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SEPTEMBER 2024

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SPIRIT-LED LIVING

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YOU, HE WILL
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LOCKE**

THE TRUMP
CODE
TROY
ANDERSON

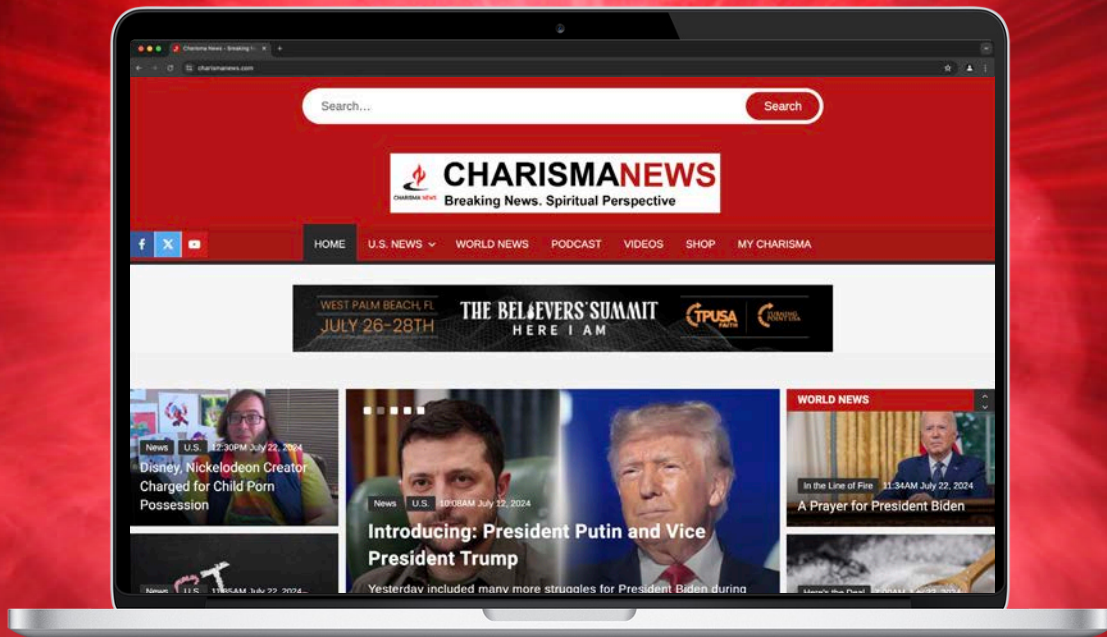
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Simply Christ

Gospel Insight

with Keith Surface

Chamber Pots and Dinnerware

Chamber pots were vessels used as inside toilets before modern plumbing was available. These vessels spared the user from making a trip to the outside latrine. Such vessels served a distinct purpose and were very different than the vessels used for dinnerware. The dinnerware would be cleaned and stored in the food preparation area while the chamber pots would be stored with the other “less honorable” vessels.

The Apostle Paul uses the example of these different vessels when he explains the need for the people of God to be separated from the workers of iniquity. He said, *“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”* II Timothy 2:20-21.

The “vessels unto honor” which Paul speaks of, are those Christ has washed from sin. The “vessels unto dishonor” are those who, although religious, still walk in sin and darkness. Their hearts harbor such things as pornography, adultery, covetousness, and deception. They may be the ministers Paul warned of who “speak lies in hypocrisy” I Timothy 4:2 to manipulate God's people, or false prophets who “with feigned (fictitious) words make merchandise of you.” II Peter 2:3. All such things have been washed from the “vessels unto honor” by the precious blood of Christ.

A child of God is not an unclean vessel. They are the “cups and platters” Jesus spoke of Matthew 23:25-26 which have been washed from the defilement of sin. This message of washing the believer fills the pages of the Bible. When Paul spoke of unrighteous types of people who “shall not inherit the kingdom of God,” he reminds the saints “*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified,*

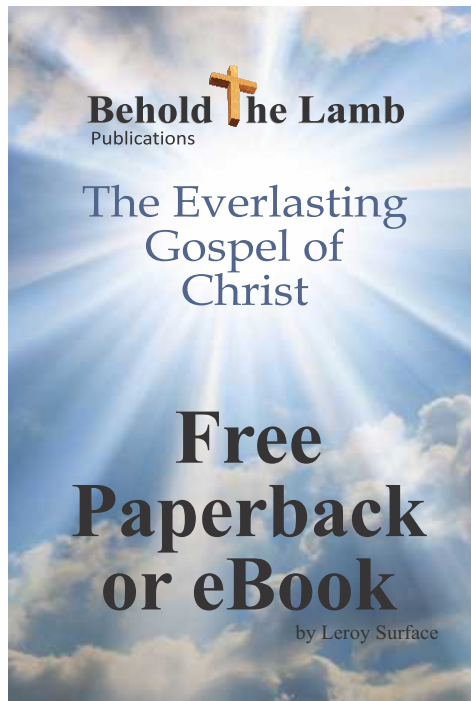
but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” I Corinthians 6:9-11. The word of God tells us that Christ's blood was shed to “*purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*” Hebrews 9:14. Purge means to purify. Those whom Christ has purified are then encouraged to draw near to God “*having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*” Hebrews 10:22. We all were once unclean vessels, but the pollution of sin has been washed from our hearts by faith in Jesus Christ. As the scripture says, “*...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*” Hebrews 10:10.

When I hear a minister tell the saints that “We are all sinners and sin every day,” I consider that he or she must be very confused. They seem to forget that the people of God are “*vessels of honor*” and not chamber pots. I mean, it is normal for a chamber pot to have a bit of “dung” in it, but why would that ever be found in a drinking glass? Some may say, “Well, we all get a little dust on us sometime.” That may be true, but pornography, adultery, manipulation, greed, and such things are not dust. It is the dung of Satan, and God will never pour “*living water*” into a vessel that contains such things.

Paul instructed the “*vessels of honor*” to purge themselves from the “*vessels of dishonor.*” You cannot fellowship in a nightclub where reveling, lusts, greed, and lies abound. Neither can you fellowship in a church where the same things are excused or spiritualized. Christian unity is not the same as fellowshiping

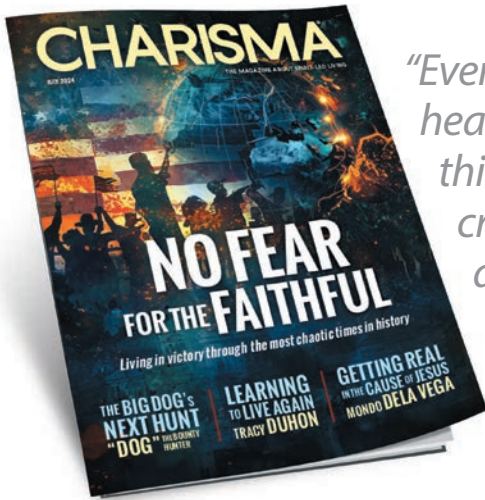
darkness. God gave an eternal call to his people, saying, “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*” II Corinthians 6:17.

When Christ took away your sin, he did not leave a little “devil's dung” in you. He washed you completely. I've heard ministers who tell of the profanity of their own mouth, the immorality of their heart, and the covetousness of their spirit. Then they assure you that you are the same as they. Forgive my plainness of speech, but such ministers are nothing more than hirelings in a spiritual latrine, and they are trying to keep you there also. But, if you are a vessel of honor, it is not where you belong. You are not a chamber pot!



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DEAR CHARISMA



"Everyone should be hearing messages like this because of how crazy things are these days and seem to be getting worse."
—Lenny Blannmore,
Via email

VICTORY MESSAGE FOR TODAY

I loved Michael Snyder's story, I think everyone should be hearing messages like this because of how crazy things are these days and seem to be getting worse all the time ("No Fear for the Faithful," Charisma Magazine Online, July 2024). I check Michael's blogs sometimes and he always has great news that the mainstream media are afraid to report.

Lenny Blannmore, Via email

UNCONTROLLED ANGER

We appreciated Lee Grady's column talking about outrage ("Break Free from Today's Fake Outrage Culture," Charisma Magazine Online, July 2024). It reminded us of the passage in Ephesians 4, not to let your anger cause you to sin. It's good that someone is talking about this because it is such an epidemic on social media especially.

Louise and Dan Flennen, Via email

DOG THE BOUNTY HUNTER IN CHARISMA

Thanks for the fun story from Dog the Bounty Hunter ("The Dog's Next Hunt," Charisma Magazine Online, July 2024).

I always watch his show, he's a great character and a strong example to today's youths.

Filomena Aquazzini, Patterson, NJ

PREACHING TO REACH THE KINGDOM

Mondo De La Vega is a very wise man. He does a great service to churches today talking about the need to keep the church service about the Gospel message ("Are We Preaching or Reaching," Charisma Magazine Online, July 2024). It's just a question of balance, trying to attract new members while not forgetting to share Jesus with people outside the congregation. De La Vega's message is excellent, I cannot wait to buy his new book.

Zelmo Branke, East Peoria, IL

CHURCH SECURITY PRESENCE

I never thought I'd see the day that security guards were needed in church, but I agree with Petrucci's thoughts on security ("Standing In the Gap," Charisma Magazine Online, July 2024). I guess it's a sign of the end of days we live in.

Doris O'Flange, Terre Haute, IN

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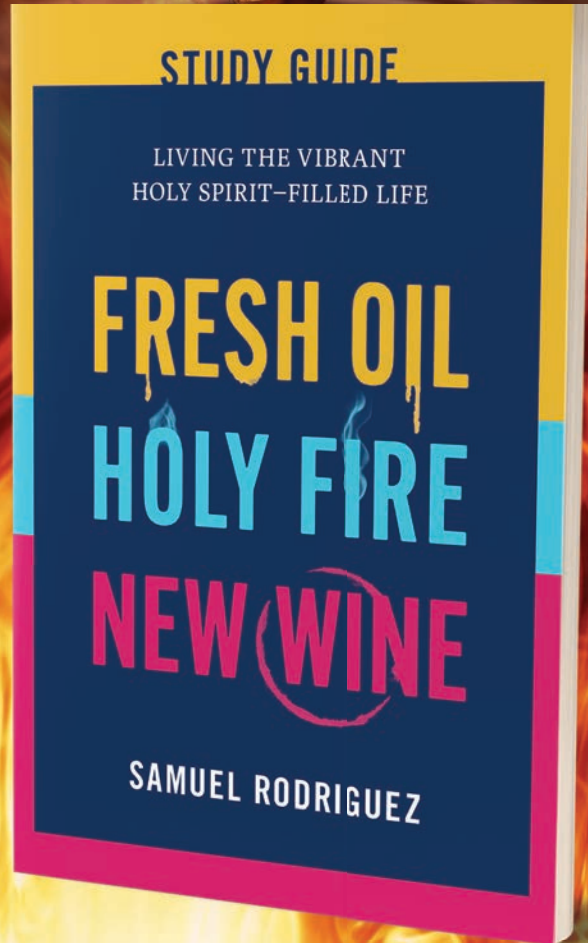
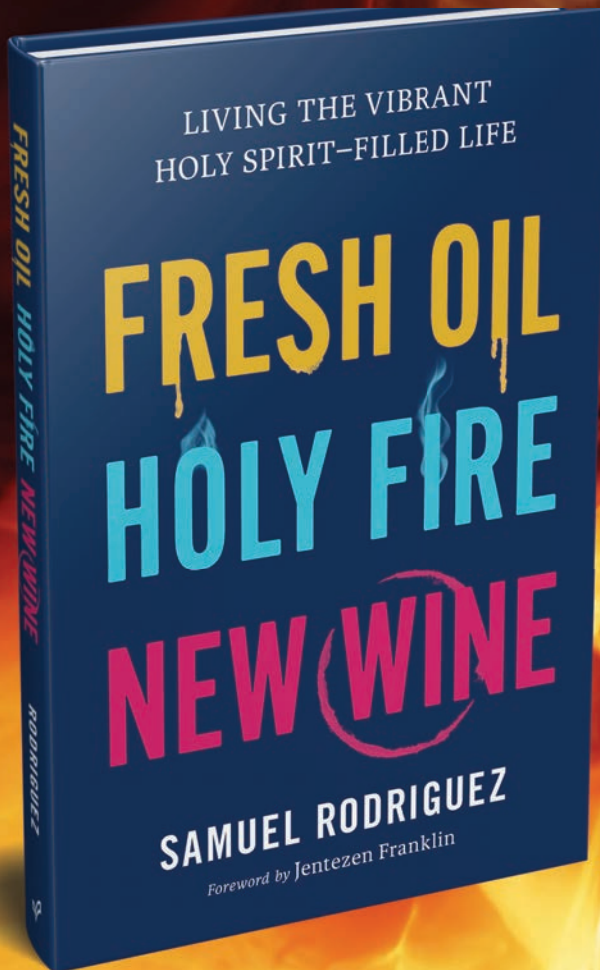
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Samuel Rodriguez is a pastor, speaker, bestselling author, movie producer, and civil rights activist whose career in the public square and international ministry have made him one of the most influential Christian leaders in the world. Pastor Sam resides with his family in Sacramento, California, where he leads New Season Church. Learn more at PastorSam.com.



Chosen

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5 Ways Trump Can Re-Disrupt the Status Quo in This Upside-Down Election

There's a feeling almost everywhere that there is something seriously wrong in America," I wrote in my latest book, *Spirit-Led Living in an Upside World*. That's stating the obvious for those of us who see the Judeo-Christian values our nation was built on eroding before our eyes. But with the attempted assassination of Donald Trump on July 13 and then the powers that be in the Democratic party forcing President Biden to drop out of the presidential race in favor of Vice President Harris, many non-Christians are saying something has gone wrong.

Trump, not known for being overly spiritual, said at the Republican National Convention, "It was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening." He added: "We will fear not, but instead remain resilient in our faith." After the attempt on his life, former president Trump appears to be a bit more reflective, more willing to be led by God through the Holy Spirit, versus the bombastic New York real estate king most of us have been familiar with for many years. I think Trump is better situated for election victory than he was eight years ago in 2016.

Here are five reasons that Trump's difficulties, rough edges and trials might have prepared him to be reelected to the Oval Office and also fulfill the many prophetic words about his two terms in office.

1. Strong Base Support: One of the primary reasons Donald Trump could earn victory is the unwavering support of his base. Despite controversies and polarizing rhetoric which I believe are just the result of his being the "disrupter" we need now, Trump's supporters have remained loyal. His base repeatedly has shown high voter turnout and passionate advocacy.

Trump's ability to galvanize his base is a critical factor in his electoral strategy, and that includes many in the Christian community who may not like the Republican party or some of Trump's tweets but who resonate with his policies, if only because they are the opposite of the Democrat policies.

2. Media Savvy and Communication Skills: Donald Trump's proficiency in media manipulation and his unique communication style give him an edge over his opponents. Trump's use of social

media, particularly X (formerly Twitter), Truth Social and most recently TikTok, has allowed him to directly reach millions of supporters bypassing traditional media filters. His ability to dominate news cycles, set the agenda and respond rapidly to events have been hallmarks of his political strategy.

3. Economic Messaging: Trump's focus on economic issues, particularly during his first term in office, resonates with a significant portion of the electorate from both sides and especially the undecided middle. His promises to bring back jobs, renegotiate trade deals and lower taxes appeal to voters concerned about economic security and prosperity, not least in the ongoing aftermath of Bidenomics policies following the Covid pandemic. Many Americans believed they were better off through Trump's first term.

4. Outsider Persona: Trump's "maverick" style as a political outsider continues to be a compelling narrative for many voters. His ability to position himself against the so-called "deep state" establishment resonates with many who have grown more disillusioned with traditional politics over the past few decades. This outsider image contrasts sharply with the public perceptions of leading Democrats who often are seen as part of the elite of the deeply entrenched political class.

5. Polarizing Figure: While being a "disrupter" can be a double-edged sword, for Trump it often works to his advantage by solidifying his support base. His ability to evoke strong emotional responses, both positive and negative, keeps him at the center of political discourse, optimizing every angle from the middle against his opponents and their perpetual allies across the media landscape.

I believe God's hand is on Donald Trump, not because he is a righteous man but because God has allowed him to be raised up as an outsider as He did with King Jehu in the Old Testament, the one who defeated Queen Jezebel. Now we see a miracle in Trump's life being spared and we see his political foes in disarray.

However, we cannot be complacent, we must discern the times and we must pray that America will turn toward the Lord. It will take more than a political election to do that in what already is turning out to be the most upside-down election in American history.

"I believe God's hand is on Donald Trump... God has raised him up like King Jehu that defeated Queen Jezebel."

Stephen Strang has seen major changes in the church, the culture and technology since he founded *Charisma* magazine in 1975. In addition to being CEO of Charisma Media, he hosts a Strang Report podcast live on YouTube and Rumble at 4 p.m. EST every Tuesday and Thursday. His important recent book *Spirit-Led Living in an Upside-World* is available wherever fine Christian books are sold including online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

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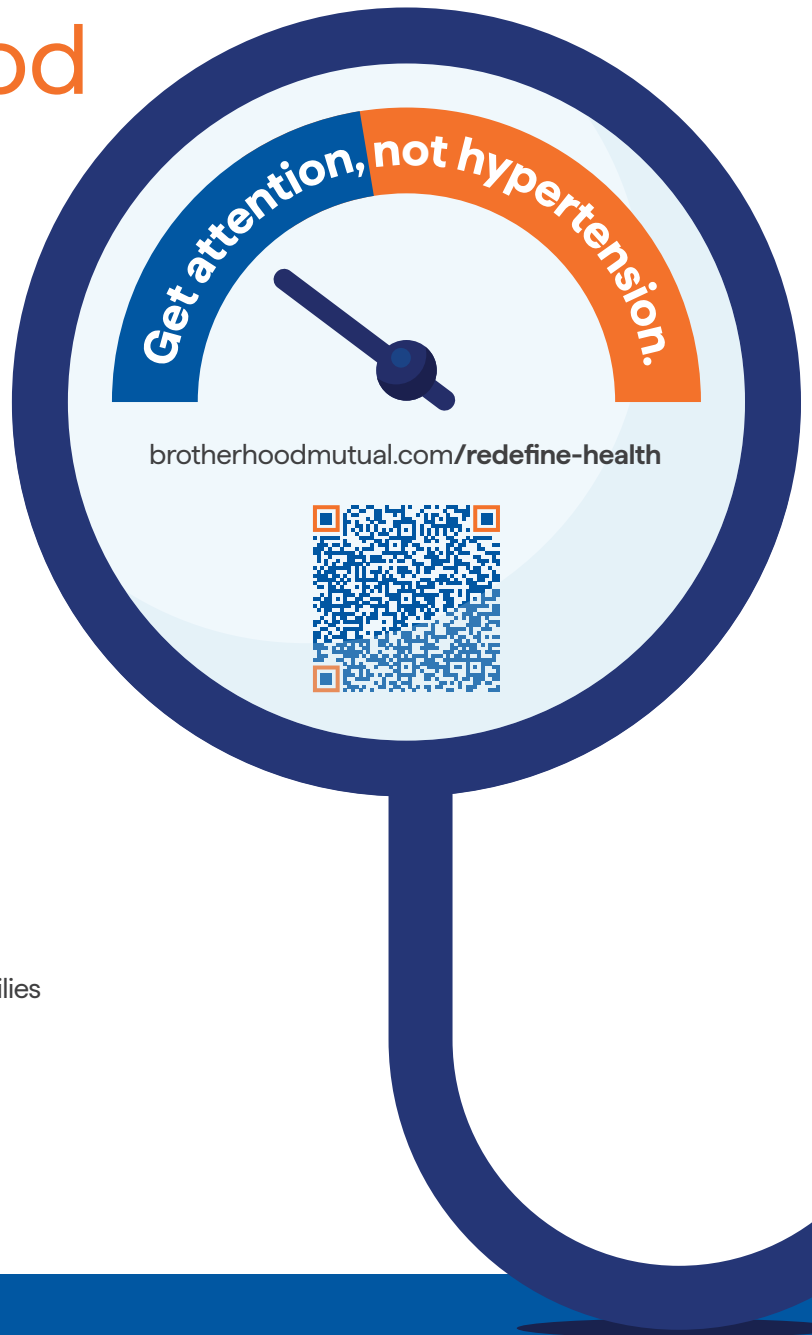
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Why Physical Fitness Is a Spiritual Priority

We're drowning in stress, lack of rest, overeating and too many unhealthy habits. And I won't win any popularity contests for saying this, but it's true: The American church is fat—and ministers are sometimes the main culprits. This may be one key reason we don't address bad eating habits from the pulpit. If a preacher is hiding his huge stomach with his Sunday jacket, he's certainly not going to deliver a sermon about gluttony.

A while back, I faced a similar reality staring back at me in the mirror: I was beginning to resemble the fat preachers I had seen going back for third helpings at the Sunday afternoon all-you-can-eat buffet line. At first I tried to ignore my weight gain by cropping photos and adjusting my belt. But the numbers on the scale weren't lying. Finally, I made a powerful decision to reclaim my life. I got ruthless, sort of like when Jesus went into the temple with His whip. I slashed all white bread, sugar, junk food and sodas from my diet. I joined a gym. And I started an exercise routine that I can do anywhere, even in a hotel room. After a year, I lost weight and gained muscle—and I felt better than I had in years. It has helped me realize that physical fitness is not something optional.

So, here's my attempt to confront the issue in three reasons why physical fitness needs to move up your priority list:

1. Because you should glorify God with your body. I know Christians who would love to go on a mission trip, participate in a three-day fast or lead a weekly discipleship group for teenagers. But they never do these things because they are limited by their physical abilities. Some of us are simply too overweight, too tired or too out of shape to engage in any type of rigorous ministry.

Yet the New Testament teaches that our spirituality can't be separated from the physical. The apostle Paul wrote: "What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

Paul's powerful words, in their context, refer to the importance of sexual purity. Sexual sin is wrong because we should never do with our bodies what would offend the indwelling Holy Spirit. If this is

true for immoral types of sex, is it not also true when we fill our bodies with drugs, alcohol or unhealthy food?

In New Testament times, Gnostic heretics taught that a Christian can love God and yet engage in any kind of immoral sin because it is physical, not spiritual. Yet Paul denounced this by saying: "Therefore glorify God in your body," (1 Cor. 6:20b). Today we still preach against sexual sin, yet gluttony is no longer considered a sin in most churches. Instead, we laugh about it while we pass the cheesecake and the onion rings.

2. Because how you control your appetite affects every other area of your life. Part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is self-control (see Gal. 5:23). Yet, in the church today, we have created a culture of overeating—and then we wonder why some Christians fall into porn addiction, adultery or gambling. The truth is that we have sanctioned

food addiction as "acceptable flesh"—and we are reaping the consequences.

Jacob's brother, Esau, sold his birthright for a bowl of stew because his appetite controlled his judgment. Many Christians have done the same. We forfeit certain spiritual blessings simply because we can't say no to food.

3. Because you want to live a long and fruitful life. I decided to get serious about

fitness because I'm getting older, and I want to make the biggest possible mark on my generation before I die. It's a lie that you can't be fit in your 50s or 60s. I want to be like the biblical Caleb, who testified that he was as strong at age 85 as he was at age 40.

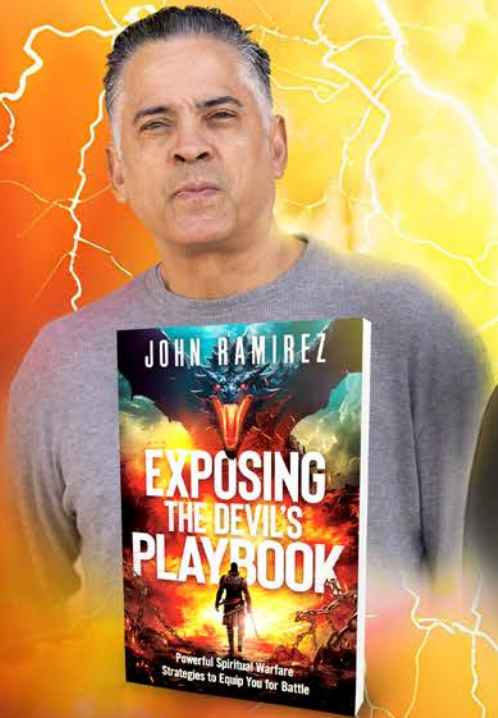
God has promised the righteous a long life, but that isn't an automatic guarantee. Long life requires wisdom, which includes healthy eating, regular exercise, proper rest and stress management. When we binge regularly on pizzas, sodas and glazed donuts and fill our bodies with processed foods full of chemicals, we shouldn't be surprised when we end up with diabetes, heart ailments, high blood pressure and an early funeral. Don't eat for the moment. Always keep tomorrow in mind when you are looking at the menu.

Jesus called His followers disciples, a term that means "disciplined ones." Yet how many of us would honestly say we are disciplined in the area of food and fitness? I challenge you to make this your goal. Be a disciple. The decision you make today to get healthy will reap countless benefits—not only for you, but also for those you love.

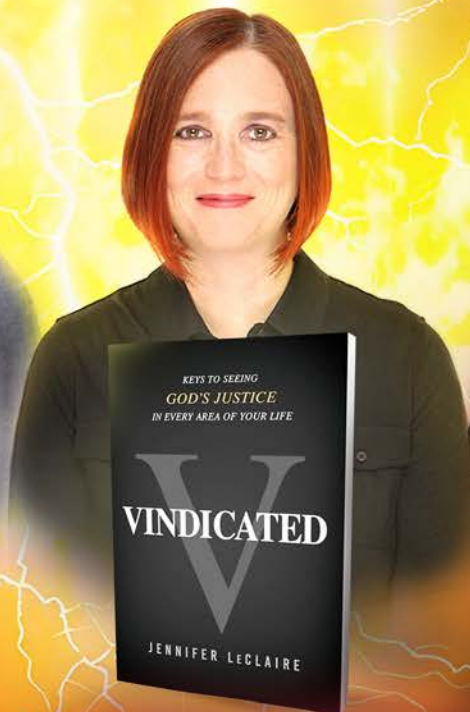
"Jesus called His followers disciples, a term that means 'disciplined ones.'"

J. Lee Grady was editor of *Charisma* for 11 years and now serves as senior contributing editor. He directs [The Mordecai Project](#) an international ministry that protects women and girls from gender-based violence. His latest books are *Follow Me* and *Let's Go Deeper* (Charisma House).

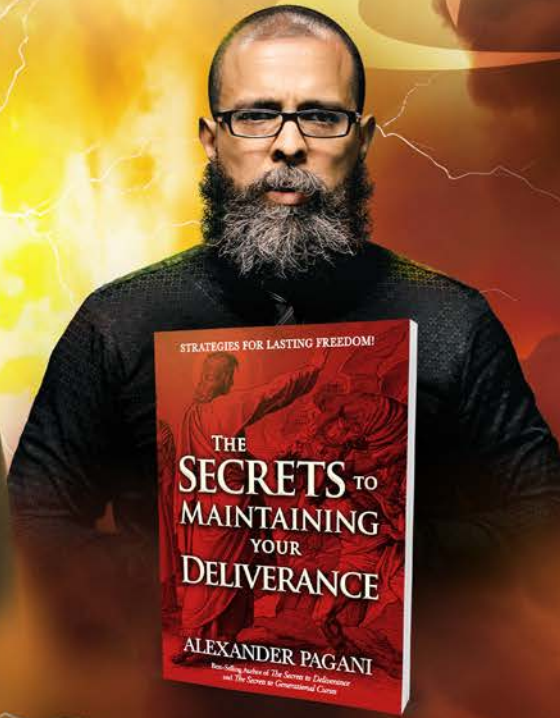
Are You Ready to Fight This Spiritual Warfare Season?



Just because you feel like you're in bondage, it doesn't mean you have to stay there. Unlock your spiritual handcuffs and expose the devil before he sets foot on the battlefield of your life.



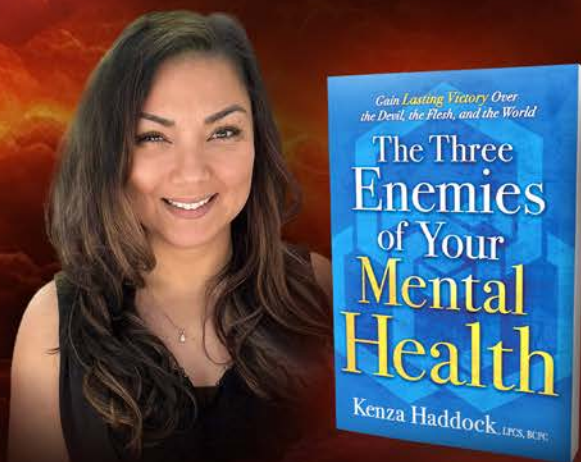
Have you ever been wronged? Even in the face of physical, emotional, and spiritual injustices, God will fulfill His promise and take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it to good for your life.



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The World Can't Give It to You

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 degree 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's something that 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, only one thing can give us this true satisfaction—*God*.

Simply put, without God, we will never truly be able to have daily joy.

Psalm 27:4 has become one of the foundational Scriptures of my life. 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.”

Seek is a strong word. It means “to crave, pursue, and go after something with all of your might.” Many people want a greater relationship with God—and they want to have 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. It says, “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

The Lord desires for us to *live* with His joy—to be permanently, *consistently* satisfied. This all comes from spending quality time with God...from reading and studying His Word, talking to Him in prayer, or simply sitting quietly in His presence.

The truth is everything we need to live a joyful, successful life is waiting for us in His presence. Because of the sexual abuse I suffered as a child, I was forced to grow up quickly and worry about things a child should never have to worry about. As a result, I never had the chance to be a kid—to enjoy life care-free and simply have fun.

As far back as I could remember, I was always tremendously serious and intense.

Maybe you can relate. Maybe life has thrown you some curves and left you *joy-less*. Or maybe you are so caught up in the hurry and worry of everyday life that you've forgotten how to simply stop, have fun and enjoy yourself. If so, I want you to look at Matthew 11:28. Jesus says, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls].”

Jesus offers us *rest* and *relief*. It's the rest we need to live in the world and deal with stressful situations without letting them upset us, ruin our health or steal our joy. It's a supernatural rest we can only find through a personal relationship with Him—it's not something we can find in the world.

“His rest is a rest we can have in our souls—our mind, will and emotions.”

Think about this for a minute. Everyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior is taught that we're saved by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” But the same way we are saved is

the way we are supposed to live. In other words, once we are born again, God wants us to do everything in life by grace through faith.

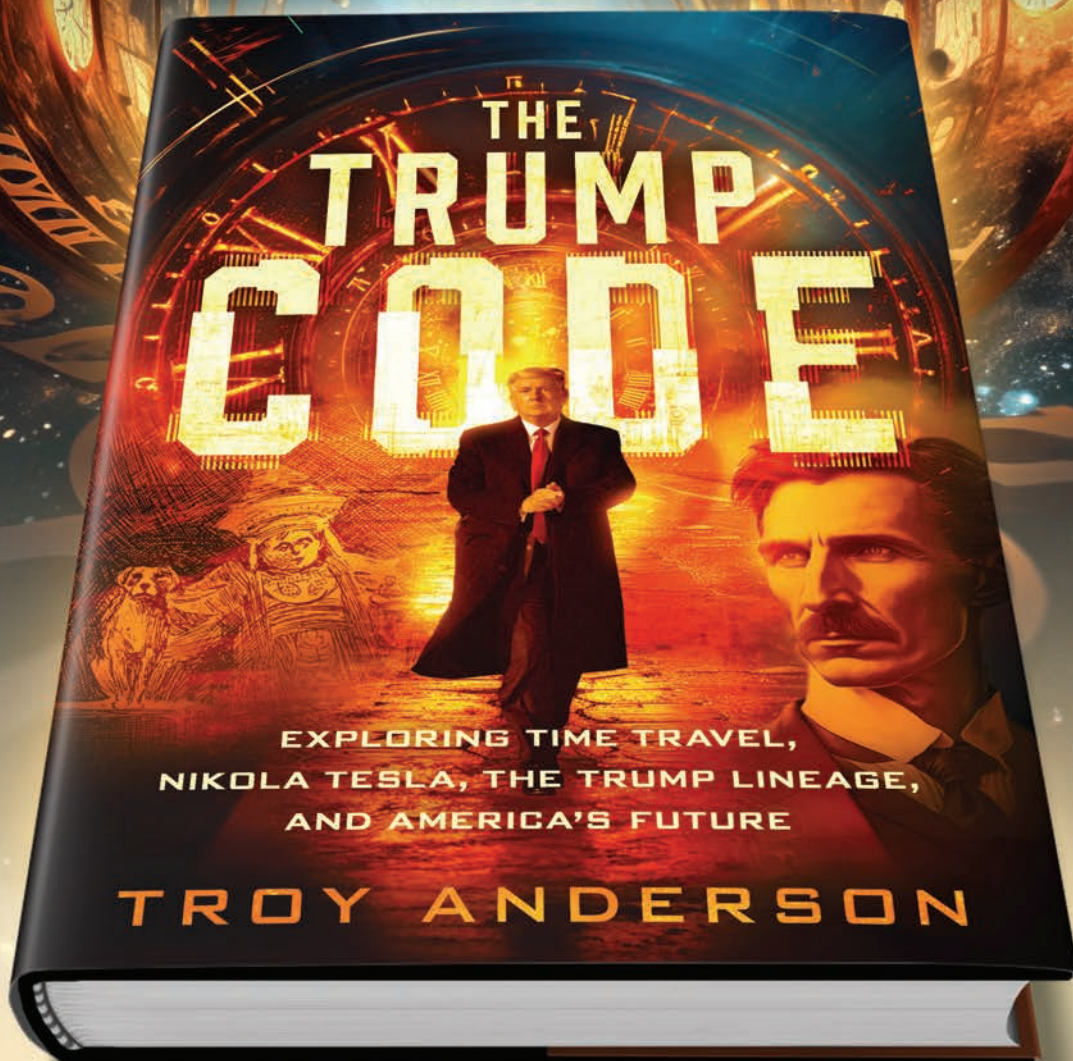
This has been one of the greatest revelations of my life. I remember how exciting it was to realize that God is not just there to help us when we have an emergency. God wants to be involved in every single thing we do on a day-to-day basis. There's nothing you're involved in that God doesn't care about, and He wants you to pray and ask Him to help you with every detail of your life.

What is our part? We simply need to go to Him! Jesus never promised us we'd have a trouble-free life, but He said we can live above our circumstances. With His grace, wisdom, peace and strength, we can deal with stress and trouble and maintain a good attitude. His rest is a rest we can have in our souls—our mind, will and emotions.

Having this rest is like giving your soul a vacation. It means that no matter what's going on, you don't have to worry about it and try to figure everything out. It's a wonderful place to be, because when your soul is at rest in Christ, your emotions are stable and you have peace and joy.

Joyce Meyer is a *New York Times*' bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries Inc. She has authored 130 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and her newest devotional, *Quiet Times With God* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit joycemeyer.org.

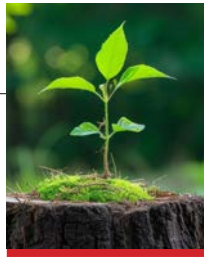
COULD THE
TRUMP FAMILY'S
CONNECTIONS TO TIME TRAVEL UNLOCK THE
MYSTERIES OF OUR PAST AND FUTURE?



In the annals of American presidential history, there is no more peculiar tale than the eerie similarities between former President Donald Trump and a series of novels called, *The Baron Trump Collection*, penned by the obscure yet seemingly prophetic hand of American lawyer and novelist Ingersoll Lockwood in the late 1800s. *The Trump Code* delves into the connections between the Baron Trump novels and the enigmatic Trump family legacy, asking whether this nineteenth-century novelist foresaw the future of not only Trump but also America and the world. It also uncovers a web of historical events and divine providence. Peeling back the layers of history, you will discover traces of the divine hand that guides the course of human events.

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Are You Ready for the Season of the Dragon?

Some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ,” (Jude 4, NLT).

It is right there in Jude’s epistle. This present season is not a surprise to God. But as we draw closer to the end of days, the dragon spirit encroaches further into the world. This verse captures the danger of moral and doctrinal corruption within the church itself, a message that holds great relevance for the chaotic and morally fractured world we live in today. Jude’s message is warning the world about false teachers who infiltrate the community of believers, distorting the message of grace to justify sin and immorality.

This deception is not new. It was already condemned long ago. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, is not concerned only with those who sin. He is aiming the sword of truth squarely at everyone who deliberately misuses—exploits, distorts, perverts—the message of grace purchased with the blood of Christ. It gives license to destructive behavior, becoming one of the main challenges the church faces in the tumultuous moral landscape of the 21st century.

We live in a time when moral confusion is rampant. Traditional boundaries that once guided personal and societal behavior have been blurred, even eradicated, in misguided notions of “progress” or “tolerance.” This is driven by the spreading dragon spirit sowing confusion and chaos. Objective truth is often abandoned in favor of subjective feelings and relative morality. What was once considered immoral is now increasingly accepted or even celebrated.

This moral shift impacts not only the secular world, it has made its way into the church. In recent years, some voices within the church have embraced doctrines that align more with prevailing cultural attitudes than the truth of the Gospel. Sometimes this phenomenon is somewhat innocent, deriving from an initial effort toward crafting a church atmosphere that is more seeker-friendly, honestly endeavoring to share the Good News.

But it echoes Jude’s warning on false teachers who “worm their way into” the church. The heart of the issue is the distortion of God’s grace—unmerited favor that provides un-earnable forgiveness and

salvation through Jesus Christ. It is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, our path to redemption restoring our relationship with God. However, just as in Jude’s time, there are those who twist the message of grace into something it was never meant to be. Instead of grace being lived as a means to repentance and holy living, some turn it into justification for living an “anything goes” lifestyle contrary to God’s commands. But it remains the essence of Jude’s warning—grace does not give us a free pass to sin.

It exposes the dangerous idea that since God is loving and forgiving, anyone—believers and non-believers alike—can continue to live contrary to His Word, and eventually discard the entire notion of salvation through Christ altogether.

Jude’s message is more than a warning.

It is a call to action.

“As the dragon spirit spreads darkness over the world by the hour, Jude’s warning is more relevant than ever.”

God has given us His wisdom, how to live, how to endure and thrive through the end of days. We can learn the ancient prophetic mysteries that foretell what the dragon spirit will do from the book of Revelation. Jude urges us to contend for the faith, to stand firm against false teachings and to resist the lure of moral compromise. It is not enough merely to identify challenges; the church must resist the forces that seek to undermine the truth of the Gospel.

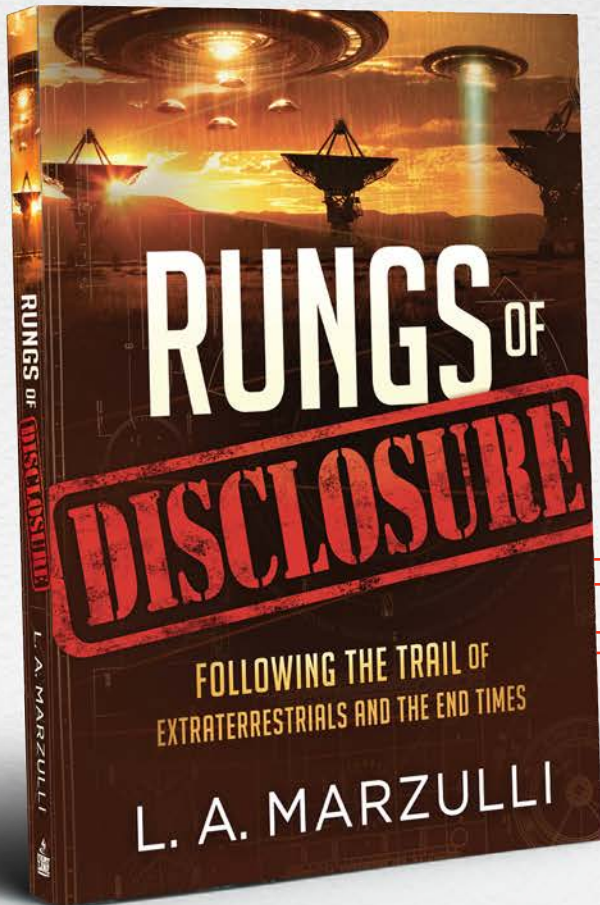
What does contending for the faith look like? Facing head-on the storm winds of criticisms and attacks when upholding the doctrines of Jesus even when they are mocked as unpopular, outmoded or not inclusive. It means understanding that God’s grace, while freely given, is not a blank check to ignore His commandments. Grace is transformative; it calls believers to holiness and obedience. It empowers them to live lives reflecting Christ’s character, not lives indistinguishable from the gutter.

Believers one day will give an account whether or not in their time the truth of the Gospel was distorted or the Great Commission squandered. God’s grace is a gift that leads to abundant life, holiness and oneness with the Living God. But as the dragon spirit spreads darkness over the world by the hour, Jude’s warning is more relevant than ever, calling believers to trust in our Lord, stand firm, contend for His truth and resist conforming to the fallen world, for we know that we know the glorious conclusion foretold through prophecy.

Lawrence Tate is a contributor for Charisma Magazine Online. Get your copy today of Jonathan Cahn’s newest blockbuster, *The Dragon’s Prophecy*, available on amazon.com.

Is this the coming

GREAT DECEPTION?



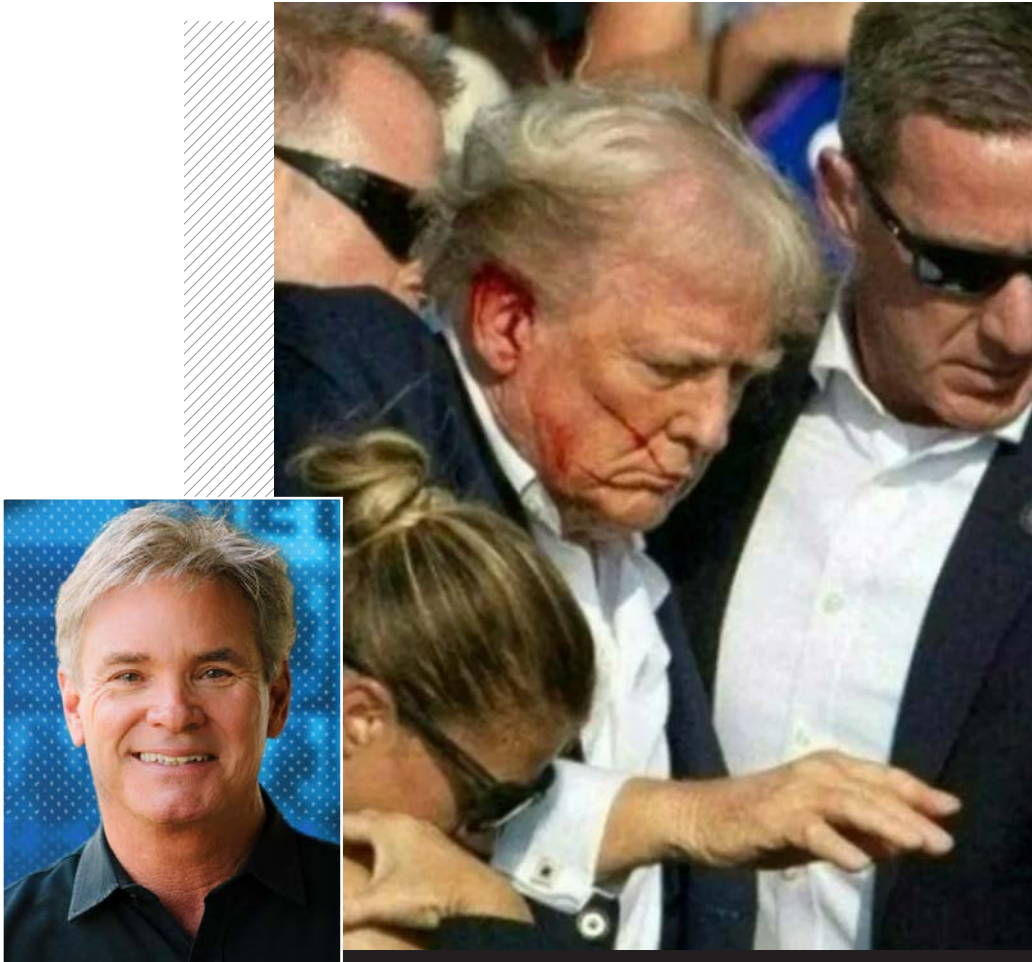
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- What do they want?
- And why are they here?

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Leadership and providence at work together. Pastor Jack Hibbs (inset) said in a post on Facebook that he spoke with Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump the morning after the attempted assassination.

Did Prayer and Fasting Save Trump from Assassination?

Pastor Jack Hibbs asks, “How much further does God have to go?”

Regardless of their political views, many Americans agree with the sentiments former President Donald Trump expressed at the Republican National Convention: “God alone” saved him from the would-be assassin’s bullet. But Pastor Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills, California, has a theory about how God brought forth that miracle, wondering aloud if it might be the prayers and fasting initiated by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee’s month-long prayer and fasting challenge.

“Who’s to say if that bullet that missed President Trump could be a result of everybody praying during the month of July?” Hibbs asked. “I mean,

our God does not work in circumstances that are coincidences. He works in His sovereignty.”

Hibbs, who challenged his own church to “become Tennesseans for the month of July” after hearing of Lee’s call for prayer and fasting, sees the assassination attempt as a key turning point in not only the election, but the nation’s history. “If this is not a turning point, will there be one?” he asks. “Because at this time, does God need to send us any further indications that we are a nation in peril without Him? ... How much further does God have to go to give us warnings that we, His people, are to repent and to seek His face?”

Holy Fire & Redemption

Pastor leads suspected arsonist to Christ

In these days of rage, rebuke and calls for retribution, one South Carolina pastor has chosen another way. After Brandon Greene, 18, was arrested and charged with setting his church's two vans on fire, Pastor Kiah Graves of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Pauline visited him in jail, then led him to Christ.

"We really felt compelled to share the love of Christ with Brandon," Graves told a local news station. "Although his actions were wrong and harmful in the fact that we might have to buy new vans, we didn't hate him.

"It was an amazing moment," the pastor added. "We hugged each other. I told him that the church loved him because Christ loved us, and then, long story short, I got to share the gospel with him." He reports that Greene repented and wants to be baptized.

"None of that would have happened, I don't think, if everybody wasn't on the same page of, yes, let's catch him, let's make sure we get that squared away, but also don't leave him by himself," Graves said.

The church had planned to use the two vans to take its youth team on a mission trip to Kentucky. After the arson, the church posted its need for two vans, and by the end of the same day, the need had already been met.



Kiah Graves

New Hit 'The Promised Land' Uses 'The Office' Style to Tell Story of Moses

Can this "workplace comedy of biblical proportions" deliver?

Maybe you never thought of the biblical story of Moses' journey through the desert as a comedy. But that's the platform writer/director Mitch Hudson—who supervises all the extras on "The Chosen"—is using to reach the millennial and GenZ generations, emulating the "mockumentary" style made famous by hits including "The Office" and "Parks and Rec."

So far, his fresh approach seems to be working. The pilot episode netted 140,000 Instagram followers and 450,000 YouTube views in its first two weeks, and Hudson has a plan for 39 episodes and a feature film.

"I'm a millennial born in the '90s, and this kind of show, if I wasn't the one making it, would really appeal to me," he tells Religion News. "I think a lot of Christian content focuses on things that are not currently factors in my life, like being a father, or dealing with serious issues of faith. And I'm not saying any of that is wrong. But what do I watch all the time? I watch half-hour comedy shows. I think I'm not alone in that."

And Hudson's humorous perspective doesn't take away from his emphasis on the Scriptures. "As I'm writing, I have the Bible open," he says. "I've got some biblical commentaries that are helping me understand the material as best I can. I think what makes shows like this funny is how genuine they feel."

Good Samaritan Goes Extra Mile to Return Bible

The miracle took several months and a circuitous route, but William Bailey's Bible, lost in January when it fell off the roof of his car, has now been found—and returned to its rightful owner.

Bailey was preparing to share a message at his Georgia church that January evening and had tucked his notes inside his Bible before setting the sacred book atop his car. His granddaughter called for him, and when he returned, he forgot about the Bible. After he reached the church, he realized it must have fallen off.

Bailey, who said he was "sick" over the loss, and his wife, Dot, began praying for the Bible to be found, but months went

by with no word.

Unknown to him, Barbara James owns some property where her grandson, Barron Howard Jr., found a Bible in the driveway one day. Eventually, it wound up with James, who searched through it. After months of phone calls and other attempts to find the owner, she discovered a side pocket with information that led her to Bailey's church. She called the pastor, who knew of Bailey's loss, and the rest is lost-and-found history.

"I thank the Lord that I got it back," says Bailey, who had assumed his Bible was gone forever. The choir director blessed his Good Samaritan with both a song and a financial gift.



Ohio Teen Bible Quizzers Take Top Spot in National Challenge

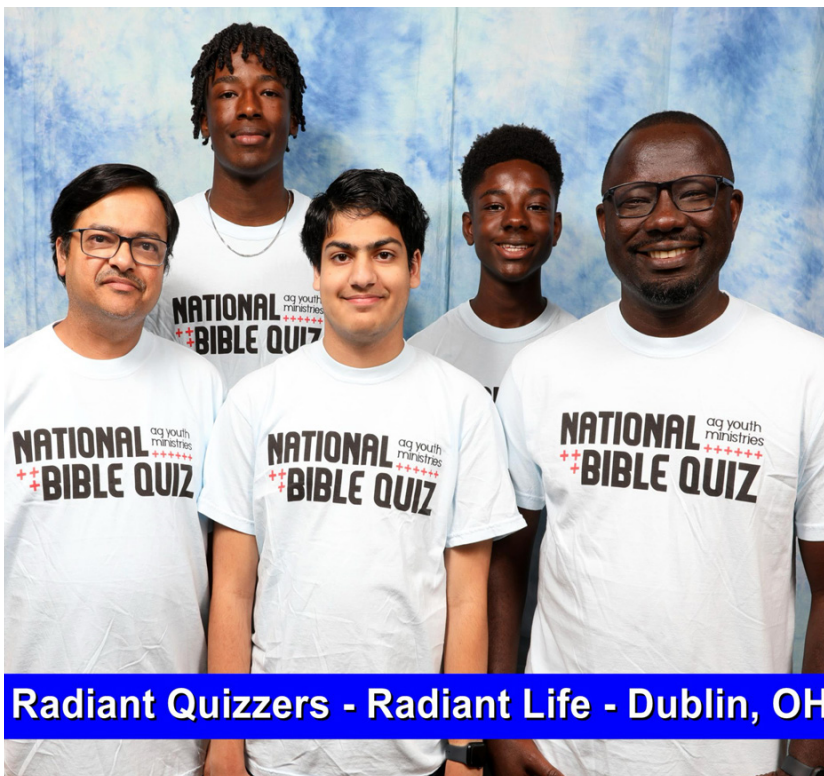
Many of the contestants memorized two entire books of Scripture

When competitors from Radiant Life Church of Dublin, Ohio, took the top spot in the 61st annual Assemblies of God Teen Bible Quiz National Finals, their excellent play assured victory before the final day of competition even began. The church team secured the title after just three days of quizzing at the tournament, held in Dallas June 30-July 5.

In preliminary rounds, the team had seven straight wins, only one of which had a margin of less than 100 points. In the Championship Division, they won 16 of 19 games to take first place over defending 2023 champion Trinity One team from Trinity Church in Cedar Hill, Texas, and Precious Ladies from Braeswood Assembly of God, Houston. Those two teams, both with extensive National Finals experience, finished with 13 wins and six losses each. Braeswood, who had beaten Trinity in their round-robin match-up, was awarded second place by tiebreaker rules.

The tournament featured 40 teams of teenage Bible quizzers from across the nation, 101 of whose contestants had completely memorized the books of Romans and James. Dublin's Jayden Nimako scored the most points overall with 2,260, an average of 118.9 per game.

The Bible quiz team from Radiant Life Church of Dublin, Ohio, secured the title after just three days of quizzing at the 61st national finals held in Dallas.



Southeastern University's Link Program Receives Nearly \$1.5 Million Grant Award

The project supports young adults with mild intellectual disabilities

SEU Link, Southeastern University's post-secondary transitional program for young adult students with mild intellectual disabilities, received a nearly \$1.5 million grant from the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities, the third renewal of the continuing grant originally received in 2018. This most recent grant award covers a project period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

"The awarding of these funds is a testament to the Link program's proven success and promising future," said SEU President Kent Ingle. "Not only will the grant support the continued implementation of the program, but it will also pave the way for its further enhancement—ensuring a brighter future for our students."

SEU Link is one of about 30 programs in the state funded by FCSUA, and one of only a few faith-based postsecondary transition programs in the nation. The program, now in its sixth year, is designed to help students make the transition from high school to adulthood. It includes Link-specific courses focused on skills related to independent living, self-advocacy and employment along with courses tied to career interests such as Art and Design, Business, Education and Childcare, Fitness and Tourism and Hospitality.

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Is This the PERFECTION of ALL END TIMES

Our enemy the dragon is wi

BY JONATHAN CAHN

Is there more to our world than we see with our eyes? Another realm? Unseen forces transforming our world at this very moment?

Is there an ancient vision that unlocks what is actually happening to our world right now, and what is yet to transpire?

Are we witnessing the unfolding of a war that began long before any of us came into the world, that involves each of us—a war in which we are each targeted? And did a 3,000-year-old mystery actually foretell the invasion of Israel by Hamas down to the year—and even the exact date?

A Prophetic Mystery

It was a Friday night. I was speaking at Beth Israel, the congregation I lead in Wayne, New Jersey. I was led to speak of a mystery that went back to Mount Sinai. According to the mystery, there would be an invasion of the nation of Israel—in the year 2023. The invasion would take Israel by surprise. The invasion would take place on the Jewish day of rest, the Sabbath. The invasion would also take place on a Hebrew holy day, on the sacred *moedeem* of God, as given in Leviticus 23. The invaders would strike the land in the month of October, specifically on the first Saturday of October of 2023.

The Coming to Pass

It would come to pass across the world the very next day, October 7, 2023, with the invasion of Hamas into Israel, on the Sabbath day, on a Hebrew holy day from Leviticus, and on the first Saturday of October, 2023. Behind the event that shocked the world was an ancient mystery going back to the sands of Mesopotamia, the tent of Abraham and beyond, even to the dawn of creation. It would lead to my newest book, *The Dragon's Prophecy: Israel, the Dark Resurrection, and the End of Days*. It contains the mystery that may enable us to know future events and when exactly they will take place.

“If the enemy doesn’t want a book to come out, or a message or revelation to go forth—it means God all the more does!”



MYSTERIES?

ending up for the final battle

The First Book I've Ever Written That...

...I didn't plan on writing. I was going to write the sequel to *The Return of the Gods*. And I know I am still to write that book. But I was interrupted. I was interrupted by the Lord's leading that I had to write *The Dragon's Prophecy*. The book is, in many ways, unique. It is the first book I've ever written that specifically opens up the mysteries of the "last days," the "end of days." It is also unique in that while I was writing it, what I was writing about, kept coming true in the world forcing me to continually rewrite and update it! And lastly, it is unique in that I've never witnessed so much opposition, so much spiritual warfare, over a book I was writing, from the time I began writing it!

As I wrote about the dragon's flood launched against Israel in the book of Revelation, a literal flood came against the building of my congregation, Beth Israel. And then another, and another. Then thieves broke in. Then all communications were cut off; bank accounts hacked into; phone lines dead, and much more!

But that's all a good sign. If the enemy doesn't want a book to come out, or a message or revelation to go forth—it means God all the more does!

The Dragon's War

The dragon is a symbol of the enemy, the fallen and twisted angelic being that wars against the purposes of God. It appears in the vision of Revelation 12. Also appearing in the vision is a woman. The woman is a symbol of the nation of Israel, called into being to bring God's purposes into the world, His Word, His ways, His Messiah and ultimately His kingdom. This is the revelation of the enemy's war against the children of Israel. And so it's no accident that the Jewish people are the most warred against, persecuted, vilified and hated people in world history. It's not natural, it's supernatural. Antisemitism does not begin with a man but with an angel. That's why it never dies, but rises up in every age from generation to generation.

continued »

The Dark Resurrection

The Bible foretells that in the “last days” God will gather the Jewish people back to their homeland and resurrect the ancient nation of Israel. That resurrection will bring the war of the dragon against the Jewish people to a new level, and will bring the entire world against the nation of Israel.

The enemy is a mimic. He imitates the works of God. Therefore, if God were to resurrect His ancient nation back into the modern world—would not the enemy seek to do likewise, to bring about his own resurrection, to resurrect an ancient people, an ancient enemy of Israel to war against the resurrected nation of Israel?

He would, and he already has. One of the mysteries revealed in *The Dragon’s Prophecy* is that what took place on Oct. 7, is part of the resurrection of an ancient people, ancient enemies of Israel. The resurrection involved exact names, exact places, exact strategies and exact events. Even the exact strip of land involved in the attack was identified in the Bible thousands of years before it happened.



The Role of Adolf Hitler in Recent Events!

Another mystery in *The Dragon’s Prophecy* concerns the involvement of Adolf Hitler—in *recent events!* Though it may be hard to fathom, without Hitler, Oct. 7 would never have happened. Without Hitler, Hamas would never have been born. Hitler had put his associate Heinrich Himmler in charge of the Holocaust. Himmler was put in charge of the Nazi’s conquered peoples in the Autumn of 1939, and thus in position to begin the Holocaust. The date was *October 7*. The day on which Himmler, this murderer of countless Jewish lives, was born, was *October 7*. Though it is hard to fathom, Hitler was also behind an event that hit even closer to home—9/11!

The Mystery of the Jubilee

The Jubilee was given to Israel as a time of restoration and joy. Every fiftieth year, on the Jubilee, if you were in bondage you would be set free. If you had lost your land, you would return to it. It is a mystery that the restoration of Israel, the return of the Jewish people to the land they had lost, took place according to the mystery of the Jubilee.

It all began in 1867 when the issuing of a decree that enabled the land of Israel to be repurchased by the Jewish people. Fifty years, one Jubilee, later, in 1917, came the issuing of the Balfour Declaration that

promised the land of Israel as a refuge for the Jewish people. That same year the four centuries of Ottoman Turkish rule over the land came to an end.

Fifty years later, in 1967, the next

“The enemy is a desecrator. He takes the holy things of God and seeks to invert and defile them.”

Jubilee came, the next restoration. In June of that year, the Six Day War broke out. On the third day of that war, for the first time in 2,000 years, Jewish soldiers entered the gates of their holy city and Jerusalem was restored to the Jewish people.

But the world, America included, never gave Israel legal recognition over its possession of Jerusalem. But another 50 years later—one Jubilee after the Six Day War—in 2017, came the Jerusalem Declaration, as President Trump became the first world leader to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel since ancient times!

The Devil’s Jubilee

But the enemy is a desecrator. He takes the holy things of God and seeks to invert and defile them. So, he made his own Jubilee. It began with a calamity. In 1973, Israel was invaded. The invasion took the nation by surprise, happening on a Sabbath day and its holiest of observances, Yom Kippur. It looked as if the nation would be destroyed. Miraculously, the

war was turned around. But the trauma shook Israel to its core and never left it.

The Jubilean year of 1973 was 2023. And so it was ordained that another calamity would come upon Israel in 2023. The Yom Kippur War took place in October so it was ordained that another calamity would come upon the land in October of 2023.

And so it did.

What happened on Oct. 7, 2023, would parallel what happened 50 years before. It involved several prophetic countdowns of days: one beginning six years before the event; the other beginning over 18,000 days before. Each countdown lands on one specific day—Oct. 7.

It was the devil's jubilee. And the amazing thing is, after I finished *The Dragon's Prophecy*, the mysteries revealed in the book continued to come true. Here again, the mysteries may enable us to know future events before they take place, and exactly when they will happen.

The Many Mysteries

There are far too many mysteries in *The Dragon's Prophecy* to reveal or even mention here, but a few prominent examples include:

The Secret on the Mount: How a mystery to be played out in the book of Revelation was actually behind the events of October 7—and, yes, also behind 9/11!

The Raiders of Ezekiel: How, with the transpiring of recent events, we crossed a major line with regard to a prophecy given nearly 2,500 years ago, and that may foretell the next great prophetic event of our times.

The Colors of the Apocalypse: A mystery behind one of the most critical signs of our times and yet that begins with the unlocking of the seven seals in the book of Revelation.

The Black Sabbath: How the dragon's fingerprints can be seen even in the timing of world events, and how he can recognize his strategies in our own lives.

The End of Days: How the prophetic

picture given in the Bible, from the beginning, concerning the *end of days* is actually happening now before our eyes.

The Sar Paras: An ancient entity spoken of in the Hebrew Scriptures is actually at work, even now, moving nations and world events, before our eyes.

The Dragon's Other War—You!

The dragon is waging war, not only against Israel but also against every believer in Messiah. That war will intensify in the end times. He wars as well against all who bear the image of God—everyone. He's been waging war against you who are now reading this article. He has waged that war from the moment you were conceived. His mission is to keep you from God's love, His will, His purposes and His calling on your life. The dragon is waging that war right now—can we identify his strategies? And can we overcome them?

We can!

The last part of *The Dragon's Prophecy* is the revealing of secrets and keys for every follower of Messiah, to know how to overcome and to actually overcome. It centers on the *dragon slayers!*

Pray!

I knew it was the Lord who interrupted me to make sure I would write this book. The events that followed have made me all the more sure that the message of *The Dragon's Prophecy* is for now, it is for God's people and is for all those in their lives who need to hear and know. Pray that God will powerfully use *The Dragon's Prophecy* for His will, to reveal, to save, to set free and to empower. And please pray for me in view of the release of this book!

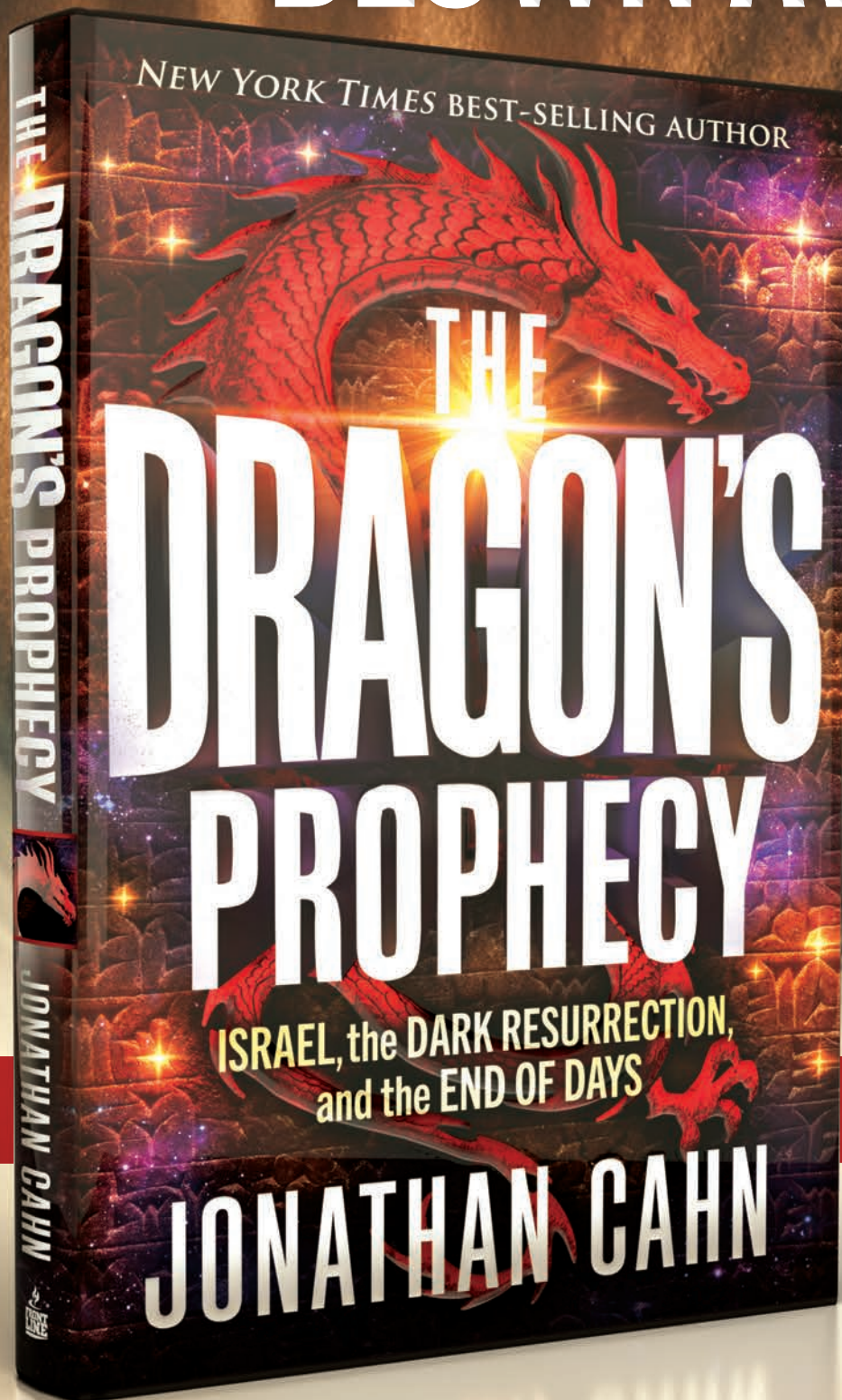
Until then, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Fight your good fight—and overcome the dragon! ◀

JONATHAN CAHN *caused a worldwide stir with the release of his explosive first book, The Harbinger, which became an instant New York Times bestseller and brought him to national and international prominence. Every one of his books since then has become a New York Times bestseller, including The Mystery of the Shemitah, The Book of Mysteries, The Paradigm, The Oracle, The Harbinger II, The Return of the Gods, and The Josiah Manifesto. He is known for opening the deep mysteries of Scripture and bringing forth messages of prophetic import. He was named, along with Billy Graham, as one of the top 40 spiritual leaders of the last 40 years who radically changed our world. Called the prophetic voice of this generation, Cahn is a much-sought-after speaker and has been highlighted in the New York Times as well as in many national and international media. He has spoken at the United Nations, on Capitol Hill and to millions of people around the world. He leads Hope of the World, an international outreach of the Word, teachings and compassion projects for the needy around the world. He also leads the Jerusalem Center/ Beth Israel, made up of people of all back-*

grounds, just outside New York City, in Wayne, New Jersey.



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Are You
TRUSTWORTHY
In God's Eyes?

**Giving, Extravagant Generosity
& Crushing the Spirit of Mammon**

BY GREG LOCKE

Let's discuss the highest level of generosity—extravagant giving. Anybody can be involved in obedience giving, thank God. It's the only place to start on the journey, but it's still just the start. When you begin to graduate through your spiritual journey to reach the highest level, not only are you blessed by Him but you also get closer to Him. You receive an understanding of the Holy Spirit and the gifts and develop greater gifts. When you give, you experience a supernatural release in your life that empowers you to impact all around you for generations to come—for the sake of the gospel—and it's unmistakable.

I must be entirely honest about this level. You will probably only meet a handful of people in your whole life who live as humble, openhanded, extravagant givers. When they say, "Hey, that guy right there will give you the shirt off his back," they're talking about an extravagant giver, who will probably give you shirts for 20 other people too.

That's where I want the church to be. I want to see people go out and live extravagantly generous lives. That's why I often tell people in the church I pastor, "If you go to a restaurant and you are not a decent tipper, do not tell them you go to Global Vision because we are a generous people, hoping to become more extravagantly generous every year—and 'take hold of that which is truly life.'"

Intersection of Sacrifice and Extravagance

Whenever we eat out, my wife Tai and I have a practice of asking the Holy Spirit how much to tip the wait staff, and we always let it become an exercise in biblical generosity. While I don't necessarily consider generous tipping an example of extravagant giving (though it can be), it is at the very least a clear way for tithers to move into the sacrificial level with greater spontaneity in the spirit. The primary reason folks don't tip well is because they want to keep more of their money for themselves rather than be a blessing to someone else. It really is that simple.

We all need to navigate that sacrificial crossroads along our journey, and tipping big is an easy place to start—as is spontaneously giving to a friend in need or a hurting stranger at an intersection, homeless or not.

Once you get into the practice of sacrificial giving on these personal levels, it becomes far easier to get sacrificial at the church level, and you'll begin to look for opportunities to give extravagantly. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 25: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me," (v. 40, ESV). There could hardly be a clearer command to be generous with strangers.

Julian and the Waitress

I recall the first time we took Julian to dinner with us. "Jules," as I call him, is one of our associate producers at Locke Media and a young man who is wise beyond his years. I felt led to use this as a teaching moment for him, just as I have for all our own kids. The lesson has profoundly affected each of them on their own generosity journeys, so I try to continue that teaching model whenever the opportunity presents itself. Jules is now a dear friend and a generous one at that.

When the waitress came to serve us, she apparently knew we were pastors, as she started spilling out about stuff she was going through. Her stories told me enough to know she was hurting for help, but the Holy Spirit told me even

“When I have the means to bless someone EXTRAVAGANTLY, I’m going to do it even if it leaves my pockets empty.”

more, so I was excited about how this would affect Jules.

I asked her, “What’s the biggest tip you’ve ever received?” She said, “Eighty-five bucks.” I then asked, “What are you and your family in need of?” It turned out she lived with her parents, who were very sick, so you can imagine. I then asked, “What do you need right now?” She struggled to share that she had some school bills due, and they added up to about \$500.

You must realize that is a lot of money for someone working tables and putting up with mean-spirited people who yell at her because the tea wasn’t right or belittle her while complaining, “You didn’t make my steak right!” (She’s not even the one who cooks the steak.) Even more, you never know what your waitress is going through. She may be going through a divorce. She may have just lost a baby. But she is still out there working her fingers to the bone trying to keep her head above the misery just so you can make her feel like garbage and give her a \$5 tip.

I said, “Well, ma’am, we want to bless you, so we’re going to pray about what the Lord wants us to give you.” When Tai confirmed what I was thinking, we knew it was God’s

number for her.

When I preach in other cities, I occasionally receive love offerings that give me this sort of liberty, and I had just returned from one of those meetings, so the timing was perfect. Once she saw that I gave her a \$1,500 tip, the young woman threw the menu up in front of her face, fell out in the booth behind her like she was slain in the Holy Ghost, and—with a restaurant full of people wondering what the commotion was all about—screamed, “Hoooh, Lord Jesus! Hoooooh!” As we walked out, I looked Jules square in the face and said, “That’s what I live for. To make people shout ‘Lord Jesus!’ That’s what I live for.”

I obviously can’t always do that, but that’s what made it an extravagant act for me at that moment. I have needs like everyone else, and God meets them. So, when I have the means to bless someone extravagantly, I’m going to do it even if it leaves my pockets empty. To walk in biblical generosity, you have to believe in God’s promises, and I do—every single one of them. How about you?

One Master

Giving sacrificially or extravagantly takes a dramatic shift in where you

see yourself in the kingdom. If you’re seeking “first the kingdom of God” as Jesus commands us, you will only store your treasure in heaven, and that requires obedience to His Word when it comes to your money. In this case, He’s specifically referring to obedience to His commands on giving at all three levels.

If we try to keep our extra money for our own extravagances or “lay it up” somewhere else in this world, the money becomes our master. But if we give it to those in need as commanded, we are storing it up in heaven and proving God to be our Master (Matt. 6:24). If you’re earthly minded, you may never have contemplated what it means to store “treasure in heaven,” but those who are kingdom minded—heavenly minded—can’t stop thinking about it. The thought of storing more treasure in heaven with God as our Master consumes us. And according to Jesus, we’re all 100% consumed by one of two masters: God or money. You simply can’t have it both ways.

For me, money is the biggest motivator on the planet. You ask anybody who works for me. When Wayne, our producer/director, is leading our negotiations at Locke Media, whether it be for a film or a book deal or any

of the other gospel media we produce, there's always a point where money becomes the primary topic. We've been in phone conferences and Zoom meetings with major distributors and publishers, and as soon as they start talking money to grease the wheels and win me over, he knows to shut it down. More than once I've heard him say, "Hey, can we not talk about our profit potential? We're just looking to reach the largest audience possible, and money simply will not move Pastor Locke." With a chuckle he'll add, "Really, you're about to lose him." And he's right. I never had to ask him to say that because he's been with me for a very long time, and he knows that money will never move me—only God.

Words + Action = Gaudium Deo!

Recently our church family took an opportunity for extravagant giving. We collected offerings, but not for our expenses—I never ask for offerings to

a beautiful experience. My first trip to Israel deeply impacted me, and it's the only place I've never lived that I'm homesick for every day. There's something profound about being there, and I want you to feel the same spirit of generosity that God has stirred in me.

I had been preparing our congregation for this. We dedicated the entire in-house and online offering to Pastor Israel and his ministry. My wife and I

Yes, we have significant needs as a church. We're currently involved in six lawsuits, with four stemming from the days we kept our church open during the COVID-19 situation. We've spent over \$600,000 in legal fees, but God has been with us and we're winning those battles. The enemy tries to distract and unsettle us, but I'm not worried. Our church is in the best position it's ever been in during our 19 years. Despite our needs, God has impressed upon me to bless His people, and I believe He will lift the lid on our blessings when we are faithful.

We took the opportunity to bless Israel Pochtar's ministry. Every penny, nickel, dime, dollar and check—both in person and online—went directly to Israel. Through the generosity of our congregation, we were able to give \$200,000 to Pastor Pochtar. This is not the first time we've given such a large sum, and it won't be the last!

I am convinced that God will honor us as a church and as individuals for standing with His people and giving generously. Let's partner with God today and stand with His heart. Amen. ✦

PASTOR GREG LOCKE is the founding and lead pastor of Global Vision Bible Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. He is also the founder of Locke Media and Global Vision Press. Locke has authored four #1 best-selling books, including the three-book *Spiritual Warfare* series. His newest book, *The Generosity Journey*, is available now on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). He and his wife, Taisha, share six kids and one very blessed grandchild.

had been saving for this moment, and we gave one of the largest gifts we've ever given. We encouraged everyone to join us in giving faithfully.

Christianity isn't a get-rich-quick scheme. Never has been. Sowing into what God cares about is always a wise decision. And always has been. Today, we're praying and sowing into Israel—both the nation and the person. We're giving generously, and we won't apologize for it because we believe it's what God wants us to do.

cover those because I trust God will provide. Instead, we are sowing into the ministry of Pastor Israel Pochtar, who is doing incredible work in Israel and beyond. His church is at the forefront of mass evangelism in Israel, and it's truly inspiring to witness how God is working through their humanitarian efforts and spreading the Gospel.

I was there during Pentecost and saw firsthand the number of people coming to faith in the Messiah. It was

*“That’s what I live for.
To make people shout
‘LORD JESUS!’”*

*“For me, money
is the biggest
DEMOTIVATOR
on the planet.”*

WAS TRUMP'S RISE FORETOLD



130 YEARS AGO?

How deep into history does *The Trump Code* go?

BY TROY ANDERSON

The broad face is full of intelligence, and the large gray eyes are lighted up with a good-natured but quizzical look that invariably attracts attention,” (from *Baron Trump’s Marvellous Underground Journey* (1893), by Ingersoll Lockwood).

In what was described beforehand as the “shot heard around the world” by international prophetic voice Joseph Z, president Donald J. Trump survived an assassination attempt on July 13, 2024—sending shock waves around the globe. Later, he credited God for his miraculous hand of protection that saved his life.

As millions watched the campaign rally near Butler, Pennsylvania, Trump providentially turned his head at precisely the right moment, causing the bullet that likely would have killed him to miss and instead graze his right ear. Trump reached up to touch his bloodied ear and quickly took cover before the Secret Service’s sniper team returned fire, killing Thomas Matthew Crooks. “Bullets were continuing to fly as very brave Secret Service agents rushed to the stage...and pounced on top of me so that I would be protected,” Trump recalled a few days afterward at the Republican National Convention. “There was blood pouring everywhere, and yet in a certain way, I felt very safe because I had God on my side.”

After learning the failed assassin had been killed, Secret Service agents helped Trump to his feet. Upon seeing thousands of people “breathlessly waiting” to see if he had survived the fusillade of bullets, Trump shouted, “Fight, fight, fight.”

Origins of the Code

His rise to power began on June 16, 2015, when the world watched in wonder as he descended the Trump Tower escalator with his wife, Melania. The real estate titan, entertainment superstar and American patriot was entering a new realm: the swamp of the deep state in Washington, D.C.’s politics and corruption.

What ensued over the following years, a mixture of sneers, lies and hostility from elites, pundits and the mainstream media, was met with cheers, excitement and hope from everyday folks,

businesspeople and conservative and Christian media. Not many knew that his shocking win in 2016, equally shocking loss in 2020, third run at the presidency and now a stunning assassination attempt would signal the shift into a hyperdeceptive time of fake news, wokeness, cancel culture, artificial intelligence, soaring inflation and looming nuclear war.

The chaos unleashed by Trump's presence in politics and media is unprecedented—but not unforeseen. There were many in the prophetic community who had insights into what was going to happen and what the future held. Not least among these widely varied

smartphones, Lady Gaga flying over the audience attached to cables like she did at the 2017 Super Bowl, and even Disney buying 21st Century Fox in the episode “When You Dish Upon a Star.”

In the case of Donald J. Trump, the show has often poked fun at him, but it accurately predicted his run and election in an episode of the show in 2000. The episode “Bart to the Future,” has Bart able to go 30 years forward and finds out that Trump had previously run the country. Another episode has a banner showing Trump running in 2024.

There are a dozen other examples of this in the show's past, but the main question is, How are they doing it? Do

fictional work predicting the real-world future:

» Jules Verne predicted the lunar landing in his book *From the Earth to the Moon* in 1865.

» In 1953, Ray Bradbury wrote about wireless technology in his book *Fahrenheit 451*.

» 1984 by George Orwell foresaw the surveillance state the world now lives in, with cameras on every street corner, watching all we do.

» In 1909, E. M. Forster wrote in *The Machine Stops* about a time when people would live and work from their own rooms. The book also proposed people would be communicating with each other entirely through electronic means.

» More recently, Sarah Pinsker's novel *Song for a New Day*, published on Sept. 10, 2019, deals with a culture battling the combination of domestic terrorism and a deadly pandemic.

Also startling is the film *Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part One*. It has brought to mind the question: What does the most recent *Mission: Impossible* movie, starring Tom Cruise, have to tell us about artificial intelligence and its intrusion into reality? Is it predicting the future or preparing us to accept it? In the movie, we are thrown into a world that is stalked by a villain never seen before: an artificially intelligent creation that knows the future. But we don't really know what it wants and why it wants it. The AI villain is known as the Entity, and it presents frightening problems and hits very close to home.

The Entity can hack any system, change reality at any time, and impact everyone's decisions in a blink of an eye. The Entity has taken on a life of its own and is out of control.

While the intent of the Entity is not known in part one of the film, it is obvious that it wants to control the world and use it for its own gain. It has become a god, and it wants its wishes fulfilled.

While the ability to hack any database, gather data and store it in an ultimate manner is not new to us, the ability for the Entity to see the future is new for AI. Throughout the movie, as the good guys attempt to thwart its plans, the Entity predicts people's motives, moves and deaths. In the minds of

“Can AI predict the future like *The Simpsons* or even Ingersoll Lockwood?”

insights was the obscure but eerie Baron Trump novels written by the largely unknown lawyer and author Ingersoll Lockwood in the late 1800s. And that is along with the enigmatic Trump family legacy and Trump's curious link to Nikola Tesla, the prolific inventor whose missing research papers on time travel and other “forbidden science” have raised questions about top-secret government programs along with a myriad modern technologies.

Prophecy from a Prime-time Cartoon?

Fiction has been said to be an artist (a writer or creator) going out into the world, seeing what is coming, and coming back to tell others what they have seen. Fox's famed animated show *The Simpsons*, described by *Entertainment Weekly* as “TV seers,” and “eerily (or at least semi-) prophetic,” has a track record of doing just that. They predicted

they have a tap into the psychic world? Is God speaking to them?

While no one knows for sure, some of the show's writers credit it to being immersed in the news, discussing things they think are outlandish, and coming up with plots that might take place.

It's undeniable that something unique has happened when a cartoon for adults accurately predicts the election of a man many did not take seriously as a political figure—despite his repeated claims he would run for president one day. It seems that they were confirming words spoken by Kim Clement and others that Trump will have a second term and win in 2024. This phenomenon of fiction seeing into the future and telling us what might happen is not unique to *The Simpsons* or Trump.

Mission: Impossible 7 And Artificial Intelligence

The Simpsons aren't alone as a

many, *Mission: Impossible* presents AI as the threat that it really is for mankind.

AI, Trump & the 2024 Presidential Election?

Another big question looms in the not-too-distant future: How will AI impact the U.S. elections in November 2024 and Donald Trump's run at his second term?

Can AI predict the future like *The Simpsons* or even Ingersoll Lockwood, 131 years ago?

Currently there are organizations trying to use AI to forecast future events, basing their predictions on the GPT-4 language model. They have found that it can predict future events better than people.

Kira Radinsky, cofounder and chief technology officer at Diagnostic Robots, "a health care artificial intelligence system with predictive analytics," believes AI's ability to predict future events is only going to increase. She is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's high-level panel on digital cooperation, and she created an AI system that predicted cholera in Cuba, riots and other global events.

When asked if AI can predict the future, Radinsky replied, "I think the best way to predict the future is to create it. One of the things that we are doing right now is identifying the patterns, and when the patterns start, try to predict the next step. So, it can predict things that have a pattern. Random things? It's a philosophical question. Do we even have random things? Or is it part of a pattern that we don't have data for? So, if you believe there is no random thing and everything has a pattern, then AI can predict the future. We just need more data for that."

Please pause for a moment and read her startling statement once again.

She said to predict the future, one needs to create it.

And they are doing it right now in our election cycle.

"Deepfakes already have affected other elections around the globe," wrote Rehan Mirza, a research associate on the Democracy & Internet Governance Initiative. In response to robocalls impersonating President Joe Biden that went

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out to New Hampshire voters in January 2024, advising them not to vote in the state's presidential primary election, the Federal Communications Commission issued a ruling making it illegal to use AI-generated voices in robocalls. The increase in robocalls has escalated during the last few years, and the AI technology has the potential to confuse people with misinformation by imitating the voices of celebrities and political candidates.

Politics is all about persuasion, and it has always been marked by propaganda. Exaggerations and outright lies are not uncommon in the political world.

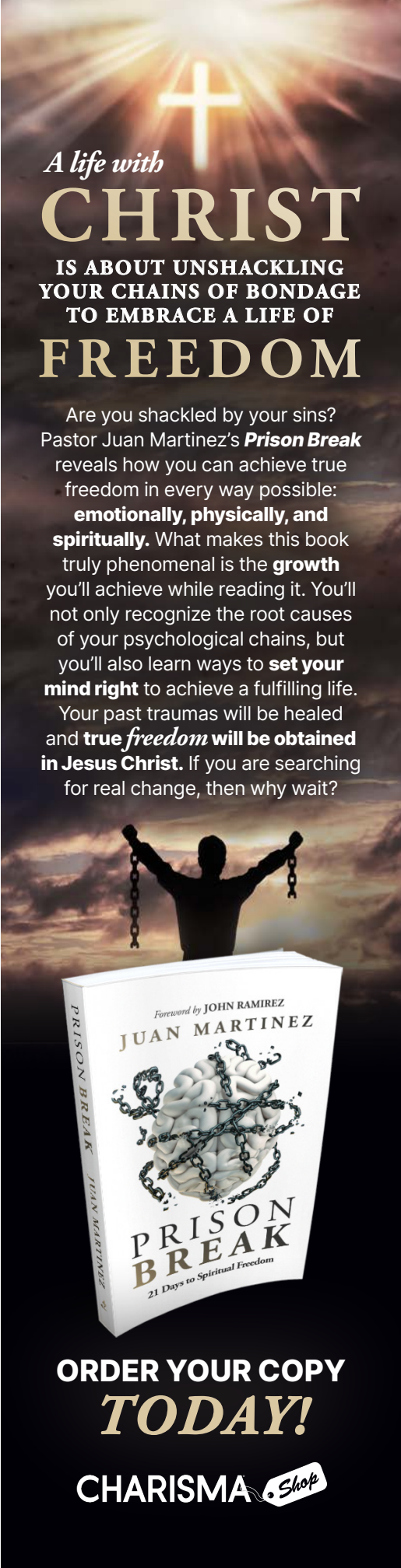
"Because people are not angels, elections have never been free from falsehoods and mistaken beliefs," said an article in *The Economist*. "But as the world contemplates a series of votes in 2024, something new is causing a lot of worry. In the past, disinformation has always been created by humans. Advances in generative artificial intelligence (AI)—with models that can spit out sophisticated essays and create realistic images from text prompts—make synthetic propaganda possible. The fear is that disinformation campaigns may be supercharged in 2024, just as countries with a collective population of some 4 [billion]—including America, Britain, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Taiwan—prepare to vote."

As the country races toward the presidential election, the idea of lies being created by only people is out the window.

Now the lies can be supercharged and made to look so real that it is no longer possible to tell reality from pure fantasy. ◀

TROY ANDERSON is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist, bestselling author of *Revelation 911* and other books, founder of the *Inspire Literary Group*, vice president of *Battle Ready Ministries*, co-founder of *Revelation Watchers*, and former executive editor of *Charisma* magazine and reporter at the *Los Angeles Daily News* and other newspapers. His latest book is *The Trump Code*, releasing Tuesday the 17th of this month, and is available on amazon.com now. He lives with his family in Irvine, California. Find out more at www.troyanderson.us and www.revelationwatchers.com.

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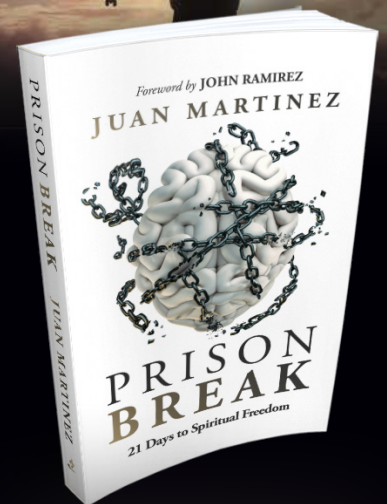
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7 Key Conversations Driving the 2024

Election Season

Godly decisions and faithful votes in chaotic times

PREPARED BY CHARISMA MAGAZINE ONLINE STAFF

As the nation enters the 2024 election season, there are many several key topics that are shaping the discourse and influencing voters. These topics reflect the concerns, values and priorities of a diverse electorate, encompassing a wide range of issues that are pivotal to the future of the United States. Here are seven leading conversations at the heart of election season 2024.

1. Religious Freedom

Religious freedom remains a cornerstone issue for many voters, particularly among evangelical Christians. The debate centers on ensuring that individuals and organizations can practice their faith without government interference. This topic includes concerns about laws and regulations that may compel religious institutions to act against their beliefs, such as mandates related to healthcare and education. Candidates are being scrutinized for their positions on protecting religious liberties and how they plan to address potential conflicts between religious convictions and public policy.

The issue has become increasingly complex in the face of modern societal changes. For instance, the meeting of religious freedom with LGBTQ+ rights presents ongoing challenges. Faith-based organizations seek exemptions from laws that infringe on their faith doctrines, particularly in areas like adoption services and employment practices. The political debate often hinges on finding a balance between protecting freedoms

of faith, and ensuring equal rights for all citizens.

2. Abortion and Pro-Life Advocacy

Abortion remains a polarizing issue in American politics, with significant implications for the 2024 presidential election. Pro-life advocates are pushing for stricter abortion regulations, while pro-choice supporters are fighting to protect access to abortion services. The positions of the candidates on this issue will significantly influence their support base, particularly among Christian voters who view the sanctity of life as a non-negotiable principle.

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* shifted the battleground to the state level, making it a crucial topic for voters. The Supreme Court's decision has led to a patchwork of laws across the country. This decentralization has intensified the political battle, with states enacting laws that range from complete bans to full protections of abortion rights. The presidential candidates' stances on federal funding for abortion, support for state-level restrictions and potential federal legislation will be critical in shaping voter opinions.

3. Family and Traditional Values

The definition and role of family and traditional values in society are central themes in the 2024 election. This topic encompasses issues such as same-sex marriage, gender identity and parental rights in education. Many voters are concerned

about ongoing erosion of traditional family structures and values, and they seek candidates who will champion policies that uphold these principles. The debate extends to educational content, with parents advocating for greater control over what is taught in schools regarding sexuality and gender, history and science.

The discourse around family and traditional values often reflects broader cultural skirmishes. Policies related to transgender rights and comprehensive sex education in schools are contentious topics. Many conservative voters feel that traditional values are under attack and seek leaders who will defend these principles. Conversely, progressive voters advocate for policies that promote inclusivity and respect for diverse family structures.

4. Religious Persecution Worldwide

Religious persecution around the globe is a significant concern for many voters, particularly members of the global Christian community. There is a growing call for the U.S. government to take a more active role in combating religious persecution and supporting religious minorities in countries where they face oppression. Voters are looking to presidential candidates to articulate clear strategies for addressing international religious freedom and for supporting humanitarian efforts aimed at protecting persecuted religious groups.

American voters are increasingly aware of global issues, including the persecution of religious minorities. From Christians in the Middle East and Africa, to Uighur Muslims in China and the decades-long crisis in North Korea, religious persecution is a pressing human rights issue. Voters want to know how presidential candidates plan to address these concerns, whether through diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions or humanitarian aid. Or all of the above. The candidates' commitment to religious freedom as a core element of foreign policy is under close scrutiny.

5. Healthcare Reform

Healthcare reform is an enduring issue in American politics over tangents including accessibility, affordability and

the role of government in healthcare. Voters are still concerned about rising healthcare costs, insurance coverage and quality of care. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified discussions around public health infrastructure and preparedness.

The healthcare debate encompasses a wide range of issues, including Medicare expansion, prescription drug prices and mental health services. Voters are looking for candidates who propose innovative solutions to these challenges. The impact of the Affordable Care Act, the future of Medicaid and the role of private insurance companies are all key points of the conversation. The candidates' viable plans for improving healthcare access and affordability will be crucial in gaining voter trust and support. Proposals for healthcare reform are under close scrutiny, with voters seeking comprehensive solutions that balance compassion with practicality.

6. Economic Policies and Job Creation

Voters vote their wallets, as the old line goes, and economic policies are timeless critical issues. The state of the economy, including inflation, tax policies and job opportunities, directly affects the daily lives of Americans in the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic's disruptions. Candidates' economic platforms are being evaluated for their potential to stimulate growth, create jobs, support small businesses and grow the economy. Voters are particularly interested in policies that address workforce development and economic vitality in an increasingly uncertain global market.

Are voters better off now than they were four years ago? That answer to that timeless question hinges on the economic landscape's varied and numerous factors, including technological advancements, globalization and how to efficiently and successfully incorporate environmental concerns. Voters are interested in candidates' plans for addressing these challenges through sustainable economic policies. Issues such as the minimum wage, corporate tax rates and policies driving robust free enterprise are pivotal. Each candidate's ability to present comprehensive strategies for economic

growth that also address social and environmental considerations will be evaluated thoroughly.

7. National Security and Foreign Policy

National security and foreign policy remain paramount concerns for voters. Beginning with the wars in Ukraine and Israel, issues such as military strength, counter-terrorism strategies and international alliances are central to the debate. The geopolitical landscape is continually evolving, with new challenges arising from regions like the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. Voters expect candidates to have a coherent and effective foreign policy that addresses threats to national security, promotes peace and stability, and maintains the United States' leadership on the global stage.

In an increasingly interconnected world, national security and foreign policy are evermore critical. Voters are concerned about threats from state and non-state actors, cybersecurity and the United States' role in global conflicts. The candidates' positions on military spending, alliances with NATO and other international bodies and strategies for dealing with emerging powers like China and India are central to the national security debate. Voters will demand clear vision ensuring both domestic safety and international stability.

The Road Ahead

The 2024 election is set to be a defining moment for the United States, with voters deeply invested in the direction of the country. The diverse and complex issues that are at the forefront of voters' minds, from religious freedom to national security, encapsulate the breadth and depth of the fundamental values and concerns that shape everyday Americans' lives and are driving the conversations across the electoral landscape. As candidates campaign, deliver one more stump speech and present their platforms, voters will be keenly evaluating how their positions align with these critical issues. ♦

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COMMENTARY FOR THE MODERN ENGLISH VERSION SPIRITUAL WARFARE BIBLE FURNISHED BY LEADING PASTORS, PROPHETS & AUTHORS

Jesus Commissioned You to Cast Out Demons

How to Cast Out Demons, by Isaiah Saldivar



Jesus gave three main commissions when it came to casting out demons.

The first commission is in Matthew 10:5–8 when He calls His 12 apostles to cast out demons. Note that He did not ask them to do this; He told them to. Now, you might be thinking, “Isaiah, I’m not one of the 12 apostles. This doesn’t apply to me!” Let’s keep going.

The second commission is in Luke 10:17–20, where Jesus sends out the 72 disciples and they return saying: “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.” These were not the 12 apostles. These were 72 disciples. You still might say, “But Isaiah, this doesn’t apply to me! I’m not one of the 72 disciples.” Let’s keep going.

The third commission in Mark 16:15–18 applies to every believer. It says the first sign of a believer is that they will cast out demons—not they might, not they can, but they will! To me the text is clear: This is for every believer.

It saddens me how many Christians see their friends and family being demonized and choose to do nothing about it. When will you get tired of seeing everyone around you in bondage while you have the answer? The Bible says in Romans 8:11 that you have the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, living in you. You do not have a weaker, lesser version of the Holy Spirit; you have the same Spirit that raised Christ inside you! So, let’s get to work! It’s time to go to war against the forces of darkness that keep our friends and families in bondage.

Going Deeper in Deliverance

The Secrets to Deliverance, by Alexander Pagani

Freedom is your inheritance in Christ. It’s what Jesus came to earth to give freely to those willing to receive it. First John 3:8 tells us that “For this purpose the Son of God was revealed, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” Demons love mediocrity and apathy. They thrive off believers having no passion to pursue freedom. But when the true kingdom of God has arrived, it will interfere with the kingdom of darkness. It will aggressively confront what has remained hidden for years. Digging disturbs what’s been living in undisturbed areas. When we dig deeper and unearth what’s been hiding, it causes a disruption. There will be minor manifestations of resistance. Don’t be alarmed. These are demonic tactics to get you to stop digging. Whatever you do, don’t stop digging until every last work of the devil in your life has been destroyed.



The Jezebel Spirit Is Manipulative

God Still Speaks, by John Eckhardt



Just as Ahab’s wife Jezebel was notorious for being very manipulative, so is the Jezebel spirit. Prophets can discern and expose subtle manipulation through teaching, false prophecy and flattery. The influence of the Jezebel spirit will always be seen in false teaching and efforts to control decisions. It may also involve witchcraft, seduction and sexual sin. Obviously a church cannot remain healthy with the influence of a seducing Jezebel spirit. This spirit seduces believers, leading them astray, misleading them. The Jezebel spirit causes churches to be guided more by the flesh than by the Spirit. The spirit of Jezebel draws the whole church away from purity and interferes with true worship. When a Jezebel spirit is present, spirits of perversion, adultery, immorality and fornication will run rampant in a body of people. Slander and gossip are the marks of this spirit. Churches under the influence of a Jezebel spirit will go astray in their doctrine. Dangerous false teaching and heresy will affect the lifestyles of the saints and even once-strong assemblies will find themselves in a broken-down, weakened condition.

continued »

Shut Your Ears to the Accuser of the Brethren

101 Tactics for Spiritual Warfare, by Jennifer LeClaire



In Revelation 12:10 we see that one of Satan's names is the accuser of the brethren. He accuses you before God. He accuses you before other people. He accuses God to you. Satan will accuse you amid warfare with condemning thoughts, thoughts of inadequacy and other thoughts that work to rob your joy, which is where your

strength comes from. Satan is a master at the blame game. He'll have you angry with anybody and everybody. He'll put the trap of offense in front of you to tempt you into unforgiveness, knowing that resentment dilutes your ability to hear and exercise your authority over his schemes. You must shut your ears to his accusations. How you respond to mistreatment is one of the most important aspects of your spiritual life. When you respond the right way, you climb higher—or go deeper—in the Spirit. By contrast, when you respond the wrong way, you get bitter. Over time that bitterness will defile your spirit and dull your ability to sense the presence of God or hear His voice.

The Whole Armor of God

Weapons of Our Warfare, by Greg Locke



When Paul wrote that we had to put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11), he was trying to ensure we didn't think any of it was optional. You cannot expect to be fully protected unless you obey the command to put on all of it, not just the parts and pieces you pick and choose for any given day or crisis. The rest of Ephesians

6:11 tells us the purpose of the armor is to protect us and empower us as we stand against the devil's wiles—his trickery, deception and schemes. The devil doesn't care what you believe as long as it's not the truth, so he uses deception and lies to build pathways into your soul. He strategically constructs these paths by distorting truth, enticing you with false promises and exploiting your vulnerabilities. If you put on the whole armor of God to stand righteously, you'll be equipped to stand through every attack, and you won't fall prey to the enemy's schemes.

Under Demonic Influence

Cast It Out, by Greg Locke

Critics of deliverance ministry claim it is impossible for a Christian to suffer demonic oppression, and they believe the Bible itself says so. They point to 1 Corinthians 6:19, which says believers are the "temple of the Holy Spirit," which

we absolutely are. But in the context of the passage, we see that Paul is explicitly talking about sexual immorality and is reminding us that we should never desecrate our bodies (our temples) with perversity like fornication. Not one time does the Word of God say that a Christian cannot be under the influence of a demonic spirit. In fact, since we know that idolatry and perversity are examples of how we wrestle against spiritual wickedness (Eph. 6:12), such struggles are evidence that evil spirits can attack our minds and bodies.

Prayers That Defeat the Enemy Through the Blood of Jesus

Fire Prayers, by John Ramirez



Father, I thank You for the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have been baptized in His blood, for me and my house, my child(ren) and my family and everything with which You have entrusted me.

Holy Spirit, as I pray these prayers, make me stealthy in the spirit realm so I can operate against the kingdom of darkness and whatever monitoring system

it has against me. Thank You that any such system will disappear. I will accomplish my victory through the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let the blood of the cross stand between me and my past, present and future. Let every demonic assignment of the devil be destroyed today, in Jesus' name.

By the blood of Jesus Christ, I destroy, paralyze and conquer all demonic assignments against my purpose, destiny, family, ministry and finances. I smite every demon's head with Jesus' blood, destroying every plot and scheme against me. I stand on the victory side of the finished work of the cross, in Jesus' name.

Let the power of the blood of Jesus Christ be released into the atmosphere around and in me, to destroy every fiery dart, every astral-projecting devil from the second and first heaven and every demon on the ground. Let the fire of the Holy Spirit rain on them now, in Jesus' name.

Let the power of the blood of Jesus Christ release me from every form of spiritual incarceration and every incarcerating mindset in my heart, spirit and soul. I am free now, in Jesus' name.

Let every unholy door that I have opened to the enemy, whether consciously or unconsciously, be sealed shut now, by the blood of Jesus Christ.

I stand on God's Word, covered by Jesus' blood, and I declare over my life and being, from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet, that I will be unshakable and unmovable. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Let the blood of Jesus Christ strengthen, quicken and establish me in every area of my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

The **HOLY SPIRIT** *will not just tell you* **WHO TO HELP, but** **HOW TO DO IT**

I declare the blood of Jesus Christ against every portal, gateway and open door of demonic assignment over my life. Let it be destroyed and sealed shut forever, in Jesus' name.

Let the blood of Jesus Christ stand in front of me, beside me and behind me as a shield against every satanic wile, plot and scheme. I will triumph and be victorious, and I will reach my destiny, in Jesus' name.

Let every evil seed the devil has planted or will try to plant in my life be destroyed. Let it shrivel up and die, in the name of Jesus.

I apply the blood of Jesus over my house, marriage, child(ren), family and health and over every divine opportunity in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Let every demonic strategy and satanic assignment against my life drown in the blood of Jesus.

I draw a line of protection around me, in me and through me everywhere I go. No weapon formed against me will prosper (Isa. 54:17), and no devil will be able to stand in my way. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, amen.

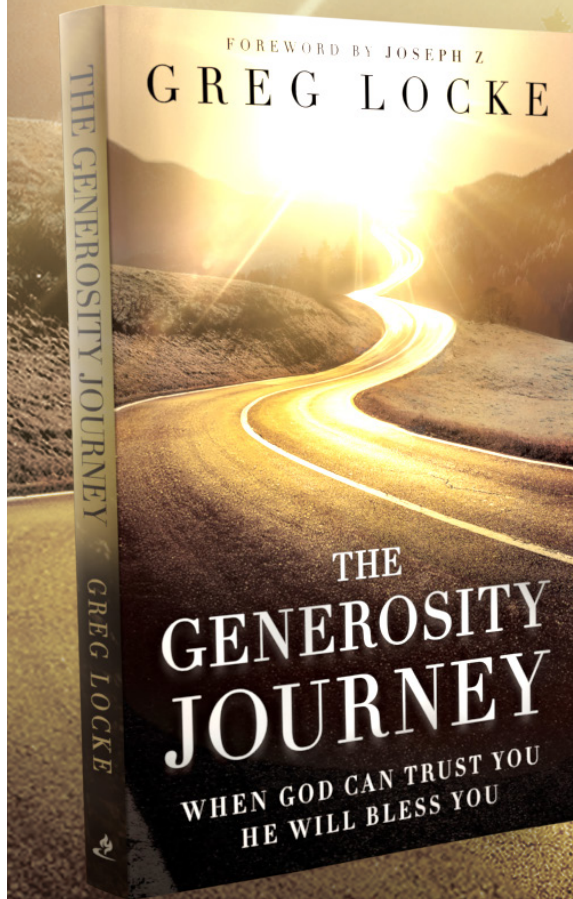
I curse all satanic operations of witches, warlocks and occult devils against my destiny. I destroy them all with the blood of Jesus.

Let the fire of the Holy Spirit fall on the head of every demonic power that is trying to frustrate or stop God's plan for my life. Confuse the devil's camp, Lord. Let the demons attack one another. Release my purpose and my destiny now, in Jesus' name.

I release warring angels from Michael's quarter to destroy every demonic strategy the enemy has planned for me this year. Let it be annihilated and pulverized, never to rise against me in any way. In Jesus' name, amen.

Father, I give You the praise and glory for what You have done in my life, both the things I know about and the things I don't. I thank You in the untouchable, all-powerful name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ♦

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| DIGITAL EVANGELISM

**Brian &
Bobbie
Houston**
JesusFollowers.TV



Can Hillsong Founder Brian Houston Make a Successful Comeback with New Online Church?

BY A. B. PETRUCCI

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

Is Brian Houston simply misunderstood? Did he make a few errors in judgment while under immense stress over the serious 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 Brian Houston's past define his future in ministry?

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

continued »

“Houston may be falling into grace.”



Pastor Brian Houston

Season of Scandal and Cleansing

The return of Brian Houston to the ministry scene comes at an interesting time. Just within the past several months, several high-profile Christian ministers have fallen into scandals that have led to their departures from their churches. The list includes Mike Bickle, followed by T.D. Jakes, Tony Evans and Robert Morris, this latter three all located in Dallas, 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 right 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, not as an “influencer” seeking fame. He isn’t necessarily trying to build Hillsong 2.0. God is doing a new thing.

New Ministry On the Launch Pad

The launch of JesusFollowers.TV marks the return of this megachurch pioneer to active ministry-building, following his departure from Hillsong in 2022. Two years ago, it looked like Houston was done in ministry permanently. He was accused of not disclosing

information about offenses committed by his father. It has been publicly reported that Frank Houston used his position in ministry allegedly to abuse youths in the 1970s. Unlike disgraced ex-Hillsong minister Carl Lentz, who turned his “celebrity pastor” status into extramarital affairs, Houston has not been accused in any similar manner. His wife Bobbie continues to stand by him—loyalty that the former Senior Pastor of Hillsong Church cannot take for granted.

“You learn a lot about people in your tough times,” Houston tweeted.

Multitudes of people turned against Houston and even people close to him in ministry turned their backs on him for failed leadership and were unwilling to see his side of the story. But Houston has remained adamant in his faith in Christ. He has signaled publicly that he has every intention to re-establish himself as the leader of a ministry.

The people who wrote him off during “tough times” may owe him an apology. In August 2023, an Australian court acquitted Houston, validating that he had a “reasonable excuse” under the law not to disclose the accusations against his father Frank, who died in 2004.

Never known to make ministry about himself, Houston has publicly stated that the focus of his new ministry is “pointing to Jesus and seeing people become followers of Jesus.” He shared online about how he is “very excited about our online community... building

community... connecting Jesus followers and building disciples.”

An online church makes a ton of sense for Brian and Bobbie Houston, who are in a rebuilding phase despite being at an age when most ministers are beginning to think of retiring; Brian is 70, Bobbie 67. It is a season in which the Houstons are starting over, partly by necessity to earn a living after having their financial coffers drained by legal expenses, but also and more importantly as a call from God.

On the ministry’s official website, *BrianandBobbieHouston.com*, it states: “JesusFollowers.TV is here to welcome and extend our table of life and experience to you. This online platform (and church) is here to love, encourage and be a trustworthy voice of hope and inspiration in the days ahead. Our heart is to serve the God-given potential within you and the body of Christ.” The website calls out a biblical reference to provide context: “As Ephesians 2:21-22 says, we are all being built into a holy habitation for the living God, brick by brick, stone by stone, with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone.”

JesusFollowers.TV as an online church initiative is envisioned to be a platform that provides a digital environment for worship, community and spiritual growth. The online church features regular live-streamed services, including worship sessions, sermons and interactive components designed to engage viewers from around the world. JesusFollowers.TV includes:

Live Streaming Services: Regularly scheduled live services that include worship music and sermons;

On-Demand Content: Access to a library of past sermons, teachings and worship sessions;

Interactive Features: Opportunities for viewers to engage through chat, prayer requests and virtual small groups;

Global Community: Aimed at reaching a worldwide audience, fostering a sense of community among believers from different regions;

Focus on Accessibility: Designed to be accessible to people regardless of their location, allowing anyone with an internet connection to participate.

Brian Houston’s vision for JesusFollowers.TV is to create a dynamic and

inclusive online space where people can connect with their faith and with each other, regardless of geographic barriers. Nonetheless, with JesusFollowers.TV being an online church, Houston won't have to worry about any construction materials to build a brick-and-mortar church. He is using advanced digital technologies to reach the whole world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What's Next for Brian Houston?

One of the remarkable characteristics of Houston is that he is trying to pick up where he left off at his former church and avoid allowing shame to take over his life. If he feels that he was attacked by other people when he was down, he is not ashamed to say that faith in Jesus is the "greatest weapon." Houston tweeted in early July, "Stay strong in the face of trouble. Jesus said He has overcome the world."

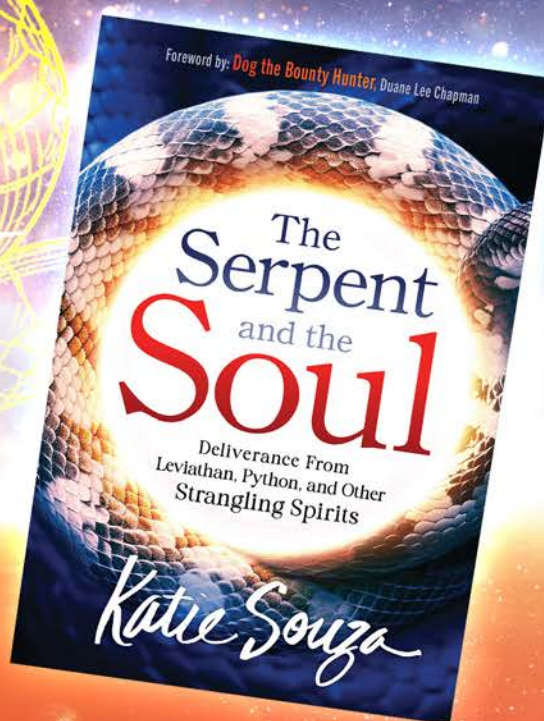
While in the early days of a newly launched online ministry, Houston is hard at work on his other new project, a book about his life slated for release in early 2025. In it, Houston would have the chance to recount his side of the story, the accusations that have beset his life, and ultimately the shocking departure from Hillsong Church.

Ultimately, God knows Brian Houston's heart, but if he reveals his true character going forward, there is an opportunity for Houston's future to redefine the widespread perceptions of his past. Rather than "falling from grace" as so many high-profile pastors have in recent months and even weeks, Houston may be falling into grace. God's power is often magnified through brokenness.

Little do we know to what extent spiritual warfare has hammered away at him for the years before and during his building one of the most influential churches in the world. Having gone through adversity after adversity, Houston has been tested in the extreme. And the next test may just be how far he can take the new JesusFollowers.TV into a world starving for the living Word of God and the life-changing power of His Holy Spirit. ◀

A.B. PETRUCCI is a contributing writer for Charisma.

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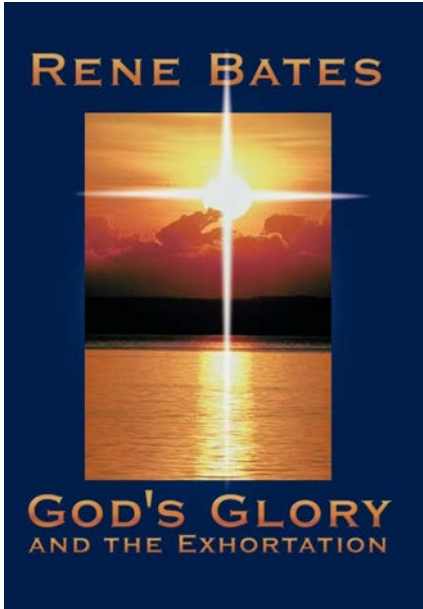
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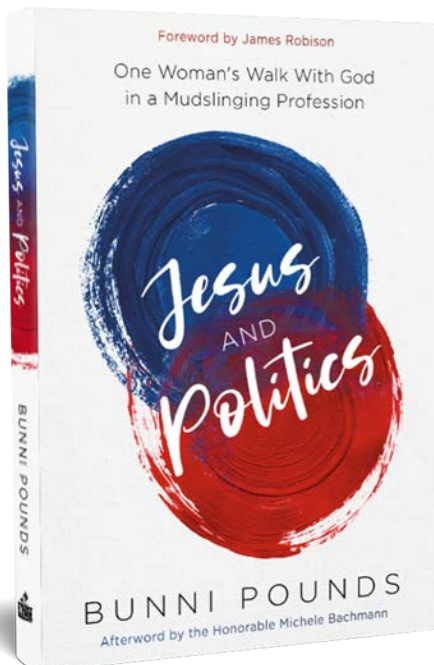
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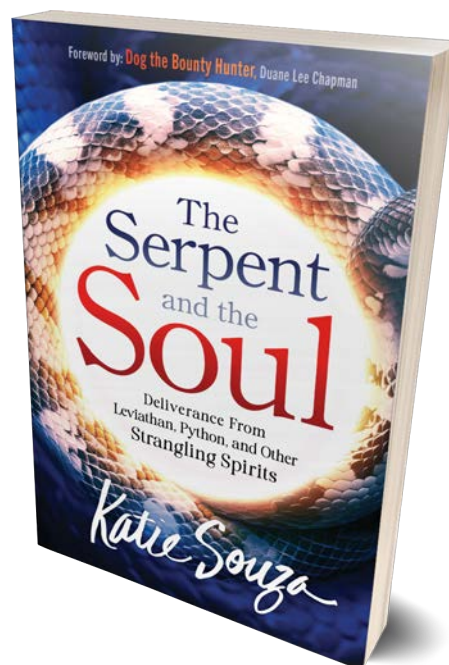
JESUS AND POLITICS BY BUNNI POUNDS

The Christian life isn't about doing things the easy way—it's about living as Christ even in a hostile environment. With Bunni Pounds's *Jesus and Politics*, you will gain insight from Pounds's sixteen-year career in the political atmosphere on how you can disciple a nation one heart at a time. Christians don't have to sit on the sidelines while we see a crumbling world around us, even in the political realm—we can be a light in the darkness to all people, in all situations. After finishing this book, your readers will understand how God wants to use them to change the world and how they can walk with the Holy Spirit no matter what calling He places on their lives.

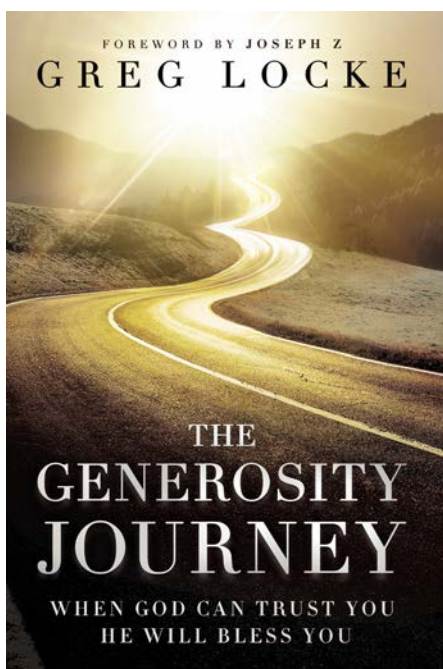
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THE SERPENT AND THE SOUL **BY KATIE SOUZA**

Deadly serpent spirits are seeking to destroy your soul! Katie Souza's *The Serpent and the Soul* reveals the sly strategies of Python, Leviathan, and other demonic spirits, as they attempt to attack you at all levels: *financially, physically, and spiritually*. Working against our relationships, our faith, and our future, these serpent spirits want to constrict you so that you suffer like they will in eternity. But have no fear! In Luke 10:19, Jesus gave us the power to trample serpents and have authority over the enemy. Although the serpent spirits may seem intimidating at first, they will run away as soon as you take back what they have stolen from you. Using the powerful prayers and spiritual tools inside this practical guide, you will be able to break free from the serpents' deadly grip and restore peace in your life! Likewise, you will be able to see that your life was created for *wholeness, not brokenness*.



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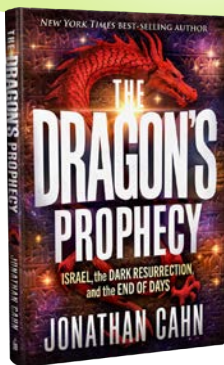


THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY **BY GREG LOCKE**

Nothing will change a believer's life more than biblical giving. Greg Locke's *The Generosity Journey* shows that generosity is the remedy for materialism and the ultimate game-changer for walking in the abundance and favor of God. Generosity is not just a gift to others but also a weapon in spiritual warfare against the negative influences of the enemy. Through generosity, you *can* and *will* experience spiritual breakthrough! After reading this book, you will not only discover the joy of giving, but you will also receive the extraordinary rewards that comes when you align yourself with God's generous plan for your life. Additionally, you will walk away with the confidence that God will take what you give and do exceedingly and abundantly more with it than you could ever have imagined.

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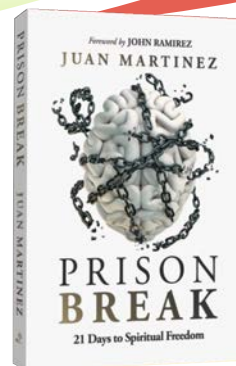
Refresh Your Spirit



THE DRAGON'S PROPHECY BY JONATHAN CAHN

Is there more to the world than we see with our eyes, unseen forces and ancient prophecies playing out to the *End of Days*? *New York Times* best-selling author Jonathan Cahn is back with another spiritual bomb to drop in ***THE DRAGON'S PROPHECY: Israel, the Dark Resurrection, and the End of Days***. In this mind-blowing book, your readers will reveal the ancient forces at work transforming our world, the mysteries of the future, and the ancient secrets given to overcome and prevail in view of what lies ahead! Your readers will never be the same after reading this mind-bending revelation!

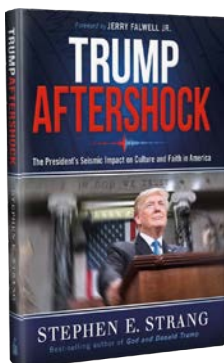
BooksByJonathanCahn.com



PRISON BREAK BY JUAN MARTINEZ

A life with Christ is about unshackling your chains of bondage to embrace a life of freedom. Juan Martinez's twenty-one-day devotional, *Prison Break*, encourages life change through practical steps such as challenging negative thinking patterns with positive affirmations and setting realistic goals. It also serves as a poignant reminder that freedom is possible and shows you that with the right mindset, you can overcome past mistakes, forgive others, be renewed by the transformation of your minds, and lead a fulfilling life. By reading this book, your readers will recognize the root causes of the psychological chains breaking them so they can reach greater personal growth.

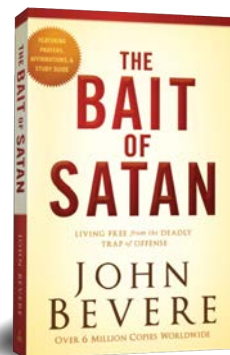
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TRUMP AFTERSHOCK BY STEVE STRANG

If Donald Trump's election was an earthquake, his accomplishments since then are the aftershocks the world never saw coming. In *Trump Aftershock*, Strang explores Trump's effect on American culture from a Christian perspective, cutting through the media noise and revealing what the media refuses to cover! Over the course of your reading, you will also objectively see what our nation's most unlikely and unconventional former president has accomplished. While reading this book, your readers will realize the lasting, beneficial effects of Trump's policy during office such as protecting religious liberty, restoring the federal courts with trustworthy justices, and strengthening ties with Israel—our spiritual and national ally.

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BIBLE READING GUIDE

Follow our daily reading plan in each issue of *Charisma* to read through the Modern English Version Bible in one year. The plan is also available online at mycharisma.com/bible-reading-guide/.

“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.”—Isaiah 40:31, MEV

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1	Ezek. 15-16; Ps. 70; Rev. 6
Sept. 2	Ezek. 17-19; Rev. 7
Sept. 3	Ezek. 20-21; Ps. 111; Rev. 8
Sept. 4	Ezek. 22-24; Rev. 9
Sept. 5	Ezek. 25-28; Rev. 10
Sept. 6	Ezek. 29-32; Rev. 11
Sept. 7	2 Kin. 25; 2 Chr. 36; Jer. 40-41; Rev. 12
Sept. 8	Jer. 42-44; Ps. 48; Rev. 13
Sept. 9	Lam. 1-2; Obadiah; Rev. 14
Sept. 10	Lam. 3-5; Rev. 15
Sept. 11	Dan. 1-2; Ps. 87; Rev. 16
Sept. 12	Dan. 3-4; Ps. 81; Rev. 17
Sept. 13	Ezek. 33-35; Rev. 18
Sept. 14	Ezek. 36-37; Ps. 110; Rev. 19
Sept. 15	Ezek. 38-39; Ps. 145; Rev. 20
Sept. 16	Ezek. 40-41; Ps. 128; Rev. 21
Sept. 17	Ezek. 42-44; Rev. 22
Sept. 18	Ezek. 45-46; Luke 1
Sept. 19	Ezek. 47-48; Luke 2
Sept. 20	Dan. 5-6; Ps. 130; Luke 3
Sept. 21	Dan. 7-8; Ps. 137; Luke 4
Sept. 22	Dan. 9-10; Ps. 123; Luke 5
Sept. 23	Dan. 11-12; Luke 6
Sept. 24	Ezra 1; Ps. 84-85; Luke 7
Sept. 25	Ezra 2-3; Luke 8
Sept. 26	Ezra 4; Ps. 113, 127; Luke 9
Sept. 27	Hag. 1-2; Ps. 129; Luke 10
Sept. 28	Zech. 1-3; Luke 11
Sept. 29	Zech. 4-6; Luke 12
Sept. 30	Zech. 7-9; Luke 13

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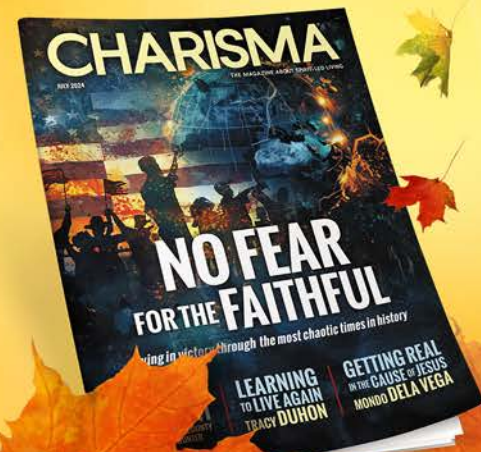
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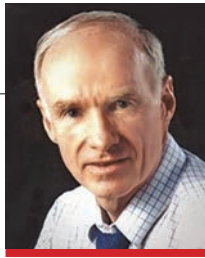
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Slow Down, Hear What God Is Saying (April 1980)

Even my wife (especially my wife) knew I was going too fast. Like a speeding train, I whistled through grade crossings, roared over trestles only moments before they collapsed (thanking God I had made it just in time—never thinking it might have been my excess speed that caused the thing to fall down) and sped by passenger stations, too busy even to wave at the friendly folk gathered by the track, much less have time to stop and pick them up.

It's a syndrome which attacks many. Too many of God's servants who are busy, busy, busy in the Lord's vineyard. But after all, we've got to get all those grapes picked before Jesus comes.

Then suddenly I was down. Flat on my back, my right leg elevated to prevent the blood clots in my shin from surging through my veins and doing unthinkable things to my heart and lungs.

My trip to South Africa with other American "spiritual giants" for the important conference was off. The doctors said I couldn't even go downstairs to eat with my family, much less circle the globe.

I was down for almost three weeks. It was a strange and mysterious thing: Everything in my body was working fine except that blood clot. There was lots of time to consider the ways of the Lord and sort through His priorities in my life.

You just can't do that, I now know, when you're always on the move.

My older brother, Clay, called and reminded me my father had a heart scare when he was about my age. He was dashing up a flight of stairs (it seems to run in the family) when his heart began to flutter and skip. He went to bed for a week, and when he got up, he was a changed man. As a result, Clay pointed out, he lived another 40 years.

It was a good reminder. I knew God was in control of the situation. And even though it didn't fit my theology, I asked my friends to go easy in asking God to heal me quickly. If He was purging me, I wanted to receive His chastisement, not rebuke it.

I had never faced the possibility of death from internal causes. There have been a number of times I thought I was going to be killed (once by a Baptist deacon). But to lie in bed in a lonely

house, as I did one night, feel intense chest pains and assume the clot had broken loose and was doing what the doctors had warned it might do ... that causes a man to see things with different eyes.

A good burp took care of that pain, but I saw it as a beneficent warning to get serious with my priorities—and to stop doing the things reserved for the Holy Spirit.

One of the freedoms that has come as I have regained my physical strength has been that I no longer have to fulfill my self-appointed position as president of Operation World Rescue.

I suspected it all along, but now it is apparent. It is not my task to rescue the world, feed all the hungry, clothe all the poor, redeem the government, save the lost or even give direction to the Good Ship Zion, which is always on the verge of sailing into

some harrowing maelstrom and carrying all the saints to destruction.

All this is the job of the Holy Spirit. My job is to abide in Him.

I've told people to love one another—and have been too busy to love. I've told people to slow down and hear God—but have been so busy going so many places

that I have not put it into practice in my own life.

I've said we need to have deep relations with a few—but have spread myself so thin that even my own children hardly have a relationship with me.

Thus, it is time for me to establish credibility. So much of what I have received from God I accepted in order to pass on to others rather than apply it personally.

Unfortunately, I'm not the only minister in this situation. There are too many whose lives (and wives) don't back up what they say. They buzz into the pulpit, splatter people with revelational truth and hasten on to another topic—never experiencing what they are saying nor taking any interest in whether the good seed they sow in their congregations will produce good fruit.

As a result, the number of spiritual casualties among Christian leaders is most alarming.

But, what others do is really not my responsibility. As I said, I'm having my own struggles as the Holy Spirit moves me backwards—from Pentecost to Gethsemane.

Yet where else does a man hear God?

“This is the job of the Holy Spirit. My job is to abide in Him.”

Jamie Buckingham wrote 153 columns for *Charisma* over 13 years, first known as “Dry Bones” but later as its most recognized “Last Word.” His singular voice was animated by a heart for Jesus baptized in the power of the Holy Spirit in 1967 at a Full Gospel Businessmen's convention. Buckingham provided a steadying force during the scandals of the 1980s, penning the seminal article on the PTL scandal, “God Is Shaking His Church” in May 1986.

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