

# **Jack Hibbs Issues a Warning Many Churches Won't Touch**

As tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate, Pastor Greg Laurie is urging Christians to respond with biblical clarity rather than fear, pointing to Israel's central role in Scripture and the growing significance of Iran in global events.

In a recent episode of his program, The Greg Laurie Show, addressing Iran and Israel, Laurie framed current headlines through the lens of biblical prophecy, emphasizing that while events may be alarming, they should not surprise believers.

## **Israel at the Center of Prophecy**

Laurie described Israel as "God's prophetic time clock," arguing that the modern rebirth of the nation marked a major turning point in biblical history.

"It all starts on May 14, 1948," Laurie said. "Israel became a nation. ... When this happened, this would be a sign of the times and effectively the prophetic time clock would start ticking."

Laurie noted that Israel's return to the land followed centuries of exile, something he called unprecedented in world history. He said the Holocaust played a central role in shaping the modern Jewish state, as the Jewish people realized "no one was going to look out for them" and they needed to defend themselves.

## **Antisemitism and a Spiritual Conflict**

Laurie traced modern antisemitism back to Scripture, arguing that hostility toward the Jewish people is not merely

political but spiritual.

“This hatred against the Jews ... goes back to the Garden of Eden,” Laurie said, pointing to God’s promise that the Messiah would come through Israel.

He criticized slogans such as “from the river to the sea,” saying they amount to a call for Israel’s destruction. “They’re really saying we don’t want the Jews. We don’t want them in their land,” Laurie said.



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## **Iran’s Ideology and End-Times Beliefs**

Laurie warned that Iran’s threat to Israel is driven by more than geopolitics. He said Iran’s leadership embraces a form of Islamic eschatology that views chaos as a pathway to redemption.

“They believe the way they will prepare the way for their Messiah is creating chaos,” Laurie said. “And that’s what they’ve been doing for a long time, provoking Israel and the West.”

Laurie also highlighted Iran’s role in sponsoring terrorist organizations, noting that the regime has repeatedly expressed a desire to eliminate Israel.

## **Ezekiel 38 and a Foreshadowing, Not Fulfillment**

Laurie referenced Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, which describe a future invasion of Israel involving Persia, the ancient name for Iran.

“Is this a fulfillment of what the Bible predicted?” Laurie asked. “I would classify it as a foreshadowing, not

necessarily a complete fulfillment.”

He added that Russia’s growing alignment with Iran is noteworthy, given that Ezekiel describes Persia marching alongside Gog, a figure many associate with Russia.

“We’re seeing things play out today the Bible predicted thousands of years ago,” Laurie said.

## **Prophecy Should Prepare, Not Terrify**

Despite the sobering nature of the subject, Laurie emphasized that biblical prophecy is meant to reassure believers.

“Bible prophecy is not given to scare us, but to prepare us,” he said. “When these things happen, we should not be terrified, but reassured that God is keeping His promises.”

Laurie urged Christians to remain watchful but calm, quoting Jesus’ instruction to “look up” rather than panic.

## **Pray for Peace and Be Ready**

Laurie closed by stressing that awareness of prophecy does not mean hoping for war.

“We don’t want Armageddon to come,” he said. “We want to see peace in the Middle East. ... The Bible says, ‘Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.’”

At the same time, he reminded believers that the return of Christ could happen at any moment.

“There is nothing that needs to happen for the rapture to take place,” Laurie said. “That’s why the Bible tells us repeatedly to watch and be ready.”

**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.*

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## **Christian Missionary and US Marine Veteran Killed in Facebook Marketplace Scam**

A U.S. Marine veteran and Christian missionary was killed during what authorities say was a Facebook Marketplace meetup that turned into a robbery and shooting, leading to the arrest of four suspects, including a juvenile.

Four people have been taken into custody in connection with the death of Michael Ryan Burke, 42, as reported by The Christian Post. Police said Burke was shot Jan. 18 at his home in Columbia, Missouri, after agreeing to sell his iPhone through the online marketplace.

According to court documents, the suspects allegedly arranged to buy Burke's iPhone 15 Pro "under false pretenses" as part of a string of robberies targeting people selling phones online.

Police identified the adult suspects as 18-year-olds Alexis Baumann, Kobe Aust and Joseph Crane, along with an unidentified juvenile. Investigators said Baumann drove the group to Burke's home while Crane and the juvenile went inside armed with pistols.

Baumann later told police she heard three gunshots. Court

records say Crane and the juvenile then ran back to the vehicle and admitted they had shot Burke and taken his phone. The stolen device was later sold at a Walmart kiosk, according to the affidavit.



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Authorities believe the group had carried out at least two similar robberies in the days leading up to Burke's death, using arranged meetups to steal phones and quickly resell them. In one earlier incident, the juvenile suspect allegedly threatened a victim, saying, "If you touch me, I'll shoot you," after taking her phone.

Despite being critically wounded, Burke managed to call 911 and describe his attackers to dispatchers, Fox News reported. He also sent a final text message to his mother and sister that read, "Hey, I'm dying and I love you," according to CBS affiliate KRCG.

All three adult suspects were charged with second-degree murder, first-degree robbery and first-degree burglary. Crane also faces charges of armed criminal action and unlawful use of a weapon, police said.

Burke was a U.S. Marine veteran, a graduate of the University of Missouri, a former firefighter and a humanitarian who spent years serving others through missionary work. He had worked in countries including Uganda, Haiti and Iraq, often alongside Christian communities and children.

On social media, Burke regularly shared about his faith in Jesus Christ and the work he believed God had called him to do. Just days before his death, he posted about partnering with C3 Church in West Africa, writing, "Grateful to walk this journey and witness what God is doing. To God be the glory."

Friends and readers alike have since pointed to Burke's life

of service and faith, remembering him not for the violence that ended his life, but for the purpose and conviction with which he lived it.

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## **Iowa Man Stops Trump During Restaurant Visit With Unexpected Spiritual Request**

President Donald Trump paused during a restaurant stop in Iowa after a patron made an unscripted request that quickly turned into a public moment of prayer, underscoring a growing emphasis on faith, national repentance and spiritual protection as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary.

Video shared on X by White House aide Margo Martin shows the exchange unfolding inside the Machine Shed restaurant, where a man from the crowd addressed the president directly before his remarks near Des Moines.

*Patron in Machine Shed restaurant in Iowa prays over President Trump* □□□□

– Margo Martin (@MargoMartin47) January 27, 2026

“Can I pray for you real quick?” the man asked.

“Absolutely! Come on. Let’s go,” Trump replied, bowing his head as the prayer began.

The brief prayer, as reported by Fox News, thanked God for the president and asked for wisdom, discernment, peace and protection, drawing audible participation from others in the restaurant.

“Lord God, we give thanks for this president,” the man prayed. “Lord, thank you for him and the potential. Thank you for continuing wisdom, we pray for discernment. Pray for hope, we pray for more peace, Lord.”

Several in the crowd responded with “Amen” as the prayer concluded, followed by applause and words of praise, including “Amen” and “Praise God.”

The unscripted moment occurred as Trump made a stop at the Iowa restaurant before delivering a speech in the Des Moines area, kicking off his 2026 midterm campaign efforts.

However, a crucial portion of the prayer, difficult to hear in the video and not included in Fox News’ written account, adds significant spiritual and theological weight to the moment. Near the end of the prayer, the man also asked God for protection “against the world, battles of the flesh and all principalities,” language drawn directly from biblical teachings on spiritual warfare.



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For many Christians, the reference to “principalities” is not symbolic rhetoric but a clear acknowledgment of unseen spiritual forces that Scripture teaches are actively opposed to God’s purposes and those in positions of authority. The phrase mirrors New Testament warnings that leadership is not

merely contested on political or ideological grounds but within a broader spiritual battlefield.

The inclusion of that line is particularly striking given that Trump has faced multiple attempts on his life, underscoring why prayers for protection extend beyond physical security to spiritual covering. For believers, asking God to guard a national leader against both visible threats and unseen forces reflects a conviction that the challenges facing leadership are multidimensional.

The prayer moment also aligns with a broader White House initiative encouraging national prayer and spiritual re-dedication ahead of America's 250th anniversary.

In a statement released by the administration, Trump encouraged Americans to pray for the nation and its people, saying the country has long been "sustained and strengthened by prayer."

As the milestone approaches, Trump urged Americans to "rededicate ourselves to one nation under God," calling for reflection not only on the country's founding but on its spiritual foundations.

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# Why the Apocalyptic 'Messiah' Narrative and Doomsday Clock Hype Fall Apart When Compared to Scripture

A resurfaced poem written more than a century ago by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad is being framed by the Daily Mail as a chilling prophetic warning for the modern world. The article describes Ahmad as an apocalyptic figure whose words are now being interpreted by some as foreshadowing World War III and global catastrophe.

But for readers grounded in Scripture, the reaction is far less dramatic.

We have heard all of this before.

According to the article, Ahmad warned that, "Suddenly, a quake will severely shake, mortals, trees, mountains and seas, all. In the twinkling of an eye, the land shall turn over, streams of blood will flow like rivers of water." Elsewhere, he claimed, "There will be death on such a large scale that streams of blood will flow. Even birds and grazing animals will not escape this death."

None of this language is new. None of it is unique. And none of it originated with Ahmad.

Earthquakes, global war, bloodshed, fear among nations and even the suffering of animals are all themes already laid out plainly in the Bible, written centuries earlier. Jesus Himself warned of earthquakes "in various places" and of nations rising against nations (Matt. 24:7, MEV). The book of Revelation describes widespread death, cosmic disturbance and global fear in far more explicit terms than anything found in

Ahmad's poetry.

What Ahmad did was not uncover hidden truth. He borrowed biblical imagery, stripped it from its Christ-centered context and repackaged it as a warning tied to himself.

That distinction matters.



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The Daily Mail notes that Ahmad claimed divine authority and that his followers believe he was "divinely appointed as the guided leader expected in Islamic End Times prophecies."

This alone places his claims outside the biblical narrative. Scripture is unambiguous that God's final revelation came through Jesus Christ and that no new messianic figure would follow Him (Heb. 1:1-2).

Jesus also issued a direct warning that applies precisely to moments like this.

"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many" (Matt. 24:5).

False prophetic figures do not usually invent new ideas. They reuse familiar language, especially language rooted in Scripture, because it already carries weight. The deception comes not from originality but from misdirection.

Ahmad's writings repeatedly frame global catastrophe as a response to the world's rejection of him. In one of his books, he wrote that a "warner came unto the world, but the world accepted him not," suggesting disasters would follow that rejection.

The Bible never supports this framework.

Judgment in Scripture comes because humanity rejects God, not

because it dismisses a modern religious figure. The only rejected messenger whose rejection carries cosmic consequence is Jesus Christ Himself (John 1:11). No later claimant is given that authority.

The article also leans heavily on modern speculation, tying Ahmad's references to the "Czar of Russia" to present-day geopolitical tensions. Yet even the Daily Mail concedes skepticism, noting that Russia no longer has a czar and that some followers believe the prophecy referred to regional earthquakes in India before Ahmad's death.

This kind of ambiguity is another hallmark of false prophetic claims. Biblical prophecy, when specific, is clear. It does not rely on retroactive reinterpretation or constantly shifting applications to remain relevant.

The article closes by linking the renewed interest in Ahmad's poem to the approaching update of the Doomsday Clock, which currently sits at 85 seconds to midnight.

The Doomsday Clock is not biblical. It is not scientific prophecy. It is a symbolic device designed to provoke anxiety, not understanding. It has no authority, no predictive power and no theological meaning. Its sole function is to stir fear in people willing to believe that a man-made clock can measure the end of the world.

Scripture already tells believers how to interpret the times.

"See that you are not deceived," Jesus warned (Luke 21:8).

That instruction is especially relevant when media outlets resurrect non-biblical prophetic claims and frame them as ominous signs of impending doom. Christians are not called to panic. We are called to discern.

The test is simple. When a claim sounds familiar, it is worth asking why. If the language echoes Scripture but removes

Christ from the center, it is not prophecy. It is imitation.

In days when fear sells and headlines thrive on apocalyptic tension, we as Christians must know what the Bible actually says, compare every claim against it and refuse to be shaken by recycled warnings dressed up as new revelation.

The Bible already told us these things would come. It also told us who alone holds the future.

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## **Taylor Swift in the Pulpit: A Priest's Viral Sermon Has Shown How Casual the Gospel Has Become**

Are we really at the point where the Gospel needs a pop star co-sign to feel relevant?

That question hangs over a viral sermon recently highlighted by the New York Post, in which a Catholic priest built a homily around a Taylor Swift song. It is also the same question many believers are asking as modern evangelicalism increasingly trades repentance for relevance.

## A Viral Sermon Built on Pop Culture

According to the New York Post, Rev. Eric Mah went viral after preaching a sermon centered on Swift's song "The Fate of Ophelia," using it as an analogy for rejection, heartbreak and eventual healing. Mah later admitted, "It's definitely been my most-viewed homily."

*A Washington state man and his dog were stabbed early Sunday morning after the suspect questioned the victim about his religious beliefs and reacted violently when the man identified as a Christian, according to local authorities.*

*The incident occurred near the S S Quickstop Grocery in Parkland just before 6:30 a.m., as reported by The Blaze, citing information from the Pierce County Sheriff's Office. Parkland is located about 45 minutes south of Seattle.*

*Deputies said the 54-year-old victim called 911 to report that an unknown man had stabbed him and fled southbound on Park Avenue South. When deputies arrived, they found the victim in serious condition. He told officers the suspect approached him and asked what religion he practiced.*

*"The victim answered the man and said something about being a Christian, and the man then attacked and stabbed the victim*

*and his dog," the sheriff's office said in a statement.*

*The victim, later identified as Eddie Nitschke, was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. His dog was also critically wounded and taken to an animal hospital where it was rushed into surgery.*

*Nitschke told KING-TV that the suspect initially pressed him repeatedly about his religious beliefs. Nitschke said he first responded that he was not religious, but the suspect continued pushing the issue.*

*"I guess Christian," Nitschke said he finally told the man.*



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*According to Nitschke, the suspect then accused him of pursuing him. "He said, 'You've been looking for me for some time,' and I said, 'I don't even know you,'" Nitschke told the station.*

*The suspect then allegedly attacked Nitschke with two knives, striking him multiple times and puncturing his lung. During the assault, Nitschke told his girlfriend to release their dog from their car. The dog attacked the suspect and was also stabbed during the struggle.*

*"My shirt was drenched with blood," Nitschke told KING.*

*Deputies used a K-9 unit to search the area for more than two hours but were initially unable to locate the suspect. At approximately 8:40 a.m., a deputy spotted a man matching the suspect's description in the 800 block of 112th Street South. The suspect fled behind a nearby home.*

*Authorities said deputies pursued the suspect and reported that shots were fired around 8:47 a.m. KOMO-TV reported that the sheriff's office later confirmed the suspect was dead*

*after being shot by multiple deputies.*

*The sheriff's office said the suspect was armed with multiple knives, resisted arrest and approached deputies before shots were fired. Detectives have not released the suspect's identity and said they do not know whether he had any connection to the area or the residence he fled behind.*

*While hospitalized, Nitschke said he became aware that the suspect was being treated in a nearby room. He said he heard a "code red" call before learning the suspect had died.*

*"When I found out that he died, I thought to myself, 'Oh, he died,'" Nitschke said. "I felt bad, but then I thought, 'He just stabbed me.'"*

*Nitschke later discharged himself from the hospital against medical advice, saying he wanted to check on his dog. "They didn't want to let me go," he said. "I just don't want to be in the hospital. I wanted to find out about my dog." Video from KING indicated the dog is expected to recover.*

*The sheriff's office Facebook post about the incident drew hundreds of comments. Many reflected outrage, concern and frustration, with numerous commenters questioning whether an attack involving a Christian victim would receive broader attention or be treated as a religiously motivated crime.*

*Take some time to pray for Eddie Nitschke and his dog, for physical healing and emotional recovery, and for peace and protection amid a growing climate of hostility toward people of faith.*

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***When Doctors Warned of the  
Worst, Visions and Miracles  
Strengthened a Pastor's  
Family***