

# Artificial Intelligence Bringing Bible Translations to Other 90% of Languages

In a groundbreaking endeavor, a team of specialists in California is utilizing artificial intelligence to translate the Bible into languages that currently lack a written version of God's Word.

The Greek Room project team, led by Ulf Hermjakob and Joel Mathew from the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute (ISI), aims to develop tools to enhance the efficiency of Bible translation.

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Collaborating with Wycliffe Bible Translators, the project acknowledges the lengthy and painstaking process of Bible translation, which can extend beyond a decade. Out of the 7,100 languages worldwide, only around 700 possess a complete Bible, while over 6,000 languages lack a comprehensive version.

Hermjakob emphasized the significance of focusing on low-resource languages often overlooked by major translation initiatives. While Google Translate covers approximately 133 languages, the Greek Room project targets those that fall outside the top 500.

Mathew, driven by a passion to see the Bible translated into all languages, believes software technology can enhance and expedite the translation process. His aim is to leverage technology to support and improve translation efforts, making the Bible accessible to different linguistic communities.

Though certain aspects of translation are straightforward,

others require human intervention due to their subjective nature. Mathew shared an example highlighting the challenge of conveying the meaning of a passage when cultural nuances and context differ.

“There is a community living in the mountains, and they live in huts without doors, so there’s no concept of a door in their culture,” Matthew said. “In the Bible, there is a verse that says, ‘Behold I stand at the door and knock.’ The question is, how do you translate that for people so that it is meaningful to them?”

“We try to then explain it as not specifically knocking at the door, but instead describe a scene where someone is standing at the entrance of your house and asking to be invited to come in,” Mathew told Relevant magazine.

By adapting translations to local cultures, the team endeavors to create meaningful interpretations for the intended audience. To aid translators, the Greek Room project provides a platform for in-depth discussions and analysis of such challenging language values. The team seeks to ensure that translations resonate with local cultures, enabling accurate comprehension of biblical texts.

Wycliffe utilizes a word-aligner tool, comparing translated Scripture with the original language source, to identify inconsistencies and offer suggestions for improved clarity. The goal is to enhance people’s understanding of the Bible’s message.

Looking ahead, Hermjakob and Mathew envision making the Greek Room an open-source platform accessible to translators worldwide. By sharing their data and code, they aim to empower translators with advanced tools and foster collaboration in the pursuit of accurate Bible translations.

Observers within the Christian ministry community recognize the transformative potential of AI. While missionaries are

irreplaceable, the vast applications of AI have created new opportunities in language-related ministry work. The ability to overcome language barriers and interact effectively will usher in significant shifts in church planting, discipleship and various ministry activities.

As AI continues to evolve, its impact on Bible translation and cross-cultural ministry is expected to be substantial, paving the way for innovative approaches and global collaboration.

With technology as a valuable ally, the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20) becomes more attainable, as the Good News reaches people in their heart languages.

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

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## **1,600-Year-Old Samson Mosaic Brings Roman Era to Life**

A captivating Roman-era mosaic portraying the biblical hero Samson has been revealed by archaeologists at the 1,600-year-old synagogue in Huqoq, an ancient Jewish village situated in the Lower Galilee.

The international archaeological effort, led by Professor Jodi Magness from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has unearthed a mosaic of significant proportions near the main entrance of the synagogue. This extraordinary mosaic features a Hebrew inscription encased in a beautiful wreath. The wreath is flanked by a pair of majestic lions resting their forepaws on the heads of bulls. Surrounding the entire mosaic panel is an ornate border adorned with depictions of

predatory animals engaged in the pursuit of their prey.

Adjacent to the centerpiece, an Aramaic inscription can be found, possibly recording the names of the generous benefactors who financed the mosaic's creation or the skilled artisans responsible for its intricate design. The inscription serves as a timeless testament to their contribution, an enduring desire to be remembered.

In previous excavation seasons, mosaic panels portraying key moments in the life of the biblical figure Samson were uncovered. These vivid depictions included scenes of Samson's exploits with foxes, as described in Judges 15:4, and the heroic act of Samson carrying the Gaza gate on his shoulders, detailed in Judges 16:3.

This year's excavation has further enriched the Samson narrative, as newly exposed sections revealed a Philistine horseman and a slain Philistine soldier, their faces displaying remarkable classical features. Previous discoveries at Huqoq included depictions of biblical heroines Deborah and Jael. In 2022, a mosaic panel was found, divided into three horizontal sections. It vividly brought to life scenes from Judges chapter four, illustrating the prophetess and judge Deborah under a palm tree, gazing at the shield-bearing Barak.

Additionally, the mosaic portrayed the Kenite woman Yael driving a tent stake through the temple of the Canaanite general Sisera. These remarkable findings represent the earliest known depictions of these biblical heroines.

Throughout the decade-long Huqoq excavation project, a series of discoveries have illuminated our historical understanding. A mosaic panel captured the moment when two of Moses' spies carried a pole with a cluster of grapes, as mentioned in Numbers 13:23. An inscription accompanying a man leading an animal on a rope proclaimed "a small child shall lead them," a verse from Isaiah 11:6. Animal figures, identified by an

Aramaic inscription, represented the four beasts linked to the four kingdoms described in the book of Daniel, chapter seven. A significant mosaic panel in the northwest aisle depicted Elim, the oasis where the Israelites camped, surrounded by 12 springs and 70 date palms after their departure from Egypt, as recounted in Exodus 15:27.

Other remarkable discoveries included depictions of Noah's Ark, the parting of the Red Sea, Jonah being swallowed by three fish and the construction of the Tower of Babel. In addition to their historical significance, traces of reconstruction and expansion during the early 14th century (AD, the late medieval/Mamluk period) were found at the synagogue.

This period coincided with the creation of an international highway connecting Cairo and Damascus, which passed alongside Yakuk (Huqoq's medieval name), indicating the growing strategic importance of the region. The era also witnessed the rise of a local tradition associating the nearby Tomb of Habakkuk with religious pilgrimage.

As the 2022 and 2023 excavation seasons come to a close, the responsibility for the site will be handed over to the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund. The new custodians plan to develop the site into a unique tourist attraction, inviting visitors to marvel at these remarkable historical gems firsthand.

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

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# Kingdom of King David Identified Using Ancient Fortress

Professor Yosef Garfinkel of the Institute of Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem claims to have identified a portion of the ancient Kingdom of Judah, as described in the Bible during the time of David and Solomon.

His research, published in the Jerusalem Journal of Archaeology, has ignited a contentious discussion about the validity of the United Monarchy as depicted in the infallible Word of God.

According to biblical accounts, the United Monarchy, also known as the Kingdom of Israel, existed from 1047 to 930 BC. Encompassing the territories of the Kingdom of Judah and the Samarian Kingdom of Israel, it spanned across present-day Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Kings Saul, David and Solomon were the three rulers mentioned in the Bible as reigning over the United Monarchy. Following Solomon's reign, his son Rehoboam's ascent to power led to the division of the kingdom into two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

While some scholars, including Yosef Garfinkel, assert that archaeological evidence supports the existence of the United Monarchy, others hold a dissenting view.

Khirbet Qeiyafa, also known as Elah Fortress, an ancient city overlooking the Elah Valley, serves as a focal point in Garfinkel's study.

- ✘ Dating back to the first half of the tenth century BC, the site sprawls across six acres, enclosed by a 2,300-

foot-long wall. Situated near Beit Shemesh, about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem, Khirbet Qeiyafa is considered one of the fortresses affiliated with King David's Kingdom. It represents one of several fortified sites located beyond Jerusalem, forming a network.

Garfinkel argues that these fortresses, united by roadways, formed part of a singular, integrated kingdom during David's reign. He notes, "If you take all these sites, they have the same urban concept, they are all sitting on the border of the kingdom and sitting where you have a main road leading to the kingdom. These cities aren't located in the middle of nowhere. It's a pattern of urbanism with the same urban concept."

However, other scholars contend that David and Solomon were likely local chieftains ruling over small, fortress-like cities rather than a collection of extensive fortifications.

Professor Israel Finkelstein of Tel Aviv University and the University of Haifa expresses uncertainty regarding the dating of the five sites examined by Garfinkel. Establishing their alignment with the tenth century BC is crucial in substantiating the existence of a unified kingdom. Divergent periods of origin could potentially undermine such claims, suggesting an alternative interpretation.

The ongoing debate between maximalist and minimalist archaeologists, as described by Yosef Garfinkel, underlies the differing perspectives. Maximalists emphasize the historical significance of biblical accounts, utilizing them as valuable sources. In contrast, minimalist scholars criticize the Bible's utility for historical purposes.

Each new archaeological discovery provides more evidence that the Bible is true and authentic. As the apostles Paul and Peter wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20, the Bible was breathed by God Himself, not written from the understanding of man.

These ancient fortresses are further evidence supporting the historical accuracy of the Bible.

*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **5 Biblical Warnings Against Practicing Astrology**

The ancient practice of astrology presents several dangers of which believers should be cautious.

With a resurgence in divination and occultic practices, Christians must be on guard against such things or else they open a spiritual door that allows evil spirits into their lives.

Here are five biblical warnings against the practice of astrology:

### **Astrology is the worship of false gods and goddesses**

The belief in astrology is rooted in ancient mythology, which involves the worship of false gods and goddesses. In the Bible, God commands His people to have no other gods before Him and to worship Him alone (Exod. 20:3). Engaging in astrology, which is based on the worship of these figures, goes against this commandment.

❌ There is a god or goddess attached to every sign of the zodiac, and when engaged in astrology, practitioners are giving themselves over to the power of these ancient spirits.

In his current book, *The Return of the Gods*, Rabbi Jonathan Cahn warned the world about the invasion of pagan gods and goddesses into America. The spiritual battle that has manifested itself in American society is so apparent that non-Christians are recognizing the evils taking place in modern culture. From child mutilation to hostility toward any mention of Jesus Christ, the deities that were formerly worshipped in the pagan world are very real spirits, and are plaguing the world today.

### **Practicing astrology shows doubt in God's control**

Astrology relies on divination and the belief that the positioning of celestial bodies can reveal information about a person's future and personality. This is in direct contradiction to Christian belief in a sovereign God who has complete control over the future (Isa. 46:9-10). Christians are called to trust in God's plan for their lives and seek His guidance through prayer and reading His Word, not through astrology.

### **Followers rely on the stars, not on God**

Astrology promotes a form of self-focus and reliance on the stars rather than on God. It encourages individuals to look to the heavens for answers and direction instead of seeking God's will and guidance. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells His followers to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, not to seek answers from the stars or astrology.

### **Astrology promotes fate, not free will granted by God**

Another danger of astrology is that it can lead to a belief in fate or predetermined destiny. This disregards the importance of free will and personal responsibility. Christians believe that while God has a plan for their lives (Jer. 29:11), they still have the freedom to make choices and determine their own paths. Believing in astrology's predictions of fate can lead to a fatalistic mindset that undermines personal agency and

accountability.

### **Astrology opens the door to other ungodly practices**

Astrology is a form of spiritual deception. It may appear harmless or even entertaining, but it opens the door to occult practices and beliefs. The Bible strictly warns against engaging in any form of divination, sorcery or witchcraft (-12). By delving into astrology, individuals risk dabbling in these occult practices and inviting spiritual influence that is not aligned with God's truth.

There are punishments for practices such as this. King Saul sought divination at the hands of the medium of Endor, and it is one of the reasons listed in the Word of God as why he was removed as king and eventually killed (1 Chron. 10:13-14).

While the world misrepresents this practice as harmless, and in many cases as an alternate truth, Christians must see the spiritual reality of this snare.

As a trap of Satan, astrology presents itself as spiritual bear-trap wrapped in fun and innocence. These types of deceptions are why the apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Satan will not stop coming after humanity until he is defeated forever by the Lord Jesus Christ. Until then, Christians must stand in the gap and shine the light of truth on his machinations intended to pull people away from God.

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

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# How 'Quantum Immortality' Fails to Align to the Word of God

People on TikTok have been buzzing with excitement and concern over a video shared by Joli Moli. In the video, she presents a radical idea that challenges our understanding of death and suggests the possibility of quantum immortality.

According to Moli, if the theory of quantum immortality is accurate, our consciousness may continue to exist in parallel realities even after what appears to be our physical death. In these alternate realities, we would lack memories of our previous existence, except for certain details that seem out of place.

Moli goes on to propose that humanity may have faced apocalyptic events multiple times in parallel worlds, similar to the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs millions of years ago.

Our consciousness, she suggests, would transition to parallel universes where these cataclysmic events never occurred. "If the quantum immortality theory is correct, you will wake up in a parallel universe without any recollection of having survived an apocalyptic event," Moli explains in the video.

The concept of quantum immortality has left many TikTok users feeling frightened and disturbed. Some find the idea of never being able to truly die extremely depressing and anxiety-inducing. Others who typically dismiss conspiracy theories are finding themselves strangely drawn to Moli's explanation.

Additionally, people in the comments section share their own experiences of "dreams" that depict the end of the world,

further reinforcing their belief in this theory.

It is worth noting that the term "Mandela effect" derives its name from Nelson Mandela, the former South African president and civil rights activist who fought against Apartheid. After Mandela's passing in 2013, many individuals held a strong belief that he had died in prison during the 1980s, despite historical records stating otherwise. They claimed to have clear memories of his funeral coverage in the news.

From a Christian perspective that views the Bible as the true Word of God, it is crucial to approach these speculative theories with caution.

The Bible offers assurance of life after death for those who believe in Jesus Christ. In John 11:25-26, Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" This passage affirms the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus, transcending the limitations of our physical existence.

Jesus' words also shut down the possibility of a "multiverse" quantity of other versions of ourselves. In a reality where there is an infinite number of universes with an infinite number of outcomes, there is the theory of a world where Jesus did not live a sinless life, die on the cross for all sins and resurrect from the grave three days later. This is simply not the reality of the Word of God and must therefore be rejected by Christians.

It is essential to remember that our understanding of reality is limited compared to God's wisdom.

In Isaiah 55:8-9, God declares, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." As finite physical beings, we should approach these concepts with

humility, acknowledging that God's understanding surpasses our own.

While the concept of quantum immortality may captivate our imagination, it is important to approach it with discernment. Rather than being consumed by speculative theories, believers can find assurance, hope and purpose in the unchanging truths found in the Bible. Grounding our beliefs in the teachings of God's Word allows us to navigate these ideas with wisdom and faith.

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

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## **Gen Z Wants to Know: Is Temptation a Sin?**

All too often Gen Z is written off as a confused and non-religious generation that has turned their back on God.

This could not be further from the truth.

Gen Z has questions, spiritual questions, and if they are not being raised up in Christ and disciplined by the church, then they will look for the answers elsewhere.

There are those who have been raised up on a firm foundation in Christ however, such as the son of Faith Church Ruston Pastors Stan and Mary Pody, Kaden.

Kaden Pody has created a massive online presence by standing firmly on the Word of God and helping to guide others on their faith walk.

One of the biggest questions he addresses on his YouTube channel, with over million subscribers, is a question many do not have the answer to: is temptation a sin?

The question of whether temptation is a sin has been a matter of debate. It is crucial to consult the Word of God for answers rather than relying on personal opinions.

Temptation is a universal experience; it affects people of all ages and walks of life. Even the great men and women of God mentioned in the Bible faced temptation. Jesus Himself was tempted (Matt. 4:1), as were Elijah and Moses. The crucial distinction lies in how individuals respond to temptation.

Some, like King David when he succumbed to the temptation of sexual immorality with Bathsheba, gave in to the allure (2 Sam. 11:2-4). However, there were those like Joseph, who, when approached by Potiphar's wife, chose to reject the temptation and flee from it (Gen. 39:7-12).

The decision to resist or yield to temptation rests with each person. It is essential to understand that temptation does not originate from God, contrary to what some may believe. James 1:13 states, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

So why does God allow temptation to come our way?

Consider this analogy: In an educational setting, teachers administer tests and quizzes to evaluate students' knowledge and ensure their progress. Similarly, God allows tests, including temptation, to gauge our spiritual growth and faithfulness to His Word.

Just as students diligently study their textbooks to excel in exams, believers must immerse themselves in the Scriptures, their spiritual workbook. By knowing and applying God's Word, we gain the ability to overcome temptations. The Bible assures

us that trials will come, but we should not succumb to them, for we have the Overcomer, Jesus Christ, residing within us (1 Cor. 10:13, 1 John 4:4).

It is crucial to recognize that the devil is the author of temptation. Satan is cunning and aware of our weaknesses. He knows precisely which areas to exploit to lead us into sin. Identifying our vulnerabilities is essential, and we must establish safeguards and boundaries to protect ourselves from falling prey to temptation.

Imagine putting yourself in the devil's shoes: How would you entice yourself to sin? Reflect on potential scenarios, times, places or influences that could lead you astray. Then establish parameters to safeguard those areas. By doing so, you create an environment that discourages the devil from gaining a foothold.

Believers need to realize that they possess the power to overcome every temptation. No temptation is insurmountable. The Bible assures us that God provides a way out (1 Cor. 10:13). Just as students progress from one grade to the next through diligent study, we too can navigate life's challenges by studying and applying God's Word.

The Bible encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts to resist sin (Ps. 119:11). Memorizing Scripture equips us with a powerful weapon against the devil's schemes. Whether the temptation is sexual immorality, theft, lying or any other sinful inclination, the Bible provides guidance and principles while the Holy Spirit empowers Spirit-filled believers to overcome them.

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

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# Archeologist Uses Clues from Bible to Discover Famous City Destroyed by Fire

A famed archeologist believes he has found the biblical city of Sodom in modern-day Jordan and says there is evidence that proves the city was wiped out by fire.

Steven Collins, Dean of the College of Archaeology at Trinity Southwest University, told Joel. C Rosenberg in a new episode of the Rosenberg Report how he and his team uncovered the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in Jordan.

He says he used the Scriptures as clues to find the location.

“There’s so much specific information about the location of these cities that you would practically have to be blind and illiterate not to be able to find the location of Sodom because there are at least 25 known pieces of geography that you can triangulate between to take you to the city of Sodom. It’s not difficult,” he explained.

He told Rosenberg that many archeologists assumed the cities were located near the Dead Sea because of William Albright, an archeologist who set out to discover the cities in 1924.

Albright believed the rising sea waters covered its location, but nothing was discovered on the sea floor.

In 2001, Collins launched his exploration using a different approach.

“Here’s the problem with Albright’s location of Sodom. He never, ever provides an exegesis of Genesis Chapter 13, which is the verbal map to get to the city of just basically shot off the top of his head,” said Collins.

Collins focused his search on the Jordan River Valley.

From there he used clues from the Bible, including a reference made in Genesis 13:10.

“The proper question to ask in the location of Sodom is, ‘Where was Lot standing when he lifted up his eyes and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well-watered?’ It was Bethel and Ai,” Collins explained.

This led Collins and his team to Tall el-Hammam. They were cleared by the Jordanian government to start a dig in that area.

“It was actually the biblical text that put us at this site,” he told Rosenberg. “We just simply navigated around the geography.”

They discovered a massive series of cities of the Bronze Age that were wealthy and large.

They uncovered pottery and artifacts that appeared to be melted.

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## **Ancient ‘Gateway to Hell’ Discovered Under Church**

Amidst the craziness of 2023, an astonishing discovery has

emerged from a church—an entrance to the underworld. It is an intriguing find, shedding light on the historical beliefs of the Zapotec culture.

The structure, found in the Mitla, Mexico site, was once considered a gateway to hell. It consists of a labyrinth of underground passages extensively used by the Zapotecs, who inhabited the region for over 2,200 years until the arrival of the Spanish in 1521.

Although the origins of the structure date back even further, it was the Zapotecs who expanded the site before eventually leaving.

In the late 16th century, after the Spanish conquest, a Catholic church and other edifices were constructed atop the site. According to Zapotec tradition, the ruin was believed to be a portal to the realm of the deceased, and it is suspected that the entrance to the underground passages may be located beneath the church's main altar.

✘ The Mexican National Institute of History and Anthropology (INAH), the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the Association for Archaeological Research and Exploration and the ARX Project joined forces to investigate this remarkable find. Employing geophysical scanning techniques, they uncovered a complex network of tunnels. However, the most significant discovery thus far is an area approximately 16 to 26 feet below ground level, which may reveal a sizable chamber.

This development is both thrilling and only the initial phase of exploration.

The ARX Project, one of the key contributors to the discovery, released a statement affirming:

“In 1674, Dominican father Francisco de Burgoa described the exploration of the Mitla ruins and their subterranean chambers

by a group of Spanish missionaries. Burgoa's account describes an expansive subterranean temple consisting of interconnected chambers, housing the tombs of high priests and kings of Teozapotlán.

"From the final subterranean chamber, a stone door led to a deep cavern extending thirty leagues underground. This cavern was crisscrossed by passages resembling streets, with pillars supporting its roof. According to Burgoa, the missionaries sealed all entrances to this underground labyrinth, leaving only the palaces above ground."

This discovery parallels the studies of L.A. Marzulli, who has spent years studying the Nephilim. Discoveries from ancient Israel show that there were tribes of possible Nephilim who lived in a series of caves and spent a large amount of time underground. Just like the cave system found beneath the Mitla site.

*James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Does this Cathedral Really Hold the Secret to Time Travel?**

The Salamanca Cathedral is a magnificent testament to the architectural brilliance and rich history of 16th-century Spain.

This towering icon, comprised of two churches, one dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries, has long been a prominent landmark and showcases the distinctive Spanish Gothic style.

However, it is not only its age and stunning design that has captured the attention of visitors.

Carved into the exterior walls, amidst intricate patterns, lies a peculiar figure that has ignited wild theories among the time-traveling community.

Believed by some to be a 16th-century depiction of an astronaut, this figure is depicted leaning against intricately carved leaves.

On first glance, it appears to be a stone-clad spaceman, complete with a space suit, boots and a helmet. Fueling the fire of speculation, social media platforms are abuzz with discussions and theories surrounding this enigmatic carving.

Many enthusiasts of time travel boldly claim that this astronaut carving is “definitive evidence of time travel.” The internet is teeming with excitement as people share their thoughts and opinions on how this cosmic visitor found its place within Salamanca Cathedral.

One Twitter user exclaimed, “Astronaut at Salamanca Cathedral: This statue is affirmed as absolute proof of time travel.”

However, there are those who offer a less fantastical explanation for this celestial carving. They argue that the astronaut is a modern addition to the ancient structure, added during the church’s restoration work in 1992.

Local artist Jeronimo Garcia sought to infuse a contemporary touch into the cathedral, resulting in the incorporation of a spaceman and various other unconventional figures. Among the imaginative additions were a crayfish, a rabbit, a stork, a bull, a lynx and even a dragon relishing an ice cream cone.

While the 1992 restoration work put the mystery of the Salamanca astronaut to rest, there are still other intriguing

art anomalies that baffle both time travel believers and art enthusiasts alike.

Just last month, major news outlets reported the discovery of what appears to be an iPhone in a painting created almost 90 years ago.

Umberto Romano's 1937 masterpiece, "Mr. Pynchon and the Settling of Springfield," predates the advent of the Apple smartphone by about 70 years. However, upon closer inspection of the mural's bottom right corner, a man can be seen holding a device that resembles a modern smartphone. Speculators claim that he is using his thumb to scroll through his social media feed.

This mysterious gadget has sparked intense speculation, leading art experts to offer their interpretations of its true nature. Some suggest it could be a pocket-sized mirror or a knife, items that would have fascinated people of the time just as much as a contemporary iPhone.

Unfortunately, the artist passed away in 1982, well before the rise of mobile phones. The true intention behind this primitive yet eerily familiar object in his iconic piece remains unknown.

Nevertheless, these discoveries serve as reminders of the extraordinary clues that can be found in unexpected places, fueling our imagination in a world of exponential technological growth. While the explanation behind the Salamanca astronaut may be down-to-earth, the allure of the unknown continues to beckon us to explore the mysteries just beyond our reach.

In the enchanting tapestry of history and art, the presence of anomalies and unexplained curiosities keeps us intrigued, inspiring us to delve deeper into the mysteries that surround us.

Yet with the study of historical mysteries, there must also always be a grounding in the Word of God. The wisdom derived from studying the Bible and daily prayer will solidify one's spirit against the deceptions of the enemy. As it says in 1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

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

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## **Archbishop Targets Lord's Prayer for Revision**

The growing apostate church, or those who have renounced biblical Scripture for the ways of the world, is now trying to rename the Lord.

Calling God "Our Father" as instructed by Jesus Christ is now a point of contention for several ministers who have taken issue with the "gendered language."

The archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, recently sparked controversy during a meeting of the Anglican Church by suggesting that the words of the "Our Father" prayer may be "problematic" due to their "patriarchal association."

The prayer was instructed by Christ Himself to His apostles in the New Testament.

-  **To learn more about the Lord's Prayer, view R.T. Kendall's book *The Lord's Prayer: Insight and Inspiration to Draw You Closer to Him*.**

Speaking at the General Synod, a gathering of influential members of the Church of England, Cottrell acknowledged that the prayer might cause discomfort for those who have experienced oppression stemming from their own “earthly fathers.” He expressed his understanding that the word “father” could be troubling, given its potential connection to destructive and abusive experiences. Cottrell’s remarks were part of a broader speech on unity within the church. However, his comments ignited a debate among other speakers at the synod.

Canon Dr. Chris Sugden, chair of the conservative Anglican Mainstream group, publicly countered the archbishop’s stance, accusing him of prioritizing mainstream culture over Christ’s literal words in the Bible. Sugden questioned whether Cottrell was suggesting that Jesus was wrong or lacked pastoral awareness, emphasizing the importance of following scripture rather than cultural trends.

Reverend Christina Rees, a female member of the General Synod, defended Cottrell’s perspective. She commended him for addressing an issue that has been a longstanding concern for Christians. Rees posed a question regarding the belief that God favors male human beings as the more accurate bearers of his image, asserting that this belief is erroneous.

The discussion around the Lord’s Prayer comes in the wake of the Church of England’s “project on gendered language,” which explores the use of gender-specific pronouns in prayer and Scripture.

The project suggested the reconsideration of gendered pronouns such as “He” and “Him” when referring to God. Additionally, Anglican leaders will contemplate whether the title “Father” remains appropriate for God.

Father Calvin Robinson, a deacon from the Free Church of England and a critic of the Anglican Church, expressed his

dissatisfaction with Cottrell's speech in a recent Substack article. Robinson emphasized that the prayer is known as the "Lord's Prayer" because it was taught by the Lord Himself. He argued that God instructed humanity to address Him as Father and taught them to pray using the "Our Father" prayer.

Robinson went on to suggest that Cottrell step down from his position, claiming that he is leading the church astray.

This continuation of wrapping Scripture in worldviews is completely opposite of what believers are called to do. Romans 12:2 exhorts Christians, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Sadly, all too many are conforming the Bible to world's standards, and not the other way around. As this practice continues, the apostate church will continue to grow, just as prophesied in the book of 1 Timothy 4:1. This does however give Christians a perfect topic to cover with Spirit-empowered prayer. To beseech God that He remove the scales from people's eyes and that they see the truth of God's Word for what it is, not how the world wants it to be.

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