

Jonathan Cahn and the Mystery of Christmas

Is there a prophetic message behind Christmas?

In a special Christmas message to his Beth-Israel congregation, Jonathan Cahn discusses the prophetic mystery surrounding Christmas and the “fullness of time.”

“Paul said, ‘In the fullness of time, God sent His Son,’” Cahn states.



To order Jonathan Cahn’s new #1 best-selling book, “The Dragon’s Prophecy,” visit .

During the time of Christ’s birth, the Roman Empire reigned, the poets were quite active, pagan priests, also known as the magi, were studying the stars, Herod’s tyranny was felt by many and the Saducees and Pharisees ruled Judaism without a true heart for the Lord. When all these cultural, political and religious events converged, the fullness of time for Christ to enter our world had finally arrived.

“In a little town,” Cahn says, “A little province of a little country in the backwater of the Roman Empire, a child is born, and the entire age is going to hang on that moment. The whole age is going to change. Soon, every person, virtually every person born on this planet will mark every event of their life by that event in Bethlehem.”

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It is this moment that the whole world would live by moving forward as time itself would now be known as before and after

Christ. The birth of a baby in a manger, at the right moment, during the fullness of time, was the most unexpected but necessary miracle for our world. Like this miracle, God is working out everything for our best, all with His perfect timing.

“The most important things in your life happen in the quiet with God,” says Cahn. “The greatest things come often in the smallest, unlikely ways. What appears to be the greatest things are often little things in the sight of heaven.”

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Cahn says it is the things first recognized in the heart, much like our relationship with Jesus, that end up becoming the driving force for where we are going. These are the events the world offers no room for, yet they often are of the greatest importance. This was true for Mary and Joseph when none of the inns in Bethlehem had a vacancy which led to Jesus’ birth in a stable. The greatest event in human history took place in a quiet, insignificant location.

“Just like Bethlehem, it starts out then it changed your whole life,” he says. “So often [with] the most important events, there’s no room in this world for the most important things in your life.

“It was in the quiet, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Word.”

This Christmas is the perfect time to reflect on the ways God has moved in our lives, especially in those quiet moments.

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

First Christmas: A Pentecost Moment

Some Christians are notorious for downplaying the Holy Spirit. Many churches lock Him in a box of tradition or just ignore Him. Others treat the third person of the Trinity as if He magically appeared in the book of Acts like a genie from a bottle and then disappeared after the early church was established. And strict cessationists completely deny that the Spirit works in miraculous ways today.

Yet Luke, who recorded the account of Pentecost in the book of Acts, paid close attention to the work of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel that bears his name. That's why the book of Luke is sometimes called "the Pentecostal Gospel." Regent University theologian Graham Twelftree says Luke "has more to say about the Spirit than any other biblical writer does."

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Luke did not limit the Spirit's activity to the miracles of Jesus or the divine interruption of Pentecost. He made it clear in his account of Jesus' birth that the Christmas story was initiated by the Holy Spirit and fully bathed in His power. We should pay closer attention to the Spirit's work. There would be no Christmas without the Holy Spirit.

First, consider Zacharias, John the Baptist's father. Zacharias has been criticized because he doubted God's ability to give his barren wife a child. But Luke reminds us that after Zacharias was struck dumb, he was filled with the Spirit when he first saw his infant son (see Luke 1:67). At that moment he began to prophesy. Humbled and chastised by God,

Zacharias gained new strength from the Spirit and uttered one of the richest Messianic promises in Scripture. He made a mistake in the beginning, but he finished well!



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Second, look at Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother. She never appears in typical nativity scenes, and she is viewed as a minor player in the story. Yet Luke declares that she was filled with the Holy Spirit when Mary came to visit her (see Luke 1:41). Immediately the Spirit's power was displayed. Luke says Elizabeth "cried out with a loud voice" (Luke 1:42, NASB) and announced that Mary was carrying the Christ child. Her prophetic encouragement was crucial in Mary's life.

Third, consider the infant John. According to Luke 1:15, He was filled with the Holy Spirit while in his mother's womb, :15. This was exceptional! I've never met a baby who was filled with the Spirit, much less an unborn child who experienced such an infilling. Yet because John's task was so great—calling a wayward Israel to repentance and prepare the way for Jesus—he needed exceptional power.

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'Prophecy Fulfilled': Candace Cameron Bure Explains Nativity's Prophetic Role in Scripture

The Christmas season is always busy for Candace Cameron Bure, an actress who regularly churns out holiday films among other popular projects.

Bure frequently discusses her Christian faith, sharing with fans how reading through the entirety of the Bible each year has helped inspire and grow her faith. "The Bible Recap," a book by Tara Leigh Cobble that takes Christians through daily explanations of chapters, has been a key tool she's used.

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"'The Bible Recap' really changed my whole world when it comes to reading the Bible," she said. "And so I'd never read the Bible chronologically. I actually didn't even know before I started the Bible recap that the Bible isn't put in chronological order. You kind of bounce around to different books, but then to actually read it through in terms of ... the historical line is incredible."

Seeing the entire story arc has given Bure a deeper appreciation of God's love for mankind.

"And you see how patient God is with all of us, because we are a people that have continually rejected Him," she said. "And He just keeps coming back to us—just keeps coming back and bringing opportunity to just receive Him."

Bure continued, "It's a gift given by grace and it's not of

any works that we do, and, so, you see this time and time again in the Old Testament.”

A reading of the entirety of Scripture allows believers to see the powerful ways Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies.

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“When all of that prophecy is fulfilled, Jesus comes to the earth, then is the willing sacrifice, then rises and now sits at the throne with God,” Bure said. “It has this whole new meaning to me, and it was literally a whole new revelation of just appreciating and understanding how big God’s love is for us.”



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Christmas, Bure said, is a “celebration of prophecy fulfilled,” explaining how these foretold events help give confidence in our faith.

“It’s the most incredible gift any human being has in life, and it’s amazing to me,” she said. “That we still get to celebrate it every year and ... it’s our opportunity to share with the world. It is the easiest time to share with the world the Gospel message at Christmastime.”

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

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Morning Rundown: Michael Brown Releases Statement Amid Allegations: 'Please Forgive Me'

Dr. Michael Brown went onto his "The Line of Fire" show to make a public statement regarding recent allegations.

"Since a third-party investigation can drag on for months, I want to speak to you today with transparency about recent stories and allegations in the news," Brown says. "I want to be transparent, take full ownership of any wrongs done on my part, and ask forgiveness for incidents that took place 23 years ago."

Brown states that the events happened in the latter portion of 2001 and 2002 in what he calls a "very difficult season of life and ministry."

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"I've lived with the sobering reality that many people follow my teaching and look to my example as Jesus taught in Luke 12:48," Brown says. "I am accountable to a holy God for the ministry entrusted to me... as a result of recent allegations, many are deeply confused and troubled."

Brown asserts that he never committed adultery during his marriage, however, he admits to having an emotional tie to another person who was a close friend. Brown says he spoke with another close friend confessing the truth to them, and

then went to his wife Nancy and repented.

Brown says he was “eager” to share this with his leadership team and their school, but all spouses in the situation agreed that since adultery had not occurred, the situation would end in private, “sparing” Brown and the other woman’s spouse from any additional shame.

After this, Brown states that he made changes to his schedule and lifestyle, along with going through counseling.

“I am profoundly grateful that our Lord is a forgiving Lord. That He responds to deep, heartfelt repentance. That He does not discard and cast off His children because of their failings when they turn back to Him with all their heart,” Brown says.

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Brown then addressed the topic of “Erin,” who was reported to have had what she considered an uncomfortable relationship with Brown during her time working at his FIRE School of Ministry.

“It is not my purpose here to deny or confirm specific allegations. I’ll leave it to the investigation to uncover the truth. The fact is that an offense remains. And that is what I must address, taking full ownership of my actions and the pain I caused.”

Brown says he recognizes now he did not fully understand how deeply “Erin” was hurt by his actions.

“Please forgive me for my actions which caused you so much pain,” he says. “Had I more clearly understood the result of those actions in 2002, I would have responded very differently. Again, from the heart, I ask you to forgive me. I

am truly and deeply sorry.”

Brown also asked for both the larger body of Christ and those who have been involved in his ministry over the years to forgive him as well.

“...forgive me for my failings and poor judgment and any mishandling of these situations during that time 23 years ago. I fell short of the high standards that we set. I disappointed you and I hurt you. Please forgive me.”

Continue to pray for Michael Brown and for all of those involved in this situation.

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

What's Driving Recent Church Scandals?

Over the years, we've seen many failures and fallings in the evangelical church. And it begs the question: what is going on?

In my article, “Why Do Leaders Fall?” I wrote: “They fall for the same reason that all Christians fall. Each of us is drawn away by our own evil desires and enticed. When these desires are acted upon, they lead to sin (cf. James 1:14-15). Sin has a life cycle—it either grows or withers depending on whether we feed or starve it. John Owen, the prolific Puritan author wrote, ‘Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you’.”

A quick word to those whose faith is faltering because of fallen leaders: Never look to man, they will let you down—look to God, He never will.

Guilty Until Proven Innocent

Because of the internet's ability to spread massive amounts of information, it's not surprising that so much is coming out. With this tidal wave of information being shared on countless social media outlets, it's easier than ever before to expose sin.

On the one hand, exposure is sorely needed and long overdue, but on the other hand, it becomes very destructive when it is used as a weapon by arrogant and judgmental people. To truly change lives, truth must be seasoned with grace and watered with hope.

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Instead of pointing people to hope and restoration, we often rush to premature judgment: "Guilty Until Proven Innocent." Many outlets that profit from click-bait are eager to drag someone through the mud again, and again, and again.

Priority: We Must Listen

I'm assuming that the reader understands that I'm not lumping everything into the same category. A leader who abuses children is handled much differently than a leader who stepped down due to anger and a controlling attitude.

When there are victims involved, we must listen carefully and prioritize their issue. That's obvious, but what might not be so obvious is that we often become cold, callous, and overly critical in our zeal for justice.

We must provide a safe, non-threatening environment for victims to come forward, but also avoid the spirit of

accusation behind some of these so-called “ministries” who love pulling others down. They can be right in their reasoning yet wrong in their heart. That’s what I’m addressing in this article.

The Spirit of Accusation Kills Humility

I’ve personally seen false accusations hurt good, godly people—a grandma is accused of something because the daughter-in-law doesn’t want her seeing the kids, or a manipulating spouse turns on her partner with false accusations, or a church member falsely accuses leadership because they’ve been hurt.

Again, I’m not minimizing abuse—it must be dealt with swiftly—but we must be careful that arrogance and the spirit of accusation don’t kill discernment.

One particular ministry comes to mind as I’m writing this: Years ago, a pastor had to step down because of his aggressive leadership style, but some Christian outlets still bash him without looking into the possibility that he’s been humbled and broken by God.

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Where’s the compassion? Where’s erring on the side of grace? Unless we have evidence proving otherwise, why aren’t we rejoicing that God has done a great work in his heart? Has the spirit of accusation and the lack of humility and brokenness crept into your own heart? I’ve been guilty of this myself. When we recognize this, we must repent.

We Must Do Better

One thing is certain: Leaders need to be more forthright and admit their sin. People would respect them a lot more and it

would set a good example. Leaders not only lead by example with integrity but also with repentance.

We must provide a safe haven for those with issues, and instill an open-door policy where members can go to any of the elders if they have concerns with leadership.

The Pain of Pride

Each side tends to be biased: We guard friends but assault enemies. Conservatives are quick to point out fallen charismatics but say nothing about fallen conservatives, and charismatics can be guilty of the same. The enemy of our soul doesn't care what denomination we belong to; he is set on destroying us if left unchecked.

We should never be excited about accusing our brothers and sisters. Exposure must flow from a broken, humble heart that is focused on restoration and repentance rather than chastisement and banishment.

Both Will be Held Accountable

Let me be clear: To adequately assess situations, the critic contending for the truth must be filled with the Spirit to display the fruit of the Spirit. Sadly, that's not the case with many of these so-called discernment ministries that are fueled by pride and motivated by revenue. It's very hard to speak with clarity and precision when we only have snapshots of a story.

Some of these outlets even do a lot of dirty work behind the scenes, baiting people for evidence that might not even be valid—looking for exposure rather than truth. Take heed: Not only will fallen leaders be held accountable but so will heresy hunters who are operating from a wrong spirit.

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at , and free downloads of his books are available at .

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Signs of Revival Rise Amid Gen Z's Struggles With Self-Worth

This past summer, a Gallup survey found a surprising number of teenagers feel the pressure to be perfect all the time, leading to negative emotions. Young Life, a Christ-centered ministry that focuses on helping kids to know Jesus wanted to learn more in hopes of turning those feelings in a more positive direction through something called the Relate Project. The study aims to bridge the gap, offering a deeper understanding of Gen Z.

“Around 40% of young people don’t know or don’t believe that they’re worthy of love,” Dr. Arthur Satterwhite, Young Life Ministry Vice President told CBN News. “It’s something that should burden us all.”

For more than 80 years, Young Life has focused on the lives of kids in the U.S. and beyond building relationships through trust and sharing the good news of Christ.

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Satterwhite helped conduct research for the project.

“As those who are called to come alongside young people,

knowing who this generation is, where they are, what's their context, is a big part of us being able to go to them, build relationship, and earn the right to be heard," explained Satterwhite.

The study found that relationships and communication, not online but in person, are on the minds of this generation.



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More than half communicate most often one-on-one with their closest friend. Another 20% talk through phone calls, Facetime or WhatsApp. The remaining 25% tend to use texts, email and direct messages to communicate with friends.

The research also found that friends and family are the primary sources of help for adolescents.

Signs of Revival? Gen Z Responding to Faith

And when it comes to faith, Gen Z is responding positively.

"What we found was that faith as a framing story helps folks, especially young people, to contextualize what does belonging mean? 'Where do I fit in?' and what could that look like as we help them to know not just who they are but who they are and what they're called to. That's what we're seeing as a direct correlation to increased flourishing."

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It is a flourishing that Young Life hopes to continue to shape.

"There are 60 kids showing up every Friday before school to go to Bible study," Heron said. "We started, there might've been 10 people and that was a big number for us. So, to have 60 and

it's just continuing to grow again, I think these kids are really resonating with the purpose, the love, the consistency that Jesus gives and they're really grabbing hold to that."

"I know and have seen kids walk from death to life," said Young Life volunteer Natalie Browning. "They're not hopeless. This generation is not hopeless."

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Lana Savchuk: How to Break Free From Mental Turmoil

Scripture assures us that who the Son sets free is free indeed. It is only by the power and the shed blood of Christ that we can ever experience true freedom. In a recent message, Lana Savchuk discussed what it means to receive this freedom in Christ from mental turmoil and strongholds.

"You can have God's Word, but if you don't apply it, if you don't speak it, if you don't receive it, if you don't read it, you will not be set free," Savchuk says. "As we get to know Him, He's the One that breaks down and helps us to receive that freedom."

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Savchuk explains how there's a difference between demons and a stronghold, and what it means to be free from them.

"A stronghold is a house of thoughts," Savchuk says. "Basically, it's a house where demons like to live. You remove the house, you break down the house and demons [have] nowhere to go."

She explains that demons find their way in quickly and leave quickly, but that strongholds do not work in this same manner.

"Strongholds are built over time, and they get destroyed, broken down over time," Savchuk says. "And the devil, he lives in those strongholds."

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Savchuk says that there are three different types of mentalities that we can live by: a victim mentality, a survivor mentality and a soldier mentality of sonship. She notes that while people even go from the victim to the survivor mentality, it takes real work to finally have that sonship mentality, knowing who we fully are in Christ.



To order Kenza Haddock's new book, "The Three Enemies of Your Mental Health," visit .

So, how do we break the strongholds on our mental wellbeing?

"Don't wait for your circumstances to change before you start changing your mind," Savchuk says.

She also warns Christians to stop believing that we have no power over our thoughts.

“We can control our thoughts if we direct our mind and our thoughts toward the things [of God], toward the Word of God and toward what God is telling us to think on.”

This goes into the reality that we should be careful of what we feed our mind with the things that we watch, listen to and the conversations and activities that we are a part of. One key point we should remember is to confess what you believe and know to be true, not what your emotions are saying.

“Resist negative thoughts and assist positive thoughts,” Savchuk says.

“Celebrate the process. It’s going to take time to see the change. Every little step matters, and we need to be happy.”

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, and in Him we can experience the fullness of joy.

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

Identity of Abundant Life Christian School Shooter Released

Police have identified the shooter who opened fire inside Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, on Monday, killing a teacher and a teenage student, and injuring six others. Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes confirmed that 15-year-old Natalie Rupnow, known as Samantha, was responsible

for the tragic attack.

The shooting occurred during a study hall session with multiple grades in the room. Barnes reported that Rupnow died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Investigators are still working to determine a motive for the attack. Rupnow's father is cooperating with police.

A second-grade student made the initial 911 call to report the shooting at 10:57 a.m. "We'll let that sink in for a minute... A second-grade student called 911," Barnes said, underscoring the traumatic experience for all involved.

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Two students remain in critical condition with life-threatening injuries. A teacher and three other students sustained non-life-threatening injuries, with two already released from the hospital. The identities of the deceased teacher and student have not been disclosed.

Rupnow used a handgun in the attack. Abundant Life Christian School, which serves about 200 students, did not have a resource officer or metal detectors but did have cameras and security protocols in place. Police noted that they conduct active shooter training almost quarterly and had completed a session just two weeks prior.

Chief Barnes described the incident as a day that will be etched in the collective memory of Madison. "Every child, every person in that building is a victim and will be a victim forever," he said, emphasizing the long-term emotional impact. All students have since been reunited with their parents.

President Joe Biden spoke with Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, offering federal support and calling the shooting "shocking and unconscionable." In a statement, Biden lamented the ongoing

scourge of gun violence in schools. "Every child deserves to feel safe in their classroom," he said, adding that he and First Lady Jill Biden are praying for the victims and their families.

Vice President Kamala Harris echoed these sentiments, mourning the loss of life and praising first responders. "Doug and I are mourning the student and teacher who were killed and praying for all those who were injured," she stated.

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House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) called the violence "disturbing" and urged prayers for the affected families and community. Governor Evers ordered flags to be flown at half-staff until Dec. 22, saying, "It is unthinkable that a kid or an educator might wake up and go to school one morning and never come home."

The school requested prayers from the community on its Facebook page, acknowledging the tragic event and its impact on their close-knit community. Former student Aaron Nienaber expressed his grief, saying, "This is not something that anyone would have ever seen coming at this small, tight-knit school."

The investigation into the motive behind the shooting continues as Madison and the nation grapple with another senseless act of school violence.

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Be Broken for Jesus

There's a story about a little boy who was poor and in need of shoes. He stood in front of a shoe store, barefoot and shivering with cold. A woman approached him and asked why he was standing there, looking through the window. He told her, "Well, ma'am, I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes."

The woman took the boy into the store, washed his dirty, bare feet and put new socks and shoes on them. The boy was so touched by her care and concern that he asked her, "Ma'am, are you God's wife?" He assumed if she showed him that kind of love, she must be related to God.

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This story is one of the best examples of what it truly means to walk in love. And our goal as believers in Christ is to show God's love so people see Him shining through us every day.

Matthew 26:26 (NIV) says, "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'" We should note that Jesus blessed the bread, broke it and then gave it to the disciples.

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We usually refer to this Scripture when we have Communion to remind us of the sacrifice He made for us. But just as Jesus gave His life and was broken for us, we must be broken so we

can live for Him.

We don't like to think about God breaking us, but when we experience it, we learn that it's really a wonderful thing. Because when we're born again, the seed of God's nature—all that He is—is planted in our spirits.

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