

Tony Evans Reveals What God Taught Him in His Season of Repentance

Dr. Tony Evans released a deeply personal message this week [following his restoration service](#) at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship on Sunday, Oct. 5. After stepping away from pastoral duties in June 2024, Evans returned with gratitude, humility and renewed passion for God's Word.

"I come to you today with a humble heart of gratitude," Evans said. "I'm grateful for the many people that God has allowed me to have a relationship with whether in person or through the airwaves or social media who have walked with me and our ministry over decades."

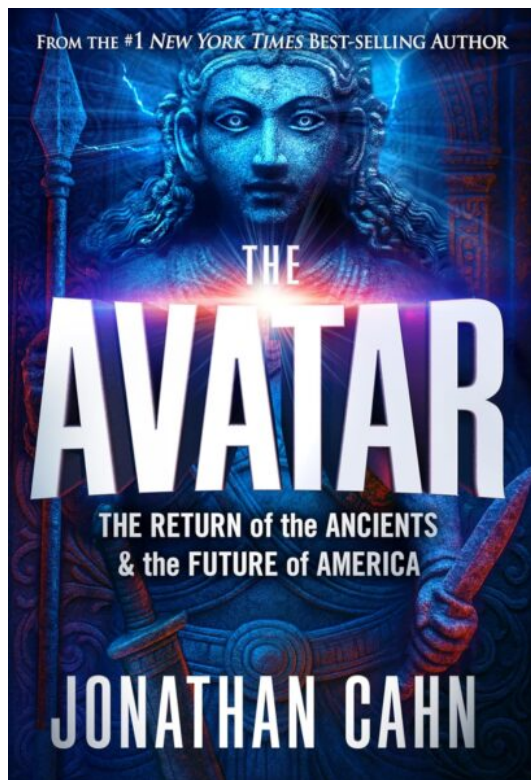
[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

The longtime pastor thanked supporters who stood by him and his family during a season he described as "an extremely challenging time." He said his time away was "due to my own fault" and required "a period of repentance and restoration so that healing could take place."

"I know a lot of you know what that's like," he continued. "It's not an exciting time to have to go through but it's a time that God tells us we need to go through when the necessity calls for it."

Evans expressed deep appreciation for the leadership and congregation of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship saying, "I'm so grateful for our leaders, elders, deacons, deaconesses, ministers at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship for how they've walked with me through this time of healing and restoration." He also

credited his wife Carla for standing faithfully by him. "Although a new bride didn't know that this would be part of the deal she fully accepted that and joined me and walked by my side through it," he said.



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

Reflecting on the season of separation Evans shared that it became a time of deep spiritual renewal. "During the valley God is still in control and God is still good," he said. "He can take things that are bent, bruised and even broken and He's got a repair process that is staggering."

He explained that time away from the pulpit allowed him to rediscover intimacy with the Lord. "That additional time away from the regular pulpit has given me extra time with the Lord, extra time with His Word, with prayer and with relationships," he said. "God does a lot of His best work in the dark."

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

[Evans celebrated his official restoration](#) recognized by the church's leaders saying, "The Bible says that the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. He still uses people when they've gone down. He knows how to lift them up."

Now with renewed focus he emphasized his desire to proclaim biblical truth to a world in chaos. "I am more passionate about God's Word now than I have ever been," he said. "In a world in calamity and chaos and disillusionment and division there's nothing more needed now than His Word being relevantly applied to people's lives."

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Evans' restoration serves as a powerful example of what repentance and accountability can produce when guided by Scripture. Rather than hiding failure or dismissing correction, he chose humility and allowed God's process to bring healing and renewal. His journey mirrors the biblical pattern for restoration, showing that confession and discipline, when met with grace, lead to redemption and renewed purpose.

His testimony stands as a reminder that "a bruised reed He will not break" and that true restoration is not just possible but is the heart of the gospel itself.

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.

'America's Sheriff' Calls for a Spiritual Revival: 'We've Got to Fight the Devil Where He Is'

Polk County's Sheriff Grady Judd, known by many as "America's Sheriff," delivered a stirring message at Victory Church North Campus calling on Christians to [reclaim America's spiritual foundation](#). His words went beyond law enforcement and became a plea for revival.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

"It is truly my honor to be your sheriff and to be with you," Judd said, thanking the community that has helped make Polk County's crime rate the lowest it's been in 53 years. But even as he celebrated local safety, he warned that "peace is fragile every place in the United States."

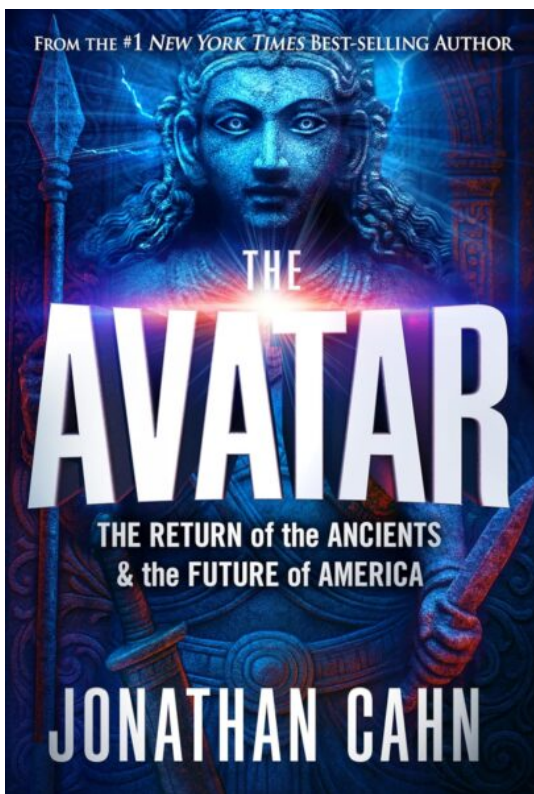
The Decline of Faith

Judd spoke bluntly about America's moral decay. "We are up against the evil spirits of the world," he said, noting that Christian identity in the U.S. dropped from 78% to 68% in just a decade. "What happened to the 10%? We need to have the Holy Spirit working in us. We've got to push harder to bring people to understand we must have faith and belief in God or things will continue to go the wrong way."

A Culture of Chaos

The sheriff warned of a growing culture of violence and hostility, citing recent national attacks including the “Charlie Kirk massacre,” the stabbing of a 23-year-old woman on a subway and a shooting at a Michigan church.

“These attacks aren’t isolated,” he said. “There’s a culture of hostility that’s occurring because you have the 24-hour news cycle.”



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

He blamed both mainstream and social media for spreading negativity and fueling division. “Dirty laundry sells,” he said. “Social media is a breeding ground for conflict. No one seems to be able to have civil discourse anymore.”

The Drug Epidemic and a Moral Crisis

Having served in law enforcement for five decades, Judd tied America’s drug crisis to a deeper spiritual problem. “The overdose deaths go up and up and up. The suicides go up and up

and up. The mental health issues go up and up and up,” he said.

He warned of the deadly spread of fentanyl which he said has killed 250,000 Americans in four years. “Why when you’re flipping through your social media isn’t there ‘Fentanyl kills you’?” he asked.

Fighting the Devil Where He Is

Rather than retreat from technology, [Judd urged Christians to take the fight to the digital front lines.](#) “We’ve got to fight the devil where he is, not where we want him to be,” he said to applause.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

He challenged churches and believers to flood social media with light instead of darkness. “What if every church, every synagogue, every person of faith set up a Facebook or Instagram profile and pumped positive out to the kids like the negative they’re seeing now?”

The Roots of Decline

Judd shared lessons from his late father, a minister of music, who warned that America’s downfall began when it removed prayer from schools, discipline from classrooms and patriotism from the nation’s youth.

- **The loss of prayer** weakened the moral foundation of students and removed a daily reminder of faith from their lives.
- **The end of classroom discipline** shifted respect away from authority and encouraged disobedience in children.
- **The decline of patriotism** led young people to lose pride

in their country and the sense of duty once instilled through national service.

Judd said his father's warnings have come true. "He lived long enough to see the beginning of it."

A Call to Revival

Quoting 2 Chronicles 7:14, Judd reminded believers that healing begins with humility and prayer. "The communication media that people are on today is not the evening news. It's social media news," he said. "We've got to make sure that we sell what's really right, what's really good, what's really positive."

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Closing his remarks, the sheriff challenged Christians to rise up. "Far too long we've sat quiet. If Christians do not speak up, if we do not stand up, if we do not become loud and positive, we're going to continue to slip in our numbers. As leaders in the community, we can do better. God bless you all."

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.

5 Signs of the Issachar Anointing: Understanding God's Timing in a Chaotic World

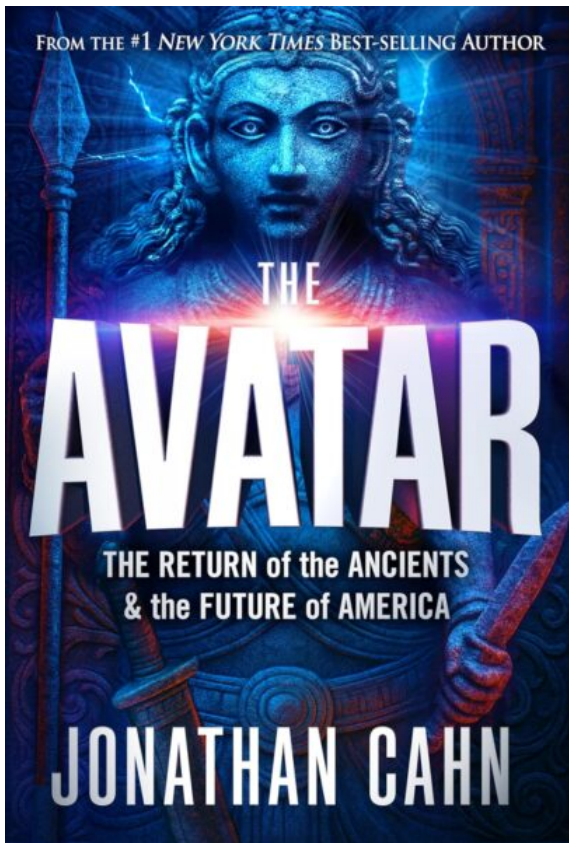
In a recent episode of the Curt Landry Podcast, Rabbi Curt Landry unpacked the meaning and power of what Scripture calls the "Issachar anointing."

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

Drawn from 1 Chronicles 12:32, this spiritual gift enabled the sons of Issachar to ["understand the times and know what Israel ought to do."](#) Landry explained that this same discernment is vital for believers today to recognize God's timing, interpret prophetic seasons and act in alignment with His purposes.

Understanding God's Calendar

Landry connected the Issachar anointing to the biblical Hebrew calendar, which he described as a key to understanding God's divine order. By aligning with it, believers can live not by worldly schedules but by the rhythm of heaven's timing. He emphasized that those who carry this anointing can perceive when to act, pray or wait, living "in a safe, prosperous, supernatural way."



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

The 5 Characteristics of Issachar

According to Landry, there are five main characteristics that mark those who carry this anointing:

1. **Intercessory prayer warriors** who pray and decree specific words in the right season.
2. **Spiritually awake and alert** believers who recognize what God is doing rather than being caught unaware.
3. **An understanding of the times**, including awareness of global and personal spiritual battles.
4. **Prophetic action against wickedness**, confronting evil through prayer and declarations of life and freedom.
5. **Radical devotion to Yeshua**, a life fully dedicated to hearing God's voice and discerning His patterns through Scripture, numbers and world events.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with](#)

[current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Applying the Anointing Today

Landry tied the concept to current events, explaining how the Issachar anointing helps believers see divine patterns even in geopolitical moments such as the Israel-Iran conflict. He urged listeners to prepare spiritually, intercede with authority and walk in prophetic insight.

The Call to Finish Well

The podcast concluded with a stirring call to “finish well.” Landry reminded believers that spiritual battles must be completed, not left half-won. Like the sons of Issachar, [Christians must discern God’s timing,](#) fight to the end and trust His plan for victory.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

In essence, the Issachar anointing is a call for discernment in dark times, a divine awareness that allows God’s people to stay aligned with His calendar, pray with precision and act in faith until His purposes are fulfilled.

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.

Seattle Mayor Sued After Blaming Christians for Left-Wing Violence

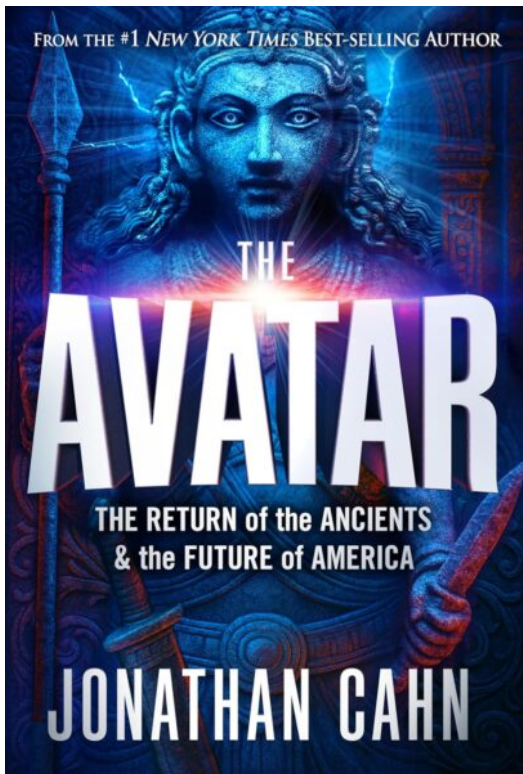
A Christian revival group is suing the City of Seattle after Mayor Bruce Harrell publicly blamed them for a violent clash in May, an event where [they were assaulted by radical left-wing agitators](#) who threw urine-filled balloons and committed lewd acts in front of children.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

The lawsuit, filed Sept. 26 by Liberty Counsel on behalf of MayDay USA, accuses Seattle officials of discriminating against Christians and violating their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Christians Targeted and Blamed

MayDay USA, a nationwide revival movement calling Americans to turn back to God, held one of its events at Cal Anderson Park, a location the city assigned after denying the group's request for Pike Street. Organizers said they accepted the park at the city's urging.



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

During the rally, the Antifa-like agitators disrupted the gathering, throwing urine-filled balloons, harassing volunteers and committing obscene acts in front of families. Police arrested 23 people as the violence escalated, but [the mayor offered no sympathy for the victims.](#)

Instead, Mayor Harrell accused the Christian rally of provoking the violence by holding an event "opposed to our city's values" in a neighborhood known for LGBTQ activism.

Religious Freedom Under Attack

The lawsuit condemns the mayor's comments, saying Seattle blamed the victim while ignoring the assaults on peaceful Christians. "Violent agitators threw urine-filled balloons at Plaintiffs... Did the Mayor condemn the violence? No, he blamed the victim," the complaint states.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

Plaintiffs, including Russell Johnson, Jenny and Robert Donnelly, Ross Johnston, and Her Voice Movement, are asking the court to stop Seattle from using event permits to discriminate and to declare the city's permitting process unconstitutional.

Liberty Counsel argues that Seattle used its authority to silence Christian voices, saying the city "weaponized its unbridled discretion" to restrict faith-based speech.

Calling Evil Good and Good Evil

Seattle's actions reflect the moral inversion warned of in Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil." When a mayor blames Christians for violence they suffered and excuses those who commit it, that warning becomes reality.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

The same government that once defended freedom of religion now appears to limit it to popular beliefs. Yet Scripture reminds believers in John 15:18, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you."

Standing Firm in Faith

The MayDay USA lawsuit stands as a test of whether America will protect religious liberty, the foundation on which it was built. Despite growing hostility, Christians continue to gather and worship, knowing that no government can silence the gospel.

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.

Turning Point USA vs. the NFL: The Battle for the Soul of the Super Bowl

Turning Point USA is stepping onto the national stage with plans to host an alternative to the NFL's Super Bowl LX halftime show following the league's controversial decision to feature Puerto Rican artist Bad Bunny as the 2026 headliner. The conservative nonprofit co-founded by the late Charlie Kirk announced it will debut "The All American Halftime Show" as a patriotic and family-friendly alternative.

Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. *Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!*

"The All American Halftime Show" will take place alongside the official game on Feb. 8, 2026 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Turning Point USA wrote on X, "It's true, Turning Point USA is thrilled to announce The All American Halftime Show. Performers and event details coming soon."

□ *HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT* □

It's true, Turning Point USA is thrilled to announce The All American Halftime Show.

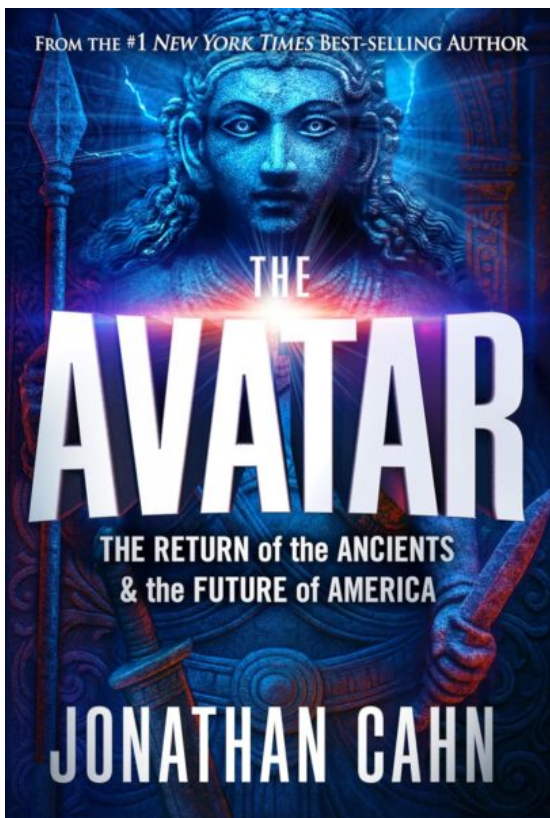
Performers and event details coming soon.

2.8.2026 <https://t.co/HBHGfXj6yU> pic.twitter.com/HYUs6BqgVL

– Turning Point USA (@TPUSA) [October 9, 2025](#)

The NFL Trades Morality for Global Appeal

For decades the Super Bowl halftime show was an American cultural centerpiece, a unifying tradition that families could enjoy together. But in recent years it has become a reflection of the nation's moral decline. The NFL's decision to give [its most visible stage to Bad Bunny](#) signals once again that the league would rather celebrate rebellion than righteousness.



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

Bad Bunny has built his global brand on shock and defiance, using crossdressing, sexually charged performances and gender-bending imagery that critics say glorify confusion and perversion. His concerts have featured visuals many describe as demonic. As Charisma Media previously reported, even some fans have expressed discomfort [over the spiritual darkness surrounding his performances.](#)

Anti-American Imagery and Globalist Messaging

Beyond the moral controversy Bad Bunny has openly criticized the United States, at one point refusing to perform in the country due to immigration enforcement policies. In his music video “NUEVAYoL” he depicts the Statue of Liberty draped with a Puerto Rican flag, a scene many interpret as a symbol of cultural conquest rather than unity.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

By elevating such an artist the NFL appears to be abandoning the very values that once made America strong. The league’s decision underscores a shift from honoring faith, family and patriotism toward courting global approval and progressive ideology.

A Spiritual Battle in Plain Sight

This is more than a matter of taste in entertainment, it’s a reflection of spiritual warfare playing out on the world’s biggest stage. Scripture warns in Ephesians that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers.” The halftime show has become a platform for rebellion against God’s design and a mockery of what is holy.

A Patriotic and Faithful Response

Turning Point USA’s “All American Halftime Show” aims to offer a clear alternative, an event rooted in faith, freedom and the values that define America. Where the NFL has chosen to embrace controversy and chaos, TPUSA seeks to restore what the Super Bowl once represented, unity, gratitude and reverence for God and country.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

As the culture celebrates darkness the faithful must stand for light. The time has come as Scripture declares for God's people to humble themselves, pray and seek His face. If they do He will heal their land and perhaps even the heart of a nation that has forgotten who it is.

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.

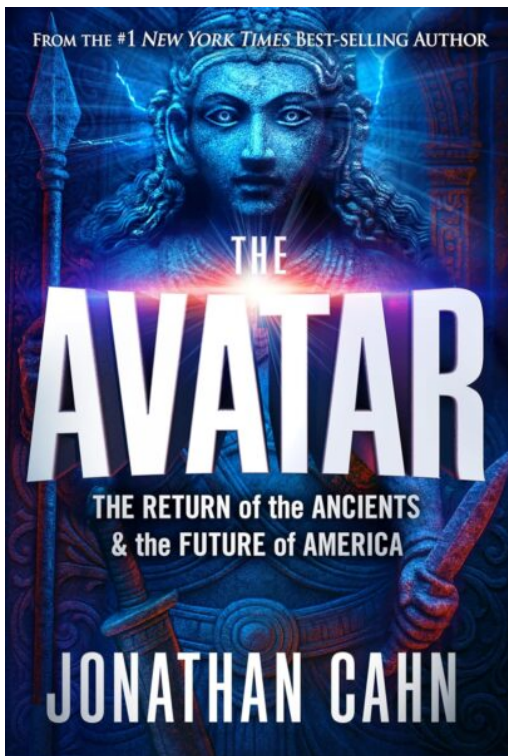
Ancient Clues Reveal Where the Temple Mount Really Stands

A popular claim says the Jewish temple did not stand [on the current Temple Mount](#), but farther south in the City of David. The Israel Guys investigate that claim on the ground in Jerusalem, consulting archaeologists, reading Josephus, and walking the excavations.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

Why the location debate matters

The temple's location shapes how we read Scripture, understand Jewish history, and evaluate modern claims about the Temple Mount. It also affects how we interpret ancient sources that describe festivals, sacrifices, and the city's defenses.



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

What the video examines

- **Antonia Fortress vs. Temple platform**

The alternate theory moves the temple into the City of David and recasts the Temple Mount as the Roman Antonia Fortress. The video counters this with two points. First, the visible bedrock in the Mount's northwest corner matches Josephus' description of the Antonia's rocky foundation. Second, the Greek term at issue points to a cohort sized garrison, not a full legion, so the fortress did not need the entire 35 acre platform.

- **Capacity and topography**

Ancient sources describe festival crowds in the

millions. A worship space that size needs a broad, engineered platform. The Temple Mount is roughly 35 acres. The City of David ridge is closer to 14 acres from crest to slope, which strains the idea that it could host the courts, altar, ramps, gates, and supporting traffic.

- **Water supply and purification**

Critics say the Mount lacks a natural spring, so the temple could not function there. The video reviews evidence for massive water infrastructure under and around the Mount: large rock cut cisterns that store rainwater, First Temple era reservoirs below the Western Wall, and an aqueduct from the Solomon's Pools near Bethlehem that fed the area. Together, they solve the water problem for sacrifices, cleaning, and ritual use.

- **Ritual baths in the right strata**

Pilgrims were expected to immerse before ascending. Excavations at the foot of the Mount expose clusters of mikvahs and linked cisterns set along the pilgrimage road and southern approach. The video notes that an equivalent concentration in the correct period has not been uncovered in the proposed City of David temple zone.

- **Stairs built for worshippers, not soldiers**

The southern steps rise in a deliberate pattern of long and short treads that force a measured pace. That design suits worshippers entering a holy space. It does not fit a "rapid response" military staircase that a fortress would require.

- **Stones, walls, and Jesus' prophecy**

The team addresses "not one stone will be left on another." They argue the statement concerns the temple buildings, which were leveled, while retaining walls and city fortifications could remain in places. Second Temple paving, Herodian moldings, and stepped streets still seen today support widespread destruction without erasing every visible stone.

▪ **Archaeology that ties text to place**

The Temple Mount Sifting Project has processed debris removed from the Mount, turning up priestly seal impressions, coins from the temple periods, mosaics, imported stone, and many burnt animal bones that fit sacrificial meals and offerings. Near the southwest corner, a fallen block bears a Hebrew inscription pointing “to the place of trumpeting,” aligning with Jewish practice of announcing times from the Mount.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

The case summed up

- A rocky platform under the Mount’s northwest corner matches descriptions of the Antonia’s base, not a sprawling fortress that fills the entire Mount
- The Mount’s 35 acre footprint fits festival scale worship, while the City of David does not
- Cisterns, reservoirs, and aqueducts meet the temple’s heavy water needs
- Dense clusters of period correct mikvahs sit where pilgrims would prepare before ascending
- Architectural features and surviving stones fit a city largely razed while leaving parts of retaining works
- Artifacts recovered from the Mount and its approaches match temple period activity in both scale and kind

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

The Bottom Line

When archaeological remains, engineering capacity, water systems, pilgrim pathways, and artifact patterns are read together, [they point to the traditional Temple Mount](#) as the site of Solomon's and Herod's temples. The City of David relocation theory does not align with the physical and textual record presented on the ground.

Their conclusion is straightforward: the evidence points back to the traditional Temple Mount.

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.

Exposed: The Demonic Reality Behind Haunted Houses

Haunted houses are often dismissed as folklore or entertainment but as Christopher Reese writes in his recent Blaze article ["Facing Darkness: What No One Tells You About Haunted Houses,"](#) the threat is far more real and more widespread than many realize.

"A 2022 YouGov poll found that one in four Americans say they've lived in a house they believe was haunted," Reese noted, adding that the flood of paranormal videos and bad advice online has left many people spiritually vulnerable.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

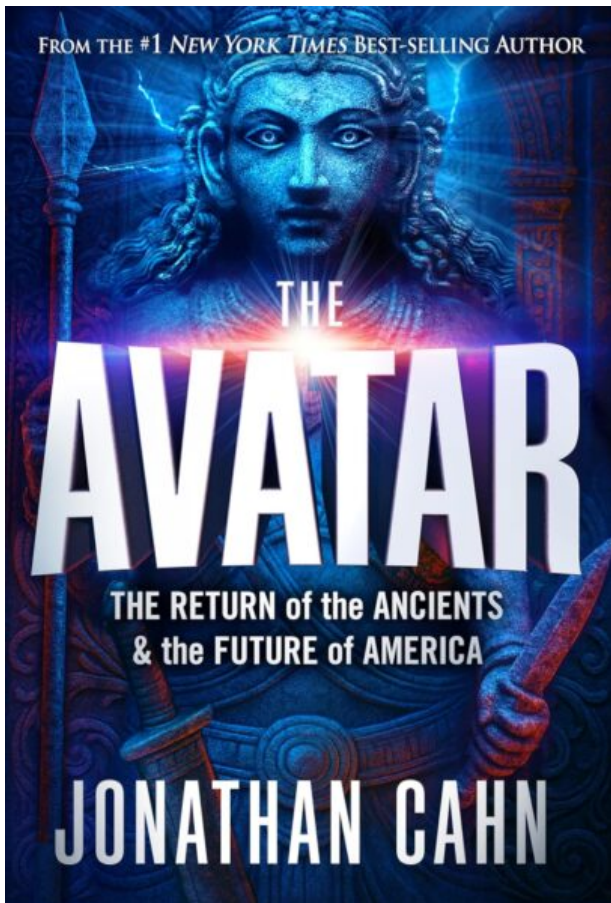
Reese argues that these experiences aren't just psychological or imaginary. For those who have encountered the unexplained he says the cause is not ghosts or lost souls but something far darker.

The Reality of the Demonic

While Hollywood often paints hauntings as tragic ghost stories or residual human energy, Reese contends that [true hauntings are demonic in nature](#). He draws from both Scripture and the testimony of Christians who have dealt with such situations firsthand.

He acknowledges that God may permit some human spirits to briefly appear but makes a clear distinction: when the activity involves fear, chaos or harm – “banging or scratching sounds, disembodied voices, foul odors, dark figures and physical attacks” – it is always the work of demons.

As Christians this understanding changes the conversation. What secular investigators view as paranormal activity is in truth spiritual warfare and no amount of technology or skepticism can confront it. Only the authority of Jesus Christ can.



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

How Christians Should Respond

Reese offers practical advice rooted in biblical wisdom for anyone who suspects spiritual oppression in their home. He cautions that fear and isolation often empower the demonic. "Most people understandably fear being labeled 'crazy' or 'attention-seeking,'" he writes, "but this serves the purposes of the demonic, who want to isolate an individual or family so that they suffer alone and don't receive help."

Instead Christians should reach out to mature believers or pastors for prayer, counsel and deliverance. Reese warns against turning to psychics, mediums or paranormal investigators, calling them unhelpful at best and spiritually dangerous at worst.

When a medium was called in to help with the infamous Annabelle case, he recounts, "the demon concocted a story

about being a 7-year-old girl who had died... to gain the sympathy of the doll's owner," opening the door to even greater deception.

Biblical Steps to Take

For those seeking deliverance and protection Reese recommends several biblical steps:

- **Seek godly counsel** from trusted pastors or spiritually mature Christians
- **Cleanse the home** with prayer, Scripture and the authority of Christ
- **Repent of any occult involvement** and remove all occult objects or symbols
- **Stand firm in faith** trusting that Jesus has already conquered the powers of darkness

Reese emphasizes that finding a pastor willing to help can sometimes be difficult as some clergy lack faith in the supernatural or fear damaging their church's reputation. Nevertheless [Christians must persevere knowing that the battle belongs to the Lord.](#)

Closing Spiritual Doors

According to Reese, demonic infestations often arise when "doors" are opened through occult practices or curiosity about the spiritual realm. Using Ouija boards, attempting to contact the dead or participating in witchcraft all violate biblical commands such as those found in Deuteronomy 18.

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

He cites that roughly 70% of the cases he's seen or heard of

involved someone using an Ouija board. Repentance, removal of occult items and renewed submission to God are crucial to closing these spiritual gateways.

Victory Through Christ Alone

Ultimately Reese reminds readers that deliverance and freedom come only through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. He cites 1 John 3:8, where Scripture declares that Christ came “to destroy the devil’s work,” and Colossians 1:13, which says He rescues believers “from the dominion of darkness.”

[*Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!*](#)

In a culture obsessed with ghosts and the paranormal Reese’s message is a sobering and necessary reminder: the battle is real but victory is assured through Christ. Christians are not powerless. As Reese rightly notes, the Bible declares, “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes” (Eph. 6:11).

For those facing darkness the answer isn’t found in fear, folklore or technology. It’s found in the name above all names.

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.

'Partisan Smear Machine': FBI Cuts Ties with Southern Poverty Law Center

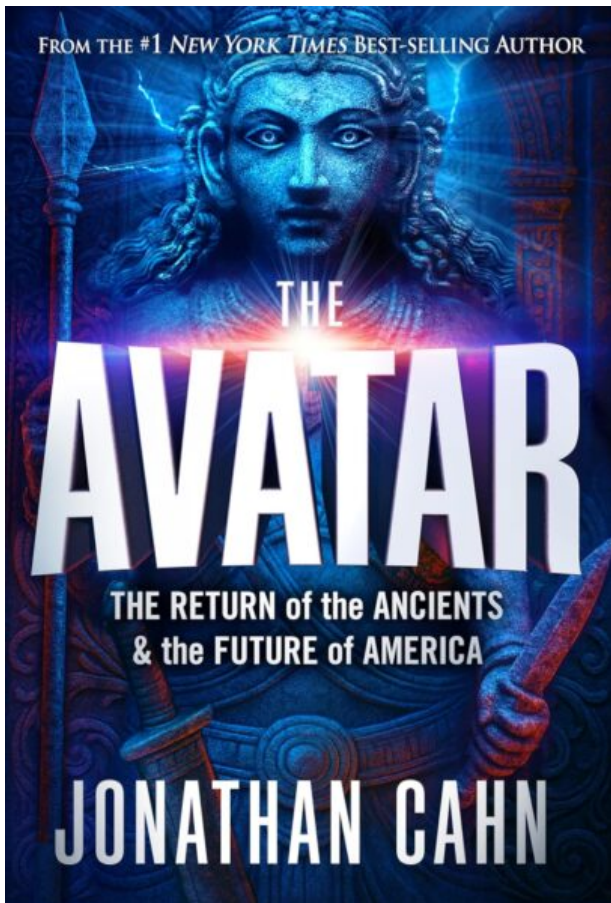
The FBI has officially severed its relationship with the Southern Poverty Law Center, a progressive nonprofit long criticized for [labeling conservative and Christian organizations as "hate groups."](#)

In a statement posted on X, FBI Director Kash Patel said all ties between the federal law enforcement agency and the SPLC "have been officially terminated." Patel accused the organization of abandoning its original mission writing, "The Southern Poverty Law Center long ago abandoned civil rights work and turned into a partisan smear machine."

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

As reported by The Christian Post, Patel also condemned the SPLC's widely circulated "hate map" calling it a tool that "has been used to defame mainstream Americans and even inspired violence."

The SPLC's "hate map" lists hundreds of conservative and Christian organizations it deems "hateful." Among those targeted was Turning Point USA whose CEO Charlie Kirk was assassinated Sept. 10. The SPLC issued a statement following the killing declaring, "The Southern Poverty Law Center unequivocally condemns the shooting of Charlie Kirk and all forms of violence," adding that "violence is never acceptable."



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

Earlier this year the SPLC accused Turning Point USA of "sowing and exploiting fear that white Christian supremacy is under attack" and seeking to maintain a "white-dominated male supremacist Christian social order."

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

[The SPLC has faced similar criticism before.](#) In 2012 the Family Research Council was targeted by a gunman who had cited the SPLC's hate map. FRC President Tony Perkins later said the SPLC had created a "reckless climate" that encouraged violence.

The FBI's partnership with the SPLC was also questioned last year after an internal memo from the bureau's Richmond Field Office referenced the SPLC when warning about "radical-traditionalist Catholic ideology." The FBI later retracted the

memo saying it “did not meet the exacting standards of the FBI.”

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

Former FBI agent Kyle Seraphin who leaked the document said the agency had already been distancing itself from the SPLC over the past decade because of its “blatant partisan blindness.”

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.

Tony Evans Restored to Fellowship but Not to the Pastorate

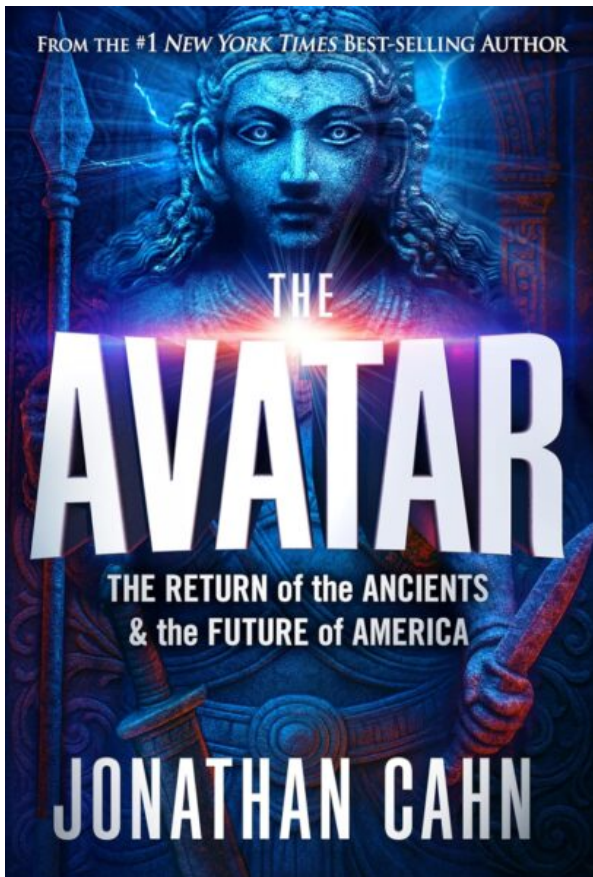
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship marked a turning point with a restoration service for its founding pastor Dr. Tony Evans. The elders announced that [Evans had completed a formal process of discipline and restoration](#) and that he “will not be returning in a staff nor leadership role at OCBF.” Associate Pastor of Outreach Chris Wheel told the congregation, “We are pleased to report that Dr. Evans has fully submitted to the church’s discipline and restoration process,” which included

outside counseling, pastoral mentoring, “evidence of genuine repentance and godly sorrow” and a public stepping away from all formal roles for a season.

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

From the platform, the church rooted its actions in Scripture. Wheel cited Galatians 6:1 as the spirit of the work, restoring the one who has fallen “in a spirit of gentleness.” He also emphasized why certain details were not disclosed, saying the elder board’s discretion was meant “to uphold the integrity of the process, to protect the dignity of all involved and prevent unnecessary speculation or sensationalism.” The service itself carried a pastoral tone with prayers over Evans, communion and a public commissioning toward the future.

Evans, who pastored OCBF for 48 years, described the season as “bittersweet.” He said the hardest part was “disappointing the Lord,” then his family and church family. He apologized openly to his wife Carla, to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and to the congregation, deacons, deaconesses and ministers. In words that framed the day’s meaning beyond one leader, Evans told the church, “I’m thankful that you have followed the teaching that the church is not about a man. It’s about Jesus Christ.” Months earlier, when he stepped away, he had said, “While I have committed no crime, I did not use righteous judgment in my actions.”



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

Jonathan Evans, newly appointed as an elder and expected to be installed as lead pastor, set the tone at the outset. "Today is a special day," he said. He told his father, "It's one thing to watch you preach the Word; it's another thing to watch you live under its authority even when it hurts." He then led the congregation in communion and prayer, underscoring that restoration is not the end of accountability but the fruit of it.

What the Bible Says About Restoration

Biblical restoration is neither denial nor dismissal. It is the hard work of telling the truth, submitting to oversight and seeking healing under the lordship of Christ. Galatians 6:1 calls spiritual leaders to restore the fallen with gentleness while also watching themselves. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 urges the church to reaffirm love after appropriate discipline so that sorrow does not "overwhelm." Psalm 147:3 says God

“heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” The arc of John 21 shows [Jesus restoring Peter not by minimizing sin but by recommissioning him after repentance.](#)

[Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!](#)

OCBF’s public statements and service order reflected these texts. Confession without voyeurism, care for the wounded without excusing the wound, and a future oriented toward faithful service rather than titles. The elders insisted on time, counseling and demonstrable fruit before pronouncing restoration, then decoupled that restoration from a return to institutional power.

The Fruit on Display

By the end of the service, several marks of healthy fruit were evident.

- **Submission and accountability:** Evans said he needed “to submit to the very process I helped to install,” accepting outcomes that included not resuming a leadership role.
- **Transparency with restraint:** The church explained its process and rationale in detail but refused to trade dignity for disclosure.
- **Congregational unity:** The elders’ prayer, communion and corporate worship fostered shared ownership of the church’s future.
- **Clear succession:** Jonathan Evans’ appointment as elder with an expectation of installation as lead pastor signaled stability and direction.
- **Repentance and repair:** Evans’ apologies to family and church were public, specific and coupled with gratitude, not self-defense.

Compared to Other Outcomes

Churches facing moral failure often veer toward two unhealthy poles: swift reinstatement that undercuts accountability or punitive shunning that forgets grace. OCBF's path threaded a different line, discipline with dignity, measured time away, outside care and restored fellowship without restored office. That is closer to the New Testament pattern where restoration aims at the person's reconciliation to Christ and his people, not automatic return to authority.

[Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!](#)

No local church's process is perfect and this one will be weighed over time by its long-term fruit. But as an example, the service offered a public catechism in how the church can confront sin truthfully, protect people carefully and celebrate grace meaningfully. As Wheel put it, the goal was never punishment for its own sake but "restoration through accountability, humility and grace." And as Evans reminded everyone, the center holds when Christ, not any leader, is the focus: "The church is not about a man. It's about 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.

Texas Church Ousts Member for Refusing to Repent Over Immigration Comments

A Texas business owner says his life has been turned upside down after [a social media post criticizing H-1B visas](#) led to online harassment, business backlash and ultimately, church discipline.

As first reported by Sebastian Pestritto of The Blaze, Daniel Keene of North Texas posted a short video on X showing an Indian block party that filled an entire suburban street, adding, “We have to cancel the H-1Bs. I want my kids to grow up in America. Not India.”

[Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!](#)

The post went viral, and “all hell broke loose,” The Blaze reported. Keene said he and his family were subjected to doxxing, threats, and even an extortion attempt from someone claiming to represent millions of Indian Americans demanding \$20,000.

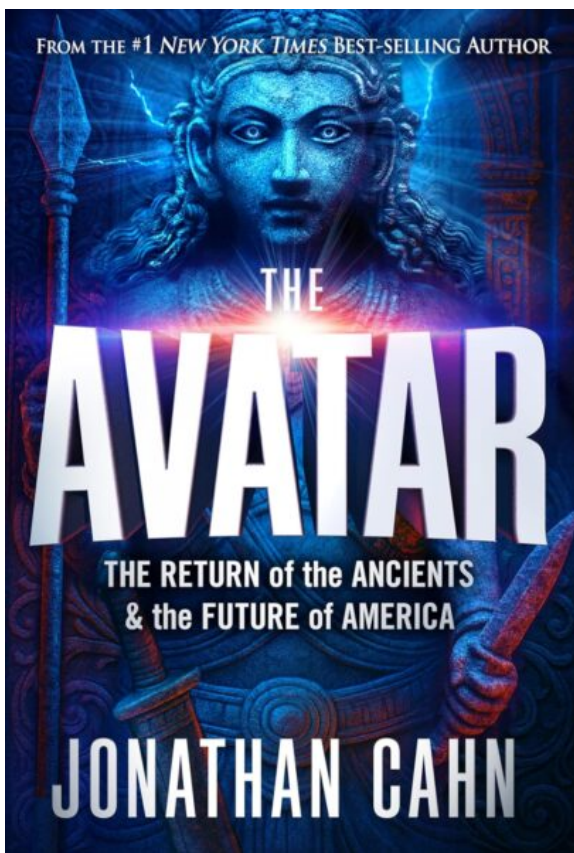
Google later shut down reviews for Keene’s business, Boundaries Coffee, after it was targeted with false reviews and online attacks. His gym, CrossFit Prosper, revoked his membership soon after, citing “core values of inclusivity and respect.” The gym’s owner told him in a text message that “a large part of our community is Indian and inclusivity is central to who we are.”

But Keene said the most painful blow came from his church.

“They Just Hammered Me for Hours”

Leaders of The Trails Church called Keene to confront him about his immigration stance, telling him to repent and labeling his post “uncharitable.” Keene said he deleted the post soon after it went viral but refused to disavow his position.

He told The Blaze that he and his pregnant wife were summoned to a meeting with “all the elders and staff who could be there.” Keene recalled, “They just hammered me for ... hours.”



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

According to Keene, the elders reviewed three years of his X posts, highlighting two they found “concerning.” When he asked for clarification on what sin he was being accused of, he said the answers shifted. “On one hand, they are saying that the issue is not the position itself; it’s how I expressed it,” he said. “But then we’ve had three hours of phone calls, and they’re just hammering me on the position itself.”

When Keene asked the elders to put his alleged offenses in writing, they refused. He offered to post clarifying messages on X or speak with anyone offended, but said the church leadership demanded an apology and for him to [renounce his position on Indian immigration.](#)

“As far as the content, I stand behind it,” he said. “That’s the policy position I stand behind.”

Placed on “Path of Discipline”

Keene said church elders told him he was on “the path of discipline,” which could lead to removal from membership if he refused to repent. He described it as a serious measure within Baptist churches, saying, “They are basically saying, ‘We don’t think you’re a Christian anymore because you haven’t repented of a sin.’”

[**Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!**](#)

Soon after, Keene posted a clip from The King’s Hall podcast discussing immigration and asked his followers, “What would get you in more trouble at your church? Significant doctrinal error on the Trinity? Or opposing immigration to the harm of your neighbor?”

The post prompted another summons. This time, elders asked Keene to bring his wife. He refused, saying, “Why would you need to meet with my wife? What does my wife have to do with this?”

[**Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!**](#)

When Keene met with them alone, he said the elders formally asked him to leave the church.

“I knew I was poking the bear a little bit,” Keene admitted, but added he does not regret standing by his position. “What are the values of your church? Are they doctrinal? Scriptural? Or is it public policy with regard to immigration?”

Many are left wondering what this situation says about the modern church. Is the body of Christ called to remove members who differ on political or policy opinions? Or has the line between spiritual accountability and ideological conformity become dangerously blurred? As cultural and political divides are deepening, this episode raises a serious question for every congregation: is this truly what the church is called to do?

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.