

The Jesus Revolution That Led to America's Founding: Can It Happen Again?

The young preacher, dressed in his Anglican clerical robe, stood on the steps of the Philadelphia courthouse and addressed the massive crowd of 10,000 or more gathered before him. It was 1739, and the preacher was 25-year-old George Whitefield, who had come from England to America with the prayer in his heart that the people would no longer live as 13 divided colonies but as "one nation under God."

Knowing there were people of many sects and denominations in the crowd, he decided to challenge their divisions and so mimicked a conversation with Father Abraham, whom he pictured as looking over the banister of heaven at them all.

Looking up toward heaven, Whitefield cried out, "Father Abraham, are there any Anglicans in heaven?"

The answer came back, "No, there are no Anglicans in heaven."

Whitefield continued, "Father Abraham, are there any Methodists in heaven?"

The answer came back, "No, there are no Methodists here either."

Whitefield cried out again, "Father Abraham, are there any Puritans in heaven?"

"No, there are no Puritans here either."

"What about Baptists and Quakers?" cried Whitefield as he continued to gaze heavenward.

"There are none of those here either."

Finally, with a note of desperation in his voice, Whitefield cried out, "Father Abraham, what kind of people are in heaven?"

The answer came back, "There are only Christians in heaven, only those washed in the blood of the Lamb."

Whitefield then cried out, "Oh, is that the case? Then God help me, and God help us all, to forget about labels and become Christians in deed and in truth."

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There were many audible sighs, groans and tears as Whitefield presented his case for Jesus being the center of our faith. Benjamin Franklin was one of those in the crowd, and he described the profound influence of Whitefield's preaching on them all, saying, "From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if the whole world were growing religious" (Hyatt, "1726, the Year That Defined America," 79).

It Was a Jesus Revolution

It was the Christ-centered preaching of Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards and others that ignited what historians call the Great Awakening. I am here calling it a "Jesus Revolution" because of the exaltation of Jesus in every aspect of the awakening. Denominational and sectarian allegiances were dissolved, and a young George Washington prayed, "Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind and let the world be filled with knowledge of Thee and Thy Son Jesus Christ" (Hyatt, 132).

It was this Christ-centered preaching that led to a common cry during the conflict with Great Britain, "We recognize no Sovereign but God and no king but Jesus!" This cry originated just before the gunfire erupted at Lexington in April of 1775. The British officer, Major John Pitcairn, shouted to an

assembled group of minutemen, “Disperse, ye villains, lay down your arms in the name of George the Sovereign King of England.” Rev. Jonas Clarke, who was standing with the minutemen, shouted back, “We recognize no Sovereign but God and no king but Jesus!” (Hyatt, “Pilgrims and Patriots (Second Edition,” 117).

This cry caught the imagination of American patriots everywhere and soon rang throughout the colonies. It became so prominent that a British-appointed governor, Jonathan Trumbull, wrote back to England, “If you ask an American who is his master, he will tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ” (Hyatt, “Pilgrims and Patriots (Second Edition),” 117).

The First Congress Opens With Prayer in the Name of Jesus

Against this backdrop, it is not surprising that the First Continental Congress opened on Sept. 5, 1774, with an extended time of Bible reading and prayer in the name of Jesus. Fifty-six delegates were present from all 13 colonies except Georgia. They had gathered at Carpenter’s Hall in Philadelphia to discuss how they should respond to the British invasion of their land.

It was a very troubling time. King George of England had sent six regiments of British soldiers who had occupied the city of Boston, closed its port and revoked the right of the people to self-government. British soldiers were being quartered in people’s homes apart from their consent. This was George’s tyrannical response to protests that had erupted, especially in New England, over his burdensome taxes and regulations on the colonists without any input on their part.

Having been impacted by the Great Awakening and its Christ-centered message, the delegates, which included Anglicans,

Puritans, Presbyterians, Quakers and others, agreed to open with Bible reading and prayer. Samuel Adams, a Puritan from New England, suggested that they invite Rev. Jacob Duche, an Anglican minister of Philadelphia, who was known as a man of deep spirituality, to come and lead them in prayer.

As the elderly, grey-haired Duche stood before the Congress, he began by reading the entire 35th psalm, which powerfully impacted everyone present. It is a prayer of David for deliverance and begins with the words, "Plead *my cause*, O Lord, with those who strive with me; fight against those who fight against me" (Ps. 35:1, NKJV). The psalm ends with praise for God's deliverance.

America's Founding Prayer

After reading the psalm, Duche began praying for the delegates, for America and especially for the city of Boston and its inhabitants who were under siege. As he began praying, the Anglicans, such as George Washington and Richard Henry Lee, knelt in prayer, according to their custom. The Puritans, such as Samuel Adams and John Adams, sat with bowed heads and prayed. Others prayed according to their own unique customs.

But although their outward manners differed, there was a singleness of heart and purpose as they all united in prayer, in the name of Jesus, for God's assistance and intervention for America. Duche lifted his voice in prayer, saying,

O Lord, our high and mighty Father, heavenly king of kings, and Lord of Lords, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers of the earth, and reignest with power supreme over all kingdoms, empires, and governments. Look down in mercy we beseech thee on these our American states who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee they have appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for

that countenance and support which Thou alone can give ... Shower down upon them and the millions they represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting joy in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ Thy Son and our Savior. Amen.

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John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, of the impact of the Bible reading and prayer on the delegates, saying, "Who can realize the emotions with which they turned imploringly to heaven for divine interposition and aid. It was enough to melt a heart of stone. I never saw a greater effect upon an audience" (Hyatt, "1726," 108).

America for Jesus

In early America, there was no hesitancy about mentioning the name of Jesus as the object of faith and expressing the desire that such faith be spread throughout the earth. For example, in a meeting with chiefs of the Delaware tribe, who had brought some of their youth to be trained in American schools, George Washington said to them, "You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all the religion of Jesus Christ." (Hyatt, 172).

John Hancock served as president of the Continental Congress, and his signature is the largest and most prominent on the Declaration of Independence. While serving as governor of Massachusetts in 1793, he proclaimed a Day of Prayer and Humiliation and asked the people to pray for "The spreading of the true religion of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, in all its purity and power, among all the people of the earth." (Hyatt, 173).

Although Thomas Jefferson was known to have questioned the deity of Jesus, he was convinced that the moral teachings of Jesus were the key to a stable and prosperous society. Take, for example, the so-called Jefferson Bible, which is a misleading misnomer by modern historians. Jefferson titled it "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth," and in it, he meticulously brought together the teachings of Jesus into a single volume for his own study but also for evangelizing and instructing Native American tribes. He even took money from the federal treasury to pay for a missionary to the Kaskaskia tribe. Jefferson was a Jesus Revolutionary, and he once said, "The philosophy of Jesus is the most sublime and benevolent code of morals ever offered to man. A more beautiful or precious morsel of ethics I have never seen."

The Fruit of this Early American Jesus Revolution

– **Americans became a tolerant people.** This should not be surprising, for it was Jesus who said, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). They, of course, never lived up to this standard but it was acknowledged by all and served as a positive force pulling them in the right direction. This tolerance showed itself in an early July Fourth parade in Philadelphia. Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745–1813), a devout Christian and signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote, "The rabbi of the Jews locked in the arms of two ministers of the Gospel was a most delightful sight" (Hyatt, 'America's Revival Heritage,' 97).

– **Slavery became anathema throughout America.** In my book "1726," I have documented how a powerful abolition movement was ignited by this Jesus awakening that turned every Founding Father against slavery at a time it was accepted and

practiced in most of the world. Impacted by the awakening, abolitionists used the teachings of Jesus to oppose slavery, saying that if people lived by His teachings, such as “love your neighbor as yourself” and “do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” it would quickly put an end to slavery (Hyatt, 1726, 98-99)

– **Denominational divisions were healed.** The animosity between Anglicans, Puritans, Baptists, Quakers and others ran deep. In the Old World, the Anglican Church, the state church of England, had harassed and persecuted all these groups, which is why they fled to the New World. In the New World, the Anglicans of Virginia, the Puritans of New England, the Baptists of Rhode Island and the Quakers of Pennsylvania all persecuted each other. But in the Christ-centered preaching of the awakening, these divisions melted as the people saw Jesus Himself to be the essence and object of their faith. Commenting on Whitefield’s final visit to America in 1770, the historian Benjamin Hart wrote,

The true Spirit of Christ had dissolved sectarian differences. America considered itself to be a nation of Christians, pure and simple, as Whitefield noted with satisfaction. “Pulpits, hearts and affections,” he said, were opened to him and any preacher of whatever denomination who had a true Christian message to share.

(Hyatt, “1726,” 87-88)

With religious, racial and cultural barriers being breached, the people began, for the first time, to see themselves as a single people—“one nation under God” as Whitefield had prayed. This is why the late Harvard professor Perry Miller declared, “The Declaration of Independence of 1776 was a result of the evangelical preaching of the evangelists of the Great Awakening” (Hyatt, “2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity, 112).

America Must Have Another Jesus Revolution

The hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, a very close friend and mentor to George Whitefield at Oxford University. This Jesus-honoring hymn must have been sung by Whitefield and the massive crowds to which he preached in colonial America. One stanza says,

*Jesus! the name that charms our fears/ That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears/'Tis life and health and peace.*

Let us pray for another Jesus Revolution across America that will impact people of every religious and theological persuasion. It is the biblical thing to do. It is also the American thing to do.

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This article is derived from books by Dr. Eddie Hyatt, including "1726: The Year that Defined America," "America's Revival Heritage (Second Edition)" and "Pilgrims and Patriots (Second Edition)." These books and more are available from Amazon and his website at .

Pastor Jack Hibbs on the

Democrat Party: 'It's a Death Cult'

Pastor Jack Hibbs recently took to Twitter to discuss the issue of voting for Christians.

"Hey everybody, first of all, let me preface what I'm about to say," Hibbs begins. "That I personally am a monarchist. I believe in a ruling, reigning King. I'm waiting for Him to bring His politics to us in His coming."

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Hibbs believes that there have been great issues in the past with both the Democratic and Republican parties. However, he says that the two have gone on such diverging paths that he no longer believes Christians can feasibly vote for Democrats.

"Regarding this upcoming election who should you vote for: For the Christian, it's super easy. Because if you pull back rhetoric and emotion it's a slam dunk. There is one party that's more pro-life than the other. In fact, the other is 100 percent pro-death. It's a death cult. And I'm talking about the Democrat Party," he continues.

Hibbs says that the issue of abortion and life alone should be enough to help guide and direct Christians with their decision of who to vote for.

"The Democrat Party is in fact a bonafide, card-carrying, platform-holding, death cult," Hibbs says. "Just on this topic alone, a Christian cannot vote for a Democrat candidate. It's impossible. You cannot say to God, 'I am a lover of God, a lover of the Word, a lover of Jesus, and I'm a follower of My Lord, but I'm going to vote to kill babies.'"

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Hibbs points out that while we have free will to vote however we want, we will have to someday stand before God and give an account of our actions, including how we voted.



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"The flip side is this; I'm going to vote Republican for this reason: Because with that I get J.D. Vance, I get Tulsi 're going to have a plethora of great people in their land and it is not totally, but it is still a pro-life platform, and that's how I'm going to vote," Hibbs concludes.

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

September Prophetic Word: The Month of Double Jeopardy

There is a real enemy who comes to steal, kill and destroy our souls. But Christ came to give us life and life more abundantly.

In his September prophetic word, Tomi Arayomi says the word God gave him for this month is one which will continue to

carry over into next year as well. However, even as Satan will try everything in his power to damage the members of the body of Christ, God's blood and grace is more than enough to forgive us of all our sins.

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"This is the month of double jeopardy," Arayomi says. "The Spirit of God says this month is going to be the month where the enemy is going to try double jeopardy to open cases that God said was shut."

"Now, we know that the Bible says that the enemy is our adversary. He is the prosecutor, the Satan, as the Bible calls it, which means literally a prosecutor or somebody who opposes someone in a court of law," he continues.

Arayomi says right now there are many who are being accused by this accuser. Arayomi points out that these accusations may even be true. However, he encourages Christians to think about the fact that we tend to be okay when others are accused of something, but we ourselves would not like it if our sins were exposed to the world. Instead, this is the moment to ask God what kind of darkness is lying dormant within ourselves so we can repent.

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"The Spirit of God says this: 'Whatever you do not allow Me to expose in the secret place, I will expose in the public place,'" Arayomi says.

Arayomi warns how the enemy will try to ridicule people about sins which God already covered with the blood of Christ.

“Many of you are operating now in a place of fear saying, ‘God, you know, is my history, my past, about to be re-dug?’ And the Spirit of God says: ‘The enemy is playing a game of double jeopardy to force cases out from under the blood that the Lord said were sealed by His blood a long time ago.’”

It is key for the body of Christ to remember that who the Son sets free is free indeed. Romans 8:39 tells us, “Neither height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” There is nothing greater than the power of Christ, and He bought us with His own life. No matter the struggle, Jesus has the power to redeem us for all eternity.

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

Christian Support for Trump and Prominent Advocate Under CBS News Spotlight

CBS News did a feature story Wednesday on Lance Wallnau, whom the network characterized as the “ring leader” of the Christian nationalist movement.

Wallnau was an early Christian supporter of Donald Trump’s candidacy in 2015, feeling that God showed him he was to be a

Cyrus-like leader for our time.

In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, chapter 45, the prophet wrote decades before about the rise of a leader named Cyrus, a Gentile who would free the Jewish people from their Babylonian captivity around 538 B.C.

In 2016, most other evangelical leaders were backing GOP presidential primary candidates like Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas or Dr. Ben Carson, but Wallnau saw God's hand on Trump, who would, in fact, go on to be the 45th president.

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CBS' Major Garrett appeared to take a negative view of Wallnau and those Christians who share his belief that they must be actively involved in the political process.

"Under a massive circus tent in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Lance Wallnau is the ring leader preaching Christian nationalism and political activism to a rapturous following," Garrett began. Wallnau has been hitting swing states as part of his "Courage Tour," since the spring, along with evangelist Mario Murillo.

Garrett continued, "Wallnau is a business consultant and firebrand influencer in the growing Christian nationalist movement, reaching millions of believers across his platforms."

So what does Garrett want his viewers to know so far? Wallnau is a "Christian nationalist," a term the left made up to try to tie people who believe in Jesus and love their country to white nationalism.

The reporter also highlighted that it's a growing movement filled with "rapturous" followers – in other words, he implied, they're irrational.

So we can see where this is going already.

“He views Trump as a once-in-a-thousand-years figure, flawed, yet divinely chosen to navigate chaotic times,” Garrett said.

Subtext: What sort of looney person would see Donald Trump like that?



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CBS is not the first mainstream news outlet to report about Wallnau seeing Trump as God's choice.

USA Today featured him in a story days after the 2016 election titled, “Meet the evangelicals who prophesied a Trump win.”

The news outlet noted that Wallnau had written an article for Charisma Magazine, published Oct. 5, 2016, titled, “Why I Believe Donald Trump Is the Prophesied President.”

Wallnau told Garrett the stakes are high in the current race between Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris.

“I don't see how anyone with moral clarity sits out an election like this. I mean, the issues are so clear,” Wallnau said. “I tell Christians, I say, ‘You know what? What would you say during the Civil War?’”

Then, the issue was whether slavery would continue to exist in America. The abolition movement was, in fact, fueled by Christians.

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Garrett also interviewed author Matthew Taylor for his story to ensure that, if you didn't already have a negative view of Wallnau and the supposed Christian nationalist movement, this “religious scholar” would help get you there.

“They’re using the experiences of charismatic spirituality to galvanize Christians politically,” Taylor said, adding people like Wallnau believe in “demonic conspiracies.”

In a post on X about the CBS story, Taylor wrote, “It’s also crucial that we call attn to the immense & covert threat to Amer democracy Wallnau [and] the Courage Tour” represent.

Garrett at least allowed Wallnau to explain the purpose of his Courage Tour, though the reporter appeared to gaze at him askance during the exchange.

“The tendency to just look at elections, pray about them, eat popcorn, watch the result and then go to bed is over,” Wallnau told the newsman. “Christians, as believers, probably should be engaged in this process of shaping culture far more aggressively and intentionally from now on.”

The CBS story about Wallnau, as well as those by other news outlets, is proof he should continue to activate Christian voters who want to help Make America Great Again.

This article originally appeared on The Western Journal, and is reposted with permission.

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**‘The Dragon’s Prophecy’
Rockets to No. 1 on Amazon’s**

Global Bestseller List!

Readers Around the World Race to Grab Jonathan Cahn's Most Mind-Blowing Book Yet

Jonathan Cahn's explosive new book, "The Dragon's Prophecy," published by Charisma Media on Sept. 3, in one day soared to No. 1 on Amazon—the world's largest bookseller—adding to the legacy of his eight previous New York Times bestsellers.

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- No. 2 of all books in the world on Amazon (of all categories).
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Cahn has been named "one of the top 40 spiritual leaders of the last 40 years to have radically impacted the world" and is known for uncovering ancient mysteries in biblical texts while bringing forth stunning prophetic messages. His popularity among readers worldwide is unmatched.

Some Tremendous News & Thanks From Jonathan Cahn

Back in 2012, Cahn's first book, "The Harbinger," became a New York Times bestseller in its first week, and many of his other books, such as "The Paradigm" (2017) , "The Oracle" (2019), "The Harbinger II" (2020) and "The Josiah Manifesto" (2023), have dominated rankings worldwide in an unprecedented manner and made spectacular entries on multiple bestseller lists.

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time ever, Cahn opens up end-times prophecy to reveal the mysteries behind the End of the Age and what is now happening before our eyes—even the hidden keys to victory in the light of what’s coming—and how to overcome the Dragon in your own life.



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‘The Dragon’s Prophecy’ Rockets to No. 1 on Amazon’s Global Bestseller List!

Readers Around the World Race to Grab Jonathan Cahn’s Most Mind-Blowing Book Yet

Megachurch Pastor Claps Back at Critics of Large Churches

Texas-based Pastor Ed Young believes those who think megachurches are “just too big” are hypocrites.

The founder and senior pastor of the multi-site Fellowship Church in Grapevine issued the bold statement in a video shared to his Facebook page. Young’s church, for context, reported a weekly attendance of 24,000 in 2020. The preacher noted in his video many have told him his

congregation “is just too big,” but asserted it’s unfair to criticize the sizes of churches in places with large populations.

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“‘Your church is just too big,’” Young said, quoting what he’s heard from critics of Fellowship Church. “I’ve heard people tell me that a lot: ‘It’s too big. It’s a megachurch.’ Well, that’s got to be one of the most hypocritical statements someone can make, because the person making the statement goes to massive concerts. They would go to a game – a football game. They would go to a massive mall, and they never really say that about those entities.”

According to the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, a megachurch is a church averaging 2,000 or more weekly attenders. There were roughly 1,170 megachurches in the U.S. in 2023, a decrease from the 1,750 megachurches reported by the Hartford Institute in 2020.

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Young went on to boldly assert, “Hey, if you think the church is too big, then you’re not going to like Heaven, because Heaven is going to be a big place. If a church is around a lot of people, it should be big in the context of being big.”



To order Phil Hotsenpiller’s “It’s Midnight in America,” visit .

In 2020, a Lifeway Research study found the average church in the U.S. seats roughly 200 people, but the median weekly attendance is 65 worshipers. Megachurches, it should be noted, only make up about 0.5% of churches across the country,

serving about 4 million weekly congregants.

To read the full story, visit our content partners at Faithwire.

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Without This, You Can't Have True Success

People search for happiness in a lot of places. They look to things like relationships, money, vacations, houses, clothes and even open doors of opportunity. Yet, while these things can bring a certain level of excitement for a period of time, *happiness* is based on what is happening “in the moment.”

I was a Christian for several years before I understood that enjoying true peace, joy and fulfillment is the most important thing in life. It goes far beyond happiness to a deeper joy, regardless of our circumstances. And no matter what we own, where we go or what we do, there is only one thing that can give us this true satisfaction—*God*.

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Simply put, without Him, we will never truly be able to experience daily joy.

Psalm 27:4 (AMPC) has become one of my life's foundational

Scriptures. It says, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, *and* [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold *and* gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, *and* inquire in His temple."

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"Seek" is a strong word. It means "to crave, pursue and go after something with all of your might." Many people want a deeper relationship with God—and they want to experience the immense joy and fulfillment that comes with it—but they don't *crave* and *pursue* Him or lay aside other things in order to have it.

I love Psalm 16:11, which says, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

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Taylor Swift Summons Demons in New Footage

Taylor Swift is back at it again when it comes to summoning in the demonic realm.

On X, footage of Swift watching a Chiefs football game has gone viral. However, if you look closely, the necklace she is wearing isn't just another piece of jewelry.

"Pay close attention to Taylor Swift's 'jewelry'! What do you notice?" Matt Wallace posted on X sharing footage of Swift wearing the necklace.

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Josette Caruso also posted an image of the necklace with the caption, "Occult inspired black hole necklace!"

Vogue covered Taylor Swift's outfit, stating that the necklace is a coin pendant, styled from the 1970s by the company For Future Reference. A similar necklace by Future Reference online ranges anywhere between \$5,000 to nearly \$11,000 dollars.



The same brand also designs a ruby and diamond ring engraved to look like snakes that costs \$2,200.



However, this isn't the first time that Swift's jewelry has been questioned. Just a couple of weeks ago, Swift was seen wearing a pendant with a goddess inscribed on it.

According to Hello! Canada, Swift was seen wearing a pendant with Rhiannon, the Welsh goddess on it. Britannica defines Rhiannon as the goddess who was "accused of killing her infant son, and in punishment she was forced to act as a horse and to carry visitors to the royal court."

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If you're skeptical of Swift's jewelry choices, more footage has come out from her concerts which show blatant Satanic rituals being performed in the middle of the show.

"Taylor Swift performs a satanic ritual during one of her concerts," one commentator wrote on X.

The video highlights people wearing full black robes swaying from side to side during the performance. The music itself also has an eerie tone to it.

"Wait for the signal. They'll meet you after," Swift sings before the dancer in the robes start moving cryptically with fire behind them, lifting up lanterns as she sings.



To pre-order John Ramirez's book, "Exposing the Devil's Playbook," visit .

Even stranger, is the footage of Zeena LaVey Schreck, the daughter of Anton LaVey who started the Church of Satan. The resemblance of LaVey and Swift is uncanny.

Speaking of Swift's witch-like performance, one commentator sarcastically said, "That doesn't look like a summoning right. Just speculation, right?"

In another clip from the show, a viewer can be heard saying, "summon the demons."

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Hillsong Founder Brian Houston Attempts Ministry Comeback

After a string of legal problems, mysterious accusations and the shocking ouster from his own church in Sydney, Australia, Brian Houston, founder of global megachurch Hillsong, along with his wife, Bobbie, is in the comeback process. In July, he launched a new online church called .

Is Houston simply misunderstood? Did he make some errors in judgment while under immense stress over the burgeoning allegations related to his father's tenure? Can he be trusted in ministry leadership again? Despite the exercise of his faith and best intentions, will Houston's past define his future in ministry?

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"Don't ever write off a comeback. God is good at those," Houston posted earlier this year on X, soon after announcing his plan to launch the new online ministry.

Season of Scandal and Cleansing

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The return of Brian Houston to ministry comes at an interesting time. Within the past several months, several high-profile Christian ministers have fallen into scandals

that ended with their departures from their churches. The list includes Mike Bickle, followed by Tony Evans and Robert Morris, this latter few located in Dallas, Texas, in what used to be known as the "Bible Belt." The age of the celebrity pastor may be over, especially as people—Christians and non-Christians alike—are skeptical of pastors who are more interested in their own celebrity, brand building and social media followers in the hundreds of thousands than in ministering Jesus to people and living righteously before the Lord.

However, Houston may fit well in this blossoming post-celebrity pastor era because he has consistently focused his ministry on Jesus, and he has a track record of approaching challenges as a leader rather than an influencer seeking fame. He doesn't seem to be trying to build Hillsong 2.0. God is doing a new thing.

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