

Aldi's Thanksgiving Deal Is a Blessing for Families Feeling the Crunch

As Americans prepare for Thanksgiving, many are feeling the weight of tighter wallets and rising costs. Grocery prices may no longer be climbing at record speed but the sting of inflation still lingers in checkout lines across the country. [Families are looking for creative ways to stretch their dollar](#) and a new deal from Aldi couldn't have come at a better time.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, food prices have risen roughly 2.7 percent over the past year and grocery costs remain about 26 percent higher than before the pandemic. Consumer surveys from PwC and McKinsey show that many households plan to spend less this holiday season choosing to cut back or swap brand-name items for more affordable options. For millions of families the goal isn't luxury, it's simply to share a warm meal together.

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That's why Aldi's latest Thanksgiving promotion is turning heads. The budget grocer has launched its lowest holiday food prices in six years offering shoppers the ability to prepare a complete Thanksgiving meal for 10 people for about \$40.

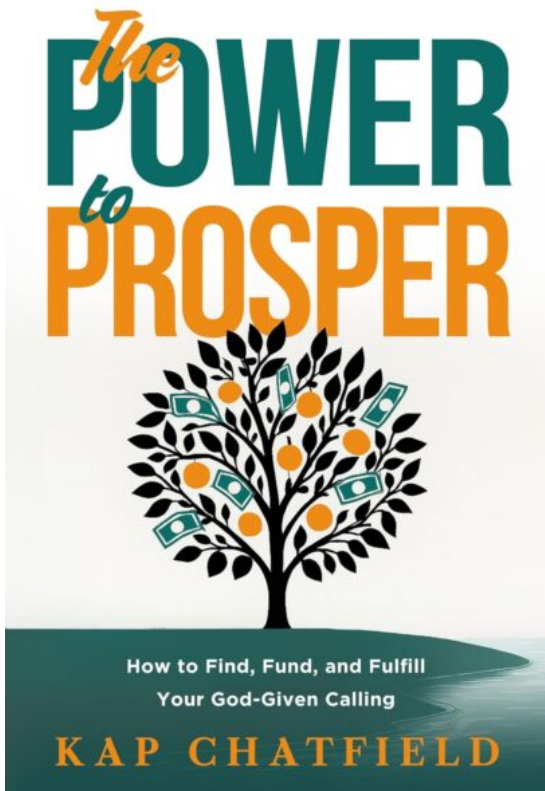
Aldi's 2025 Thanksgiving Meal Deal

Starting Oct. 15 and running through Dec. 24 Aldi is dropping prices on 21 items that can make nine traditional dishes including a 14-pound Jennie-O turkey and all the classic sides.

As reported on [allrecipes.com](https://www.allrecipes.com), here's what's included for \$40:

- Whole turkey (14 lbs)
- Chicken broth
- Condensed cream of mushroom soup
- Evaporated milk
- Hawaiian sweet rolls
- Miniature marshmallows
- Cut green beans (x2)
- 100% pure canned pumpkin
- Shells and cheese (x2)
- Brown gravy mix
- Poultry spices and herbs
- French fried onions
- Pie crust
- Chicken or cornbread stuffing (x2)
- Whipped dairy topping
- Yellow onions (3 lbs)
- Baby peeled carrots
- Celery
- Cranberries
- Sweet potatoes (3 lbs)
- Russet potatoes (10 lbs)

No coupons are needed and the sale applies to in-store, pickup or delivery purchases. The deal even extends through Christmas Eve helping families celebrate both holidays without overspending.



[Pre-order Kap Chatfield's Newest Book, "The Power to Prosper" on Amazon.com!](#)

Stretching Your Dollar with Wisdom

Deals like Aldi's are more than marketing, they're reminders that smart spending and good stewardship matter. Scripture has much to say about how we use the resources God provides.

The Bible teaches that [all we have belongs to Him](#): "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Ps. 24:1). We're called to manage our resources with wisdom, honesty and diligence, not waste or excess. Proverbs 21:20 says, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."

In a culture of instant gratification these verses remind us to plan, save and spend with purpose. It's not about being stingy, it's about being faithful. God encourages generosity even when times are lean: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord and He will repay him for his deed" (Prov. 19:17).

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When you choose to buy wisely, give generously and live within your means you reflect trust in God's provision rather than fear of lack. As 1 Timothy 6:6 says, "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

A Thanksgiving Perspective

While studies show that many Americans are cutting back this moment also invites reflection. Gratitude isn't measured by how much is on the table but by who gathers around it. The heart of Thanksgiving has never been about abundance, it's about appreciation.

Whether it's finding deals on groceries, donating to a food drive or simply sharing a meal with loved ones this season offers a chance to practice the very principles Scripture teaches: contentment, stewardship and generosity.

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When we align our finances with faith every dollar stretches a little further, every meal feels a little richer and every blessing reminds us that provision ultimately comes from above.

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.

Prophetic Word: 2026 Will Mark a 'Reaping Generation'

Throughout Scripture God has spoken to His people through words of knowledge and wisdom—divine insights meant to guide, prepare and awaken His church for seasons ahead. Bishop Alan DiDio believes such a moment is approaching in 2026, a year he says will bring the fulfillment of long-awaited promises. In a recent message DiDio declared that the Lord is raising up what he calls “a reaping generation” positioned to see dormant prophecies come alive and the Word of God manifested in power.

A Prophetic Clock Strikes: A Season to Reap

“I believe that God is giving birth to a reaping generation,” DiDio said. “Reaping the fulfillment of prophecies that have gone before us.” He urged believers to recognize their role in seeing long-delayed promises fulfilled: “You are about to see the fulfillment of every prophecy that has gone before you.”

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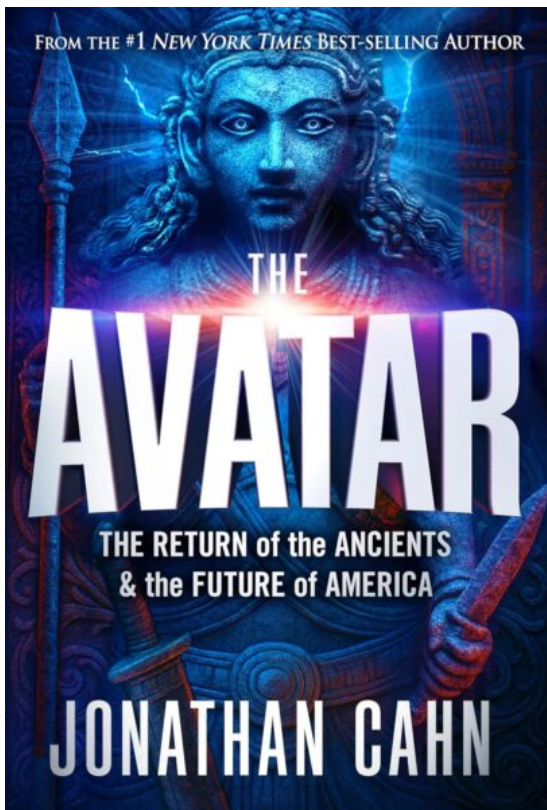
DiDio likened this moment to David’s confrontation with Goliath saying believers must wield the Word as a weapon. “Has there not been a prophecy that went before that I can grab like a weapon and wield it in this moment?” he said. “There have been some prophecies that have been made that have been waiting on you to get to this moment this time this season and it is about to be activated in your life.” He added, “Time is pregnant and it is about to give birth to a breakthrough.”

Scripture Over Experience

As the church approaches 2026, DiDio said believers must anchor themselves in Scripture not personal experience. “We are not moved by experience,” he said. “We cannot allow ourselves to be defined by experiential theology.” When life contradicts the Word he reminded his audience that “it does not invalidate what this book says. That’s why it’s called the fight of faith.”

A Reformation Day Reminder

DiDio tied this call for biblical faithfulness to the Protestant Reformation noting that October 31 is Reformation Day. “On October 31st... that’s when Martin Luther attacked the 95 thesis on the Wittenberg church in Germany,” he said. He emphasized the enduring truths of “faith alone,” “grace alone” and “Scripture alone” before asking his congregation, “Are you willing to accept what the Bible says over your traditions?”



[Order Jonathan Cahn's Newest Book, "The Avatar" on Amazon.com!](#)

Poverty Prosperity and the Mission

In his message DiDio declared that [material resources are vital for advancing the gospel](#) and meeting human need. “Poverty is from hell,” he said describing it as “degrading” and a driver of addiction violence and despair. “The only way we can send missionaries out onto the mission field and set slaves free is if you have more than enough.”

A 2026 “Financial Inversion”

DiDio pointed to a coming “financial inversion” he believes will take shape in 2026, a transfer of wealth from the wicked to the righteous. Citing Job Ecclesiastes Proverbs Psalms and Deuteronomy he said, “The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.” He told believers, “I believe that over the next year for Christians who are prepared to receive it [there is going to be a financial inversion and a transfer.](#)”

He emphasized that this blessing has a purpose. “God gives me power to get wealth and I will use it to establish His covenant,” DiDio said quoting Deuteronomy 8:18.

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How Believers Participate

For those wanting to walk in this promise DiDio outlined a simple posture: “Willingness and obedience releases God.” He added that diligence discipline and biblical speech are essential. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue,” he said. “A man’s belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth.”

Patterns and Precedents

DiDio connected this prophetic vision to historic examples of divine provision from Joseph in Egypt to Israel leaving with “silver and gold.” He reminded his audience that God’s timing always positions His people for purpose whether at the walls of Jericho or in the outpouring at Pentecost.

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The Bottom Line

For DiDio, 2026 represents more than a calendar year. It marks a prophetic threshold. “There is a word,” he said. “There is a cause that has gone before us.” His message is a call for believers to ready themselves to be grounded in Scripture and to expect that “time is pregnant” with the promises of God soon to be fulfilled.

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Religion Is Not Your Savior: How to Escape Its Grip and

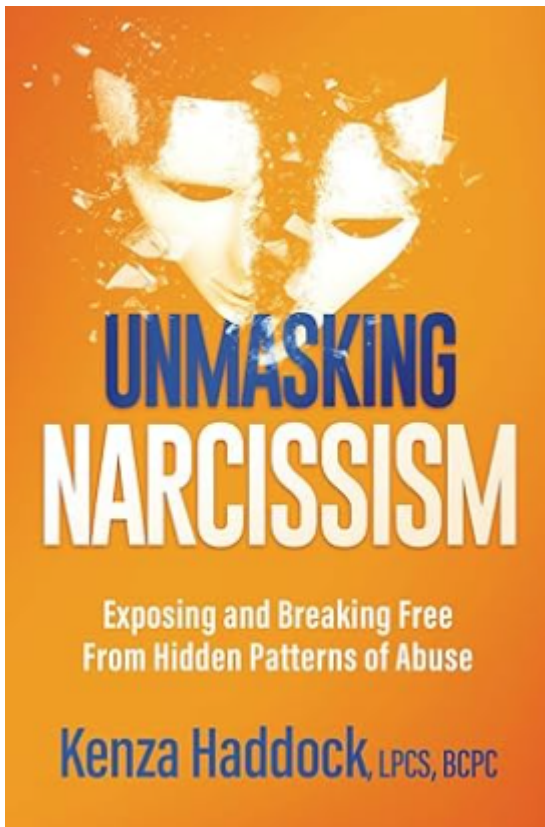
Find True Freedom

On a recent episode of The Pulse Podcast with Pastor Troy Brewer, [author and licensed professional counselor Kenza Haddock](#) shared her powerful testimony of escaping the bondage of religious control and discovering true freedom through Jesus Christ. The former Muslim from Morocco described how the “spirit of religion” thrives on fear, guilt and performance, keeping people from knowing the love of God.

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“I grew up believing I had to earn my salvation,” Haddock said. “I had to pray enough, fast enough, give enough and obey enough to be accepted. You’re born Muslim, you die Muslim. It’s like a mafia. You can’t question or leave.”

Haddock recalled how her life was ruled by condemnation and fear of punishment until she began having dreams of Jesus. “He came to me in a dream with His arms wide open,” she said. “When I learned that salvation is by grace through faith not works, it was so simple it shocked me.”



[Order Kenza Haddock's New Book, "Unmasking Narcissism" on Amazon.com!](#)

Now a licensed counselor [and author of Unmasking Narcissism](#), Haddock says the same spirit that enslaves people through religion often disguises itself as righteousness.

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"Rules without relationship breed rebellion," she said. "The spirit of religion uses fear to control but the Holy Spirit transforms through love." She encourages believers to set healthy boundaries, forgive and renounce inner vows made in pain. "Freedom comes through Jesus alone," she added.

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To watch the full interview with Kenza Haddock on The Pulse Podcast, watch the video above.

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4 Shocking Truths About Why Demons Are Targeting You

Spiritual warfare is not a metaphor or a myth. Every day unseen forces battle for control of human hearts and minds. Demons target believers because they fear what happens when the Spirit of God takes full residence inside a person. They cannot destroy God directly, so they attack His image in us. Pastor Vlad Savchuk of HungryGen Ministries reminds Christians that [this conflict is real](#) and that we must guard our hearts as living temples of God.

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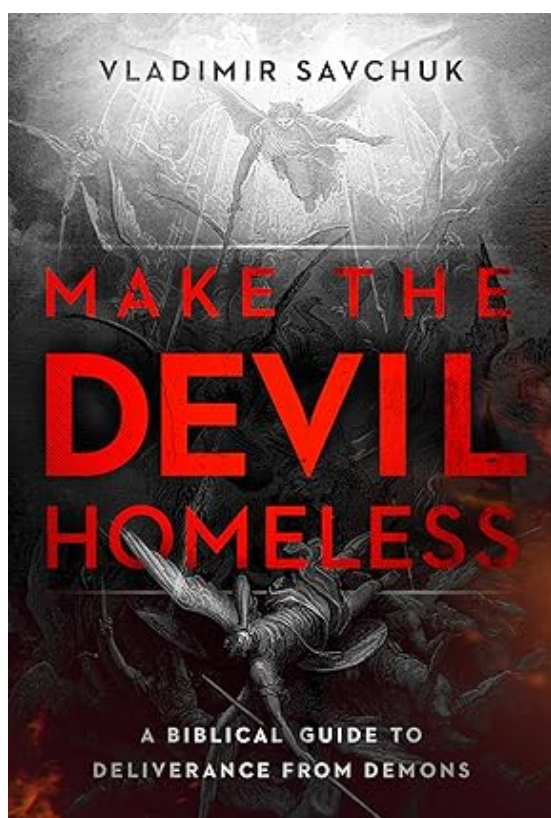
In a powerful sermon, Savchuk tackled one of Christianity's most misunderstood subjects: the reality of demons and their relentless pursuit to invade and corrupt God's creation. Drawing from Matthew 12 and other passages, he revealed how these spirits operate and what believers must do to remain free.

Below are four key truths he shared that every believer must understand about the unseen battle for the human soul.

1. Demons Need Hosts to Carry Out Their Agendas

Demons cannot act independently in the physical world. As Savchuk explains, they look for human hosts to establish their operations: “Satan cannot kill or destroy directly; he needs a host.” Their mission is to vandalize God’s creation, to take what was meant to reflect His glory and twist it into something dark.

When a person yields to sin, bitterness or rebellion, they open spiritual “doors” that allow demonic forces to operate through them. What begins as a whisper of temptation can evolve into full-blown bondage if left unchecked.



[Order Vlad Savchuk's Newest Book, "Make the Devil Homeless" on Amazon.com!](#)

2. Demons Don't Want Influence; They Seek

Indwelling

Savchuk emphasized that demons are not satisfied simply influencing people; they crave residence inside a person. Quoting Matthew 8:31, he noted how the demons begged Jesus to send them into the pigs rather than remain homeless.

“Demons are not looking to influence; they are looking to indwell,” Savchuk said. “They loathe dry places and find rest only in inhabiting someone.” This obsession with dwelling within a host is a direct counterfeit of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling in believers.

3. Demons Don’t Just Want to Torment You; They Want to Turn You Into an Instrument of Torment

The demonic goal extends beyond personal misery. Savchuk warned that demons seek to multiply their destruction by using people as conduits of harm: “They find rest in your torment and through your brokenness they torment others.”

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Once a person is spiritually compromised, the enemy uses that person’s pain to spread chaos, destroying families, relationships and communities. The demonic agenda is contagious, aiming to reproduce pain and rebellion wherever possible.

4. You Are Meant to Be the Dwelling Place of God, Not a Den for Demons

Believers are called to be vessels of God’s presence. Savchuk reminded the congregation that the heart is meant to be a

temple for the Holy Spirit, not a habitation for evil. “You are meant to be the dwelling place of God,” he said. “Deliverance makes demons homeless.”

This means keeping one’s spiritual house clean, confessing sin, forgiving others and allowing God to fill every space. When God dwells within, there’s no room for the enemy to take residence.

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The battle for the soul isn’t about superstition; it’s about ownership. [Either we make room for God to dwell in us](#) or we leave the door open for the enemy. As Savchuk put it, “Deliverance isn’t about demons; it’s about protecting the dwelling place of God.”

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Ancient Leaders Parallel Donald Trump’s Alliance with Israel

Trump and Alexander the Great: The Protector of Israel

A recent Jerusalem Post opinion piece likened President Donald Trump to Alexander the Great, drawing a line between the Macedonian conqueror's respect for the Jewish people and Trump's actions toward Israel.

"Alexander is the only name of non-Jewish origin which has been accepted by the Jews," the article states, noting that after his victories over Persia, modern-day Iran, Alexander treated Jewish sages with "great respect."

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In gratitude, High Priest Shimon HaTzaddik decreed that all male priests born that year should bear the name Alexander.

The piece goes further, declaring that "as Alexander saved the Jews, President Trump is a Savior of Israel." The author argues that Trump's role in bringing freedom to Israeli hostages held in Gaza mirrors Alexander's defense of Judea, calling him a protector raised up for such a time as this. "Therefore," it concludes, "from now on the name Donald must be accepted as a Jewish name."

In essence, Trump's political actions are framed as divine intervention, his boldness and loyalty to Israel placing him in the same category as one of history's most celebrated leaders who safeguarded the Jewish people.

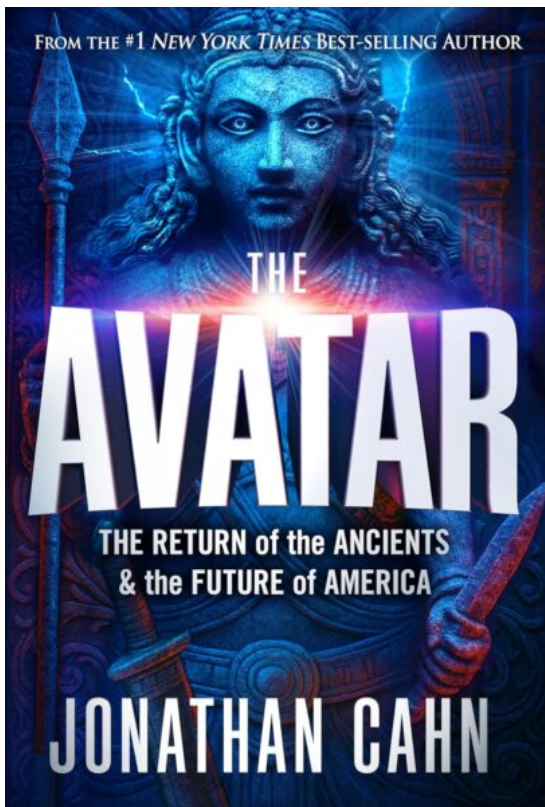
Trump and King Cyrus: The Modern Anointed Ruler

[Charisma Media previously reported](#) that Pastor Larry Huch made an even more direct biblical comparison. He claimed Trump's presidency reflects the story of King Cyrus of Persia, the

ruler who freed the Jewish captives and helped restore Jerusalem as foretold in Isaiah 45.

“Could President Trump be a modern-day King Cyrus?” Huch asked. “It’s not a coincidence that we’re seeing America and the world move into this blessing under President Trump who’s being guided by the Lord.”

Huch pointed to Trump’s unwavering support for Israel as proof of divine orchestration. He reminded viewers that Trump’s “very first foreign official” to visit the White House was Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “Being blessed in America or anywhere in the world,” he said, “is directly linked to being a blessing to the nation of Israel.”



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According to Huch, the Hebrew language has no word for “coincidence,” underscoring that Trump’s foreign policy toward Israel was part of a divine design rather than random diplomacy. “You ought to listen to my teaching on President Trump and King Cyrus,” he added, referencing Isaiah 45, “where

God said about Cyrus, 'I'll lead him and guide him.'"

To Huch, Trump's leadership is more than political, it is prophetic. America's prosperity, he claimed, is directly connected to its alignment with God's covenant promises to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you."

Trump and Jehu: The Warrior Raised Up to Confront Evil

[Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Cahn](#) extended the parallels even further, drawing from the story of King Jehu, the unpredictable warrior who overthrew the corrupt "House of Ahab."

"Jehu was wild, unpredictable. You never knew what he was going to say or do next," Cahn explained on Charisma's Media Day. "He wasn't a politician. He was a fighter. He fought with everybody. Trump fights with everybody."

Cahn described Jehu's rise as a template for Trump's political journey. Both men allied with religious conservatives, challenged powerful rulers and faced female opponents representing anti-God agendas, Jezebel in Jehu's case and Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris in Trump's. "In 2016 and 2024 it was the template of Jehu," Cahn said.

The rabbi also connected Trump's first run for office in 2000 to Jehu's 28 years of national influence, claiming the timeline was prophetic. "Trump was used," he said, "to strike down the house of Ahab," referring to the modern spiritual strongholds of abortion, gender ideology and idolatry in America.

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Cahn went so far as to link the 2024 assassination attempt on

Trump to a priestly anointing, saying, “The blood touched his right ear and right hand, the same pattern required of the priests. For the priest to minister, his shoes had to be removed. Trump’s shoes were removed. The moment that happened, it was done, he was going to win.”

Ultimately, Cahn sees Trump’s rise not as coincidence or charisma but as a continuation of God’s ancient patterns. “It’s not about politics,” he said. “It’s about God using a vessel. The trumpet doesn’t know it’s a vessel, it’s just being blown through.”

A Modern Pattern of Prophecy

Across these comparisons, Alexander the protector, Cyrus the liberator and Jehu the reformer, Trump is portrayed as a vessel chosen for divine purposes. Each figure symbolizes a different aspect of leadership: the warrior who defends Israel, the ruler who restores it and the reformer who purges corruption from within.

Cahn reminded believers that the ultimate answer isn’t political power but revival. “If we change the government but we don’t change the people, the unchanged people will change the government back,” he warned. “The only thing that can save America is not a person or a government, it’s revival.”

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In the eyes of these prophetic voices, Trump’s story is not just history repeating, it’s prophecy unfolding, showing that even in unpredictable times God still raises up leaders to carry out His will for Israel, America and the nations.

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Force veteran, he is the author of [The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary](#) and a contributor to Charisma magazine.

Peace in the Middle East? What Prophecy Says Comes Next

Rabbi Curt Landry said [the recent peace plan between Israel and Hamas](#) marks a prophetic turning point, calling it “one of the most miraculous and historic Feasts of Sukkot we’ve ever had.”

“We decreed miracles,” Landry said. “We immersed the hostages into the water, and these twin brothers are now home in Israel.”

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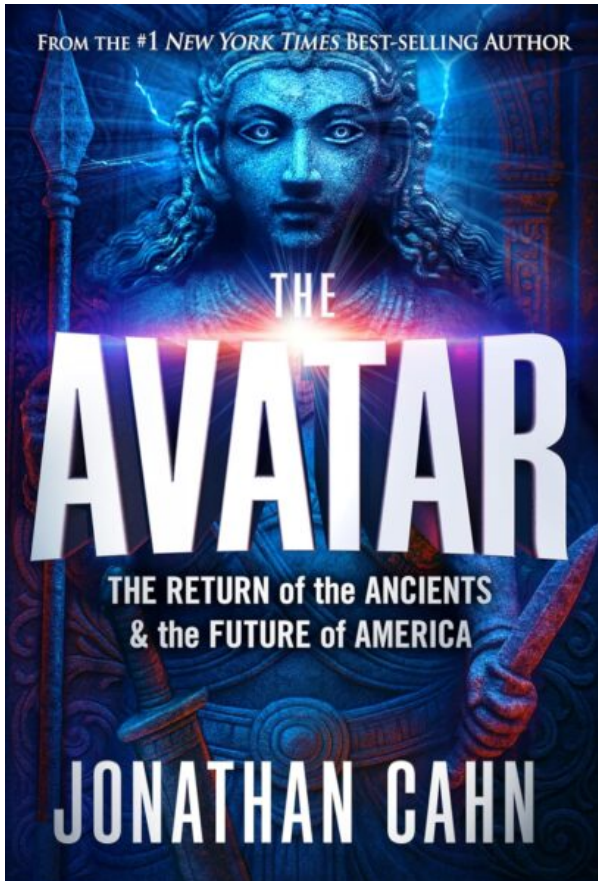
He said the timing of the peace deal and the hostages’ release showed divine intervention and the power of prayer. “Make America and your nation pray again,” he added.

Trump’s Role and Prophetic Meaning

Landry credited President Donald Trump and his team for helping bring nations together. “Praise God for Donald J. Trump and his team. It was an incredible thing they’ve done,” he said.

He noted that 39 nations took part in the agreement, connecting that number to the 39 stripes Jesus took before the crucifixion, which he said symbolizes healing and unity. “I

believe this is a sign of an awakening,” Landry said.



[Order Jonathan Cahn's Newest Book, "The Avatar" on Amazon.com!](#)

Calling it “the largest unification of one new man,” he referenced Ephesians 2:15, saying Jews and Gentiles are [“coming together under God’s divine purpose.”](#)

Not Yet “Peace and Safety”

Landry addressed questions about 1 Thessalonians 5:3, which warns of “peace and safety” before sudden destruction. “I do not think prophetically this is that,” he said. “But spiritually, it’s leading up to it. We’re not there, but we can see it on the horizon.”

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He encouraged believers to stay alert and prayerful. “When

these things start to happen, we need to look up, for our redemption draweth nigh," he said.

A Call to Unity and Prayer

Landry said Israel is entering a "season of peace" and urged Christians to follow the nation's example of repentance and prayer. "They prayed, repented and cried out to God, and that prayer got answered," he said.

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He closed by blowing the shofar, citing Numbers 10:7 as a call to believers worldwide. "Let's assemble and pray and agree more in this coming year 5786," he said.

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Prophecy of the Beasts: Has Satan's Army Already Been Set in Motion?

A Difficult Conversation for Believers

For many Christians, conversations about fallen angels, hybrids and demonic entities walking among us sound too strange to take seriously. These subjects are often dismissed as sensational or speculative but author and researcher L.A. Marzulli argues that [these phenomena are not science fiction but deeply biblical.](#)

In a recent appearance on the Ninjas Are Butterflies podcast, Marzulli discussed how Satan is forming an end-times army that can “pass for humans” and warned believers not to ignore the spiritual reality unfolding around them. “The hybrids can pass now for humans,” he said. “How do we know this? Al Matthews talks about it. Other people have talked about it. In our film we sit down with four abductees ... [one] had this encounter with this woman who’s a hybrid.”

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While this topic may make many uncomfortable, Marzulli insists it aligns with the biblical narrative and has eternal implications. “Some of you people watching this are going, you know, that’s just really too weird,” he said. “What does this have to do with salvation? Because it has everything to do with salvation.”

“The Eyes Are the Window to the Soul”

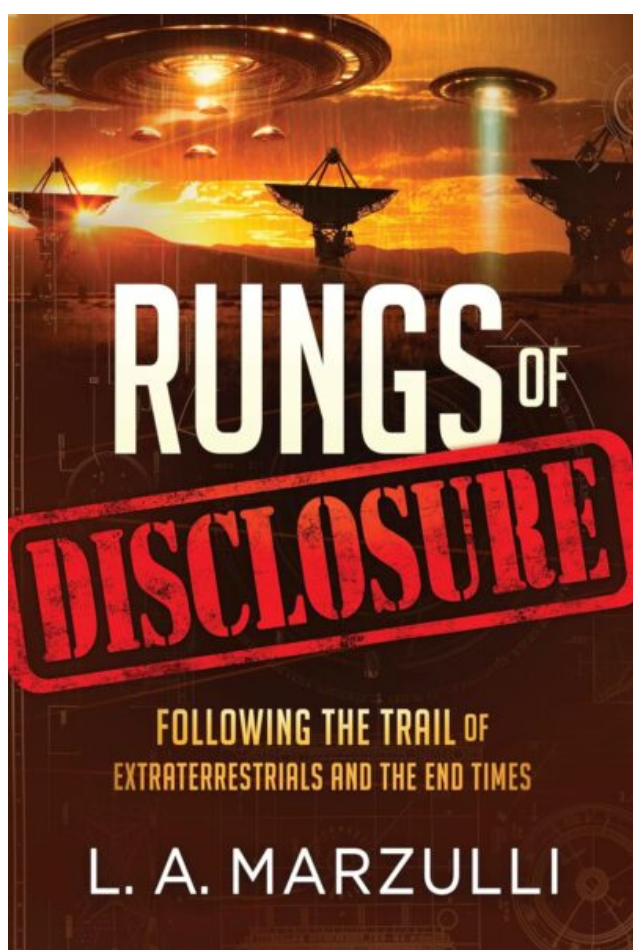
Marzulli’s claim is rooted in his research into alien abductions, cryptid sightings and ancient hybridization. He believes that fallen angels, just as in Genesis 6, are once again manipulating human DNA. “They can pass except for the eyes,” he explained. “She wears these dark glasses. Why? Because the eyes are the window to the soul. And these entities have no soul.”

These soulless hybrids, according to Marzulli, are spiritually dead beings, “reptilian,” “yellow,” and “black” in their true form, attempting to blend in with humanity. They are, he says, [evidence of a supernatural deception foretold in Scripture.](#)

The Biblical Framework

Marzulli draws from Daniel 2:43, which says, “Their seed will mingle with the seed of men, but they will not cleave to them.” He interprets this as a prophecy of hybridization in the last days, a return of the ancient corruption that provoked the Flood.

“We know from Daniel 2:43, their seed will mingle with the seed of men, but they will not cleave to them,” he said. “So, there it is. That’s what’s happening right now.”



[Order L.A. Marzulli's Groundbreaking Book, "The Rungs of Disclosure" on Amazon.com!](#)

He also cites Revelation, where the “beasts of the earth” are unleashed in the tribulation. “They’re not hamsters and giraffes,” Marzulli said. “These are the beasts of the earth. Since 1966, Sasquatch sightings are through the roof. He’s breeding an army.”

To him, these sightings of Bigfoot and other cryptids are not random but evidence of demonic entities manifesting in physical form.

Israel and the Prophetic Time Clock

Marzulli connects this modern supernatural escalation to the rebirth of Israel in 1948. Quoting Amos 9:14–15, he says this event triggered the prophetic countdown and alerted Satan that his time is short.

“May 14th, 1948, Amos 9:14 and 15. For all you anti-Israelites out there, these are the Jews,” Marzulli said. “They are the prophetic time clock which everything starts and spins around. And this is why all this is happening.”

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He points out that the UFO and abduction phenomena began shortly after Israel’s rebirth, Roswell in 1947, arguing that this timing is no coincidence.

The Coming Great Deception

Marzulli warns that the world is being conditioned to embrace the ultimate lie, that humanity was created by extraterrestrial beings. “That’s the coming great deception,” he said. “We were seated here by an advanced race of extraterrestrials ... now at this critical juncture in human history, they are back to usher mankind into a golden age.”

He calls this “the long game” of Satan, an elaborate plan to counterfeit creation and lead humanity away from God. “Stuff is being cooked up in hell’s kitchen,” Marzulli said. “The enemy, the dragon, knows his time is short.”

Confronting a Biblical Reality

Marzulli’s message challenges modern believers to face the uncomfortable truth that spiritual warfare is not abstract. The manipulation of flesh and spirit has always been part of Satan’s strategy from Eden to Revelation. The difference today, Marzulli suggests, is that the deception now wears a human face.

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Even if Christians differ on interpretations, Scripture repeatedly warns that deception in the last days will be so persuasive that even the elect could be led astray. In that light, Marzulli’s theories are not mere speculation but a wake-up call.

“Maybe what was foretold is unfolding even as we speak,” he said. “It’s there. Wake up. It’s happening.”

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Mel Gibson Sparks Controversy by Recasting Jesus and Mary Magdalene in 'Passion' Sequel

After more than 20 years Mel Gibson is returning to the story that shook the world. His long-awaited sequel to *The Passion of the Christ*, [titled *The Resurrection of the Christ*](#), is officially moving forward but not without controversy.

According to the Daily Mail, the director has chosen to recast both Jesus and Mary Magdalene for the upcoming film, a move that has “sparked outrage from fans.”

In the original 2004 masterpiece Jim Caviezel’s portrayal of Christ left an unforgettable mark on audiences and has since become synonymous with the image of Jesus on film. Italian actress Monica Bellucci originally portrayed Mary Magdalene, delivering a performance that became one of her most recognized dramatic roles.

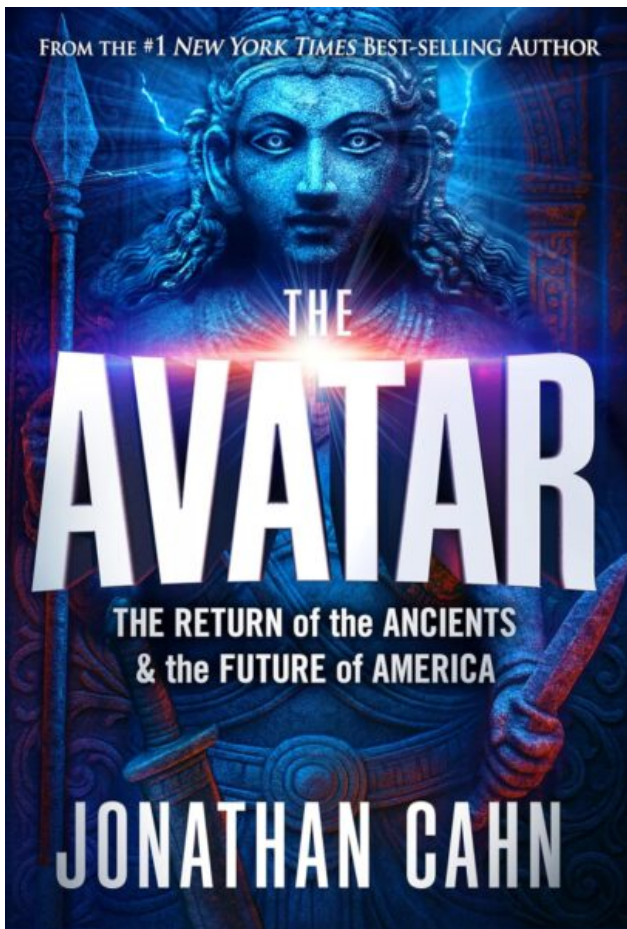
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This time Finnish actor Jaakko Ohtonen will step into the role of Jesus while Cuban actress Mariela Garriga will portray Mary Magdalene. A source told *Variety*, “It made sense to recast the whole film. They would have had to do all this CGI stuff, all this digital stuff, de-aging and all that, that would have been very costly.”

The decision, while practical from a production standpoint, has left many viewers disappointed. For two decades Caviezel’s depiction of Jesus has defined the role for countless believers and moviegoers. He was more than an actor in a biblical drama. He embodied a spiritual connection to the story of Christ’s suffering making it deeply personal for

fans.

Caviezel, now 57, has previously expressed his desire to return. As The Daily Mail noted, he recently shared on a podcast that he first learned of the sequel in 2013 and that he hoped to “really stay in this moment” if given the chance to portray Christ again. “I want to enjoy this one more than I did the other one,” he said.



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Despite Caviezel's enthusiasm the passage of time appears to have dictated the casting choices. Mel Gibson, 69, told The Joe Rogan Experience earlier this year that the upcoming film will be “very ambitious,” adding, “I think in order to really tell the story properly you have to start with the fall of the angels. You need to go to hell. You need to go to Sheol.”

Those words have fueled both excitement and concern. [The scale of Gibson's vision](#) seems vast and cosmic, but with such

ambition comes risk. Fans will remember that the original Passion succeeded not because of creative spectacle but because it stayed grounded in Scripture and the raw humanity of Christ's sacrifice.

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Gibson admitted the project will not be easy. "It's not going to be easy and it's going to require a lot of planning and I'm not wholly sure I can pull it off," he said. "To tell you the truth it's super ambitious. But I'll take a crack at it because that's what you've got to do right, walk up to the plate?"

The first part of The Resurrection of the Christ is set to premiere on Good Friday, Mar. 26, 2027 followed by part two on Ascension Day, May 6, 2027.

Whether audiences embrace Ohtonen in the role remains to be seen. But beyond casting choices the heart of the matter lies in Gibson's handling of the story itself. Caviezel's legacy as Jesus may be impossible to replicate, but what truly matters is that Gibson continues to portray the Son of God faithfully without bending to cinematic impulse or emotional excess.

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In the end fans may forgive a new face. What they cannot afford to lose is a film that drifts from the power and truth of the Gospel that made the first Passion so enduring.

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*.

From China to New York: What Chikungunya Reveals About Pestilence and Control

A mosquito-borne virus that swept through southern China just months ago has now arrived in the United States. What was once a faraway health story has become a domestic reality, and it's sparking deeper questions—[not just about public health](#), but about the spiritual state of the world.

According to NBC News, "The state Department of Health said Tuesday that the virus, which has been spreading in China and elsewhere, was identified in a person living in Nassau County on Long Island." It marks the first locally acquired case of chikungunya in New York and the first in the United States in six years.

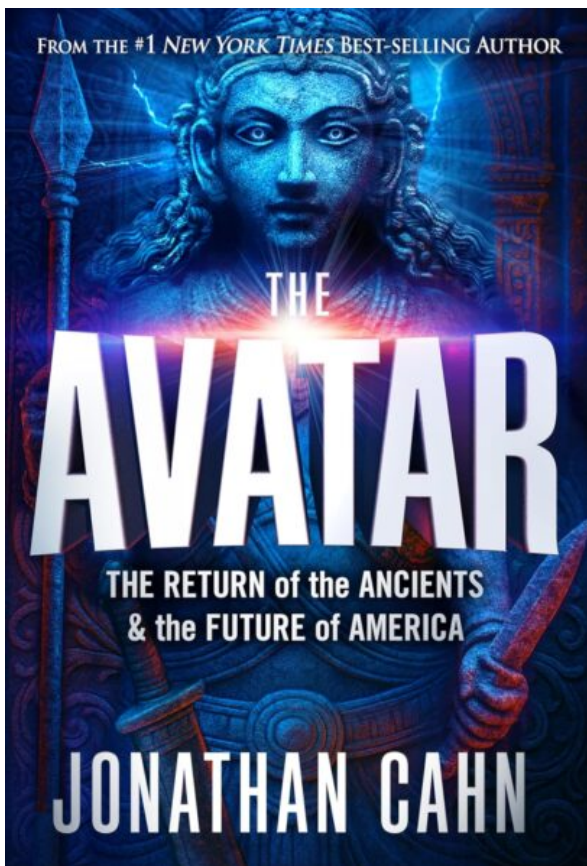
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Officials said the person began showing symptoms in August after traveling within the region but had not left the country. "The virus has not been detected in local mosquito pools and there is no evidence of ongoing transmission," the report added. While the risk of further spread is considered low as cooler weather sets in, the reality remains: a disease that flourished overseas has now reached America's shores.

From China's Crisis to New York's Case

When the chikungunya virus began racing through southern China this past summer, Charisma Media reported on the scale of the outbreak. Tens of thousands were affected across Guangdong Province as the virus spread "in a way it never has before." The illness—known for fever, rashes, and agonizing joint pain—was propelled by record-breaking humidity, heavy rains, and rising temperatures that created perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

China's response was massive and intrusive. Entire communities were ordered to eliminate standing water or face fines up to \$1,400 and even electricity shutoffs. Drones sprayed insecticide across cities, soldiers were deployed to hunt mosquito nests, and pharmacies were instructed to track anyone buying medicine for fever or rash. Residents reported home inspections without consent and increased surveillance "in the name of public health."



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At the time, many dismissed the situation as uniquely Chinese, another foreign crisis unlikely to affect us here. But now, the same virus has appeared on Long Island. That should make us pause.

What This Moment Might Be Telling Us

Throughout Scripture, [pestilence is more than a biological event](#); it is often a spiritual wake-up call. Jesus warned that “pestilences will appear in various places” before His return. Diseases that once stayed confined to the tropics are now traveling across continents, showing up in places where they were never seen before.

We are also watching the same patterns repeat that Charisma Media warned about months ago:

- Environmental extremes fueling outbreaks as “creation groans” under the weight of sin
- Governments expanding control, sometimes far beyond what citizens are comfortable with
- Fear becoming a weapon, pushing people to trade liberty for the illusion of safety
- Economic and social disruption, where daily life bends under pressure from crisis after crisis

None of this should cause panic, but it should cause reflection. If one small virus can shake nations, what does that say about how fragile our systems really are?

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The Real Antidote

Health officials say the current risk of transmission in New York is “very low,” and that is good news. But the deeper

issue is not the mosquito; it is the fear and fragility that these events reveal. The truth is, we are seeing a world more interconnected, more vulnerable, and more anxious than ever before.

We cannot always control the spread of disease, but we can control the condition of our hearts. The Bible reminds us that “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.” Those words matter more than ever.

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Instead of being consumed by fear or frustration, we can respond with faith and wisdom, remaining alert, discerning the times, and sharing hope with those around us. In moments like these, when the world feels unstable, the only true refuge is found in 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.

ChatGPT's Next Update Could Change the World Forever, and

Not for the Better

There was a time when technology promised to elevate humanity to connect us, enlighten us and improve our daily lives. But look around today and ask yourself honestly: is that what's happening? Instead of drawing us closer to truth, virtue and one another, we seem to be running headlong toward moral collapse in the name of "progress."

The latest example of this came when OpenAI announced that beginning in December, verified adult users will be allowed to access mature content including erotica [through ChatGPT](#).

As reported by Reuters, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman defended this decision as part of a "treat adult users like adults" principle, saying it's time to loosen restrictions that [made ChatGPT "less useful and enjoyable."](#) The justification sounds benign enough, maybe even reasonable to the average listener, but beneath that corporate phrasing lies something deeply troubling. We are watching the normalization of pornography and sexual immorality wrapped in the language of "choice" and "freedom."

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We've been told for decades that pornography is "harmless," that it's just entertainment for consenting adults. Yet look at what it has done to society. Families are breaking apart. Marriages are crumbling under the weight of lust and addiction. Young people are losing their ability to form meaningful relationships because fantasy has replaced reality. And now we're told artificial intelligence should play a role in this degradation, programmed not to elevate virtue or truth but to indulge our lowest appetites.

[God's Word has never been unclear on this.](#) Sexual sin has always been a destroyer of nations, families and souls. It's

not prudish to say that; it's wisdom. Scripture warns us to "flee from sexual immorality" because it corrupts not just the body but the spirit. Yet here we are, building digital temples to it. The more humanity tries to normalize what God calls unholy, the further we fall from His design for love and intimacy, real love rooted in commitment, sacrifice and covenant.

We're not just talking about adults here either. The argument that this is "for verified users" is a hollow shield. Anyone who has lived in the real world knows that when it comes to the internet, walls like these are paper thin. Children today are growing up with smartphones in their hands and access to the darkest corners of human depravity before they can even spell "conscience." Parents are losing the battle because Big Tech keeps moving the goalposts, always claiming to protect us while profiting from our weaknesses.



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And that brings me to another concern: this obsession with verification. OpenAI says the mature content will be limited to verified adults. But to be verified, you must submit personal information, proof of your age, your identity, your digital footprint. We're being conditioned to hand over more and more of our privacy to faceless corporations all in the name of "safety" and "responsibility." Does anyone really believe this ends well?

Every time we submit to another layer of surveillance, another demand for digital proof, we inch closer to a world where you must be "verified" to participate in society at all. Buy groceries, pay bills, travel, access healthcare, all of it tied to your identity, your compliance, your data. It doesn't take a prophet to see where that's heading. The Bible warns us of a time when no one can buy or sell unless they have the

mark of the Beast. You can call it symbolism if you like, but the technology to make it reality is already here and it's being sold to us as convenience.

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We are trading holiness for hedonism, truth for tolerance, freedom for control. And it's happening so gradually, so subtly that most people don't even realize it. We've become numb to sin because it's now packaged as innovation.

We must wake up. This isn't about being anti-technology; it's about being pro-truth. It's about remembering that our souls are not for sale to algorithms. We cannot let the digital world redefine morality, intimacy or what it means to be human. The line between flesh and machine is blurring, and if we don't stand firm in righteousness, we'll soon forget what it means to bear the image of God at all.

But there is still hope, because there is still Jesus Christ. The same Lord who forgave the woman caught in adultery, who healed the broken and restored the lost, is the only One who can cleanse the sickness in our souls. The world offers counterfeits of love and intimacy, but Christ offers the real thing—love that redeems, forgives and transforms. He alone can free us from the grip of addiction, loneliness and deception.

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We don't have to follow the world into its darkness. We can turn back to the Light of the world and find peace in His truth. Jesus offers not another digital escape but eternal life, freedom and restoration. The path out of this chaos begins with repentance and ends with redemption. The world may be building systems that lead to bondage, but Jesus is still the answer, the Savior who breaks every chain.

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