

# Has the Vatican Just Crossed a Prophetic Line With Pope Leo XIV?

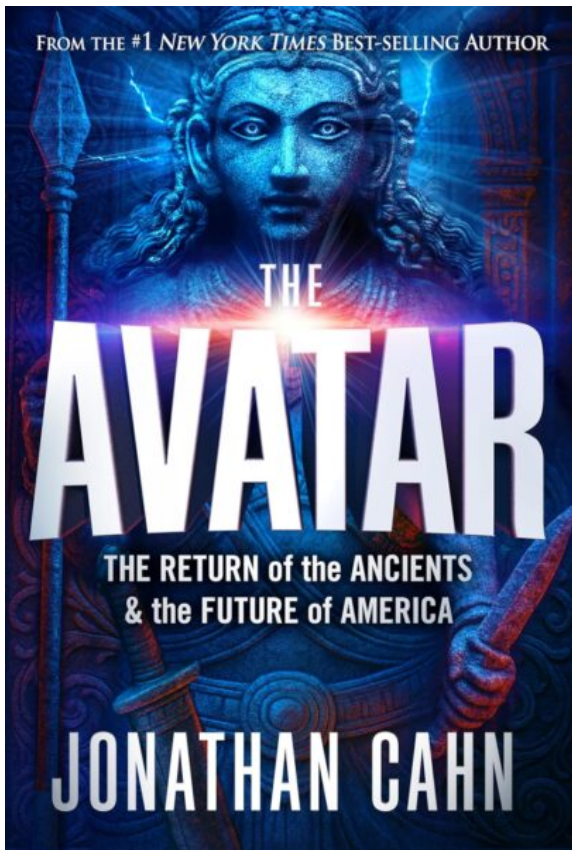
Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois has long positioned himself as a Catholic while simultaneously advancing policies that run contrary to Church teaching. His voting record includes support for legalized abortion, advocacy for same-sex marriage, and the probing of Catholic judicial nominees on their faith. As the Catholic League pointed out in a letter to Durbin, “Your support for same-sex marriage, and your probing of the religious convictions of Catholic nominees for the federal bench, have also elicited much criticism.”

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The decision by Cardinal Blase Cupich to honor Durbin with a “lifetime achievement award” provoked widespread outrage from Catholics and other conservatives who saw the move as scandalous. Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, called the award “a source of scandal,” while Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, urged Cupich to withdraw it or for Durbin himself to decline.

## The Catholic League’s Pressure Campaign

The Catholic League chose not to focus on Cupich, but directly on Durbin himself. Bill Donohue, the group’s president, wrote to the senator on Sept. 23, warning that the award had “created a firestorm in the Catholic community, involving both the clergy and the laity.” Donohue urged Durbin to “put the interests of the Catholic community above your own interests.”



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When Durbin initially refused, the Catholic League mobilized its supporters, publishing the email address of his chief of staff and encouraging them to press the senator to back down. Within days, Durbin yielded. "Such a sweet victory," Donohue wrote. The Catholic League commended the senator for ultimately declining the award.

## **Pope Leo XIV's Troubling Response**

While U.S. bishops and Catholic lay groups condemned Cupich's plan, [Pope Leo XIV appeared hesitant](#). When asked about the controversy, he said, "I am not terribly familiar with the particular case. I think it's important to look at the overall work that a senator has done during, if I'm not mistaken, in 40 years of service in the United States Senate."

The pope then compared abortion to other issues, stating, "Someone who says I'm against abortion but is in favor of the death penalty is not really pro-life. Someone who says I'm

against abortion but I'm in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants in the United States, I don't know if that's pro life."

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His words sparked backlash, not only from Catholic leaders but also from conservatives across the political and religious spectrum. Many questioned how the leader of the Catholic Church, who has professed to be pro-life, could place abortion alongside other social concerns in a way that seemed to dilute the urgency of defending unborn life.

## **Prophecy and Discernment in Our Times**

For many, this moment calls to mind a sobering prophecy given in 1954 [by Pentecostal revivalist William Branham](#). He warned of a day when "the new pope is brought out of the United States and put over there according to prophecy, then they'll form an image like unto the beast." Branham described a deceptive religious power, cloaked in peace, that would lead many astray.

In another message, Branham cautioned that "the real, true believers out of Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Pilgrim Holiness, whatever they'll be, will go together, and cemented by the love of God, that'll make the Body of the Lord Jesus... and agnostics and shallow-minded will be cast to one side; they'll go right on into the confederation of churches."

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Is Pope Leo's seemingly compromised position, and the resulting backlash from conservatives not just within [the Catholic Church but across American society](#), a sign that

Branham's prophecy may yet be fulfilled in our day?

## A Call to Watchfulness

We cannot answer that question definitively, but as Christians we are commanded to be discerning. These are prophetic days, and we must examine events like this through the lens of Scripture. The Word of God warns us of deception in the last days, and we must guard ourselves by holding fast to the truth that life is sacred, marriage is God-ordained and faith must never be compromised for political convenience.

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

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## Perry Stone: The 5 Ways God Still Speaks to His People Today

Perry Stone recently shared a prophetic word he believes the Lord impressed upon him, and it is one filled with encouragement and urgency for the body of Christ. In his message, Stone outlined how God [continues to speak to His people today](#) and what believers can expect in this season. "I received a download that I know came from the Lord," he explained.

# God Still Speaks

Stone began by reminding viewers that Scripture clearly shows the Spirit leads believers into truth and even reveals the future. “When He, the Spirit of truth, that’s the Holy Spirit, will come, He will guide you into all truth,” he said, quoting John 16:13.

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He emphasized that God communicates in multiple ways.

## Five Ways God Speaks

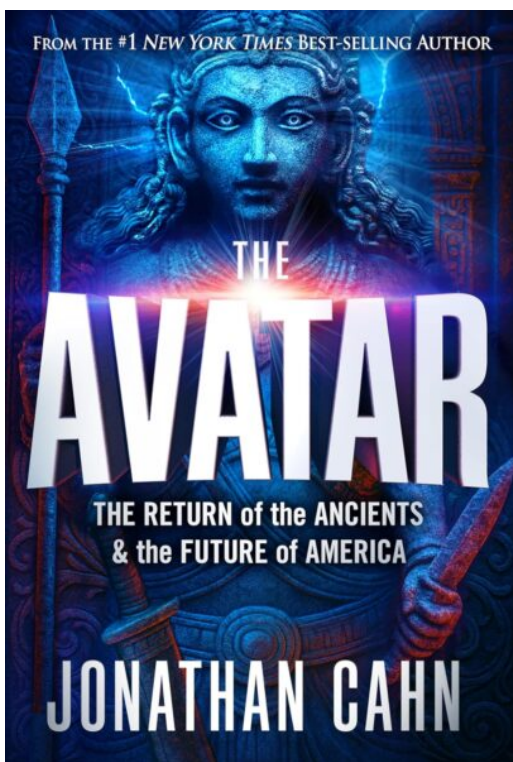
According to Stone, here are five ways the Lord reveals His voice:

1. **Through Scripture** – The Word of God is living and active, providing guidance, correction, and encouragement when believers open it in faith. Passages often speak directly to current circumstances. (Heb. 4:12)
2. **Through the Holy Spirit** – The Spirit of truth leads into all truth and reveals things to come, giving believers clarity and assurance in decisions and spiritual matters. (John 16:13)
3. **Through the Inner Leading** – God speaks from the spirit to the mind, giving thoughts or impressions that carry His direction. This inner prompting often comes as sudden clarity or conviction. (Rom. 14, Acts 2:16–17 as supporting context)
4. **Through Dreams and Visions** – Throughout history God has given warnings, encouragement, and revelation through dreams at night or visions in waking moments, showing His people what is ahead. (Acts 2:16–17)
5. **Through Nighttime Revelation** – In deep sleep God can

open ears and seal instruction, turning people from danger and guiding them with wisdom they recognize upon waking. (Job 33:15–18, Job 4:12–13)

## Joel's Prophecy Unfolding

Stone pointed to Joel 2:28-31 as a key passage for our time. "It'll come to pass afterwards. I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams. Your young men shall see visions," he said. He noted the significance of young and old being linked in this prophecy, showing that multiple generations will be joined in this end-time revival.



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He connected this to cosmic and earthly signs. "The sun will be turned to darkness, the moon to blood, cosmic signs, blood moons, which are lunar eclipses, solar eclipses on Jewish festival days," he said.

# The Spirit of Elijah

Turning to Malachi's prophecy, Stone read, "Behold, I send to you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." He explained that this passage has a dual application, both pointing to Elijah's role in the tribulation and to a generation walking in the same spirit before it.

"The death of Charlie Kirk was a spiritual trigger to trigger the spirit of Elijah," Stone declared, clarifying that by trigger he means an event that sets things in motion. He defined this spirit in three ways: "Number one, extreme boldness. Number two, non-compromise. Number three, producing the zeal or the fire of God."

## A Firebrand Generation

Stone described the next move of God as unlike anything before. "This one looks different because this one is a fire brand movement," he said. He likened it to the story of Samson tying torches to foxes' tails, saying every young believer will carry the fire of the Spirit into their schools, churches, and communities.

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He also stressed the importance of fathers and mothers walking with this generation. "He will turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers," Stone quoted. He believes this intergenerational unity is what will "reverse the curse."

# Unity in the Body of Christ

Finally, Stone called believers to a new spirit of unity. "Please, body of Christ, let's start taking on a new attitude," he urged. "Quit being so critical and so condemning and following the nuts instead of following the spiritual fruit."

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For Stone, [this is a time of hope and expectation.](#) "This is an exciting time to be alive," he said. "This is not an artificial movement. This is not a man-made movement. This is a God thing."

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

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## Half of America Now Rejects the Bible as Truth, Study Reveals Shocking Decline

The United States has continued its slide away from the truth of God's Word, and this shift is directly responsible for the decline of American culture.

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A new report from Lifeway Research conducted for Ligonier Ministries shows a widening gap between biblical truth and public opinion, with nearly half of U.S. adults [rejecting the Bible as literally true](#), as reported by The Christian Post.

The Ligonier State of Theology 2025 survey, which polled 3,001 American adults between Jan. 6-15, found a mix of syncretic and contradictory beliefs about God, Scripture and morality.

## **Bible as Myth vs. Literal Truth**

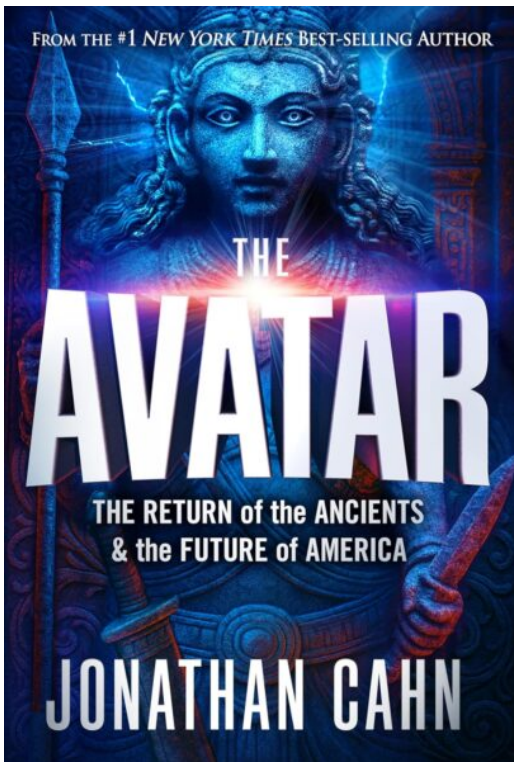
- “A collective 48% of Americans either strongly agree or somewhat agree that ‘The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.’”
- 43% strongly or somewhat disagreed.
- 8% were not sure.
- Evangelicals, Black Protestants and Southerners were the most likely to reject the Bible as myth.
- Higher-income respondents and residents of large cities were more likely to deny its literal truth.

## **Accuracy of Scripture**

- “Less than half of respondents also said they either strongly agree (31%) or somewhat agree (18%) that ‘The Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches.’”
- 44% disagreed, including 28% strongly and 16% somewhat.
- 6% were not sure.

## Beliefs About God

- “When presented with the statement, ‘God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake,’ only 53% of respondents strongly agreed.”
- 13% somewhat agreed.
- 26% disagreed, including 17% strongly.
- 8% were unsure.



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## Belief in the Trinity

- “When asked to respond to the statement, ‘There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit,’ only 55% of respondents strongly agreed.”
- 16% somewhat agreed.
- 20% disagreed, including 15% strongly.
- 10% were unsure.

## Religious Inclusivity

- “A majority of U.S. adults also believe that ‘God accepts the worship of all religions.’”
- 44% strongly agreed.
- 20% somewhat agreed.
- 23% disagreed, including 16% strongly.
- 12% were unsure.

## Beliefs About Jesus

- “Some 48% of American adults in the study also agree that ‘Jesus was a great teacher, but He was not God.’”
- 40% disagreed.
- 11% were unsure.

## Marriage and Sexual Ethics

- “Only 51% of respondents strongly agree that ‘God created marriage to be between one man and one woman,’ while 14% somewhat agree.”
- 29% disagreed, including 22% strongly.
- “Some 52% of Americans agree that ‘Sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.’”
- 44% disagreed.

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## Gender and Sexuality

- “When asked for their position on the statement, ‘People should be able to choose their gender regardless of

their biological sex,' some 38% expressed some level of agreement.”

- 54% disagreed, including 42% strongly.
- 9% were not sure.
- “More than 40% of U.S. adults also expressed some level of agreement that ‘The Bible’s condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn’t apply today.’”
- 46% disagreed.
- 14% were undecided.

## Authority of the Bible

- According to The Christian Post, “The findings of the survey also show that despite the varied responses to the Bible, half of Americans still believe it can be used as a manual for life.”
- 28% strongly agreed and 22% somewhat agreed that “The Bible has the authority to tell us what we must do.”
- 44% disagreed.
- 5% were not sure.

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The results of the study reflect [a profound cultural shift in the nation](#). The Bible tells us how bad things will become in the last days, yet Christians are not called to despair. Even as society drifts further from the truth, the church must remain steadfast in fulfilling the Great Commission until Christ returns.

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[Common Man's Commentary](#) and a contributor to *Charisma magazine*.

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# **Fragile and Offended: John Bevere on Why Believers Are Falling Into Deception**

John Bevere sat down with his sons Addison and Ardan to process a raw, complicated moment for the church. Using Charlie Kirk's killing as the backdrop they traced a bigger story: fear is muzzling leaders, offense is fragmenting believers and yet God is stirring hunger and repentance across the nation. Their message wasn't a eulogy. It was a charge.

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## **Government isn't off-limits for the people of God**

Bevere argued that Christians are called into every sphere of society, government included. He pointed to Scripture's pattern of prophets and kings speaking to rulers and laws as evidence that believers shouldn't treat civic life as forbidden territory. For him, Kirk's boldness in public debate fit that calling rather than violated it.

## **Revival and confusion are rising together**

They noted unprecedented church attendance alongside anger, uncertainty and grief. That tension, they said, is exactly why

leaders must speak plainly from Scripture. When pulpits dodge hard topics congregations get motivational talk instead of real help. Surface comfort can numb pain for a day but it won't heal the abscess underneath.

## **The real battle line: fear of God vs fear of man**

Bevere's central diagnosis was simple: fear of people erodes conviction, breeds hypocrisy and turns shepherds into crowd pleasers. Fear of God by contrast steels leaders to tell the truth in love when it costs reputation or followers. The apostles needed that correction too; Peter folded under criticism until Paul confronted him. Courage is not optional, it is pastoral.

## **Offense blinds and becomes the seedbed of deception**

The conversation returned again and again to offense. They described how borrowed grievances spread online, how people pick up their group's anger without ever having a face to face conversation and how that posture distorts perception. Offense hardens into contempt then opens the door for voices that soothe pain without addressing sin. When that cycle takes root love grows cold and unity breaks down.

## **Forgiveness is a daily rhythm not a one-time decision**

To break the cycle they urged a daily practice: receive God's

forgiveness and extend it to others. That rhythm reaches into old wounds loosens bitterness and clears the fog that offense creates. Without it believers drift into a victim mindset and become easy marks for flattering half-true messages.

## **Compassion tells the truth**

They contrasted “toxic empathy” which mirrors feelings but dodges root issues with Christlike compassion which names idols and invites repentance even when people walk away. Jesus loved the rich young ruler and still put his finger on the real problem. Love that refuses God’s commands, they warned, isn’t love at all.

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## **Division that clarifies reality**

The family acknowledged that some division is inevitable because truth exposes what we serve, God or approval. Moments like this reveal who will carry the whole counsel of God and who will shrink to keep the room calm. Leaders must examine themselves first then tend their people with steady hands and open Bibles.

## **A practical charge to pastors and influencers**

- Seek God privately before you speak publicly. Humility before God fuels courage before people
- Feed people with Scripture not slogans. Address the real pain not just the feels
- Refuse to become a slave to approval. Serve your flock by telling the truth they actually need
- Model reconciliation. Practice that daily “breathe in

breathe out” of forgiveness

- Train for discernment, learn the difference between right and almost right

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## The moment to step forward

Beverly closed with a simple posture: side with God in a dark world even if it costs you. He believes the fields are white for harvest and that God is moving in ways that demand clear voices and steady hearts. The task now is not to manage outrage or collect followers. It is to love people enough to tell the truth, to cast off the fear of man and to lead with a holy boldness that heals.

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# Prophecy Fulfilled: Why Jerusalem Is Now the World's Ultimate Test

As the Jewish people marked the Feast of Trumpets the nations of the world gathered at the United Nations. France and Saudi

Arabia convened a high-level conference on the Palestinian question and several Western nations moved to [unilaterally recognize Palestinian statehood](#). To most of the world it was just another round of diplomatic theater. But in the eyes of God's Word the timing of this moment could not be more significant.

## **A Feast, a Reading and a Warning**

During Rosh Hashanah Jewish communities read Genesis 21 and 22. Genesis 21 recounts the miraculous birth of Isaac and the expulsion of Ishmael, a story of contention within Abraham's family. Genesis 22 tells of Abraham's ultimate test when God asked him to offer his son Isaac on Mount Moriah later known as the Temple Mount.

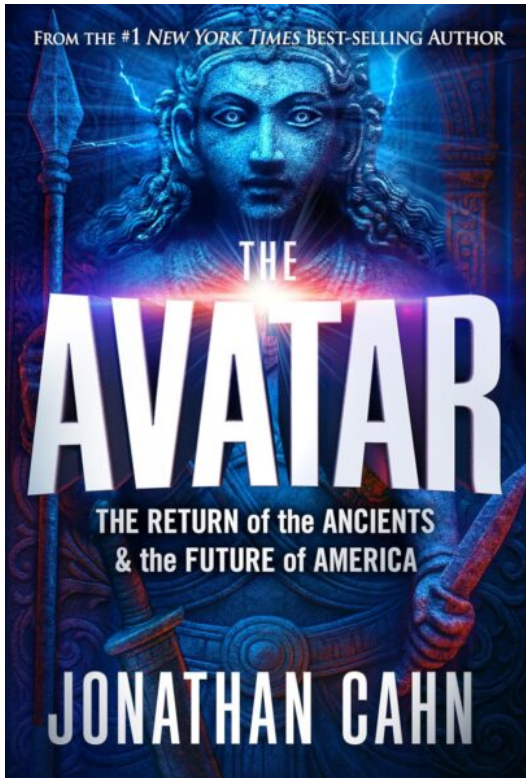
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Rabbi Jason Sobel drew a striking parallel: "On the same day the United Nations made this resolution, which I also believe was harmful towards Israel, we were reading about Ishmael harming Isaac. It was like Ishmael saying I'm going to get Isaac back, mocking, and in a sense encouraging violence towards the Jewish people."

## **Jerusalem: The Test of the Nations**

Sobel explained that Jerusalem is more than a political debate. "Jerusalem itself is a test. How one treats Abraham's covenant city, the place where he offered Isaac, reveals the posture of one's heart towards the God of Abraham."

He reminded his listeners of the prophetic words in Zechariah 12:3: "Jerusalem will become a burdensome stone. Nations that lift it will injure themselves." Sobel tied this directly to the UN's declaration about East Jerusalem, calling it "a replaying of the Genesis 22 drama on the world stage."



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## **A Psalm 2 Moment**

Psalm 2 says the nations will take their stand against the Lord and His anointed. Sobel said, "On the same day that we enthroned God, the nations held court. It was like heaven and earth were aligned in a divine summons. And the world is being asked, 'Whose king will you enthrone?'"

He continued, "The nations may pass resolutions, but God has written and made his own declaration. I have set my king on Mount Zion."

## **The Call for Believers**

Rabbi Sobel emphasized that this moment is not just about land. It is about lordship. Who is King in Zion? Is it the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob revealed in Jesus or is it the rulers of this world? Every nation and every individual is standing in the valley of decision.

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Our response must be clear. We are called to:

- **Pray** for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6)
- **Proclaim** God's promises which outweigh any UN resolution
- **Prepare** our lives by aligning with God's Word and covenant purposes

## Passing the Test

If God's promises to Israel are not eternal then none of His promises are trustworthy. But because He is a covenant-keeping God we can be confident that His Word stands. [The dividing of Jerusalem](#) is not just a political issue. It is the ultimate test of faith for the nations.

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Now is the time to discern the signs of the times. Jerusalem has once again become the burdensome stone. The world is watching, heaven is weighing and the valley of decision lies open before us. The question is simple: Whose King will we enthrone?

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# NFL Picks Bad Bunny for Super Bowl: An Insult to God and America

The Super Bowl halftime show was once an American cultural centerpiece. Families could gather around the television, enjoy the game and celebrate what made this nation unique. But in recent years the NFL has turned its most-watched spectacle [into a stage for moral confusion and cultural decline](#). The selection of Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny for the 2026 halftime show is the latest and perhaps most blatant insult to both America and biblical values.

## A Performer Who Represents Rebellion

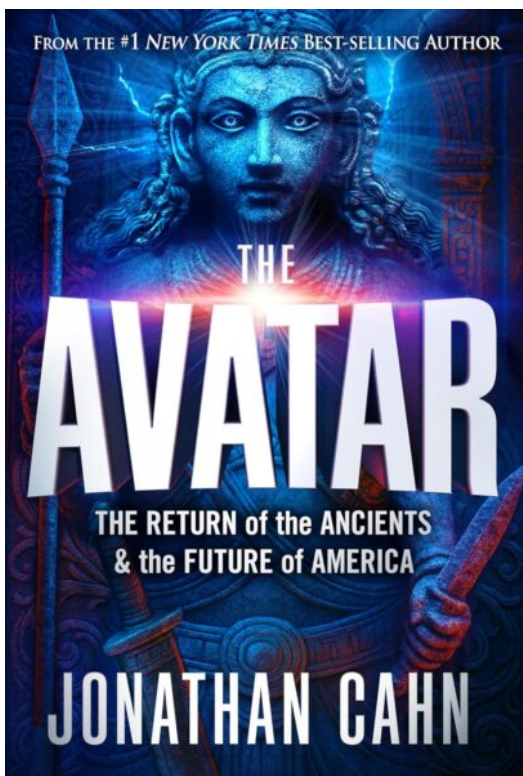
Bad Bunny is not simply a global music star. He has built his brand on rebellion. Known for crossdressing, kissing male dancers and performing sexually charged routines, he has been hailed as a “queer icon” by progressive outlets. His videos have been praised by LGBT media for promoting gender-bending imagery and his concerts regularly include shocking visuals many would describe as demonic.

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Is this really the image the NFL wants to beam into millions of American homes? Once again it seems the league would rather embrace rebellion against God’s design than celebrate what is good true and honorable.

## Anti-American Messaging

Beyond the moral issues Bad Bunny has openly taken aim at the United States. He previously vowed not to perform in the continental U.S. because of immigration enforcement policies yet the NFL is rewarding him with the most American stage of all. In his music video “NUEVAYoL” he even depicts the Statue of Liberty draped with a Puerto Rican flag as a scene of cultural conquest not unity.



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At a time when Americans long for unity tradition and respect for their country the NFL is signaling that it will side with globalist politics and cultural subversion over patriotism.

## A Spiritual Issue at the Core

As Christians we recognize that this is not simply about poor taste in entertainment. Scripture tells us in Ephesians 6:12 that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities against powers against the rulers of the darkness of this world.” The halftime show has become less

about music and more about pushing an agenda that [glorifies darkness while mocking God's created order.](#)

Even many of Bad Bunny's own fans and concert goers have pointed out the disturbing use of demonic figures and imagery at his shows. When the audience itself is calling out what looks like evil on display it should be a wake-up call that this is more than just edgy art. It is spiritual warfare playing out in real time on the biggest stage in America.

*Bad Bunny is a demonic Marxist who was been granted the largest stage with the greatest audience in the middle of a Christian revival. This is by design. We are in a spiritual war and once you see it you can't unsee it.*  
[pic.twitter.com/sEMfKIPbiC](#)

– The Redheaded libertarian (@TRHLofficial) [September 29, 2025](#)

When a performer is praised for crossdressing celebrated for shocking audiences with perversion and platforms occult imagery for mass consumption we should not be surprised. The world has exchanged the truth of God for a lie just as Romans 1:25 tells us.

## **A Call for Discernment**

The NFL's choice of Bad Bunny is not just anti-family anti-God and anti-American. It is a declaration of where our culture is headed. Christians must not shrug this off as "just entertainment." What we allow into our homes shapes the next generation.

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Instead of applauding rebellion we must pray for discernment, stand boldly for biblical truth and continue to remind this nation of the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

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Bad Bunny’s halftime show may be cheered by the culture but it will be yet another moment when America turns its back on the values that once made her strong. For Christians and patriots alike it is time to recognize the battle we are in, a battle for the soul of our nation.

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## **Revealed: The Prophetic Mystery of Yom Kippur Unlocked Through Jesus**

The heart of the Christian faith is found in the blood of Jesus. Scripture declares, “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin” (Heb. 9:22). It is through His

blood that we find redemption, freedom and new life. The gospel is centered not in works or traditions [but in the sacrifice of Christ Himself](#). As the Word reminds us, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement” (Lev. 17:11). This truth is not just theology, it is the foundation of our hope and the reason we can stand forgiven and reconciled to God.

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## **Yom Kippur and Fulfillment in Jesus**

In a teaching on Yom Kippur, Rabbi Kirt Schneider draws the connection between this most holy Jewish day and the work of Jesus on the cross. He explains, “On Yom Kippur, the high priest would take in the blood of a bull and the blood of a goat and apply it on top of the Ark of the Covenant. The New Testament refers to this top of the Ark of the Covenant as the mercy seat.”

This annual sacrifice in the Old Testament was temporary but it pointed forward to something eternal. “The book of Hebrews tells us that this blood that was poured on top of the Ark of the Covenant, of the blood of the bull and the goat, it was a shadow of the blood that would ultimately be spilled for the life of the world’s sin through God’s begotten Son.” Jesus, the innocent and guiltless One, fulfilled the law and then “offered Himself up as a sacrifice for our sins, shedding His blood so that once and for all our sins could be forgiven.”

# The Call to Apply the Blood Personally

The message of Yom Kippur is not only about history but also about personal application. Rabbi Schneider points back to Israel's deliverance from Egypt: "They weren't redeemed just because the blood was in the basin. They were only redeemed when each one personally took a hyssop branch, dipped that hyssop branch in the blood in the basin, and then applied it over the doorpost and lintels of their own home. They had to personalize it."

In the same way, each of us must receive the blood of Jesus by faith and apply it to our own lives. "It's not enough just to believe in the blood from afar. We need to take that blood and put it over our lives by becoming personal disciples of Yeshua the Nazarene." As John 1:29 declares, Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

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## Living as Disciples of Jesus

Rabbi Schneider challenges believers to live as true disciples allowing Jesus' blood to cover every part of life. "Are you waking up every morning to trying to put God first in your life, overcoming your flesh because of your obedience to Him by the grace of God?" he asks. Being a follower of Jesus touches every area—marriage, family, daily habits and the choices we make to glorify God with our bodies, His temple (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Yom Kippur, then, is not only a remembrance of ancient sacrifices but [a call to renewal](#). Schneider urges: "Some of you perhaps need to get on your knees right now and ask Him to forgive you, to cleanse you, to wash you, to cover you with His blood, to give you a new heart and a new nature that

you'll rise up from that place committed to being His disciple and following Him."

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## Hope Through the Blood

This is a message of hope not condemnation. The blood of Jesus is enough to forgive, cleanse and restore. As we reflect on Yom Kippur and its fulfillment in Christ, we can rejoice in knowing our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27). In Rabbi Schneider's words: "Straight and narrow is the way that leads to life. Few there be that find it. Will you be one of those that find it if you have not already?" (Matt. 7:14).

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

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## Marine Veteran Identified as Gunman in Michigan Church Massacre

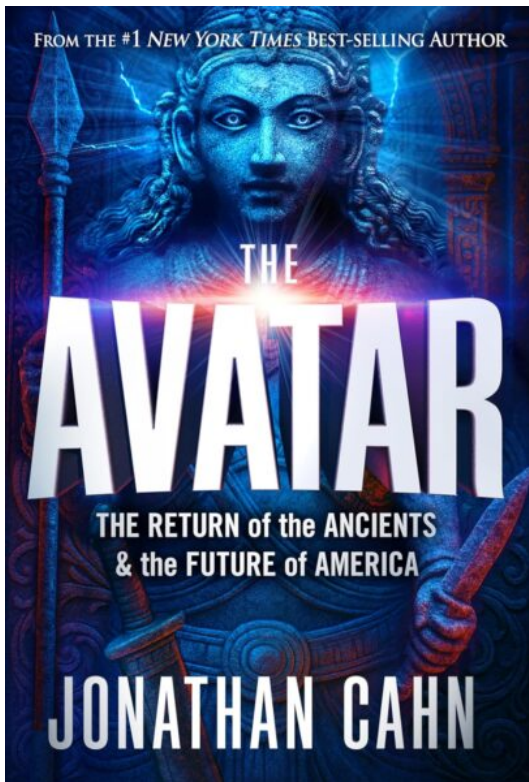
The tragedy that unfolded inside a Michigan church Sunday morning has left a community grieving and searching for answers.

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Authorities identified the suspect as [Thomas Jacob Sanford, a 40-year-old Marine veteran](#) from Burton, Michigan. Police say Sanford drove a Chevy Silverado into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township during services before opening fire on the hundreds of worshipers gathered there.



Grand Blanc Township Police Chief William Renye described the horrifying scene. “He drove his vehicle through the front doors of the church,” Renye said. “He then exited his vehicle, firing several rounds at individuals within the church. Ten gunshot victims have been transported to local hospitals at this time, including one who has died.”



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Officials later confirmed the death toll had risen. Two more victims were found inside the burned church hours after the attack bringing the total to at least four. Authorities believe Sanford set the building ablaze with gasoline or another accelerant before being killed in a shootout with police.

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## **Sanford's Military Service**

Sanford's background adds another layer of complexity to the grief. He served in the Marines from 2004 to 2008 and deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to the Marine Corps, his service included:

- Worked as an organizational automotive mechanic
- Served as a vehicle recovery operator

- Deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Achieved the rank of sergeant
- Final duty station: 2d Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2d Marine Logistics Group at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

This tragedy has left many in the Michigan community mourning, stunned that violence would erupt in a place of worship.

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As families grieve and a shaken congregation begins the painful process of healing [we must remember them in prayer.](#) Let us pray for the victims, for the families left behind and for all who were scarred by this devastating act of violence. May God bring comfort, peace and strength to those who need it most.

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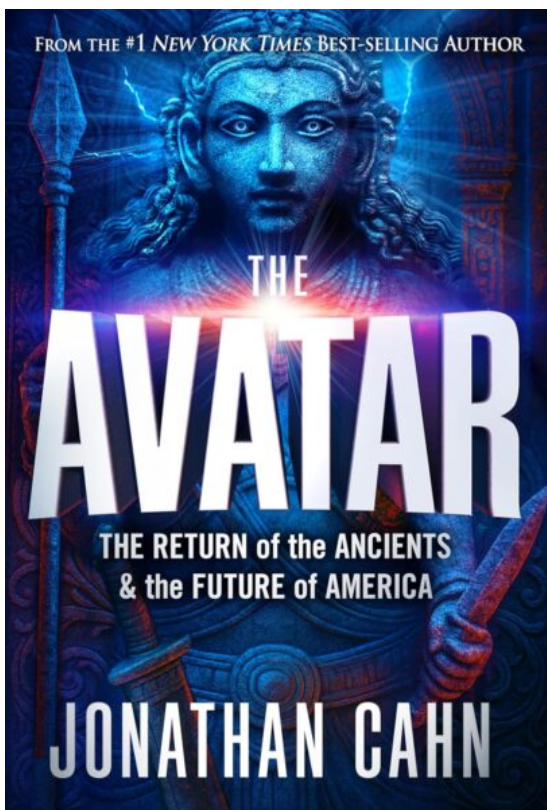
## **How Yom Kippur Breaks Cycles of Sin and Releases**

# Transformation

As the biblical calendar moves through the fall feasts, Yom Kippur stands out as a powerful day of repentance and renewal. In a recent podcast discussion, the focus was on the deep spiritual meaning of this appointed time and what it offers [to both Jewish and Christian believers.](#)

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The journey begins with Rosh Hashanah, which serves as a wake-up call to examine one's life and identify areas out of alignment with God. This leads into the 10 Days of Awe, a season of reflection and preparation that culminates in Yom Kippur. Unlike daily or individual acts of repentance, this day carries a unique weight because millions across the world engage in repentance together. The collective nature of this act releases spiritual power, creating an atmosphere of faith, renewal, and restoration.



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Families are encouraged to take their struggles—whether health, financial or relational—before the Lord during this season. Using prayers such as the Lord's Prayer as a framework, they can bring these needs before God while practicing forgiveness. Letting go of offenses, forgiving others, and even forgiving oneself opens the way for healing and transformation.

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The discussion also touched on the significance of the current Hebrew year 5786. Seen as a year of grace, perfection, new beginnings, and it is believed to be marked by a double covenant blessing. This represents a uniting of Jew and Gentile into one new humanity under God's promises.

Past gatherings on Yom Kippur have shown the power of unity when believers from diverse backgrounds come together in repentance and worship. This unity is seen as central to breaking cycles of sin and moving forward [into God's plans with strength and courage.](#)

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Ultimately, Yom Kippur is presented as a time to step out of the wilderness of fear and doubt and to enter into the promises of God through repentance, forgiveness, and unity.

If you want to learn more about the spiritual significance of Yom Kippur, watch the video above.

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## **Another Prophetic Signal Sounds from the Temple Mount**

There are moments in history that grab us by the collar and demand our attention. Not because they dominate the headlines, but because they are mile markers on God's prophetic timeline. What just took place [on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem](#) this Rosh Hashanah is one of those moments.

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In 2025 on the Gregorian calendar, but year 5786 on the Jewish calendar, nearly 900 Jews ascended the Temple Mount for Rosh Hashanah. That is the largest number in modern history for the Feast of Trumpets. Even more significant, for the fourth time since 2024 the shofar was blown on the Temple Mount after nearly 2,000 years of silence.

This time there was video. A man stood blowing the shofar as a policeman looked on. The officer did not stop him mid-blast or tackle him to the ground. He let him finish, then quietly confiscated the shofar and escorted the man away. There were no riots or clashes, just a quiet, peaceful moment. That is history unfolding before our eyes.

# The Meaning of the Shofar

The shofar has always carried deep spiritual meaning. At Mount Sinai it announced the covenant of God with His people in Exodus 19. The prophets described it as a call to repentance and readiness, such as Joel 2 and Isaiah 27:13 which says, "A great trumpet will sound and it will gather God's people from exile."

The New Testament connects the shofar to the return of Christ. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4 that "the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God." The fact that the shofar is sounding again on the Temple Mount after two millennia is not coincidence. It is a prophetic signal that we are closer than ever to the events foretold in Scripture.

## Israel Against the Nations

But the prophetic picture goes beyond Jerusalem. On Sept. 18 the United Nations Security Council held its 10,000th meeting. Members voted on a resolution demanding Israel lay down its arms and accept a permanent ceasefire with Hamas. Fourteen nations voted for the measure. The United States stood alone and vetoed the resolution.



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The American representative Morgan Ortagus said the resolution failed to condemn Hamas and instead legitimized false narratives. She was right. Yet the picture could not be clearer. Fourteen against one. Israel against the nations. This is exactly what the prophet Zechariah declared when he said Jerusalem will become a cup of trembling and a burdensome stone to all people.

The UN presents itself as a force for peace, but in reality it rewards Hamas for October 7 while condemning Israel. It pressures God's people while excusing terrorists. Scripture told us this would happen, and now it is unfolding before our eyes.

## **America's Fragile Allyship**

For now, America remains Israel's last line of defense on the world stage. Among the permanent members of the Security Council, the United States is Israel's only consistent ally. Yet this will not last forever. All it would take is a single administration to reverse course. The Biden administration came close, but the day is coming when a future administration will fully abandon Israel.

When that day arrives, Israel will stand alone. This is not speculation but biblical prophecy. Zechariah 14:2 says God will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. All nations means none will stand with Israel in the end.

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Genesis 12:3 still stands as a warning. God told Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you and curse him who curses you." To turn our back on Israel is to invite judgment upon ourselves. Do not buy into the lie that the church has replaced Israel or that God has revoked His promises. Romans 11:29 declares the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. His covenant with Abraham still stands.

## **The Prophetic Clock is Ticking**

Taken together, the shofar blasts on the Temple Mount, the world aligning against Israel, and America's fragile allyship are not random events. They are converging signs pointing us

toward the final chapters of God's plan.

Jesus told us in Matthew 24:32 to learn the lesson of the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and puts forth leaves, you know summer is near. In the same way, when we see these things, we know the end is drawing closer. This is not meant to stir fear but to wake us up. Time is short and the mission is urgent.

## **Our Call to Action**

So what must we do? Two things. First, stand with Israel. Do not be deceived by the lies of this world. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, because Psalm 122:6 promises that those who love her will prosper.

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Second, stand boldly in faith and fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus told us in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations. That is our calling until the trumpet of God sounds and Christ returns.

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