

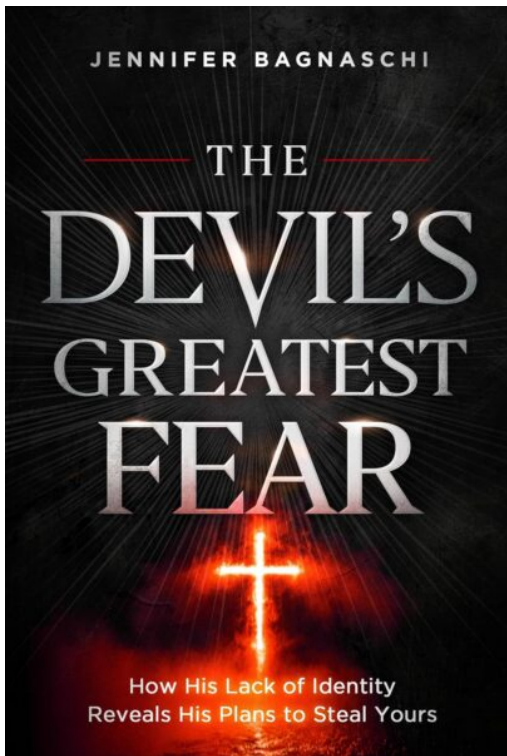
From Eden to Revelation: Tracing Satan's Strategy Through Scripture

For many Christians, Satan is treated as either an exaggerated cartoon figure or a vague symbol of evil. But what if Scripture paints a far more detailed, organized and unsettling picture? In a recent documentary, one Christian preacher argues that the Bible not only [explains Satan's origin and downfall](#), but also exposes a consistent strategy still being used today – one that believers often underestimate.

A 30-Minute Biblical Documentary With a Unique Approach

In a recent Bible documentary, Christian preacher Joe Kirby of Off the Kirb Ministries traces the story of Satan from his rebellion to his future judgment, using Scripture, historical geography and animated world maps. Kirby describes the project as an effort to make biblical theology visual and accessible, saying, “Once you see this and this, you will know that Satan is closer than you think.”

Kirby walks viewers through key passages in Genesis, Job, Isaiah, Ezekiel, the Gospels and Revelation, arguing that the Bible reveals a consistent pattern in how Satan operates. “No one has ever seen this before,” Kirby says, “but I believe there is an invisible strategy that Satan operates from.”



[Order Jennifer Bagnaschi's New Book, "The Devil's Greatest Fear" on Amazon.com!](#)

Deception, Accusation and the Battle for Worship

According to Kirby, Satan's earliest tactic in the Garden of Eden was not force, but deception – specifically the suggestion that God was withholding something good. "He will trick you into thinking God is hiding or concealing something good from you so that you'll fall into sin," Kirby explains, adding that the same lie still convinces people that obedience to God is restrictive rather than freeing.

Kirby also highlights [Satan's role as "the accuser of God's people,"](#) pointing to courtroom scenes in Job and Zechariah. "When Satan talks to us about God, he lies," Kirby says. "But when he talks to God about us, he tells the truth." In contrast, Kirby emphasizes Christ's role as advocate, pointing to the cross as the moment where justice and grace meet.

From Heaven's Courts to Earth's Thrones

One of the documentary's more striking claims involves Satan's access to heaven and the location of his earthly throne. Kirby argues that Scripture shows Satan still having limited access to heavenly realms, a reality that will change during a future event described in Revelation 12. "Satan is actually not in hell right now," Kirby says. "Believe it or not, he still has access to heaven."

Kirby also addresses Revelation 2:13, concluding that the Bible identifies Pergamum – in modern-day Turkey – as the location of Satan's throne, dismissing popular online claims placing it elsewhere. He describes Pergamum as a center of emperor worship, idolatry and serpent symbolism, aligning with Satan's desire for exaltation and control.

The End of the Story Is Not in Doubt

While Kirby presents Satan as active, organized and persistent, he repeatedly emphasizes that the devil's fate is sealed. Drawing from Revelation, he reminds viewers that Satan will ultimately be cast into eternal judgment. "If the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed," Kirby says, pointing viewers back to the hope found in Christ rather than fear of the enemy.

The documentary, which you don't want to miss, ultimately serves as both a warning and a reassurance: Satan's strategies are real and ongoing, but they are no match for the authority, righteousness and victory of Jesus Christ.

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.

Parents Excluded as San Diego Schools Advance Radical Gender Agenda

Concerns about transparency, ethics and parental rights in public education are intensifying following a report alleging [the San Diego Unified School District](#) is actively promoting ideological concepts while shielding critical information from families.

The findings, released by the parental rights group Defending Education, center on SDUSD's official "Equity & Belonging" online hub. According to the report, the district's website guides students on changing their name and gender identity. It promotes instructional materials asserting the existence of nine gender identities and 28 sexual orientations.

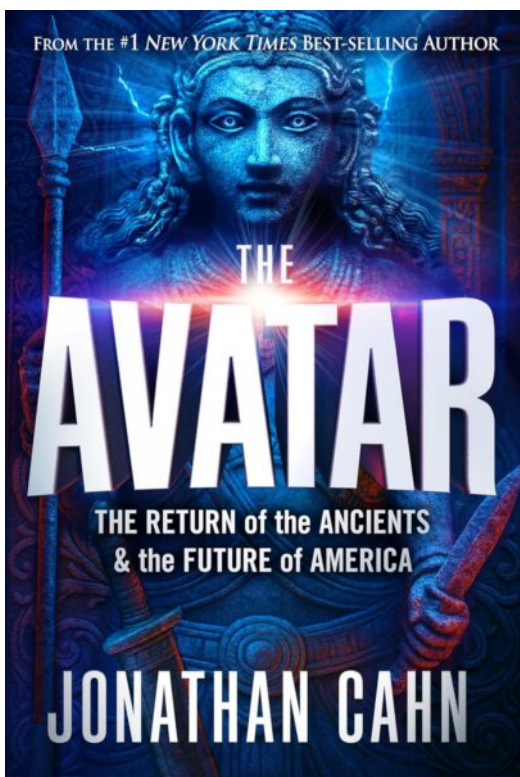
The district describes its equity initiative as an effort to "dismantle systems of oppression," while incorporating resources from organizations such as the Zinn Education Project, Black Lives Matter and GLSEN.

On a page labeled "Youth Advocacy," district materials outline what they describe as nine gender identities, including "demogirl," "demiboy," "third gender" and "agender." Separate slides list 28 sexual orientations, featuring terms such as "androsexual," "panromantic sexual" and "graysexual."

The report also raises alarms about age appropriateness. Lesson packets connected to the initiative are reportedly

intended for students in grades three through six and include subjects such as “Trans kids in the Boy Scouts” and “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

“San Diego Unified is just another example of ideological capture in K-12 and while I suspect most parents and staff aren’t even aware of what’s on this page of their website, it has to be interpreted as the official position of the district,” Erika Sanzi, senior director of communications for Defending Education, said in a statement provided to The Christian Post.



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Sanzi argued that such policies fundamentally undermine confidence in public education.

“Education is not compatible with a district that believes or even entertains the idea that there are nine different gender identities and 28 sexual orientations,” she said. “This lunacy must end, or trust will be lost forever.”

Beyond curriculum concerns, the report highlights district

procedures that critics say deliberately exclude parents from major decisions affecting their children. A district "Name & Gender Change Form" states that "all students have a right to privacy," including the right to decide "when, with whom, [and how to share private information.](#)"

The document directs staff not to disclose a student's transgender or "gender nonconforming" status without the student's consent, even in conversations with parents or guardians.

"San Diego Unified has turned its 'Equity & Belonging' hub into an engine for ideology rather than education," said Kendall Tietz, an investigative reporter for Defending Education.

Tietz said the district is embedding activist frameworks into classrooms while discouraging parental pushback.

"San Diego Unified is promoting 28 sexual orientations and nine gender identities, declaring its mission to 'dismantle systems of oppression and inequity' and pushing these concepts into the minds of the youngest, most impressionable students," he said.

He also accused the district of misleading families about federal requirements.

"The district is telling families that federal law under Title IX requires gender-identity policies, even though the Biden-era Title IX rewrite was vacated nationwide," Tietz said, adding that concerned parents are often treated as "'resistance' to be managed."

Under President Donald Trump, federal policy recognizes only two biological sexes and directs agencies to apply Title IX accordingly, including restrictions on male participation in female athletic competitions.

“This is not neutral education or simple kindness, but politicized programming imposed through the public school system,” Tietz said.

The report clearly shows a growing belief that public school systems no longer see families as partners. As districts obscure policies, advance contested ideologies and restrict parental involvement, trust continues to erode, raising serious questions about whether such institutions can be entrusted with children’s moral and intellectual formation.

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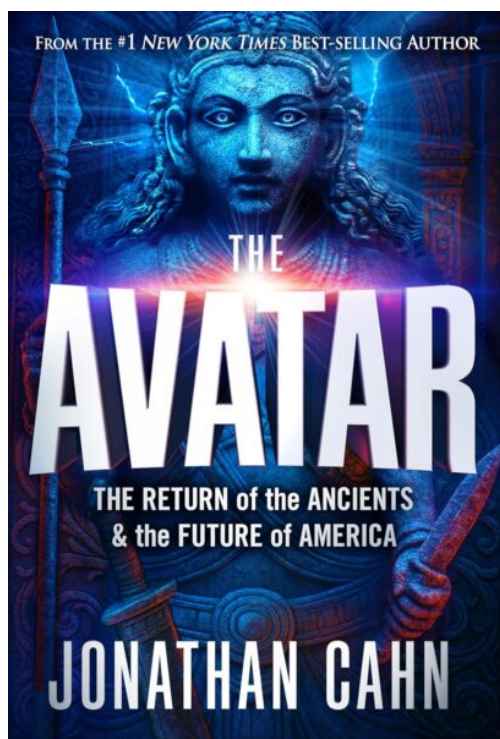
Suspect Pleads Guilty in Gruesome Campaign That Targeted Churches

A man’s guilty plea in a series of grotesque animal mutilations outside churches in England’s New Forest exposes what this case truly represents: [spiritual warfare carried out openly and without shame.](#)

As reported by the Daily Mail, 47-year-old Benjamin Lewis admitted to dumping decapitated animal remains, including a deer’s head and stolen lamb carcasses, outside multiple churches across Hampshire. He pleaded guilty to seven

offenses, including five counts of religiously aggravated harassment, and admitted to displaying hostile messaging toward a religious group. These were not isolated acts of cruelty. The repeated targeting of Christian churches, the bloodshed and the deliberate use of sacrificial imagery make the intent unmistakable.

This is not countercultural behavior, misunderstood symbolism, or harmless rebellion. It is an assault on the ways of God. The desecration of church grounds and the use of animal sacrifice imagery echo the oldest expressions of defiance against God found throughout history.



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Scripture is clear about the nature of such acts: they are rooted in darkness that seeks to mock, intimidate and defile what is holy. Attempts to sanitize or rebrand Satanism as merely expressive or philosophical collapse under the weight of these actions.

The case also sits within a troubling pattern. Authorities have linked Lewis' crimes to a broader series of ritualistic animal killings in the New Forest, including mutilated sheep,

inverted crosses, pentagrams, candles, and remains left at historic churches and ancient sites.

This is a clear reminder that spiritual battles are not abstract concepts. [They manifest in real acts of violence and intimidation.](#) Our response should not be fear or confusion, but vigilance, prayer and a firm stand for truth as darkness continues to test the church's resolve.

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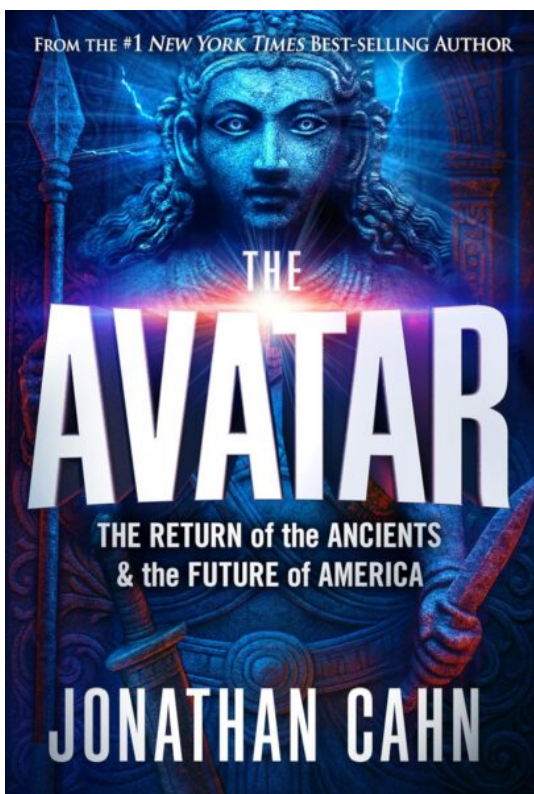
Kevin Costner Reflects on Faith Sustaining Him Through Life's Toughest Tests

Kevin Costner is known for portraying rugged heroes and resilient leaders on screen, but in a recent interview, the award-winning actor made clear that the strength guiding his life off camera is rooted in faith. As personal and professional storms have collided in recent years, Costner says belief has remained [the steady force that carries him forward.](#)

Speaking about his faith journey, Costner reflected on how it was shaped early and sustained through adversity, as reported by USA Today.

Raised in a church-centered home, he described faith not as a cultural accessory but as a lived reality that formed his worldview long before Hollywood success followed. “Our friends came from the church,” Costner said. “The church was central in our lives.” He added that the spiritual lessons passed down through generations still anchor him today.

That foundation came alive again while working on ABC’s two-hour special, Kevin Costner Presents: The First Christmas, which explores the Nativity story alongside historical and theological context. “We all think we know [the story],” Costner said. “We all wait for this time of year and then we get mad at it, too, because now it’s ‘so much stuff I have to do, and I hate this.’ It’s ‘too many people are coming to the house.’ There’s this other story that changed the world, a lot of the world.”



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Costner said participating in the project brought him genuine joy, even as he anticipated skepticism. “I was proud to be able to do it,” he said. “I’m sure I’m going to confront the

cynics and the nonbelievers, who I invite them to sit down, too, and they can feel how they feel. But I was really happy. This gave me pleasure to do it.”

Costner also spoke openly about the sustaining power of faith during hardship. In recent years, he has navigated a high-profile divorce and mounting challenges surrounding the financing and release of his ambitious film series, *Horizon: An American Saga*.

Through it all, he says belief has kept him grounded. “We can’t always explain what moves us or what gives us this kind of determination or this faith that we will come out of this dark spot,” Costner said. “We can’t. We just choose to believe, [and it’s something that has really sustained me.](#)”

At the heart of Costner’s reflections is an honest acknowledgment that faith does not remove struggle but gives meaning within it. In a candid moment, he summed up what perseverance looks like when belief meets reality:

“I have had tremendous ups, and I have been bruised equally,” Costner said. “I’ve had things said about me that I know, you know – but I have to endure them. And so, how do I choose to live my life, in anger or in faith that things will reveal themselves in the right way? And so I’ve just chosen to do that. But being a human, you keep thinking to God, ‘You need to hurry up, God. Listen, I’ve been praying for this for a long time. You got to pick it up a little bit.’ But we live with faith, so we’re going to be tested. It’s just we’re tested all the time.”

Faith is not a slogan or seasonal sentiment. It is a daily decision to trust, endure and believe that even in testing, purpose is being formed.

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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.

Biblical Omen? Mysterious 'Blood-Red' Formation Spotted in New Mexico Desert

A striking image circulating online has ignited speculation and spiritual unease after Google Earth users identified what appears to be a deep red formation in a remote stretch of northern New Mexico.

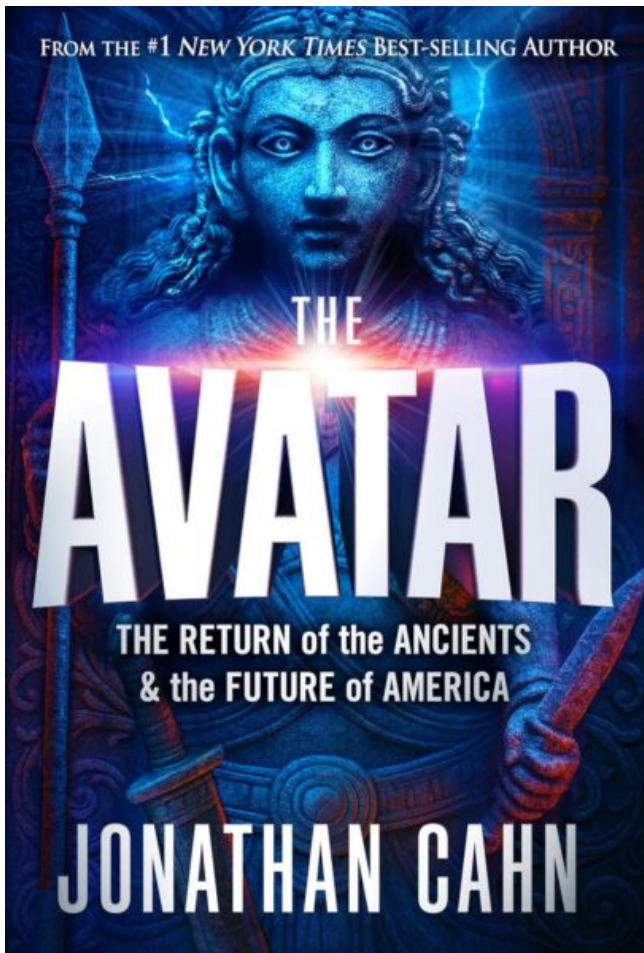
The coordinates, located just northwest of Santa Fe, have been described by some as a "large pile of blood" seeping from the desert floor, triggering widespread discussion about whether the unsettling sight could carry biblical significance.



As reported by Daily Mail, the viral post showing the site has been viewed more than two million times on X, with the caption reading, “Growing increasingly concerned about the large pile of blood in the desert.”

While many users reacted with humor, others pointed to Scripture, asking, “Isn’t this in the Bible?”—a reference to the Book of Exodus, which recounts how God turned the Nile to blood as a sign of judgment. “Thus says the Lord: By this you shall know that I am the Lord... I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood,” Exodus 7:17–21 reads.

Geologists have offered a natural explanation, identifying the formation as a cinder cone created by ancient volcanic activity. Its deep red coloration comes from “iron-rich volcanic material that has oxidized over time,” preserved by the region’s arid climate.



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The material, known as oxidized red scoria, is actively mined for road construction, landscaping and water treatment, and any runoff is naturally occurring and harmless, despite its blood-like appearance.

Similar fears surfaced recently in Israel [when the Sea of Galilee turned a vivid crimson](#), leaving visitors rattled and warning of a "bad omen." Scientists later determined the discoloration was caused by a bloom of algae that turns red under intense sunlight.

While such explanations may satisfy scientific inquiry, the haunting visuals continue to raise a deeper question: in a nation that has increasingly embraced moral rebellion and normalized sin, [should moments like these be dismissed outright](#), or do they serve as a warning that calls for reflection, humility and repentance?

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Wake Up: Jack Hibbs Issues a Stark Warning Many Churches Are Ignoring

Pastor Jack Hibbs is not joining the growing chorus declaring that America is experiencing a sweeping spiritual revival. Instead, he is urging believers to look carefully, biblically and historically, at what is actually unfolding across the nation. What he sees, he says plainly, is not revival, but [something far more serious](#).

“There’s a lot of talk,” Hibbs said, explaining that he has been “very, very hesitant to throw my hat into the ring on all of the rhetoric and all of the talk about the great revival that’s taking place in America.”

While many celebrate what they call a great awakening, Hibbs says one trend is undeniable and deeply concerning. “There’s one thing I am not doubting, and that is the rise of Islam in America like never before.”

That statement alone reframes the moment. This is not a season for spiritual complacency or naive optimism. It is a time that

demands discernment.

'Add the Word Invasion'

Hibbs does not mince words when describing what he believes is happening.

"You want to talk about an awakening or a revival, I think you ought to add the word invasion," he said.

He warned that Islam has "found a home among progressive left people" and, in what he called a stunning contradiction, "remarkably, ironically, among the gay community," a partnership he said "is not going to turn out well for them."

History, Hibbs suggests, has already written this story. [The problem is that few are willing to read it.](#)

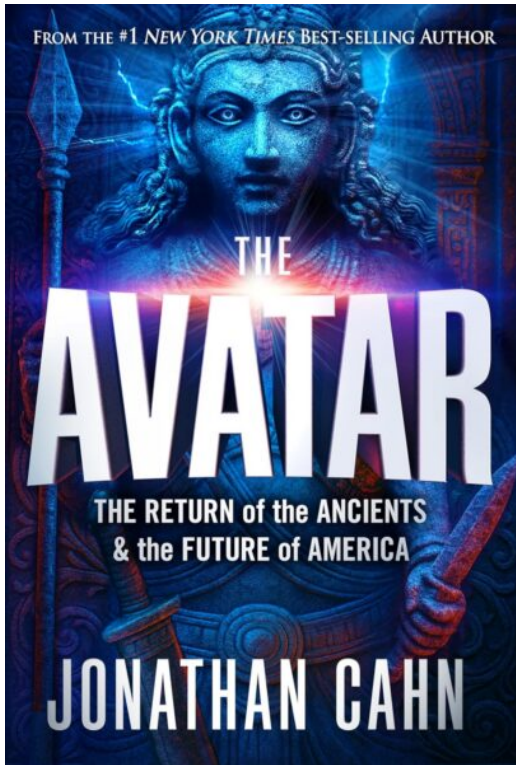
Political Capitulation and Cultural Testing

According to Hibbs, what follows acceptance is always testing.

"Wherever Islam is on the rise, it will push the envelope to test the culture that it lives in," he said. "They will push and push and push and see if anybody reacts. And if they don't react, then they simply take over."

Blocked streets, halted traffic and public demonstrations are not random acts, Hibbs said, but calculated measures to see whether a society will resist or submit. These incidents, he noted, are no longer hypothetical. They are already happening in parts of the United States.

This pattern is not accidental, and it is not new.



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Beyond Traditional Strongholds

Hibbs emphasized that the expansion is no longer confined to cities long associated with Islamic populations.

"Not just Dearborn, Michigan, not in areas that have always had this Islamic presence," he said, pointing to Minneapolis, Texas, Arizona and other regions.

Even more troubling, Hibbs warned, is the willingness of local governments to yield ground. "City councils are capitulating to the demands of even hosting or allowing Muslims to hold Sharia courts, which supersede the U.S. Constitution and our American jurisprudence," he said.

"They have a law above our law."

That statement alone should sober anyone who values constitutional freedom.

'Not If, But When'

Hibbs placed his warning squarely in a post-9/11 reality.

"Is there an invasion of Islam taking place in a post-9/11 world? Absolutely," he said. "Are they on the move? Yes. Could it turn militant? I think it's not if, I think it's when."

He cautioned that America is entering unfamiliar territory. "Living in America will not always be comfortable as we've known it in the past," Hibbs said. "It's not always going to be easy to be a believer as we've known it in the past."

"I think we're in a new America," he added, "and I think it's going to be something that will be quite shocking."

For Christians who understand biblical prophecy, this should not come as a surprise.

'Make Sure You've Got the Right One'

Hibbs ended his message where every true warning must end, with Jesus Christ.

"Jesus Christ is the answer," he said. "The Jesus Christ of the Bible is the answer. The Jesus Christ who is the Son of God is the answer."

He made a direct and necessary distinction. "Contrary to Islam, Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead," Hibbs said. "That's the Jesus Christ that you should be following. Make sure that you've got the right one."

A Need for Discernment

Hibbs' words are not meant to inspire fear, but clarity. Scripture repeatedly warns that deception will increase as the

last days draw near. This moment demands discernment, not denial. It demands believers who are grounded in the Word, committed to prayer and unafraid to speak truth.

Now is the time to stay awake, stay faithful and move forward boldly, fulfilling the Great Commission in whatever way the Lord has gifted each believer. The days are serious, the stakes are eternal and the answer remains the same. Jesus Christ is Lord.

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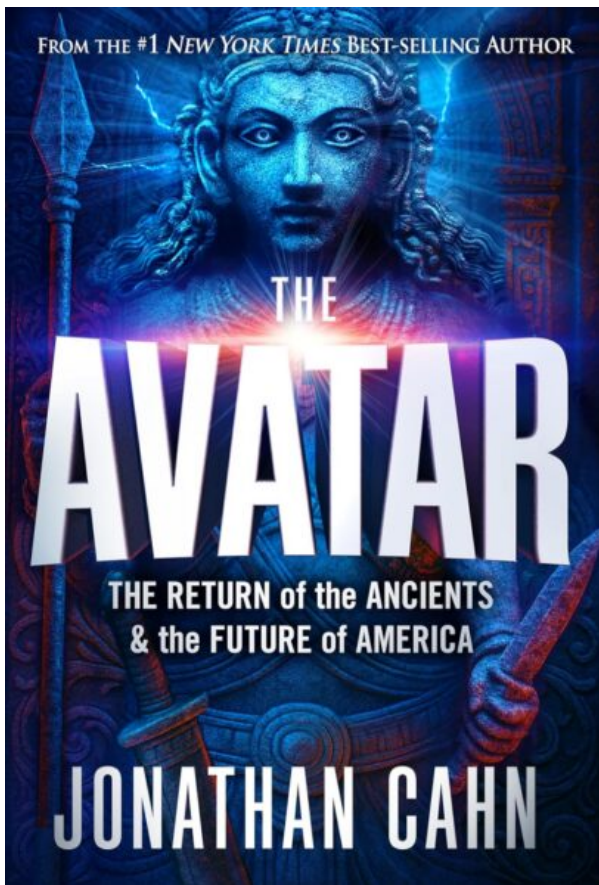
Jesse Watters Says Faith Grew From Loss as Fox News Hosts Begin Daily Bible Study

God has a long history of bringing light out of darkness, turning moments of deep loss into testimonies of hope, faith and renewal. A recent revelation from Fox News anchor Jesse Watters offers a modern example of how tragedy can spark spiritual awakening and draw hearts back toward God.

Watters shared recently that he and fellow Fox News co-hosts Greg Gutfeld and Harold Ford Jr. have begun a daily Bible study together, an effort he says was directly inspired by [the](#)

[life and faith of the late conservative activist Charlie Kirk.](#) Speaking on The Five, Watters explained, “Every morning we wake up and we read a passage, and then we text about it. And it is because of Charlie.”

Charlie Kirk, who was fatally shot while speaking at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10, was known for his outspoken Christian faith and his commitment to sharing Scripture with those around him. His widow, Erika Kirk, told the panel that her husband made Bible reading a daily priority. “Charlie, every single day on the way into work, would text people Bible verses,” she said. “And he just wanted to remind people this is what it’s all about.”



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Erika Kirk said she has heard numerous stories of people returning to church and buying Bibles since her husband’s death, a response she views as evidence that his faith continues to bear fruit. Reflecting on Charlie’s outlook, she added, “It’s about, your life here is so short. So are you

going to use your short time here on earth to make this place better or worse?”

Perhaps the most powerful testimony to emerge from the tragedy came during Charlie Kirk’s memorial service, when Erika publicly forgave her husband’s killer. She later explained that decision at The New York Times’ DealBook Conference, emphasizing that [forgiveness is rooted in Christian faith, not weakness](#). “[Forgiveness is] not because you’re weak, it’s not because you think what the assassin did was correct,” she said. “That’s the exact opposite.”

Describing the spiritual impact of forgiveness, Erika added, “Forgiveness is... for those of you who’ve been wronged, you know what it feels like to forgive someone. And in a way, where it frees you from a poison, and it frees you to be able to think clearly and have a moment where your heart is free and you’re not bound to evil.”

What began as a senseless act of violence has now become a testimony of faith in action. Through daily Scripture, renewed conversations about God and a powerful display of forgiveness, Charlie Kirk’s legacy continues to point people back to the hope and healing found in Christ.

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King Charles Delivers a Shocking Advent Message the World Wasn't Expecting

When persecuted Christians are acknowledged on the world stage, it deserves attention. That is precisely what happened when [King Charles](#) used a recent Advent service at Westminster Abbey to highlight the suffering of believers around the world.

According to the BBC, the king offered support to Christians living “in areas where it is not easy to live out one’s faith,” a rare and welcome acknowledgment at a time when global leaders often ignore Christian persecution.

That matters. Christians remain the most persecuted religious group on the planet, and their suffering rarely receives sustained public recognition.

A Clear Spotlight on Christian Suffering

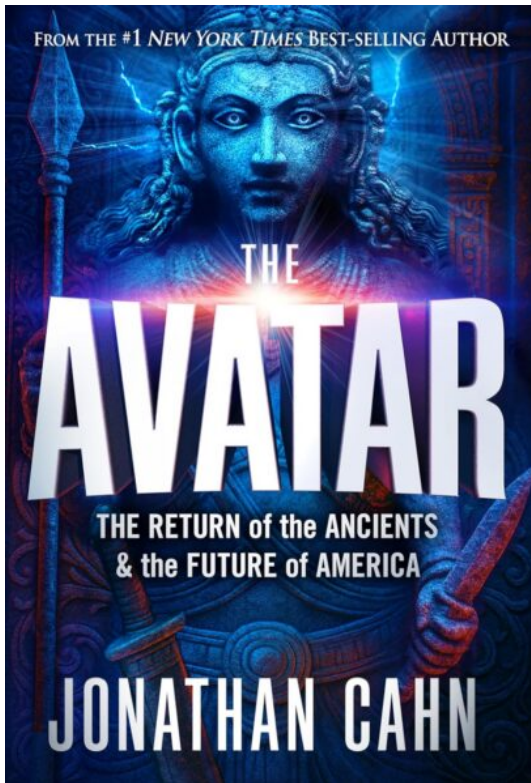
The candle-lit service carried strong Orthodox, Anglican and Catholic influences and included a warning against religious discrimination. The king spoke of “the light, hope and, above all, the peace of this season,” while the sermon addressed persecution directly.

Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe spoke of the “massive persecution of Christians in so many places,” recalling the 1996 killing of Algerian Bishop Pierre Claverie by Islamist extremists. Radcliffe said that “pointless violence had flowered into friendship,” noting that both Christians and Muslims mourned Claverie.

The congregation also heard from Ribqa Nevash, a 25-year-old Christian from Pakistan, who described churches being burned

and Christians facing discrimination for their faith. She said she was relieved to be in the UK, where she could openly celebrate Christmas.

For Christians who take Scripture seriously, none of this is surprising. Jesus warned His followers to expect persecution. The apostle Paul lived it and rejoiced in it. Suffering for the name of Christ has always been part of the faith.



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Encouragement Without Naivety

Still, encouragement does not require blind trust.

[King Charles is the head of the Church of England.](#) This denomination has steadily moved away from biblical authority on issues of gender, sexuality and core Christian doctrine, not to mention abuse taking place within the organization. That reality cannot be ignored. Nor can the broader trajectory of the United Kingdom, where increasing authoritarian measures have led to arrests over speech, including online expression that the government disapproves of.

It is difficult to reconcile those developments with a nation once defined by its resistance to tyranny. Modern Britain increasingly resembles the very systems it once stood against.

Giving Credit Where It Is Due

Even so, Christians should not confuse discernment with cynicism.

The service reflected deep Christian tradition, featuring icons, ancient hymns and prayers in Coptic, Syriac and Latin. King Charles quoted the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” highlighting its plea to “Dispel the long night’s lingering gloom, and pierce the shadows of the tomb.”

Those words endure because they speak truth. Darkness is real. Persecution is real. And hope is found only in Christ.

Doubts about King Charles and European leadership remain, especially given the current spiritual and political climate. But Christians can still take comfort in knowing Scripture has already told us what the last days will bring. We are not unprepared, and we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit has been sent as our Helper, and that remains far more reassuring than the words of any king.

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Historic Temple Mount Discovery Shakes the Foundations of Jerusalem's Past

The Temple Mount sits at the center of biblical prophecy, sacred history and future expectation. Scripture identifies it as the site of the First and Second Temples and foretells a Third Temple that will play a central role in the last days. [Each archaeological discovery](#) connected to the Mount adds weight to that biblical narrative. A newly uncovered menorah pendant does precisely that.

A Historic Find in the Shadow of the Temple Mount

Archaeologists have uncovered a rare 1,300- to 1,400-year-old lead pendant engraved with a seven-branched menorah, found beneath the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount near the City of David.

“We’re talking about a little pendant... found in the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount Jerusalem,” Israeli tour guide Yoav Rotem said on CBN News. “This little pendant of a menorah... was someone was wearing for sure a Jew.”

The artifact dates to the Late Byzantine period, a time when Jews were officially banned from residing in Jerusalem.



Exceptionally Rare and Archaeologically Unmatched

The Israel Antiquities Authority says the pendant is extraordinarily rare.

“Research has identified pendants of glass and other metals decorated with a menorah, but we know of only one other pendant in the world bearing the symbol of the menorah, made of lead,” said IAA researchers Yuval Baruch, Filip Vukosavović, Esther Rakow-Mellet and Shulamit Terem.

The pendant is decorated identically on both sides, reinforcing its role as a deliberate expression of Jewish identity.

Proof Jews Never Stopped Coming to

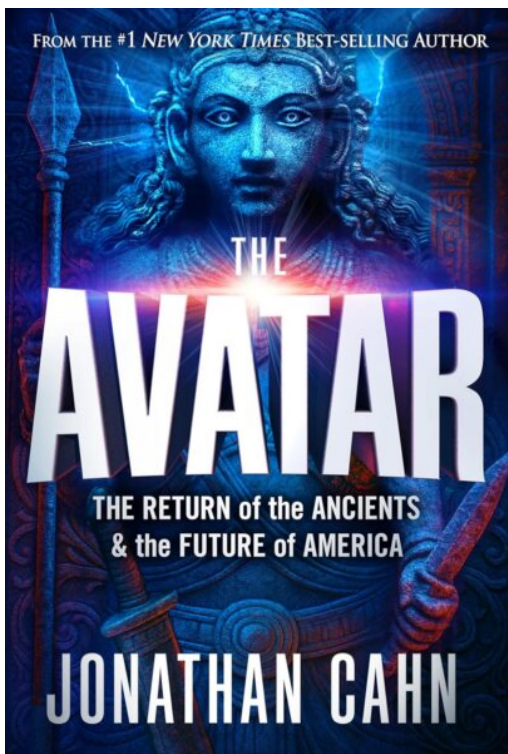
Jerusalem

Despite imperial bans, [the evidence is unmistakable.](#)

“This is maybe the game changer,” Rotem said. “It’s actually showing us maybe a Jew who visited Jerusalem or was living in Jerusalem back then.”

IAA researcher Yuval Baruch said the pendant proves that Jews continued traveling to Jerusalem even when forbidden. Wearing it under such conditions, he said, “is not only the essence of a personal commitment to one’s religious faith ... but it also attests that during periods when imperial edicts were issued prohibiting Jews from residing in the city, they did not stop coming there!”

The use of lead further supports its significance. “There is a strong basis to this contention, because lead was considered a common and particularly popular material for making amulets at that time,” Baruch added.



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The Menorah as a Declaration of Faith and Identity

The menorah predates the Star of David as Judaism's primary symbol, rooted in the Tabernacle and the Temple itself.

"Right before the second temple was destroyed, we start seeing it in archaeology as the main and almost the ultimate emblem of saying, 'Hey, I am a Jew,'" Rotem explained.

He said the pendant carries that same message forward. "It's saying, 'I am a Jew. I'm here in my homeland, in my holy city, next to the place where the temple will rebuild.'"

Archaeology, Prophecy and What Comes Next

The pendant is now on public display during Hanukkah, a season centered on the rededication of the Temple and the triumph of light. That timing is hard to ignore.

As discoveries like this continue to emerge around the Temple Mount, they reinforce what the Bible has stated all along: Jewish connection to this site never ended. With growing interest among Jews to worship once again on the Temple Mount and increasing archaeological confirmation beneath its surface, the convergence of history and prophecy is becoming impossible to dismiss.

Each artifact pulled from the ground strengthens the case that the Bible is not only spiritually authoritative, but historically reliable and prophetically precise.

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to Charisma magazine.

Ancient Fresco Reveals Roman-Era Image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Archaeologists have uncovered a rare early Christian fresco depicting Jesus in Turkey, a discovery experts say sheds new light on how Christ was portrayed during the Roman era and underscores [the deep historical roots of Christian belief](#).

The fresco, found in an underground tomb near Iznik, was discovered in August and is being hailed as “one of the most important finds from Anatolia’s early Christian era,” as reported by The New York Post. Iznik is the ancient city of Nicaea, where the Nicene Creed, a foundational statement of Christian faith, was adopted in A.D. 325.

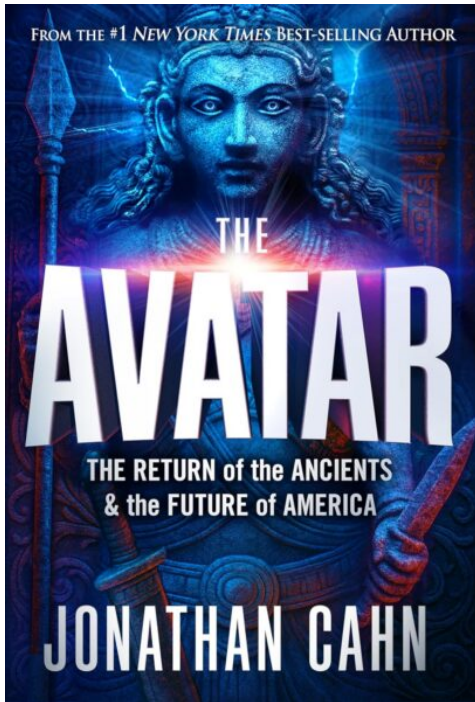


AP: The artwork portraying Jesus is regarded as one of the most well-preserved examples of early Christian art ever found in Anatolia.

The artwork dates back to the third century, when Christians were still persecuted under Roman rule. It depicts [a youthful, clean-shaven Jesus](#) dressed in a toga and carrying a goat on His shoulders, an image known as the “Good Shepherd.”

According to researchers cited by The Associated Press, it is a rare example of Jesus being portrayed with Roman attributes in Anatolia.

The lead archaeologist on the project stated that the fresco may be the “only example of its kind in Anatolia,” underscoring its historical and theological significance for understanding early Christian art and identity.



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The discovery has taken on added significance following a recent visit to Iznik by Pope Leo XIV, who traveled to the site during his first overseas trip as pontiff to mark the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

While there, Eastern and Western Christian leaders gathered to pray and recite the Nicene Creed together, which the pope described as being "of fundamental importance in the journey that Christians are making toward full communion."

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.