

# Erasing the Church: Evangelicals Facing Brutality from Oppressive Regime

The figure of the Antichrist is one of the most studied and speculated about in biblical prophecy. Revelation 13 describes a beast rising from the sea, empowered by Satan, who blasphemes God, deceives the nations and rules with global authority. Throughout history, countless names have been suggested, from Roman emperors to modern political leaders, yet Scripture provides its own detailed description of what this figure will be like.

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Pastor Billy Crone addressed the subject directly in a recent teaching, dismissing modern speculation and urging believers to return to the Bible. “Stop watching YouTube videos. Get off of social media. And get back to the Bible,” he said. Crone explained that claims about Donald Trump or other figures being the Antichrist are distractions, while Revelation, Daniel and 2 Thessalonians already reveal the Antichrist’s true nature.



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## What the Antichrist Will Be

### 1. The Opposite of Christ

Crone emphasized the contrast, saying, “Everything Jesus is, he’s anti. Jesus is good. He’s holy. He’s kind. He’s merciful. The Antichrist is the opposite. He is bad. He

is unholy. He's mean. He's vengeful. He is satanic" (Rev. 13:1–9).

## **2. Empowered by Satan**

From Revelation 13:2, Crone noted, "The dragon defined by Revelation 12 clearly as Satan ... gave the beast or the Antichrist his power and his throne and great authority." This supernatural empowerment fuels his blasphemous rule.

## **3. Blasphemous and proud**

Citing Revelation 13:5–6, Crone explained that the Antichrist "was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for 42 months." He will mock God and demand worship.

## **4. A Global Ruler**

Revelation 13:7 confirms the extent of his dominion: "It was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation." Crone highlighted this to show the Antichrist's control is planet-wide, not local.

## **5. A Gentile of Roman Origin**

Rejecting claims of Jewish lineage, Crone argued from Daniel 9:26–27 that "he'll be of the same ethnic identity as the people who destroyed the city and the temple ... and in AD 70 it was the Romans." For that reason, he said, the Antichrist will come from Roman Gentile descent.

## **6. A Self-deifying Figure**

Quoting Daniel 11 and 2 Thessalonians 2, Crone declared, "He will not believe in any god except for himself. ... He will claim to be greater than any god ... claiming himself to be God."

## **7. A Conqueror of the Saints**

Revelation 13:7 describes the Antichrist making war against believers in the tribulation period. Crone stressed, "He's given power to make war against the saints ... and to conquer them."

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## **What the Antichrist Will Not Be**

### **1. Not Donald Trump**

Addressing online theories, Crone said, "Many people are getting confused ... including that Trump is the Antichrist, and it ain't helping the cause." He mocked claims that the "little horn" refers to a trumpet and therefore to Trump, noting that biblically, horns symbolize power, not names.

### **2. Not Jewish**

Crone rejected the idea of a Jewish Antichrist, saying it "messes up the prophetic sequence" because the Antichrist leads the final Gentile empire, not Israel (Dan. 9:26).

### **3. Not Muslim**

He critiqued popular theories, pointing to 2 Thessalonians 2: "What Muslim would ever proclaim himself to be God? And yet that is exactly what we are told the Antichrist will do." He added that such a figure would be instantly rejected in Islam.

### **4. Not historical rulers**

Crone listed Nero, Napoleon, Hitler, JFK and Ronald Reagan as examples of false identifications. "People have been speculating ... ever since this figure was revealed in the Scripture nearly 2,000 years ago," he said, dismissing numerological tricks and conspiracies that linked them to 666.

### **5. Not modern elites accused today**

Crone pointed to common suspects such as Elon Musk, Hillary Clinton, King Charles and George Soros but focused specifically on Bill Gates as an example. He noted that some accuse Gates of being the Antichrist

because of his push for universal, trackable microchips. Crone responded directly: "He's not the Antichrist. I think he's working for the Antichrist, but he's not the Antichrist."

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Crone contended that the Antichrist will not be revealed until after the rapture, when 10 kings rise and an 11th, the "little horn," emerges in power (Dan. 7:24). He urged believers not to chase theories but to fix their hope on Christ. "I'm not looking for the Antichrist," Crone said. "I'm looking for Jesus Christ."

**James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.**

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## **Historic: Record Numbers Gather at the Temple Mount as Jewish Worship Grows**

A record number of Jewish worshippers are making their way to the Temple Mount in 2025, signaling a rising desire among the people of Israel to connect with their holiest site. This renewed interest reflects not only a cultural and religious awakening but also the stirring of biblical prophecy that points to the centrality of Jerusalem in the last days.

For some believers today, the Old Testament is often viewed as outdated or irrelevant. A few assume that when Jesus came, the

Hebrew Scriptures were set aside. But such thinking misses the foundation of the New Testament itself. Without the Law and the Prophets, the words and ministry of Jesus lose their depth and meaning. The Old Testament provides the framework through which the New Testament is fully understood.

## **The Word's of Jesus**

Rabbi Kirt Schneider, speaking from the land of Israel, reminded believers of what Jesus Himself declared. Quoting Matthew 5:17, he said, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law and the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fill full or to fulfill." Schneider explained that Jesus was "combating a mindset in which people thought He came to start a different religion."

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Schneider warned that many in the church today fall into the same error by treating the Old Testament as if it has passed away. "Jewish people don't call the Hebrew Bible the Old Testament," he said. "Because if you think about the word 'old,' old generally connotes something that has been discarded."

## **Nothing Passes Away**

Emphasizing the seriousness of Jesus' words, Schneider quoted further from Matthew 5:18: "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the law until all is accomplished." He explained that this proves the Law was not set aside at the cross. "Notice what Jesus said in the very next verse," Schneider said. "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same shall be called least in the kingdom of God."

In contrast, Schneider highlighted that Jesus called great those who uphold the Hebrew Scriptures. “Whoever keeps and teaches them, He shall be called great in the kingdom of God,” he said.

## **Treasures Old and New**

Schneider pointed to Matthew 13:52, where Jesus described scribes who became His disciples as those able to bring out “treasures old and new.” He compared it to reading a novel from the final chapters without understanding the beginning. “If you don’t understand the foundation of our Scriptures, if you don’t understand the first three quarters of it, what we call the Old Testament, you’re going to misunderstand the last quarter of it, the New Testament,” Schneider said.

## **Beyond the Letter of the Law**

Yeshua also called His followers to a higher standard than the Pharisees. Schneider reminded his audience that Jesus went to the heart of the commandments. “You have heard it said the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder,’ but I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court,” he quoted. In the same way, Jesus expanded the command against adultery to include lust in the heart.

“Yeshua is saying unless your walk with the spirit goes beyond that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you need to exceed that type of righteousness,” Schneider said.

# Walking in Forgiveness

A major part of this righteousness, Schneider stressed, is forgiveness. Quoting Jesus, he reminded listeners that reconciliation must come before worship. “This is so serious that you can’t have a relationship with God, that He can’t accept your offering until our hearts are first cleared with our brothers and sisters,” he said.

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Schneider warned that unforgiveness is more dangerous than many realize. “Unforgiveness is so serious. It’s more serious than many of us recognize,” he said, urging believers to release offenses and walk in peace with others.

## A Whole Bible Faith

The teaching of Jesus and the testimony of the apostles both affirm the continuing role of the Old Testament. Paul, Schneider noted, was referring to the Hebrew Scriptures when he wrote that “all Scripture is inspired by God.” For Christians today, this means that the fullness of God’s revelation cannot be grasped without both testaments.

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To understand the New Covenant fully, one must also honor and study the Hebrew Bible. Believers are called to know God through His entire Word, to see both the treasures old and new, and to walk in the spirit of truth revealed from Genesis to Revelation.

**James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.**

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# A Prophetic Warning for Hebrew Year 5786

In the middle of global debates over Israel's role in the world, former Arkansas governor and current U.S. ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee says the reality is simple: America needs Israel just as much as Israel needs America.

Huckabee shared his perspective during a recent episode of The Watchman Newscast with host Erick Stakelbeck. Speaking from Jerusalem, the two discussed Israel's contributions to the United States, the rise of antisemitism, and why the relationship between the nations is vital both politically and spiritually.

## A Two-Way Relationship

Huckabee pushed back against claims that the alliance is one-sided. "It's an incredible benefit to the United States," he said. "If you like your cell phone, thank Israel for it. The development of the SIM card is the reason we have cell phones today. Do you like some of the medical procedures that have saved maybe a relative's life? Heart stents, swallowing the little camera that lets the doctor see inside your intestines—developed here."

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He pointed to other innovations such as car navigation systems, seedless watermelon, and cherry tomatoes. "And then defense systems," he added. "We can't even begin to talk about all the ways in which things that protect Americans every

single day, that protect our soldiers in battle medically and militarily, were first field tested and used by the Israeli Defense Force.”

## **Rising Criticism and Propaganda**

Despite these tangible benefits, Huckabee noted growing hostility toward Israel, even among some on the American right. “It’s disturbing, very frightening to me because a lot of it is based on innuendo and lies,” he warned. He criticized the use of rhetorical devices like “everyone knows” to spread conspiracy theories. “The fact is it isn’t true. Next thing you know it becomes considered to be a fact. It’s not a fact.”

He suggested that much of this shift stems from propaganda rather than firsthand knowledge. “Knowing that they haven’t been here, they haven’t spent any time in Israel tells me it’s not based on firsthand eyewitness understanding. It’s based on what someone told them. The question is, what propagandist told him that and who’s paying them to continue saying it?”



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## **The Spiritual Roots of Antisemitism**

Huckabee argued that antisemitism cannot be explained by politics alone. “Anti-semitism is irrational. It makes no sense,” he said. “Why would you hate Jewish people? They’re less than 1% of the population. What are they going to do? Take over the world with one less than 1%? No.”

Instead, he pointed to a deeper issue: “This is not a geopolitical issue. This is a spiritual issue. If they really are God’s people in God’s place doing God’s purpose, then people who reject God see them as an affront. And so let’s hate them, let’s destroy them, let’s annihilate them.”

# Standing with Israel

For Huckabee, America's connection to Israel is more than political or practical, it is biblical. "As Christians, our own faith is predicated, built upon Judaism," he explained. "So if there wasn't a Jewish people, if there were not Ten Commandments, if there was not a progression of the light and law of God in the world, there would be no Christianity."

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That conviction fuels his call for Americans to remain steadfast in supporting Israel. "America and Israel share this fundamental common value system that the individual matters," he said. "They embody it. They represent it. They're the holders of that candle. Let's not blow out the candle."

## A Biblical Mandate

At a time when global leaders and media voices increasingly challenge Israel's legitimacy, Huckabee insists that the United States cannot afford to waver in its support. From technology to defense, Israel strengthens America. From a spiritual perspective, Israel preserves the foundation of the Christian faith.

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"People today, most of the world, live like they did in the time of the judges when the Bible says that everyone did what was right in his own eyes," Huckabee said. In contrast, he pointed to Israel as a living testimony of God's covenant promises.

Supporting Israel is not just about politics: it is about standing with God's Word and His people.

James Lasher *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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# Why the World Will Be at Its Worst When Jesus Returns

The conversation surrounding end-times prophecy continues to intensify as new developments in Israel and the Middle East raise questions about the fulfillment of biblical signs. From the Temple Mount to the rebuilding of Babylon and the long-anticipated rapture of the church, many Christians are watching closely.

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Pastors James Kaddis and Tom Hughes, hosts of the program Countdown 2 Eternity, recently discussed these prophetic topics in depth. Their dialogue touched on the biblical significance of the Temple Mount, global events tied to Babylon and the proper perspective on the rapture.

## 1. The Temple

Kaddis and Hughes began with the Temple Mount, directly addressing debates about its historic location. Hughes insisted, "Once you go to the city of David you recognize it's beyond the city of David. Everybody geographically impossible. It's impossible. Plus, they've dug down 4,000 years of history. There ain't no temple that was ever there."

He went on to note that Hadrian, the Roman emperor in 135

A.D., knew precisely where the temple had stood: “Historians tell you he built a shrine to who? Zeus, Jupiter, Satan. That’s what he did.”

Looking to the future, Hughes described the prophetic expectation of two temples: the Antichrist’s temple, tied to 2 Thessalonians 2, Revelation 11 and Daniel 9, and the Messianic temple described in Ezekiel 40 and onward. “The one person in the universe that wants a temple built there more than anybody else is Satan,” he said. “Through Antichrist, he’s attempting to usurp the authority of Jesus so that his man will stand in the temple and proclaim to be God.”



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## **2. Babylon**

The discussion turned from Jerusalem to Iraq, where large-scale infrastructure projects are underway. Hughes noted that billions of dollars are being poured into development in the region historically associated with Babylon. “It’s all been done behind the curtain. I find it absolutely fascinating. And...in all of the articles you read about it, they all say the same thing. They call it Babylon,” he said.

This observation was tied to prophetic anticipation that end-times events will center not only on Jerusalem but also on a resurgent Babylon. The pastors suggested that what is unfolding economically and politically in the region aligns with biblical warnings about the final global system described in Revelation.

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### **3. The Rapture**

Finally, Kaddis and Hughes addressed growing speculation about the rapture. They warned against the habit of predicting specific dates, particularly around Jewish feast days like Rosh Hashanah. Hughes said, "If you hear anybody telling you the Lord is going to come on this date, don't ever listen to them again. They're not credible. They're not credible people."

Kaddis added, "I would rather be wrong and excited about the Lord coming than not excited." But both agreed that setting dates leads to discouragement and damages credibility when those dates pass uneventfully.

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As prophetic events accelerate, Kaddis and Hughes emphasized the need for discernment. While the temple preparations, Babylon's rebuilding and the expectation of Christ's return all carry biblically prophetic weight, believers are urged to stay rooted in Scripture and cautious of sensational claims. Above all, Christians are called to watch, pray and avoid the trap of repeatedly predicting a day and hour that Jesus Himself said no one knows.

**James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.**