media content with wisdom and thoughtfulness to navigate the complexities of information sharing in line with the apostle Paul’s warning in 1 Corinthians 11.

While MSNBC might attempt to downplay the incident by suggesting it was “joking,” the damage has already been done.

By choosing to mock Christians and misrepresent their values, the network has demonstrated a troubling bias that does not reflect the principles of balanced reporting and fair representation. It serves as a stark reminder that respectful and truthful discourse is crucial, especially in a media landscape that holds immense influence over public perceptions. {eoa}

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Former US Ambassador: Divine Bible Ties Between Israel, Jerusalem and Embassy Move

In an exclusive interview with Charisma News, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman gave unique insight behind his tenure with the Department of State.

The former ambassador began by recounting the commitment to progress given by then-President Donald Trump when assuming the role.

Expressing a desire to break from past policies, the ambassador emphasized a fundamental belief in [the biblical connection between Israel and its territories](#). "American policy toward Israel was fundamentally wrong. It didn't recognize the divinity of this territory," Friedman states unequivocally.

In Genesis 17:8, God's covenant with Abraham solidifies the enduring bond between the Jewish people and the land of Canaan. This verse signifies the eternal promise made by God to Abraham and his descendants, affirming their ownership of the land as an everlasting possession. For the Jewish people, this verse establishes a divine connection to the land that transcends generations. It's a testament to the faithfulness of God's word and a source of strength and identity,

symbolizing their unique relationship with the Promised Land.

One of the pivotal moves discussed was the relocation of the US embassy to Jerusalem. The ambassador credited the president's support for enabling the successful execution of the embassy move, a decision that aligned with biblical significance. "Jerusalem, you know, in [the] Hebrew language means 'city of peace,'" the former ambassador explained, pointing to Isaiah 2 as a testament to the city's divine role in facilitating global harmony.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Addressing concerns about international backlash, the former ambassador stressed the importance of making decisions that align with the biblical covenant. Referring to the Pompeo doctrine, a policy developed in collaboration with Secretary Mike Pompeo, the former ambassador underscored the assertion that [the Jewish people have a right to their biblical homeland](#). This doctrine, which emphasizes the biblical connections to Judea and Samaria, has become a cornerstone of policy.

Deuteronomy 1:8 stands as a pivotal declaration that underscores the fulfillment of God's promise to the patriarchs. By presenting the land before the Israelites and urging them to possess it, this verse encapsulates the culmination of centuries of anticipation. For the Jewish people, this verse carries the weight of historical fulfillment, symbolizing the realization of their ancestral dreams. The land becomes more than just a physical territory; it is a tangible embodiment of God's providence, a sacred inheritance and a testament to their spiritual journey.

Drawing on history, the former ambassador reminded listeners of the biblical narratives associated with various holy sites.

Expressing concerns about the preservation of these sites under differing control, the former ambassador highlighted the critical role of Israel's sovereignty.

"I think most people in Israel recognize the importance of this territory...My view is that Israel needs to do what is best for Israel. Israel needs to respect the extraordinary position it occupies within the world, to take great pride in the face that Israel is the land of biblical covenant," Friedman says.

The former ambassador urged Israel to proudly uphold its biblical ties and stand firm in asserting its rights. "We can't give up our sovereignty, it was given to us by God," Friedman proclaimed, stressing the importance of embracing the country's identity while inviting the world to share in its cultural and spiritual heritage.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Persecution Strikes Pakistani Christians as Faith Remains Unshaken

During a harrowing wave of suffering, Pakistani Christians are standing strong in their faith despite the relentless persecution they endure for their devotion to Jesus Christ.

Instigated by mosque leaders, Muslim mobs recently ignited an onslaught of violence against the Christian community in

Jaranwala, Pakistan. The tragic incident underscores the depths of pain these believers are willing to endure for the sake of their faith.

[The violence erupted following the false accusation](#) of blasphemy against two Christians, Umar Saleem (Rocky) and his brother Umair, alias Raja. Muslim residents accused Rocky of desecrating pages of the Quran and writing derogatory comments. The falsified allegations sparked a torrent of hatred, leading to the burning of 20 church buildings, the ransacking of Christian homes and businesses and the displacement of families.

In the face of this suffering, the Bible offers guidance and encouragement. Matthew 5:11-12 says, "Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be very glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in this manner they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Despite the dire circumstances, Pakistani Christians remain steadfast. They have shown resilience in the midst of their trials. The international community, including the U.S. State Department, has expressed deep concern over the violence. The attacks shed light on the enduring challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan. These believers exemplify the strength of their convictions, even in the face of life-threatening adversity.

While the attacks are [a stark reminder of the persecution faced by Christians in Pakistan](#), their faith remains unshaken. Romans 8:35-37 assures us, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

As the world witnesses the suffering of Pakistani Christians, it’s essential to remember Hebrews 13:3: “Remember those who are in chains, as if imprisoned with them, and those who are ill treated, since you are also in the body.”

The resilience of these believers serves as a testament to the strength of their faith and the unbreakable bonds they share with Jesus Christ. May their enduring commitment inspire all believers to stand firm in our convictions and support those who face persecution for the name of Christ.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Michigan Farmer’s Stand for Faith Triumphs in Landmark Court Ruling

A federal district court’s ruling on Monday delivered a resounding victory for a Michigan fruit farmer and his family, signaling the end of a six-year legal battle centered on their [steadfast commitment to religious freedom.](#)

The decision underscores the principle that no individual should be coerced into violating their religious beliefs to appease the government, a core tenet upon which America was founded.

Steve Tennes, owner of Country Mill Farms, found himself embroiled in a legal battle with the city of East Lansing after he expressed his Catholic beliefs about marriage on Facebook. As a devout Catholic, Tennes stood firm in following the teachings of his faith, which include his perspective on marriage. The city officials, in response, excluded him from the local farmers market.

On Monday, a U.S. District Court judge upheld Tennes' right to exercise his religious beliefs without government interference. The court deemed East Lansing's actions a violation of Tennes' First Amendment rights, recognizing that depriving an individual of their rights based on faith dissuades religious expression.

Located in Charlotte, Michigan, Country Mill Farms is a second-generation, 120-acre family farm owned by Steve and his wife, Bridget Tennes, both military veterans. The farm had been participating in the East Lansing Farmer's Market since 2010 until 2017 when the city implemented a policy that unfairly targeted them.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

The legal battle wasn't an easy journey for the Tennes family. Steve Tennes, reflecting on their decision to sue the city, highlighted the weight of the choice they faced seven years ago. As parents and veterans, they stood at a crossroads between maintaining their family's livelihood and upholding their religious convictions.

The court's ruling affirms the broader principle that [government cannot arbitrarily penalize individuals due to their beliefs.](#) This victory underscores the importance of living in accordance with one's faith, as highlighted in verses like Acts 5:29, "We must obey God rather than men," and

Matthew 22:21, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Kate Anderson, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), which represented the Tennes family, emphasized that the court's decision is a triumph for all individuals seeking to live out their religious beliefs without fear of government retribution.

As Tennes looks forward to putting this legal battle behind him, his commitment to serving people of all backgrounds remains unwavering. This victory stands as a reminder that the foundational principle of religious freedom remains an essential cornerstone of American society, even in the face of modern challenges.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.