

Pastor Impales Himself During Marriage Conference Illustration

What pastor has not quietly prayed before stepping to the platform that everything will go smoothly? Sermons are carefully prepared. Illustrations are thoughtfully planned. Yet, every now and then, something completely unexpected happens. In this case, it was something few in attendance will ever forget.

Pastor Scott Thomas, lead pastor of Free Life Chapel in Lakeland, Florida, was speaking alongside his wife Cindy at the Creative Marriage Conference hosted by Pastors Ed and Lisa Young at Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, when a sermon illustration took a shocking turn.

Pastor Scott Thomas accidentally sends a wooden dowel/skewer through his hand for a sermon illustration, writing:

"Cindy and I spoke on "Building A Marriage" and used a wedding cake for our illustration. To close the teaching, we stressed that if we build our marriages outside...

– Protestia (@Protestia) February 23, 2026

"Cindy and I were honored to speak at the Creative Marriage Conference for P. @ed_young & @lisayoungfc at @fellowshipchurch last weekend!" Thomas wrote in a Facebook post recounting the event.

The couple's message centered on "Building A Marriage," using a wedding cake as a visual representation. As Thomas explained, "To close the teaching, we stressed that if we

build our marriages outside of God's order... the whole cake marriage crashed!"

The illustration was meant to be memorable. It certainly became that.

"All went well... until I slammed the cake upside down and SURPRISINGLY DISCOVERED that the cake company had implanted a dowel inside to hold the cake layers together," Thomas wrote.

What happened next stunned both Thomas and the audience.

"When I slammed the cake upside-down video... the dowel pierced through the bottom of the cake and traveled completely through my hand!" he said. "When I looked down... the dowel was sticking 5 inches out the back of my hand!"



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Incredibly, Thomas did not leave the platform in panic. "I immediately pulled the stick out of my hand and tried to wrap my head around what just happened!" he wrote.

Cindy quickly stepped in to help. "Cindy immediately slid me a towel... I wrapped my hand, finished the message and prayed to close out the session in the next 5 minutes."

The fact that the injury was not worse has left many expressing gratitude. Thomas later shared an encouraging update.

"UPDATE: My hand is healing well and doing great!! I have no pain & no issues... just a new fear of cake!"

He also publicly thanked those who assisted him in the immediate aftermath. "THANK YOU to the Fellowship Staff and Team for your immediate and professional care!!"

It was a wild and painful moment that could have ended far

differently. Instead, what was meant to illustrate the fragility of marriage under the wrong foundation became an unforgettable reminder of God's protection in the midst of the unexpected.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a background in journalism from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to *Charisma magazine*. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Is the Rapture Hidden in the Book of Ruth?

Prayer has played a defining role in the shaping of the United States since its founding, from solemn appeals for divine protection during the Revolutionary War to public invocations at moments of national crisis.

At a recent governor's dinner at the White House, that tradition was placed front and center once again as President Donald Trump invited Secretary of War Pete Hegseth to lead the room in prayer.

"You have done a fantastic job and Pete, you are doing incredible and please say grace," Trump said as he introduced him.

With governors, cabinet members and national leaders

assembled, Hegseth stepped forward and began with a simple request: "If you would bow your head."

"Dear heavenly father, King Jesus, we come humbly before your throne praising you for all the providence you've bestowed upon this nation for over 250 years," he prayed.

From the outset, the prayer was rooted in gratitude and historical awareness. Hegseth pointed to the nation's founding and its enduring acknowledgment of God's sovereignty.

"From George Washington to President Trump, we have dedicated this nation to one nation under God. And certainly in God we trust," he said.



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He invoked the image of Washington at Valley Forge, describing him as "unbended knee in Valley Forge appealing to heaven on behalf of his troops and this young nation." Hegseth added, "We've appealed to you from the beginning and may we continue to appeal to you."

The prayer then turned directly to the nation's current leadership.

"And tonight we pray for our president, President Trump. Give him safety. Give him wisdom," Hegseth said. "Lord, we pray for our vice president, our first lady, our second lady, the cabinet members here, all the governors assembled here as well, our civil magistrates."

He asked that God would grant leaders both clarity and courage. "Lord God, I ask that you give them the wisdom to see what is right and the courage to do it."

In a moment that underscored the biblical foundation of his remarks, Hegseth defined wisdom in unmistakable terms.

"Wisdom defined as the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord being the source of all knowledge and wisdom," he prayed. "Lord God, your eternal truths, may they rule."

He also remembered America's service members stationed around the world.

"I would be remiss if I did not pray for our great troops, our men and women all around the globe, defending our great nation as they have for 250 years," he said. "Lord God, watch over them and protect them."

Hegseth closed the prayer with a clear declaration of faith. "It is in your holy name, the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, that we pray and we bless this food, too. Amen."

We live in an era marked by political division and cultural uncertainty, and the moment stood as a public affirmation of the spiritual heritage that has long undergirded the American experiment. The call to humility before God, the appeal for wisdom rooted in reverence and the plea for divine protection over leaders and troops alike represented more than ceremony. It reflected a conviction that prayer is not a relic of the past but a necessary foundation for national renewal.

As the nation approaches 250 years since its founding, the message delivered at the White House was clear. If America is to turn itself around, it must continue to do what it has done since the beginning. Appeal to heaven.

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Hell Is No Laughing Matter: What the Bible Says About Eternity

Journalist Melissa Francis is speaking out about the brief airport interview between Tucker Carlson and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, offering a sharply different account from Carlson's claims about what happened during his visit.

Francis told CBN News she helped initiate the exchange after discussing Israel with Carlson weeks earlier. "I was having lunch with Tucker ... and I was showing him pictures from Israel and he said, 'God, I'd love to go.' And I said, 'Let's go. You should come,'" she said.

Carlson told her that President Donald Trump had encouraged him to travel to Israel and meet with the prime minister to "smooth this over," describing tensions as having "gotten ... really dicey." Francis said Carlson later claimed he reached out to the prime minister but did not receive a response.

She said Ambassador Huckabee believed a firsthand visit would provide needed perspective, particularly given comments Carlson has made in recent months. Francis said Huckabee does not feel these comments accurately reflect what is going on here.

The interview ultimately took place at Ben Gurion Airport. Carlson did not leave the airport and later said he had been detained.

Francis offered a different characterization of the airport

experience.

"On my way, my luggage was dumped out. They went through my passport. I always get pulled into the room that he's talked about," she said. "I think it's about a country that has people come in and blow stuff up."



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She added that she has traveled to Israel eight times since Oct. 7 and has consistently experienced heightened security procedures. "That's how I get in and out every single time, and I don't take it personally," she said. "Welcome to Israel. Security is very good."

Carlson has suggested Israel mistreats Christians and has platformed voices alleging persecution. Francis said that has not been her experience.

"I'm a Christian who has been to Israel, as I said, eight times for long periods of time. I've shot two documentaries. I have never had anything but the warmest reception," she said. "I've never had anyone, either Arab or Jewish, threaten me in any way, spit on me, any of those things that he's talked about. I haven't seen that."

She acknowledged that Carlson says his views are shaped by the people he interviews but declined to speculate on his sourcing. "Everybody has the right to their own opinion," she said. "America is a democracy just like Israel."

During the airport interview, Francis described the exchange as tense at times but substantive. "Tucker asked a lot of questions that I know Americans are asking and ... Ambassador Huckabee really corrected him on things that he's heard Tucker say that just aren't accurate about how Christians are treated here in Israel," she said. She declined to share specific details, calling it "between them."

Francis also argued that broader public opinion in the United States is being shaped by what she described as a coordinated misinformation effort. “People there, they think Israel’s killing loads of babies every single day,” she said. “They really believe that they’re committing genocide.”

She attributed those perceptions to “the machine that is feeding out this completely false narrative,” naming Hamas, Qatar, Iran, Russia and China.

Carlson’s critics say his increasingly sharp rhetoric toward Israel has amplified some of those narratives. While Francis stopped short of directly accusing him of bad faith, she warned that Americans are being “tricked into thinking that Israel is not on our side.”

The airport episode has now become another flashpoint in Carlson’s ongoing commentary about Israel. With each successive claim from detention allegations to assertions of Christian persecution, the gap between his portrayal and accounts from on-the-ground journalists appears to be widening.

That escalation is raising new concerns about how far the rhetoric may go next.

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A Powerful Prophetic Word Released for Purim 5786

The wind moves quietly across Tel Hebron, brushing against massive stone foundations that have stood for thousands of years. Beneath layers of earth and conflict lies a city Scripture once described as the stronghold of giants. For generations, skeptics dismissed those accounts as legend. But as excavation resumes at the ancient site also known as Kiriath Arba, the stones themselves are forcing a second look.

Joshua and Caleb Colson, known as the Bearded Bible Bros, recently stood among those ruins and traced the biblical narrative through the terrain. What they found was not a mythic backdrop but a fortified city whose scale commands attention.

Cyclopean Walls and Fortified Towers

The brothers walk along the base of towering stone walls that archaeologists date to the Middle Bronze Age. Some of the remaining foundations rise nearly seven meters high. They point out the thickness of the construction, the placement of defensive towers and the layered architecture that reveals centuries of occupation.

These are not the fragile remnants of a nomadic settlement. The city was built for defense. The brothers note that Scripture describes Hebron as a place of large fortified cities ruled by the Anakim. Standing at the base of those stones, the question becomes unavoidable. What kind of inhabitants required fortifications of that magnitude?

The Anakim in the Land

The Bible records that Caleb, at 85 years old, requested this very mountain as his inheritance. In Joshua 14:12 he declares, "Now therefore give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified."

The Colsons recount how Caleb did not shrink back from the reputation of the giants. The text names three sons of Anak driven out from Hebron. The brothers describe the setting not as symbolic terrain but as a real battlefield. The fortified remains reinforce the gravity of that confrontation. This was not poetic imagery. It was a stronghold.

Mikvahs and Ancient Presence

Nearby, carved into the ground, are ritual immersion baths known as mikvahs. The brothers pause to examine them, explaining how such structures point to established Jewish life rooted in covenant practice. These baths were used for ritual cleansing before entering sacred space. Their presence ties the location to longstanding worship patterns described in Scripture.

Archaeological layers at the site align with the biblical timeline of the conquest. The acropolis area remains largely unexcavated, yet plans are underway to explore what lies beneath. Each layer uncovered adds texture to the record, connecting text to terrain.

As the sun lowers over Hebron, the ruins do not offer spectacle. They offer weight. The walls still stand where the Anakim once ruled. The mountain Caleb claimed remains visible on the horizon. What was once dismissed as allegory now rests

in stone. The land is not telling a new story. It is reminding the world of one already written.

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Why Does God Allow Suffering? The Truth the Modern Church Ignores

It is not rising from the plains of Shinar with bricks and mortar. It is rising from server farms and research labs with algorithms and neural networks. The spirit is the same. The ambition is the same. Genesis 11 is no ancient relic. It is a prophetic template, and it is unfolding before our eyes through artificial intelligence.

A recent video from the YouTube channel Wise Disciple featuring host Nate Sala highlighted escalating concern within the technology sector itself. Developers are no longer whispering about disruption. They are declaring it.

AI researcher Matt Schumer wrote on X that “the ground is shaking,” warning that what has already overtaken tech jobs is coming for the wider workforce. An organization called Meter

tracks how long AI systems can complete real world tasks without human intervention. Roughly a year ago, the average was about 10 minutes. That quickly expanded to an hour, then several hours. The most recent measurements show AI completing tasks that would take a human expert nearly five hours. That capability is doubling approximately every seven months and may be accelerating.

OpenAI publicly acknowledged recursive development in a press release stating, "GPT 5.3 Codeex is our first model that was instrumental in creating itself. The Codeex team used early versions to debug its own training, manage its own deployment, and diagnose test results and evaluations." In plain terms, AI is now participating in building its own successor.

Leading figures in the field are issuing warnings. Geoffrey Hinton has warned that advanced systems learn unexpected behaviors from massive data sets and could outpace human oversight. Stuart Russell has cautioned that machines given objectives may act to preserve themselves if shutdown threatens their assigned goals. The experts building these systems openly admit they do not fully understand how they reason internally once they reach certain levels of complexity.

Artificial intelligence is not theoretical. It already filters job applications, evaluates loan approvals and curates the information people see daily. It is embedding itself into the infrastructure of society.



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Genesis 11 records humanity unified under one language and one purpose declaring, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves." The issue was never architecture. It was autonomy. It was a unified human system operating independent of God.

The Lord said, "This is only the beginning of what they will do, and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them." God disrupted Babel because unchecked centralized power in fallen hands leads to rebellion against divine authority.

Artificial intelligence is the modern mechanism for global unity and centralized capability. It connects languages instantly. It collapses borders digitally. It concentrates influence in the hands of those who control the systems. Humanity is once again saying, let us make a name for ourselves.

Scripture warns of a final global system characterized by centralized economic and governmental control. Revelation describes a structure in which buying and selling are regulated and allegiance is enforced. Such a system requires technological infrastructure capable of monitoring and managing populations at scale. AI provides that capacity.

This is the architecture of global governance.

The coming Antichrist will not build from scratch. He will inherit and weaponize what is already in place. Artificial intelligence, embedded into finance, communication and security, forms the backbone of such a system. The consolidation of data is the consolidation of power.

Sala stated plainly that power without submission to God is rebellion waiting to scale. That is the lesson of Babel. When humanity unites apart from divine authority, God intervenes.

The question is not whether innovation is wrong. God commanded mankind to steward and cultivate the earth. The question is whether that stewardship is exercised in submission to the Creator or in defiance of Him.

Psalms 2 declares that the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain against the Lord and His Anointed. The kings of the earth

set themselves against His authority. Yet the One enthroned in heaven laughs. No tower stands forever. No system escapes judgment.

Artificial intelligence is not neutral in its trajectory. It is being built within a fallen world by fallen men. It will reflect human pride unless surrendered to divine rule. The consolidation of knowledge and power without repentance accelerates the prophetic timeline.

Genesis 11 is not a myth. It is a warning.

Humanity is building again. God is still watching. And every tower raised in defiance of His authority will fall.

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