

# From Prison to Pastor: You Won't Believe This Redemption Story

From violent gang member to transformed minister, Alexander Pagani's testimony is nothing short of miraculous. Raised in the Bronx amidst drugs and crime, Pagani was arrested by age 11 and entrenched in gang life by his teens. Soon, he was facing 20 years for robbery, burglary and kidnapping—and made a brutal statement by stabbing inmates his first day at Riker's Island. But it was in solitary confinement that God began to reach him.

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Through the persistent love of his Christian aunt and a prison guard whose peace intrigued him, Alexander began to wonder if there was more to life. Then, in a supernatural moment in the courtroom, he heard God speak and saw a vision that changed everything. He accepted a reduced sentence and surrendered his life to Jesus.

The transformation was instant and total—cursing, violence and addiction fell away. Alexander began to study the Bible and discovered the love of God as Father. Today, he's a pastor, author, and spiritual father to the very community he once terrorized.

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This powerful story proves that no one is too far gone for God's grace. Watch the full video below and be inspired by what only Jesus can do.

In a recent episode of The John Bevere Podcast, author and teacher John Bevere shared how understanding the ancient Jewish wedding reveals powerful insights into the return of Jesus Christ.

"A wedding imagery is often used to describe the relationship of Jesus and the church," Bevere said. He explained that many phrases spoken by Jesus and the apostles—like "no one knows the day or the hour"—come directly from ancient wedding customs that are largely lost on modern Western culture.

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Bevere walked through how the bride and groom in ancient Israel would be separated after the engagement, with the groom preparing a place at his father's house. "Once they finished [the wine], they would not drink a glass together again, nor would they see each other again," Bevere said. "Only the father of the groom knows" when the groom would return, a direct parallel to Jesus' own words about His return.

This moment would come with loud shouts and trumpet blasts, echoing the rapture described in 1 Thessalonians: "The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout."

The imagery doesn't just teach us about timing, it also calls the church to action.

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“Our works don’t save us, but our works do prepare us,” Bevere said. He reminded listeners that Jesus is returning for a pure, prepared bride.

For anyone who wants to better understand the end times through a biblical and cultural lens, watch the full episode of The John Bevere Podcast on YouTube, titled “The Ancient Wedding That Explains the End Times.”

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Justice, Not Vengeance: Pastor Jack Hibbs Makes the Biblical Case for the Death Penalty**

As environmental debates heat up—from Greta Thunberg-led student strikes to Apple’s slick “Mother Nature” ad campaigns—many believers are left wondering: Where do Christians stand in all of this?

Pastor Vlad Savchuk takes a bold, biblically grounded approach in his teaching, “Christians, Climate Change and the End Times: What You Need to Know.”

# The Rise of a New Religion?

Environmentalism, for some, has moved beyond concern into the realm of worship.

“Mother Nature has become the functional religion of our culture,” Savchuk says. “There’s an absolute devotion to a cause. There’s sacrificing immediate gratification for the ultimate success of this cause. And there’s explaining all of life in the terms of saving the planet.”

He warns that a culture so committed to protecting the planet while ignoring the sanctity of human life is “not embracing a biblical worldview but a world worldview.”

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## The Three Views on Climate Change

Savchuk lays out three dominant perspectives on climate change:

### 1. **Climate Deniers**

“These are people who believe that people are too worried about climate change. Climate change is natural, and it’s not mainly caused by humans.”

### 2. **Climate Alarmists**

“These people believe that climate change is real, and it’s mainly caused by humans using too much oil and gas. And if we don’t change how we live, like right now... we will harm the earth.”

### 3. **Climate Realists**

“They believe that climate change is real and most likely comes from humans using oil and gas. They view the earth’s problem with climate change as more like having diabetes than having a suddenly deadly virus.”

# **Biblical Stewardship, Not Nature Worship**

Savchuk emphasizes that Christians are to care for creation—not to idolize it.

“We are the stewards of the earth, but we are not worshippers of the earth,” he says. “Adam was a gardener, caring for God’s creation.”

He also notes the danger in replacing God with nature: “What I see happening in our culture... is that Mother Nature has really replaced Father God.”



***Order Vlad Savchuk’s newest book, Make the Devil Homeless, on !***

## **The Three Views on the Environment**

Drawing from theologian Scott Rae’s work, Savchuk outlines three theological frameworks:

### **1. Biocentric View**

“This view sees that the environment should be protected because it has an intrinsic value.”

### **2. Anthropocentric View**

“That’s the view that argues the environment has no inherent value whatsoever. The only value... is really coming from its usefulness for humans.”

### **3. Theocentric View**

“Our Christian view on the environment is theocentric, meaning [the] environment, this world, has value because it’s God’s creation. It is placed under human dominion and our responsibility and stewardship to be used responsibly for human benefit.”

## **Human Life Over Animal Rights**

Savchuk doesn't shy away from confronting the cultural shift that elevates animals over people.

"You and I were made in the image and likeness of God," he says. "Any view that views animals and plants above humans or on the same level of humans is not biblical."

While he emphasizes treating animals with dignity, he reminds believers that "animals do not have a fundamental right to life like humans do."

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## **End Times Are No Excuse for Earth Abuse**

Even with an end-times worldview, Savchuk insists Christians can't throw environmental care out the window.

"The future resurrection of your body does not justify today's abuse of your body," he says. "Just because bad things will happen to the earth before God makes it new, it does not give us an excuse to not care for our earth."

## **Judgment and Hope**

Savchuk concludes with a sobering reminder and a hopeful promise.

"You will give an account to God for what you do with this earth," he says, citing Revelation 11:18. But he also declares, "Our God will remake all that humans and devils have wickedly harmed, damaged and destroyed."

As our culture becomes increasingly confused about the line between Creator and creation, Christians must ensure not to

worship the earth—but instead steward it for God’s glory.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Here’s Why You’re Still Broke: 8 Kingdom Laws to Break Lack and Unlock Wealth**

By now, most of us have learned that life doesn’t always go the way we plan. We deal with disappointments, rejection, setbacks—and sometimes it feels like joy is the last thing we’re capable of. But according to New York Times best-selling author Jonathan Cahn, joy isn’t something we wait for—it’s something we choose, even in the valleys.

In a recent sermon uploaded to YouTube, Cahn delivered a message that cut straight to the heart of what it means to have faith in difficult times. “How can we go through hard times and also... rejoice always? How can we rejoice? When you’re going through a tough time and you rejoice anyway... you become more and more like Messiah.”

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That idea might sound backwards at first. But Cahn made it clear: our ability to rejoice in the middle of the storm shows just how deeply rooted our faith really is.

“If you live fearing any hard time... you’ve got so little joy that you can’t deal with anything,” he said. “What this is saying is you have been given so many blessings and so much joy that you can deal with anything and you can overcome it.”

And the key, he pointed out, isn’t avoiding trials—it’s learning to see them the way God does. He quoted from Hosea, “I will give her the valley of trouble as the door of hope,” and shared how one of Israel’s earliest modern settlements was named after that verse. Cahn’s takeaway? “For every valley of trouble, it’s going to become a door of hope to you.”

That message is especially powerful for anyone who feels stuck or discouraged. According to Cahn, the Christian life isn’t just about holding on—it’s about moving forward. “That which is alive reproduces,” he said. “If you’re alive in God, you have to be reproducing. You have to be leading others to God.”

Still, that doesn’t mean we carry the weight alone. Cahn reminded listeners to do their part, but then let go.

“Do your part... but then you have to entrust it to the Lord. Your ministry, entrust it to the Lord. Your family, entrust to the Lord. That person, entrust them to God.”

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He shared how the early church stepped out into the unknown with nothing but faith, and they came back with powerful testimonies. “They just went because God told them without knowing what to do. And sometimes you can’t wait for all these things. You just step out. God will honor you as you step out.”

And even if some people reject the message? “Jump up and down, leap for joy because your reward is great in heaven,” Cahn said.

Here’s the challenge: don’t just keep the blessings to yourself.

“You’re blessed by God, bring it home. Your joy—you have joy—bless your family with it. Bless the people in your life. Bless your relatives. Bring it home.”

If you’re walking through a tough season right now, maybe the takeaway is this: your valley could be the start of something greater. And with God, even the deepest pit can become a doorway to joy.

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# **“Why Didn’t God Heal the Person I Prayed For?”**