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JANUARY 2025

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT SPIRIT-LED LIVING

It Is Time to **DREAM BIG** **AGAIN**

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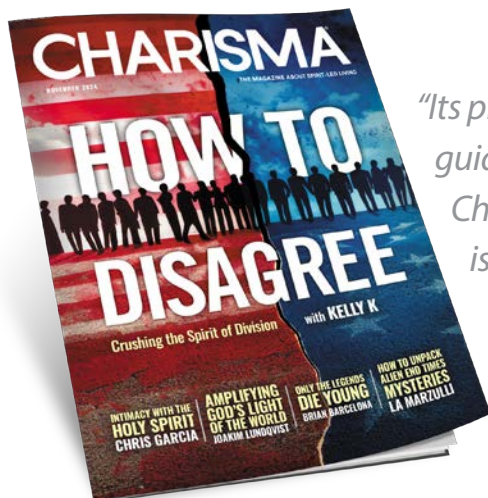
UNLOCK THE MYSTERIES OF OUR PAST AND FUTURE?

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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DEAR CHARISMA



KELLY K AND HOW TO DISAGREE

Thank you for the insightful cover story by Kelly K. ("How to Disagree and Still Keep it Holy," Charisma Magazine Online, November 2024). Its practical, Bible-based guidance on maintaining Christlike love in discussions is both timely and transformative. The wisdom shared encourages unity and glorifies Jesus, reminding us to reflect His grace even in disagreements. Well done!

Louise McHarmon, Blackfoot, ID

EDITOR'S NOTE: Your November 2024 issue of Charisma Magazine Online provided an amazing challenge to the Charisma team: how to present the 2024 presidential election season through a focus built on the cause of Christ. The key ingredient to Charisma's growth since 1975 is how to identify and reveal the Holy-Spirit message in every article. By zeroing in on the rampant divisiveness of the past several years and responding to it with a message on how to disagree in a Christlike way, we hope to have honored God's calling on Charisma to serve you, our reading audience, with a timely, edifying, and

"Its practical, Bible-based guidance on maintaining Christlike love in discussions is both timely and transformative."

*—Louise McHarmon,
Blackfoot, ID*

inspiring message.

ET PHONE HELL

L.A. Marzulli's fascinating and thought-provoking exploration of how demonic forces might align with Bible prophecy was mind-blowing ("Was E.T. Actually a Demon?" Charisma Magazine Online, November 2024). Marzulli's insights are eye-opening and encourage deeper discernment. This piece reminded me of the spiritual vigilance required these days.

Anetta Bahlrymple, Tubac, AZ

WE MUST DIE TO LIVE

I was inspired by Brian Barcelona's article, ("9 Promises for Everyone Ready to Die (to Self)," Charisma Magazine Online, November 2024). Its profound insights on surrendering bitterness and embracing Christ's call are powerfully life-changing. This message hit different, and deeply. I have been encouraging family and friends who are believers to discover true freedom and purpose in Him. What an empowering read!

Darryl Flanagan, Bay Ridge, NY

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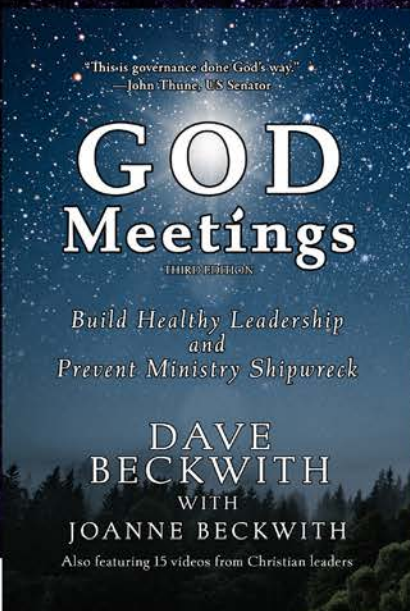
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Hope & Promise in 2nd Trump Term: A New Era of Optimism and Opportunity

2025 brings our Jubilee anniversary at *Charisma* magazine, celebrating our company's founding in August, 1975. We are grateful for God's blessings over the half century He has permitted our team to bring the Holy Spirit's work to your home and family.

The new year arrives filled also with promise even with serious challenges on the horizon. This month the second term of President Trump will kick off with his inauguration. Against all odds in an unprecedented political climate, Trump emerged victorious. For millions across the nation, this victory is not just a political achievement, it is a reprieve for a few more years to turn our nation back to God.

As founder of *Charisma* magazine, I have witnessed firsthand how prayer and spiritual resilience can shape the course of a nation. As we stand on the precipice of Trump's second term, the question arises: What promises does this new chapter hold for America and the world?

After years of economic uncertainty, social upheaval and international crises, Americans are ready for a leader who embodies strength and determination. There is a sense of optimism sweeping the nation these past few weeks. Entrepreneurs are forecasting growth, families are envisioning brighter futures and faith communities are rallying around a shared vision for renewal. This optimism is not unfounded. During his first term, Trump's administration achieved historic tax reforms, deregulated key industries and spurred unprecedented job creation. There is every reason to believe that these accomplishments will continue—and even expand—over the next four years, even if the first few months might be a bit bumpy.

Beyond economic recovery, Trump's second term promises a deeper, more profound opportunity. The cultural battles that have defined the last decade have left many Americans disillusioned and divided. Yet, as Christians, we understand that such trials often precede revival. Could this be the moment when America turns back to God?

The Trump administration has already demonstrated a commitment to protecting religious freedom, supporting pro-life policies and appointing constitutionalist judges. This vision of hope

is not limited to domestic policies. Around the world, millions are watching America, a city on a hill, as a beacon of liberty and faith. With Trump at the helm, there is potential to reaffirm our nation's role as a leader in advocating for religious freedom and human dignity globally. Whether combating persecution of Christians in hostile regions or defending the rights of the unborn at international forums, America's moral leadership is poised for a comeback.

While optimism and hope define this moment, we cannot ignore the challenges that lie ahead. The world today is fraught with geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainties and moral decline. Yet, these very crises present opportunities for the church to shine and for leaders to rise.

Trump's approach to international diplomacy has always been

unconventional, yet undeniably effective. During his first term, he brokered historic peace agreements in the Middle East, stood firm against China's aggression and reasserted America's sovereignty on the global stage. As we face crises—from escalating conflicts in Eastern Europe to growing threats from rogue states—there is

every reason to believe that Trump's leadership will guide us through these tumultuous times.

For Christians, these crises are also a call to action. As we intercede for our pastors, leaders and each other, we can trust that God's hand is at work, even in the midst of uncertainty.

The second Trump administration offers an extraordinary opportunity for Christians to lead by example. In an era marked by division, we are called to be peacemakers and bridge-builders. Trump's victory should not deepen divides but instead inspire us to pursue reconciliation and unity under the banner of shared values.

This is a moment to engage in civic life more fully, to educate the next generation about the principles of faith and freedom, and stand firm against the cultural currents that seek to erode our nation's foundations. It is also a time to extend grace and compassion to those who disagree with us, embodying the love of Christ in both word and deed.

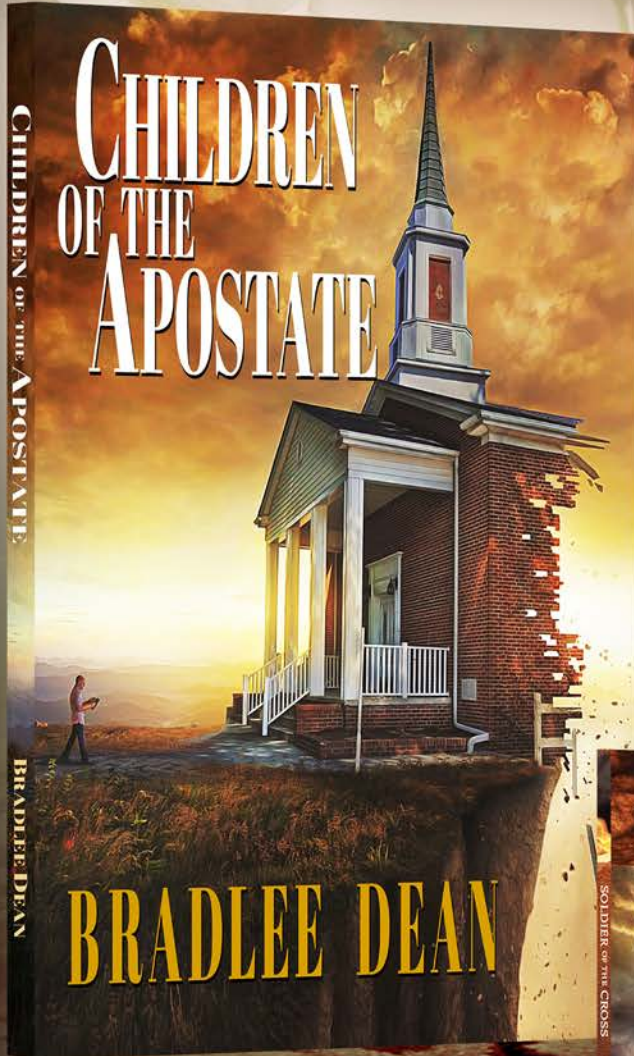
Looking ahead to the next four years, the path will not always be easy. Yet, as Scripture reminds us, "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up," (Gal. 6:9, MEV).

*“Could this be the
moment when America
turns back to God?”*

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-Down World* is available wherever fine Christian books are sold including online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

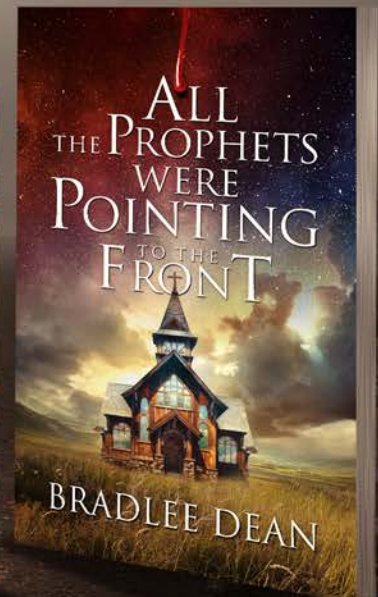
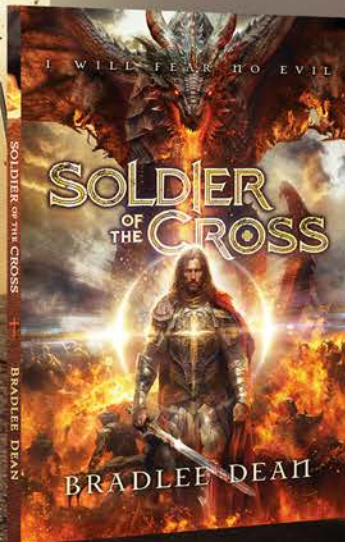
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If there is a lesson that people of faith have yet to learn, it is that history will repeat itself if we do not take heed to the Lord and to His warnings. *Children of the Apostate* is a prophetic timeline, a map that shows that “you are here,” if you will. It Scripturally teaches that “prevention is better than cure,” that is, if the people take heed, for if not, then the history that we were warned of will repeat itself.

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2 Steps to Mental and Spiritual Victory in 2025

As we embark on 2025, many of us are busy writing goals, casting visions and thinking of things we'd like to achieve throughout the year. The beginning of the year often is a time filled with hope and anticipation, as we set our sights on the year ahead.

For my husband and I, the beginning of the year is a time we pray, and cast visions for our personal and professional goals. Proverbs 29:18 says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Ever since we started dating, it's been our tradition to create a list of goals for the new year. However, as we ponder and craft our vision, we try to keep Proverbs 16:9 at the forefront of our hearts and minds: "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." This verse reminds us that while we can plan and dream, God ultimately determines the course of our lives.

With that in mind, I want to share two key steps to position yourself for victory in 2025, both mentally and spiritually. These strategies will save you a ton of frustration by helping you align your plans with God's purposes and preparing for whatever the new year brings.

Step 1: Adopt a Posture of Humility

Humility is foundational to spiritual victory. It's important to clarify: humility is *not* the same as insecurity. Insecurity focuses on our own inadequacies, while humility focuses on God's sufficiency.

It acknowledges that every good gift in our lives comes from God (James 1:7). A humble heart says, "God, You don't owe me anything, yet I'm grateful for everything You've given me." In a world where anxiety disorder is leading the charts of mental health issues, a posture of humility takes our eyes off of our own insufficiency, and directs our eyes toward God's sovereignty over every detail of our lives, recognizing His ability to lead us through every season of life.

Practically speaking, humility begins with spending time with God, a habit that needs to be fostered and nurtured over time. To practice it, choose a consistent time each day; whether it's first thing in the morning or before bed, and dedicate that time to prayer, reading Scripture, and/or journaling. As you grow in your relationship with God, you'll also grow in awe of His goodness and faithfulness. This daily practice fosters gratitude and trust, which are good for your emotional well-being along with your spiritual well-being, as they

are essential components of humility. By walking in the posture of humility, we can appropriate and truly grasp the meaning of Psalm 16:8: "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken."

Step 2: Make Jesus Your Ultimate Goal

At the risk of sounding "churchy," I've found it to be of utmost importance both spiritually and emotionally to make sure your goals center around Jesus, not you, your spouse and your children. As followers of Christ, our primary commitment is to seek God's will for our lives rather than chasing our own desires (Matt 6:33). I know it's easier said than done, as we are constantly fighting against our indwelling fleshly nature along with the current of the world around us. This is why cultivating humility (Step 1) is so critical.

There's nothing wrong with wanting a promotion or making goals that reach higher. The difference is, when Jesus is at the center of it, He acts as a guardrail that will keep you from stepping outside of His will and misplacing your priorities.

How does He do that? Through the Holy Spirit. As you spend time in God's presence, the Holy Spirit works within you to refine your goals, dreams and ambitions. You may find that the things you once pursued with urgency lose their appeal, while new, God-given passions take their place. This process happens step by step, day by day.

Moving Forward into 2025


As you step into 2025, let humility and a Christ-centered focus guide you. As you remind yourself that in your weakness, He is strong, you make the conscious decision to exchange anxiety-filled thoughts with peace-fueled ones. As you make decisions about goals whether big or small, make sure to include God in the process.

My friend, victory, both mentally and spiritually, doesn't come from having a problem-free year or achieving every goal you set out to achieve. It comes from knowing that you have a God who holds every detail of your life in His loving hand. A God who promises: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you," (Ps. 32:8).

Your responsibility? Seek after Him and ask.

"Holy Spirit works within you to refine your goals, dreams and ambitions."

Kenza Haddock, LPCS, BCPC, is a licensed professional counselor supervisor and an accredited clinical trauma specialist. A former Muslim, she has spoken at conferences and churches regarding the intersection of Christianity and mental health counseling. Haddock and her husband own Oceanic Counseling Group LLC, an outpatient mental health agency headquartered in South Carolina. She also was a cofounder of the #healSC campaign, which raised awareness about mental health issues. Her new book, *The Three Enemies of Your Mental Health*, is available now at Amazon.com.



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Freedom Is the Foundation to Revival

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 disciples to cast out demons. The second commission is in Luke 10:17–20 when Jesus sends out the 72 disciples. The third commission now applies to every believer, “In My name they will cast out demons,” (Mark 16:17, MEV).

People often think that once deliverance takes place, nothing more needs to be done. That could not be further from the truth. Often after we go through deliverance, there are steps we need to take to make sure the demons don’t return or new demons don’t seek entrance. It’s very normal after someone goes through a deliverance for there to be backlash and even the feeling of not being fully delivered. Demons do everything they can to assault you right after you get completely free. The first one to two weeks are the most important.

If we can teach people to resist the enemy during this period, the demons will not usually keep trying to come back.

James 4:7 (NIV) says, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Notice that before we even resist, we must submit to God! If you don’t submit to God after your deliverance, you open yourself up to being re-demonized. Sadly, in the Western church we resist God and submit to the devil instead of the other way around. The word *resist* is a verb that means exerting yourself, to counteract or defeat. This is not simply saying no to the devil when he comes; this is actually counteracting or defeating him.

So now you’re submitted to God, you’re fighting against the enemy’s attack, and what is the result? The devil runs! Imagine that! Instead of running from demons that try to attack you, demons are running from you because you fight back against them. When Jesus showed up, the demons would say, “Have you come to torment us?” The very presence of Christ torments demons, and that same presence is alive inside you. If you really understand this, it changes the way you fight against Satan’s kingdom.

In Matthew 12 Jesus teaches us an extremely important

principle when it comes to demons leaving a person and attempting to reenter. Jesus tells us the first thing an evil spirit does when it leaves a person. Whether this is when it’s cast out or it has the ability to leave on its own will is not clear, but we know the demon has just left a person. The very first thing it does is look for somewhere dry to rest. Demons love dry Christians, dry churches, dry pastors, dry preaching, dry prayer lives and dry spirituality. Pretty much anything that is dry is a good place for a demon to rest. We want to make sure our lives are not suitable places for demons to rest! Demons love dry environments. Psalm 22:3 (KJV) says, “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.” How incredible is it that God inhabits environments of praise while demons dwell in dry places.

“Before we resist, we must submit to God!”

Next Jesus tells us that the demon says something to itself: “Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from’” (Matt. 12:44). Here we see the clear intention of a demon that leaves a person. It wants to return! It wants to reenter the person it left. So we now know our job is to make sure it doesn’t have the ability to make a reentrance. Our job, once the demon is gone, is to make sure it can’t come back even if it wants to, and because of this verse we know it wants to. Jesus then says, “So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order” (v. 44).

Jesus gives us another insight into the mind of demons. They actually treat humans as “homes.” Principally, demons live inside human bodies, making the human bodies their homes.

Pause reading for a second, and say this out loud: “Devil, I am not your home; you cannot live inside me. You must leave now in Jesus’ name!” I take it personally that a demon thinks I am its home. Sometimes I wonder how comfortable I’ve made my “house” for demons.

Some of us want our demons to leave, but we’ve made them a comfortable house. We give them a nightly snack of compromise and feed them meals of sin all day long. We need to make our “houses” places of prayer and worship so demons no longer want to live inside us.

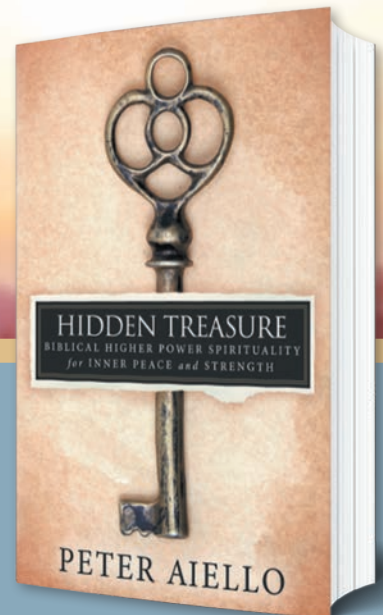
Isaiah Saldivar preaches a message of revival and repentance. His ministry reaches 6 to 8 million people each week through his social media platforms including his YouTube channel with over 860,000 subscribers. He also hosts a weekly podcast called *Revival Lifestyle*, currently in the top 1% of podcasts in the world. Isaiah and his wife, Alyssa, have four daughters and reside in central California. His new book, *How to Cast Out Demons*, is available now at Amazon.com.

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Peter Aiello

**Soul harvests are expected
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Will Campus Revivals Spread in the New Year?

Faith leaders—and call to prayer—say yes

Will 2025 bring a continued wave of revival to U.S. college campuses? Only the Lord knows for sure, but more than one faith leader believes the Spirit-led movement will grow exponentially.

“There is a resurgence of Christianity among young people,” Wade Burleson, retired pastor and president of Iatoria Ministries, tells the Daily Caller. “I see what is happening [as] more of an awakening. An awakening occurs when the irreligious come to faith in Christ.” He points to thousands of young people coming to faith in recent years, with hundreds being baptized on campuses nationwide. As

Charisma News has reported, students at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, The Ohio State University, University of Florida, Mississippi State University, University of Alabama, University of Arkansas and University of Tennessee were among those experiencing a powerful move of God in 2024.

“There’s no hype,” says Jennie Allen, author, speaker and witness to many of these campus awakenings. “[Students] actually are hungry for God.”

The Collegiate Day of Prayer, set for Feb. 27, 2025, encourages people and churches to come together to pray for continued awakening and a fresh move of God.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry Through Sports



Last November, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes celebrated 70 years of ministering to athletes—and 70 years of obeying a vision from God.

In 1947, God gave Don McClanen, a college student with a passion for sports, a vision for athletes to leverage their influence not for commercial promotion but for the glory of God. For the next seven years, he prayed about how to activate and facilitate this vision, joining Dr. Louis H. Evans, Dr. Roe Johnston and Branch Rickey, among others, to officially charter FCA in 1954. The organization held its first national conference in Estes Park, Colorado, in 1956, launching a network of citywide programs, chapters and Huddles (small-group studies for coaches and athletes) that built a synergistic national program.

Today, FCA has nearly 3,000 staff and international leaders in 90 countries. In 2023 alone, FCA saw more than 53,000 students make decisions to follow Christ.

From Tragedy to Multiplied Ministry

Senseless death brings new life for students at secular school

In November 2019, Assemblies of God Pastor Todd Bishop of Church Unleashed, at the urging of a Long Island University running back and new believer, began a Bible study for the student's fellow football players. During one study, following the Holy Spirit's urging, he extended an altar call. Among the five students who received Christ was starting quarterback Clay Beathard, 22.

From then on, Beathard, brother of NFL quarterback C.J. Beathard and grandson of Pro Football Hall of Famer Bobby Beathard, passionately pursued his faith. But over Christmas break that same

year, tragedy struck: Clay was murdered. Bishop spoke at his celebration of life service in Franklin, Tennessee, and many gave their lives to Christ. In January, after he spoke at Beathard's memorial service at the university, his Bible study expanded from seven to 20 students, growing further in person and online when COVID shut down the school.

Bishop eventually became the school's football chaplain, later partnering with FCA to minister to more students. Today, he serves around 175 attendees from 19 different sports. A senseless death has brought new life, and he continues to marvel at God's great work.

Phil Robertson's Heartbreaking Diagnosis Unleashes Flood of Prayers, Condolences

Recent diagnosis has left the *Duck Dynasty* patriarch struggling

Prayers and condolences flooded in to the Robertson family of *Duck Dynasty* fame with the recent announcement that star Phil Robertson, 78, has received a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease while battling other health problems. His son Jase made the announcement on the family's "Unashamed with the Robertsons" podcast.

"Phil's not doing well," Jase said. "I think I spoke on the 1,000th podcast, we were trying to figure out the diagnosis, but according to the doctors, he has some sort of blood disease causing all kinds of problems."

"It's like accelerated, and it's causing problems with his entire body," he added. "And he has early stages of Alzheimer's. So, if you put those things together, he's really not doing well. He's struggling," he said of his father, who has had a part in the podcast but has not joined recently due to his declining health.

Robertson family members are doing their best to help their patriarch, Jase said. "We've got a team of doctors and they're all in agreement that there's no curing what he has. And so, what do you do? We're trying to make him a little more comfortable."





Hurricanes Gone, but Relief Efforts Continue

Christian ministries are bringing hope and help

Hurricanes Milton and Helene hit the Southeast hard this fall, and relief efforts for victims continue. Christian ministries, including Convoy of Hope, Samaritan's Purse and World Vision, were not only among the first to help but continue their efforts even now.

At Christmas, Convoy of Hope partnered with the Asheville Dream Center and several local churches in Western North Carolina to provide a free event for families impacted by Helene. Kids and families received various gifts, including groceries for the family and a toy for each child, all packed at Convoy's World Distribution Center in Springfield, Missouri, for delivery to the storm-stricken area.

Samaritan's Purse, with headquarters in Western North Carolina, took a personal approach to storm recovery, working from three area relief bases. Its efforts stretch into Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. Long-term projects include replacing and rebuilding both manufactured and traditional homes and offering additional assistance as needed.

"We will focus on post-storm clean-up and long-term rebuilding as we move into the recovery phase," says a statement from World Vision, which also partnered with local churches to serve those affected by the horrific storms. With the advent of winter, "We're particularly concerned about communities still without electricity and running water. We aim to help families stay safe, warm and dry."

Prophets Weigh In on 2025

Vlad Savchuk and Jeremiah Johnson offer prophetic insight

As 2025 begins, prophets are weighing in on what we might expect, with prophecies ranging from the general to the specific. Two prophets, Vlad Savchuk of HungryGen Ministries, and Jeremiah Johnson of The Altar Global, have important words that will prepare us for what lies ahead.

Savchuk addresses a topic of general interest: knowing and doing the will of God. He gives a seven-step guide that



Savchuk

includes prayer and fasting, grounding yourself in the Word of God, listening to the Holy Spirit, seeking wise counsel, recognizing open and closed doors, waiting

patiently and acting in faith and doing everything wholeheartedly as unto the Lord.

Johnson's message also connects to God's will, telling believers that things God has asked them to do will no longer be placed on hold. "Even as you enter into this year 2025, now is the time," he says. "I heard the Spirit of the Lord say, 'Now is the time to build.'" He urges believers to embrace this season, carrying out the plans and purposes God has for them.

"There is a baptism of courage needed for 2025," he says. "There is a baptism of 'Do not fear' needed for 2025."



Johnson



TOP: Convoy of Hope help distribute much needed water in Asheville, North Carolina

BOTTOM: Samaritan's Purse delivering brand new furniture to a family in need in Boone, NC

Simply Christ

Gospel Insight

with Keith Surface

I tell You Before...

To be called by God into the ministry is a great honor, but it also brings with it a tremendous burden of responsibility. Many things will weigh heavily upon a man or woman of God as they seek to be a faithful steward of the gospel of Christ. It was no different with the Apostle Paul. One such thing which weighed so very heavy upon Paul was to see those he brought to Christ being led away to trust in fallacies. He spoke often of the consequences of being deceived by *"vain words."* There was one particular warning Paul repeated over and over to the churches. He considered it to be of upmost importance that the believers understood this simple truth.

Paul gave this warning in his letter to the Galatians, saying, *"I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past..."* He had repeatedly told them something *"in time past,"* and he wants to be sure they have not forgotten it. Something is going to happen, and it is vitally important they know and understand it. This is why Paul says, *"I tell you before"* this happens. Let's consider the following passage.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21.

The passage above is an absolute statement. It is a truth which Paul repeats to church after church. In the same epistle that he wrote *"For by grace are ye saved..."* he also writes, *"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."* Ephesians 5:5. Salvation by grace does not negate this truth! Salvation by grace transforms you, so you no longer have any of these things in your heart

or life.

This same message is repeated to the Corinthians. Paul writes, *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."* 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Time after time, in clearest of terms, Paul makes sure we know that no one who does such things will inherit the kingdom of God. NO ONE!!

In writing these words, Paul is not concerned about our doctrine. He is concerned about our soul. In fact, these words do not care if your doctrine says your sin is covered by the blood of Christ and God cannot see them. They do not care if you believe the righteousness of Christ is imputed to you, and you will not be judged for such sins. These words do not even care if you believe your sins are forgiven *"past, present, and future."* Even our doctrines of justification and sanctification are made irrelevant by these words. Paul is adamant, clear, and absolute, *"...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

The Apostle assures us that any doctrine which says someone who does these sorts of things will enter the kingdom of God, is just *"vain (empty) words"* that serve to deceive you. He wrote, *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."* Ephesians 5:6-7.

Paul's words, *"I tell you before..."*, are saying this:

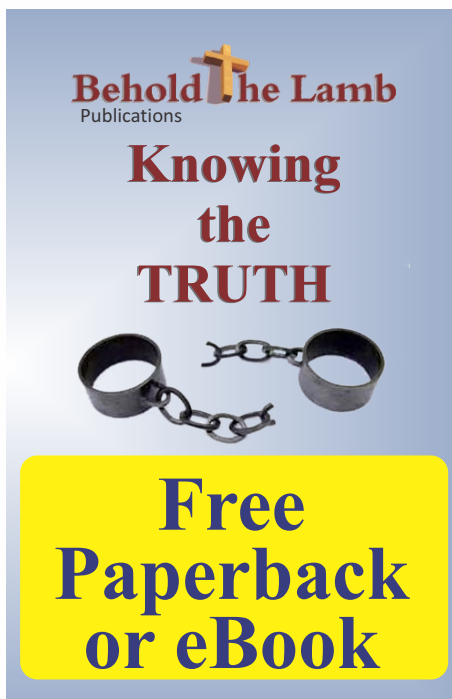
I tell you before it's too late to *"repent and believe the gospel."* Mark 1:15.

I tell you before it's too late to have sin washed from your heart by the blood of Christ. Hebrews 10:22.

I tell you before you hear the words, *"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Matthew 7:23.

I tell you before you stand before God to be *"judged according to your deeds!"* Romans 2:5-11.

Jesus died to make you *"free from sin"* Romans 6:22; to wash it out of your heart, mind, and nature. Revelation 1:5. Yet you will never be free as long as you hold to *"vain words"* which promise Heaven to those who continue in sin. The reality of this truth is too important to ignore. Along with Jesus, the prophets, and the apostles, *"I tell you before..."*



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It Is Time to **DREAM BIG** **AGAIN**

“It seems President Trump’s reelection has ignited renewed hope throughout the world.”

AMERICA'S 'NINEVEH MOMENT' AND PATH TO A PROPHETIC REPRIEVE

BY TROY ANDERSON

When the announcement was made on election night that President Donald Trump had won, it was a pivotal moment in the massive spiritual battle that will determine America's future.

America is living through a divine reprieve; a season of grace offered by God to correct our nation's course and align it with His purpose. Joel 2:28 declares, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams and your young men will see visions." Today, this Scripture resonates profoundly, as the prophetic meets the political in this transformative moment for our nation.

I believe God chose Trump as the leader of the free world at this critical time in history because his destiny is uniquely intertwined with America's destiny—and even the world's destiny. As I wrote in *The Trump Code*, Trump's reelection is no mere coincidence. I believe it is part of a larger plan the Holy Spirit is orchestrating, calling America and the world to awaken, repent and realign with God's will.

Return to the 'City On the Hill'

Throughout history, God has used unconventional leaders to fulfill His plans. Trump's boldness, resilience and ability to withstand relentless attacks echo the characteristics of leaders God has chosen throughout history—biblical figures like King David, who faced Goliath and Moses, who led his people to freedom from Egyptian tyranny. In the same way, Trump's leadership serves as a rallying point for those who yearn to see America return to its Judeo-Christian

roots of faith, freedom and moral clarity, as the Pilgrims and Puritans and Founding Fathers envisioned.

This victory is far more than a political shift—it is a chance for us as a nation to seek God's guidance and turn away from the evil and corruption that have permeated our society. I believe God has put the ball in our court at this pivotal time in history. This is a moment of profound opportunity to reclaim our identity as a "shining city upon a hill," as President Ronald Reagan said in his Farewell Address to the Nation in 1989.

"The phrase comes from John Winthrop, who wrote it to describe the America he imagined," Reagan said. "What he imagined was important because he was an early Pilgrim, an early freedom man. He journeyed here on what today we'd call a little wooden boat; and like the other Pilgrims, he was looking for a home that would be free.

"I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind-swept, God-blessed and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here. That's how I saw it and see it still."

America's 'Nineveh Moment': 40 Days of Prayer, Fasting and Repentance

As the 2024 Presidential Election approached, I felt an overwhelming urgency to help mobilize America's faith

community in prayer, fasting and repentance. Our nation was standing at a spiritual and moral crossroads. In response, Dr. Larry Keefauver, author of *Prayers of the Presidents: From the Oval Office* and I launched the "40 Days to Save America" campaign, calling on believers to intercede for America through prayer, fasting and repentance.

As word spread, people around the world joined in prayer, fasting and repentance, many who may not have heard of the campaign, but I believe were spontaneously compelled by the Holy Spirit. We invited believers to humble themselves, seek His guidance and pray fervently for revival during this critical time.

The response was extraordinary. The campaign transcended denominational boundaries, uniting perhaps millions of believers with a shared goal. Churches hosted prayer gatherings, while virtual events and live-streamed intercessions created a powerful sense of collective mission.

Inspired by Billy Graham

The campaign was profoundly shaped by Billy Graham's prophetic warning to me in a 2013 interview. Graham compared America's moral decline to the conditions in ancient Nineveh before its people repented and were spared destruction. His words resonated deeply as the campaign unfolded, following the Great North American Eclipse on Apr. 8, seven years after the awe-inspiring Great American Eclipse in 2017, which formed a giant "X" in the heart of America and passed through multiple cities named Nineveh.

In a story I wrote for Charisma at the time, I asked: "Is God sending a message to Earth? Is this what Billy Graham

foresaw as America's 'Nineveh Moment?'” The results were encouraging, as we witnessed President Trump's miraculous reelection on Nov. 5, media reports of pockets of revival breaking out across the nation, many people returning to church and a 22% increase in Bible sales. It seems President Trump's reelection has ignited renewed hope throughout the world and I believe the Holy Spirit is using this opportunity to initiate what Pastor Begley calls the “Great Harvest Revival.”

“People are experiencing anxiety themselves or they're worried for their children and grandchildren,” Jeff Crosby, president of the Evangelical Christian

Trump and his team, as well as America, as we approach Inauguration Day and go into 2025.

At this time, I believe that if we continue to humble ourselves and seek God's will, He will guide and heal our nation. Like the people of Nineveh, we have a chance to align our hearts with God's purpose and witness His mercy.

DOGE Biblical Stewardship in Washington, DC

When President Trump announced the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), I knew this was a game-changing moment for

DOGE offers an opportunity to redirect funds toward healthcare, education and climate initiatives—areas long advocated by their base. Meanwhile, conservatives see it as a chance to realign government spending with fiscal responsibility and moral principles.

In an opinion piece for *The Wall Street Journal*, Musk and Ramaswamy said this is an “historic opportunity” to solve a long-standing problem: “Most government enforcement decisions and discretionary expenditures aren't made by the democratically elected president or even his political appointees but by millions of unelected, unappointed civil servants within government agencies who view themselves as immune from firing thanks to civil-service protections,” they wrote. “This is antidemocratic and antithetical to the Founders' vision. It imposes massive direct and indirect costs on taxpayers.”

Of course, challenges remain. While progressive leaders welcome the opportunity to address bloated defense budgets, many are critical of DOGE's plan to defund Planned Parenthood, viewing it as politically charged. Similarly, conservatives are wary of any attempts to redirect funds toward progressive priorities. Yet, the willingness of leaders like Sanders to engage with DOGE represents a rare moment of bipartisan potential. As DOGE moves forward, its leaders remain steadfast in their mission to return the government to its founding principles of serving the people.

I believe DOGE is a symbol of hope and a paradigm shift in how Washington operates. By bridging divides and pioneering reform, DOGE has the potential to not only reduce massive waste government waste, but also restore trust in the institutions that shape our nation's future.

77 Days to Take Back America

As the prayers and repentance of the “40 Days to Save America” campaign concluded, we launched the next phase: “77 Days to Take Back America.” This movement, spanning from Election Day to Inauguration Day, is a critical window of opportunity to align America with God's divine purpose.

These 77 days are a spiritual battlefield in which the forces of good and

“The phrase ‘Dream Big Again’ is a rallying cry for our nation to reject fear, embrace faith and trust in God's promises.”

Publishers Association, told *The Wall Street Journal* regarding the 22% increase in Bible sales. “It's related to artificial intelligence, election cycles...and all of that feeds a desire for assurance that we're going to be OK.”

These reports offered hope that God was responding to our collective cry for mercy. “This is about turning hearts back to God,” Paul McGuire said. “It's a time of preparation for the challenges ahead.”

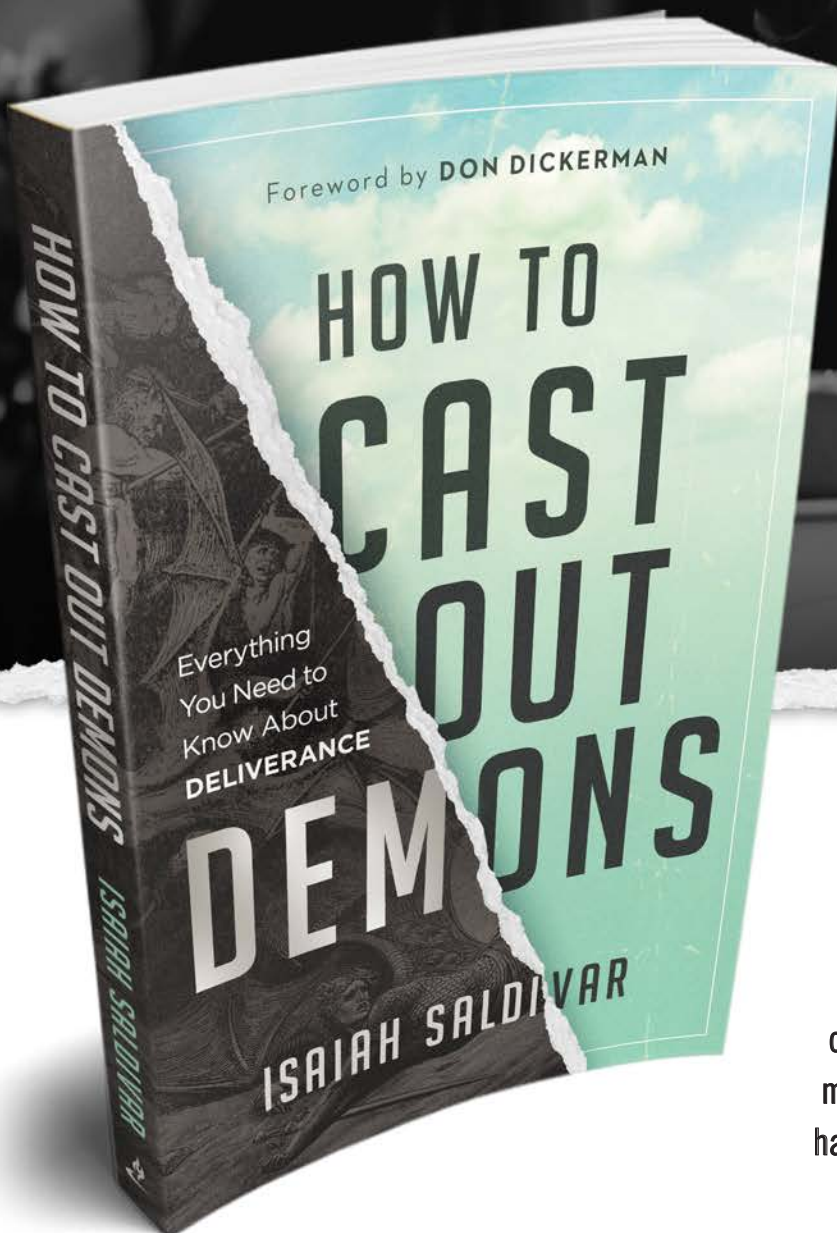
In the wake of President Trump's reelection, I knew this was just the beginning of a monumental spiritual battle for the future of America and the world. So, we launched the “77 Days to Take Back America: Igniting the Final Great Awakening” campaign, encouraging people to keep praying, fasting, repenting and interceding for America from November 5 until January 20, 2025, Inauguration Day.

As I noted in *The Trump Code*—a book that explored the seemingly prophetic 19th century novels of Ingersoll Lockwood, *The Baron Trump Collection*, the last of which is titled *1900: or, The Last President*, in which a populist president is elected followed by political upheaval and societal discord—I believe it's critically important to continue praying for the safety of President

America. Designed to eliminate \$2 trillion in waste by 2026, DOGE embodies a bold, innovative approach to governance that challenges the inefficiencies entrenched in Washington. Under the leadership of Elon Musk and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, this advisory body is not just another bureaucratic entity—it's a visionary initiative that leverages private-sector ingenuity to reshape federal operations and restore accountability.

DOGE's mission is clear: streamline redundant programs, eliminate wasteful spending and realign governance with principles of stewardship and efficiency. What sets this initiative apart is its commitment to addressing critical issues, such as defunding Planned Parenthood—a move that faith leaders see as a significant step toward aligning governance with biblical values. But DOGE isn't just a conservative effort. What is surprising is its ability to spark bipartisan curiosity. Progressive figures like Senator Bernie Sanders have expressed openness to collaborating on specific aspects of DOGE's agenda, particularly in reducing inefficiencies in defense spending. This unexpected bridge across ideological divides underscores a shared frustration with government inefficiency. For progressives,

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evil are clashing to determine the fate of America. Pastor Paul Begley recently urged believers to remain vigilant in prayer and fasting. “This isn’t just about politics,” he said. “It’s about reclaiming America’s soul for God’s glory.”

The “77 Days” campaign is as much about revival as political restoration. As the nation continues in prayer, fasting and repentance, faith leaders are calling for unity, wisdom and discernment as America prepares for this crucial transition. Together, we can see a revival that changes the course of history.

Trump’s Cabinet of Change

As we observe the seismic shifts occurring in Washington, D.C., President Trump’s bold cabinet selections stand as a clear signal of his determination to dismantle entrenched bureaucracy and usher in an era of transformative reform.

These choices, spanning the political spectrum, reveal a deliberate strategy to prioritize loyalty, innovation and accountability over adherence to tradition. In my view, this is exactly the kind of disruption America needs to realign governance with the will of the people.

From the Pentagon to health services, Trump’s nominees reflect his vision for a government that challenges the status quo and delivers real results. Among the standout picks are Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Tulsi Gabbard and Sen. Marco Rubio. They and many others have been selected for their ability to disrupt entrenched norms and bring bold leadership to their respective roles.

Gabbard, nominated for Director of National Intelligence, is a former Democratic congresswoman and Army Reserve officer whose bipartisan approach and advocacy for transparency make her a compelling choice. While her anti-war stance and past meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have drawn criticism, her independence resonates with Trump’s disruptive agenda and commitment to reforming the intelligence community.

Kennedy, Trump’s pick for Health and Human Services Secretary, has sparked debate over his vaccine skepticism, but his record as an environmental advocate and his pledge to overhaul agencies like the Food and Drug Administration and

Centers for Disease Control have energized Trump’s base. Kennedy’s position that regulatory agencies should serve the people, not corporate interests, underscores the administration’s push for accountability in healthcare governance.

Rubio, a senator since 2011, is a traditional foreign policy hawk, building his political identity on upending autocratic governments in the Middle East to Latin America to Asia. Recently, he has become increasingly aligned with Trump, pledging to reverse a lack of respect for the United States with Trump’s “America First” approach.

These selections represent Trump’s commitment to reshaping the federal government into an institution that works for the people, not entrenched interests. I believe these appointments



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mark a pivotal step in restoring accountability, efficiency and bold leadership to Washington.

In *The Trump Code*, I wrote that President Trump’s reelection would not just be a political victory, but a prophetic sign that God’s hand of protection is still on America. President Trump’s rejection of globalist agendas like the World Economic Forum’s “Great Reset” and United Nations’ “2030 Agenda” offers America a chance to realign itself with God’s will.

In an “open letter” to President Trump shortly before the election, I called on President Trump to lead this charge, to be a modern-day king of Nineveh, urging Americans to return to God in prayer, repentance and revival.

Amazingly, President Trump sent me a letter Nov. 7, saying, “Thank you for your very thoughtful letter and for sharing a copy of your book. Your continued support and prayers mean a great deal to me and my family. Our Nation is strong because of hard-working patriots like you who believe in—and defend—the great American ideals of faith, family, community and country first. Know that I will never stop fighting for the America you and I cherish. May God continue to bless you.”

In the letter I sent to President Trump, I urged him to make a bold declaration in his Inaugural Address—a call for national prayer and repentance. This is our “Nineveh Moment” that Billy Graham foresaw. If we humble ourselves, seek God’s guidance and turn from our wicked ways, I believe He will heal our land. I’ve since learned that he may do this in an Oval Office address to the nation. Let’s keep this in prayer.

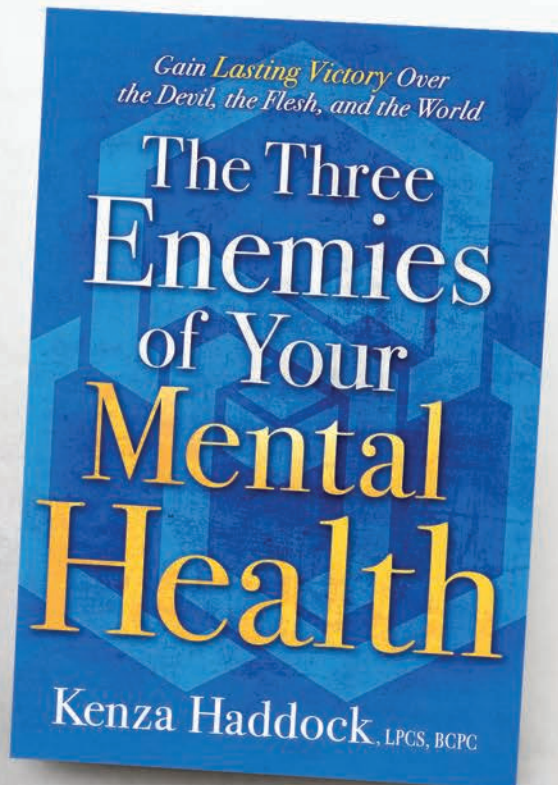
Dreaming Big Again

The phrase “Dream Big Again” embodies the heart of this movement. It’s a rallying cry for our nation to reject fear, embrace faith and trust in God’s promises. From dismantling bureaucracy to restoring moral clarity, America stands on the brink of prophetic transformation.

This is a time for action. Let us unite in prayer, fasting and repentance, trusting God to lead us into a historic revival. Just as the people of Nineveh responded to Jonah’s warning and were spared from destruction, we too have the opportunity to witness God’s hand move mightily in our nation’s destiny. This is our “Nineveh Moment”—a divine reprieve and a chance to reclaim America for His glory. ◀

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*; former executive editor of *Charisma* magazine; and reporter at the *Los Angeles Daily News* and other newspapers. His latest book, *The Trump Code*, is available now on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Find out more at www.troyanderson.us and www.revelation-watchers.com.

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A large, stylized number '2025' is the central focus of the page. Each digit is filled with a different abstract pattern: the first '2' has a yellow and orange speckled pattern; the '0' has a dark blue pattern with a small white starburst; the second '2' has a light blue and white wavy pattern; and the '5' has a dark blue pattern with a small white starburst. The background is a solid light beige color.

What Are the

Here is
what leading
prophetic experts
are hearing from
Holy Spirit

Prophetic Words for 2025?

BY CHARISMA MEDIA STAFF

The dawn of 2025 brings renewed anticipation and excitement as many look forward to fresh prophetic words that shape their faith journeys. These words guide believers, influence ministry directions and provide encouragement during uncertain times. As we charge boldly into the new year, here are three prophetic trends and their deeper details and meanings that you can use for devotional studies, goal setting for the new year and pressing in to God's purpose for your life.

I. The Year of Divine Restoration

One of the most prevalent prophetic themes for 2025 is restoration. Many prophetic voices are declaring that 2025 will be a year when God restores what has been lost or stolen. This restoration will be multifaceted, encompassing personal, familial and societal dimensions.

Key Areas of Restoration:

Personal Healing: Physical, emotional and spiritual healing will manifest significantly. Prophets are urging believers to expect miracles in areas of health where

doctors may have given a bleak prognosis. Chronic illnesses and long-term health conditions will see divine intervention, turning despair into hope. Additionally, emotional wounds from past traumas will be addressed, leading to newfound joy and peace.

Relationships: Estranged relationships, particularly between family members, will experience supernatural reconciliation. Bonds between parents and children, as well as between spouses and extended family members, will be mended in extraordinary ways. Communities will also see healing in interpersonal conflicts, fostering unity and cooperation.

Finances: Many will witness a reversal of financial hardship, with testimonies of debt cancellations and unexpected provision becoming commonplace. Those who have struggled with economic instability will find opportunities for financial growth. Moreover, this restoration will extend to businesses and ministries, enabling them to thrive and expand their impact serving God's kingdom.

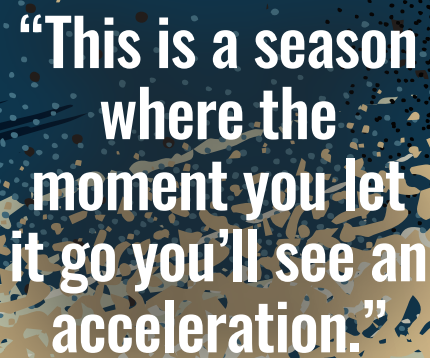
The time is coming soon to position ourselves through prayer and repentance to receive this restoration. It is equally important to forgive those who may have contributed to losses, aligning their hearts with God's will. Spiritual leaders are calling for periods of consecration and fasting, emphasizing the importance of aligning with God's timing and purposes.

2025 Prophetic Bulletin: Vlad Savchuk

In a recent YouTube teaching, pastor and author Vlad Savchuk of HungryGen Ministries laid out a seven-step guide for discerning God's will in the coming year.

1) Start with Prayer and Fasting: Savchuk emphasizes the importance of beginning the year with intentional time devoted to prayer and fasting. He says, "Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know," (Jer. 33:3). He encourages participation all believers to seek clarity in their current season and humbly surrender plans to God.

2) Ground Yourself in God's Word: Quoting Psalm 119:105, "Your Word is a



**“This is a season
where the
moment you let
it go you’ll see an
acceleration.”**

lamp to my feet and a light to my path,” Savchuk urges believers to read Scripture daily. He explains that God’s Word “illuminates your next step” and helps Christians recognize His voice amidst life’s uncertainties.

3) Listen to the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit, according to Savchuk, is the believer’s ultimate guide. “The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things” (John 14:26). Savchuk highlights the Spirit’s role in providing peace, conviction and guidance to navigate both opportunities and challenges in our lives.

4) Seek Wise Counsel: “Where there is no counsel, the people perish, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Prov. 11:14). Savchuk points to the importance of seeking advice from trusted mentors and spiritual leaders, whose wisdom and experience can provide invaluable perspective for decision-making.

5) Recognize Open and Closed Doors: God often directs His followers through opportunities and obstacles. Referencing Revelation 3:8, Savchuk explains, “Sometimes God’s direction is revealed by circumstances He orchestrates.” He advises embracing open doors with faith while trusting God’s timing for those that remain closed.

6) Wait Patiently and Act in Faith: Balancing patience with bold action is critical, Savchuk notes. “Sometimes you have to take a step of faith, and the Jordan River splits.” While waiting builds trust, taking action demonstrates faith, even in uncertain seasons.

7) Do Everything Wholeheartedly

as Unto God: Savchuk concludes with a call to excellence in every task, citing Colossians 3:23: “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” He explains that God blesses faithfulness, even in seasons of preparation, encouraging believers to embrace all opportunities to grow in Christ.

II. An Era of Supernatural Harvest

2025 is being heralded as a year of unprecedented evangelistic fruitfulness. Prophets are emphasizing a “supernatural harvest” where millions will come to Christ through unconventional and miraculous means.

Characteristics of the Harvest:

Creative Evangelism: Strategies involving technology, arts and social media will play a more pivotal role than ever for spreading the Gospel. Innovative tools such as virtual reality experiences, podcasts and interactive platforms will make the message of Christ accessible to new audiences.

Signs and Wonders: Healing miracles and supernatural encounters will draw many skeptics to faith. Testimonies of blind eyes being opened, terminal illnesses healed and other miraculous events will flood communities and social media. Angelic visitations and divine dreams will also become more frequent, serving as tangible evidence of God’s presence.

Unity in the Body: Churches and denominations will collaborate more effectively, setting aside differences to focus on winning souls. This unified approach will amplify the reach and impact of evangelistic efforts. Global prayer movements and interdenominational conferences will play a crucial role in fostering this unity.

Prophetic voices are urging believers to step into their roles as laborers in the harvest. Training programs and equipping sessions are being recommended to prepare individuals to evangelize effectively. Churches are also being encouraged to foster environments that nurture discipleship and spiritual growth. Prayer walks, community outreaches and missionary trips are being highlighted as key methods to engage with the harvest field.

2025 Prophetic Bulletin: Tomi Arayomi

Will 2025 be the year of acceleration?

Prophetic voice Tomi Arayomi believes 2025 will be the year of acceleration for many Christian believers. “I have a word of the Lord coming out for 2025,” Arayomi says, “The word is let go or God will.”

Arayomi believes God is getting ready to fast-track some people, but the only way He can do that is if those individuals let go of various people and places from their past. It’s only by letting go of this control that will God step in.

“God is about to fast forward some people into some places that your brain hasn’t even caught up with where He’s taking you,” he says. “God is going to give you time, which [He’s] already given to let go of some people. I’m not talking about bad people. I’m talking about good people.”

Arayomi compares the scenario to when Abraham and Lot parted ways in Genesis. “When Abraham shed Lot... and decided, ‘I’m not going to be responsible for him anymore. I’m just going to leave him to God,’ and he let go of Lot, that’s when God said, ‘Lift up your eyes now and look,’” Arayomi says. After Abraham let go of Lot, God propelled him forward into the calling and purposes He had planned for Abraham.

“Acceleration took place simply by letting go of Lot,” Arayomi says. “This is a season where the moment you let it go you’ll see an acceleration. This is that hour where God’s saying to Samuel, ‘How long are you going to weep over Saul? How long are you going to keep crying over what I’ve cut off?’”

This is a moment to lift up our eyes, and let go of the grief, the pain and the trauma and allow God to take us forward to the very next step, to the next place in the destiny He has prepared for us. “I gave you space to grieve, but now we’ve got to go.”

As we approach 2025, it is the perfect time to seek the face of God for what He wants us to pursue, what He wants us to let go of and what plans and desires the Lord has for as we enter into a new season.

III. Rising New Generation of Leaders

2025 is being described as a pivotal year for the emergence of young,

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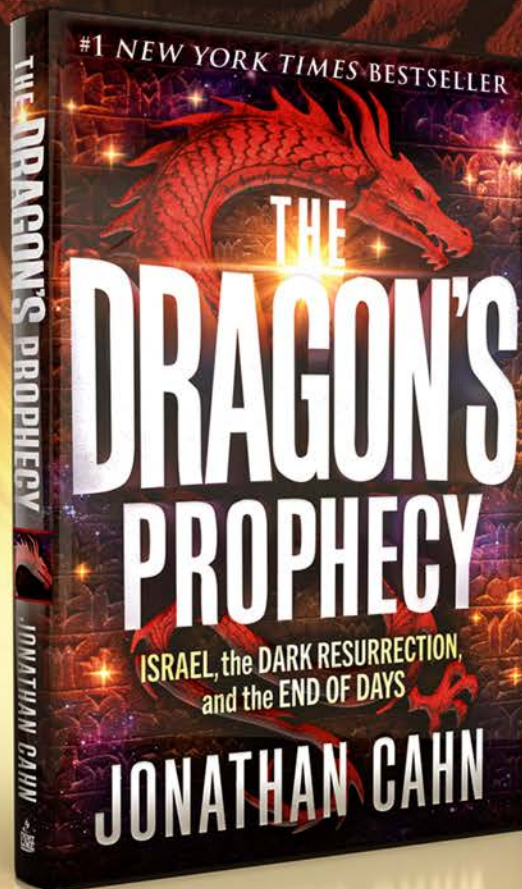
Spirit-filled leaders who will influence the church and the marketplace. These leaders will exhibit an unwavering commitment to God's commands. They will boldly follow divine instructions, even when faced with challenges or opposition. Their faith will inspire others to trust in God's plans.

They will bring fresh perspectives and strategies, especially in addressing societal challenges with innovations that reflect kingdom values. Technological advancements driven by these leaders will also support the Gospel's spread. Their lives will exemplify Christlike character, setting them apart in a culture often marked by compromise as we saw too many times in 2024 through several high-profile scandals. Mentorship and accountability groups will play a vital role in sustaining their integrity.

Churches and ministries are encouraged to mentor and disciple this emerging generation, investing in their spiritual and professional development. Leaders are being asked to create platforms that allow younger voices to share their gifts and callings. Intergenerational partnerships will enhance the effectiveness of these new leaders.

The New Year Ahead

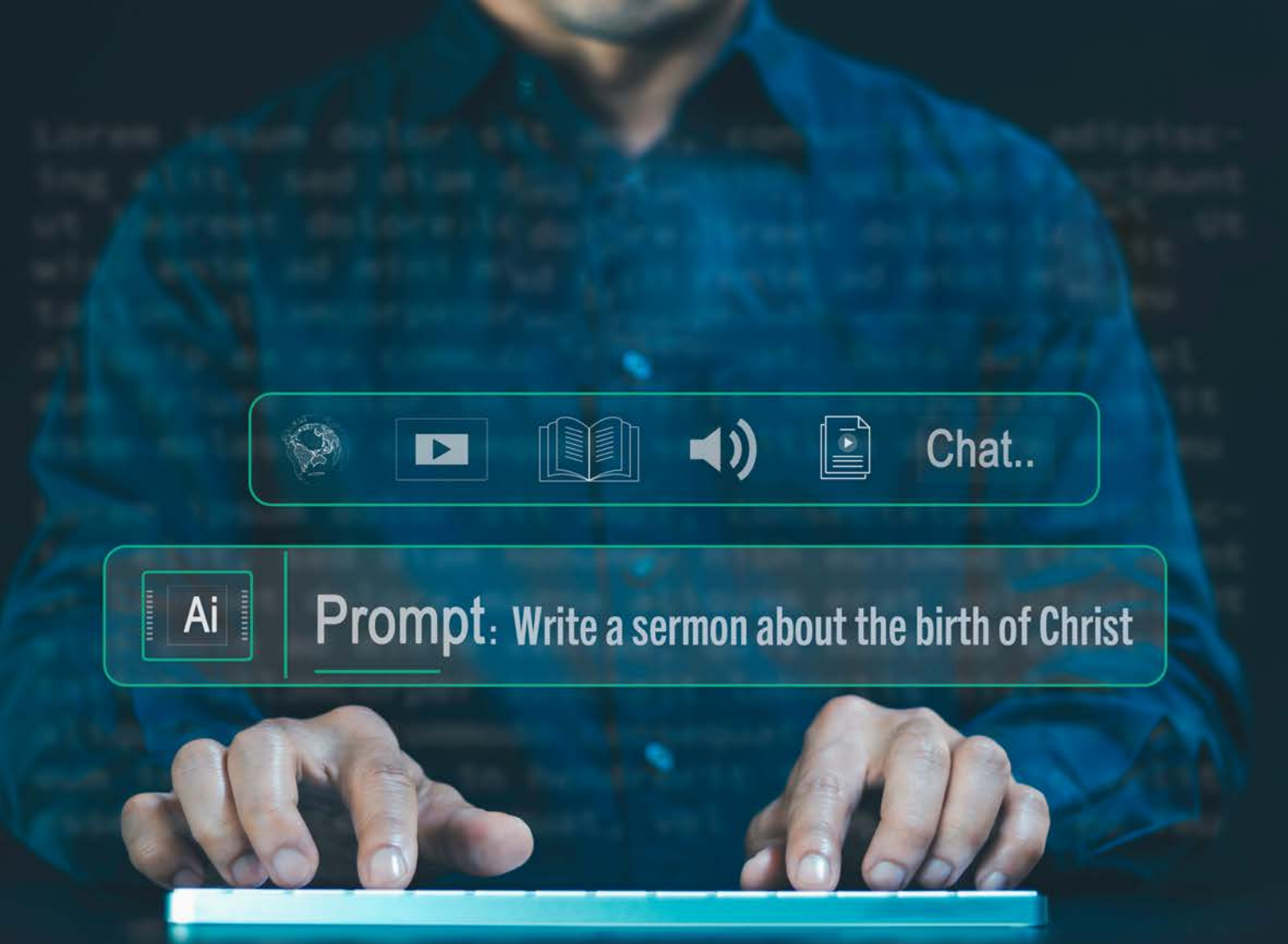
The prophetic themes for 2025 illuminate a year of profound spiritual transformation through hope, direction and empowerment to believers worldwide. With restoration at its core, believers can embrace healing, reconciliation and financial renewal as divine promises unfold. The rise of a new generation of leaders ensures a fresh wave of innovation and integrity in advancing the Great Commission. Kingdom wealth requires stewardship, enabling believers to impact society through missions, ministry efforts and marketplace influence. As 2025 unfolds, the faithful must position themselves through prayer, fasting and action, aligning their hearts and efforts with God's transformative plans. This year is not merely about receiving blessings but stepping boldly into roles that reflect God's glory and further His purposes on Earth. With anticipation and faith, believers are called to seize the opportunities this prophetic season brings. ◀



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Is a Soulless AI Bot Nourishing Your Congregation by Worldly Software?

Potential risks & rewards of AI tools in the pulpit and the cause of Christ

BY LAWRENCE TATE

Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a transformative tool in numerous industries, including education, healthcare and entertainment. Its application in church ministries has also been explored, offering opportunities to enhance communication, streamline administrative tasks and expand outreach efforts. However, with the growing prevalence of AI-powered text tools, there is a pressing need to examine the potential misuses of these technologies from the church pulpit and their negative implications for ministry and the fulfillment of God's Great Commission. While AI holds the promise of advancing ministry efforts, its misuse can distort biblical truths, compromise pastoral integrity and undermine the spiritual mission of the church.

Misrepresentation of Scripture

One of the primary risks of using AI text tools from the pulpit is the potential for misrepresentation of Scripture. While AI tools are adept at analyzing and generating text based on vast amounts of data, they lack the essential qualities of spiritual discernment, a personal relationship with God and an understanding of divine revelation. Pastors and church leaders who rely on AI-generated sermons or interpretations without thorough review risk inadvertently presenting inaccurate or incomplete theological concepts to their congregations.

For example, an AI tool might generate a sermon that aligns more with secular ideologies or cultural trends than with the timeless truths of Scripture, potentially leading congregants astray. This misalignment can occur because AI lacks the ability to understand the nuances of biblical language, the significance of cultural and historical contexts and the spiritual weight of divine inspiration. AI might interpret a passage literally when it is meant metaphorically or miss the deeper theological implications of a text due to its limited comprehension of spiritual principles.

The use of AI without proper oversight can also lead to shallow, generic or overly simplistic interpretations of complex biblical teachings. Such errors may misrepresent God's Word, reducing its richness and depth to mere data points. Furthermore, congregants who recognize inconsistencies or inaccuracies in AI-generated content may lose trust in their church leaders, questioning their ability to rightly handle the Word of Truth. This erosion of trust could undermine the spiritual authority and credibility of

pastors, leading to confusion and doubt among believers.

The Word of God demands careful exegesis, prayerful study and a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance—elements that cannot be replicated by algorithms. Pastors and leaders have a sacred responsibility to ensure that the truths they communicate are rooted in sound doctrine and faithfully represent God's message. Misuse of AI in this area risks distorting Scripture, weakening the spiritual foundation of the church and jeopardizing the faith journey of its members.

Loss of Authenticity and Personal Connection

The church pulpit is not merely a platform for delivering information; it is a sacred space where God's Word is proclaimed with authenticity and personal conviction. When pastors rely on AI-generated content, the genuine connection between the preacher and the congregation can be compromised. Congregants may sense a lack of authenticity if sermons appear overly polished or disconnected from the preacher's personal experiences and insights.

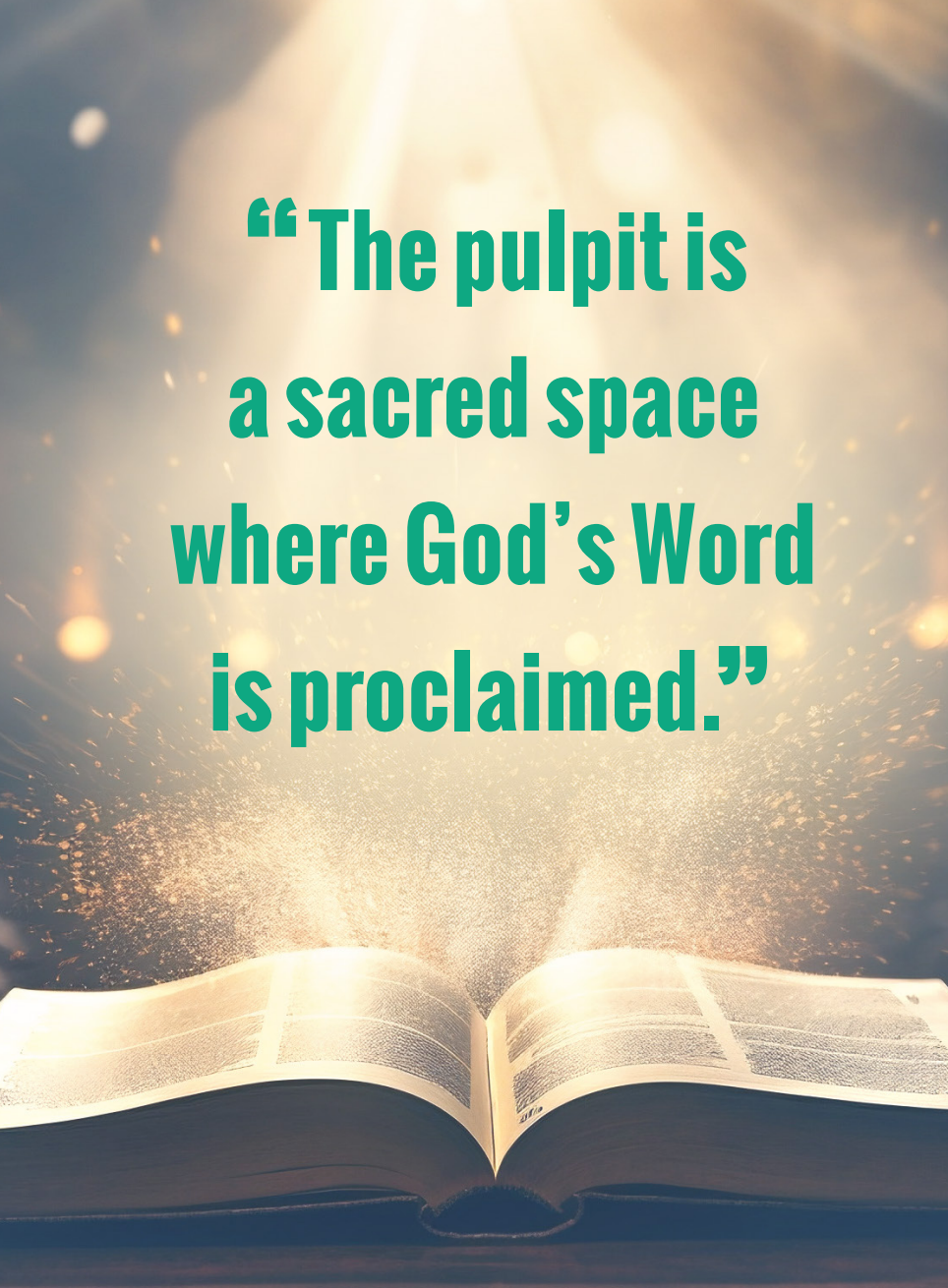
The personal touch in preaching—including anecdotes, heartfelt prayers and spontaneous moments of connection—cannot be replicated by AI. A reliance on AI tools risks reducing the pulpit to a mechanical delivery system rather than a dynamic and Spirit-led interaction. This loss of authenticity can hinder the spiritual growth of the congregation and diminish the effectiveness of the church's ministry.

Ethical Concerns and Integrity

The use of AI text tools raises significant ethical concerns, particularly regarding plagiarism and intellectual integrity. Pastors who use AI-generated sermons or content without proper acknowledgment may inadvertently engage in plagiarism, violating ethical principles and damaging their credibility. The pulpit demands the highest standards of integrity and any misuse of AI that compromises these standards can have far-reaching consequences for the ministry.

Additionally, over-reliance on AI tools may reflect a lack of commitment to the study and preparation of God's Word. Scripture calls for leaders to be diligent in their study and teaching (2 Timothy 2:15), a responsibility that cannot be delegated to AI. Misusing AI in this context risks turning preaching into a transactional activity rather than a spiritually transformative one.

continued »



“The pulpit is a sacred space where God’s Word is proclaimed.”

Disrupting the Great Commission

God’s Great Commission, as outlined in Matthew 28:19-20, calls for discipleship and the spread of the Gospel to all nations. AI tools have the potential to enhance these efforts through translation, communication and outreach. However, their misuse can also dilute the church’s mission. For example, automated messaging or AI-generated responses in evangelism may lack the depth and relational engagement necessary for genuine discipleship.

The Great Commission requires a personal and relational approach to ministry that AI cannot provide. Discipleship involves walking alongside individuals, addressing their unique spiritual needs

and fostering authentic relationships. Over-reliance on AI risks depersonalizing these efforts, reducing the church’s mission to a set of automated processes rather than a Spirit-led journey.

Risk for Skewed Doctrine

AI tools are only as reliable as the data and programming that inform them. If these tools are trained on biased or heretical sources, they may propagate false teachings or ideologies that conflict with biblical doctrine. Church leaders using AI without careful oversight risk introducing errors into their teaching, potentially leading their congregations astray.

The rapid dissemination of

AI-generated content also amplifies the risk of spreading misinformation. A poorly vetted sermon or article created by AI could reach thousands of people online, perpetuating theological inaccuracies and undermining the church’s mission to uphold and teach sound doctrine. Vigilance is required to ensure AI tools are used responsibly and do not become conduits for false teachings.

Dependence on Technology Over Spiritual Guidance

AI text tools, when misused, can contribute to an unhealthy dependence on technology at the expense of spiritual disciplines. Prayer, meditation on Scripture and reliance on the Holy Spirit are foundational to effective ministry. Over-reliance on AI risks sidelining these practices, as church leaders may prioritize efficiency and convenience over spiritual preparation.

The pulpit is a place where the Holy Spirit works through the pastor to deliver God’s message. AI cannot replicate this divine interaction. When technology takes precedence over spiritual guidance, the church’s ministry becomes mechanized and disconnected from its spiritual roots. This shift can weaken the church’s ability to fulfill its divine mission and impact lives for Christ.

Undermining Community and Collaboration

Church ministry is inherently communal, involving collaboration among pastors, staff and congregants. AI tools, if misused, can undermine this community by isolating leaders from their teams and congregations. For example, a pastor who relies heavily on AI-generated content may bypass the collaborative process of sermon preparation, which often involves prayer, discussion and input from others.

This isolation can lead to a disconnect between church leadership and the congregation, as well as a diminished sense of shared purpose. The church’s mission thrives on unity and collective effort, which cannot be replaced by AI-driven solutions. Misuse of AI risks weakening these bonds and eroding the communal foundation of ministry.

Practical Steps to Prevent Misuse

To mitigate the risks associated with AI text tools in ministry, church leaders must adopt a proactive and discerning approach. Practical steps include:

Rigorous Review and Oversight:

Pastors and church leaders should thoroughly review and vet any AI-generated content to ensure its doctrinal accuracy and alignment with biblical truths.

Transparency and Integrity: When using AI tools, leaders should be transparent with their congregations about their use and ensure proper acknowledgment of AI-generated contributions.

Balancing Technology and Spirituality: Church leaders should prioritize spiritual disciplines and personal preparation over technological convenience, ensuring that their ministry remains Spirit-led and authentic.

Training and Education: Providing training for church leaders on the ethical and responsible use of AI tools can help prevent misuse and promote thoughtful application.

Community Engagement: Emphasizing collaboration and community involvement in ministry efforts can counteract the isolating effects of AI and reinforce the relational aspects of the church's mission.

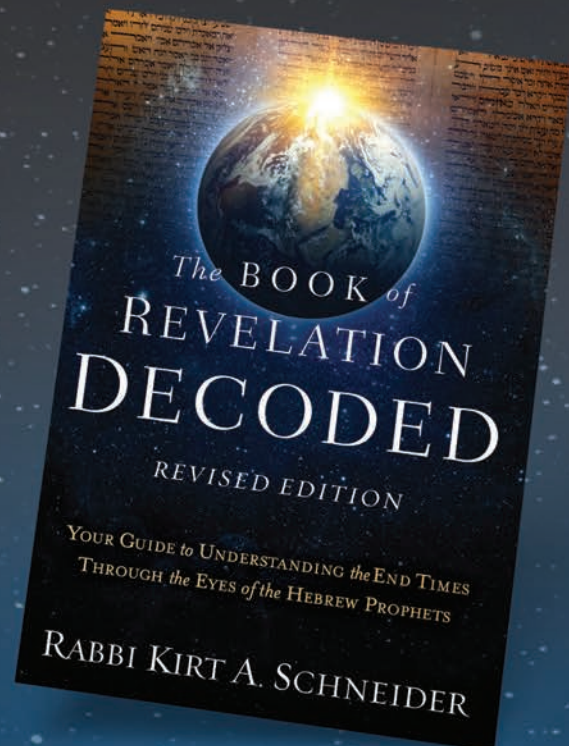
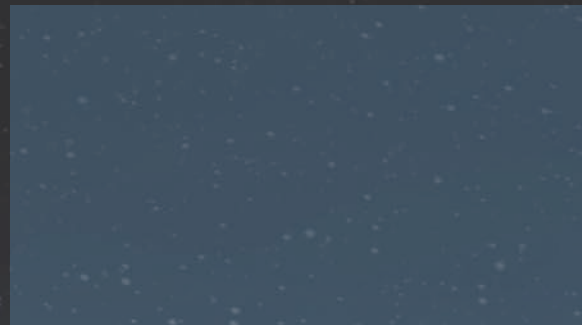
While AI text tools offer significant potential for enhancing church ministry, their misuse poses substantial risks to the authenticity, integrity and spiritual effectiveness of the church. From misrepresentation of Scripture to the propagation of false teachings, these technologies can negatively influence ministry efforts and hinder the fulfillment of God's Great Commission. By approaching AI with discernment, accountability and a commitment to biblical principles, church leaders can harness its benefits while safeguarding the sacred mission of the church. Ultimately, the effective use of AI in ministry depends on its alignment with God's purposes and its role as a tool to support, rather than replace, Spirit-led leadership and discipleship. ♦

LAWRENCE TATE is a contributor for
Charisma Magazine Online.

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Give it to God: Clear Mind, Clear Heart, Clear Soul

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or surrender, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The person is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with their arms reaching towards the top corners. The background features a gradient from deep blue at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon, with soft clouds visible. The overall mood is one of spiritual freedom and release.

**You can't be present
today until you learn how
to let go of yesterday**

“Oh, that every family could **let go** of their Amalekite memories and hold to the true treasure!”

BY MARK RUTLAND

Some memories are treasures. Worthy to be guarded and cherished.

Some, like the Amalekites, must be left where they fell. From them we simply let go. Move on. We must, especially as we age, learn which is which. All too often we talk too much about the wrong memories. Moses was admonished to let God “put out the remembrance of Amalek.”

Real Life, Even Real/er Day-by-Day

Letting go is among the most important of all the keys to aging gracefully. Yet, as important as it is, it sounds like a hollow platitude. I have heard it said a million times and seen it on bumper stickers and buttons: “Let Go and Let God.” The challenge is making that truism real in real time and in real life. We are somehow predisposed to hold on to stuff, wounds no less than blessings. Some people are emotional hoarders. Their lives are stuffed with junk they should have sent to the dump years ago. The question is, What do we let go of? What do we hold on to? We often memorialize the wrong stuff and jettison that to which we should desperately cling. Some things need to go in the rubbish bin never to be retrieved. Other things need to be cherished and enjoyed like beloved heirlooms.

Exodus 17:14 is a fascinating verse. “And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua, for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” Why would God tell Moses to recount the wild, wonderful, dramatic story of the Exodus in Joshua’s hearing? Joshua had been there for all of it. Because they both needed to share the memory. Moses needed to tell it, and Joshua needed to hear it again. Some memories need to

be shared repeatedly. The Amalekites need to be forgotten. The trick is knowing which is which.

Don’t Carry What Belongs In God’s Hands

Some years ago, I did some counseling with a man named Howard. He was a World War II vet in his eighties, and the sessions were strenuous for both of us, to say the least. The struggle was sorting through his war memories in an effort to find which were worth keeping and which needed to be jettisoned. Some of those memories were of camaraderie, of the men with whom he served and came to care about. They were good memories of courage and sacrifice and shared hardships. Those he needed to keep rehearsing just as the Lord told Moses to do.

Some of his memories, however, were horrific. Those memories were what I call “Amalekite memories.” Those needed to be “put out of remembrance.” Easier said than done. At first he just could not let them go. Or rather he felt deep inside that he should not let them go. Something had gotten all twisted around in his conscience. He felt he needed to be punished by remembering those things. Every session, every time we met, all we did was practice “letting go.” Instead of clutching at the memory when it came to mind, he worked with me to let go, to release those memories to an area we called “the Amalekite land of non-remembrance.” It was a discipline for him and not an easy one. But those WWII guys are tough, and Howard was one of the best.

One day he said to me, “I like following orders. It’s how I was raised and trained and how I fought my way ashore on two islands. Are you ordering me to let go?”

“No, Howard, I am not ordering you, but it is nonetheless an order. It’s just not my order. It’s God’s order. When those

“You just have to **let it go.**”

things come to mind, let go. From now on that’s a standing order from heaven.”

“Let go? That’s it?”

“Yes. That’s the order.”

“And keep on letting go. Right?”

“Exactly. Let go. And keep on letting go.”

That was Howard’s turning point, and it can be a huge victory for anyone, especially in our senior years. So many memories have piled up like nasty dust bunnies under the bed. Let go! Where you were wrong, give the memory of those things to God and receive His grace. Where you were wronged, do exactly the same thing. Give those memories to God and receive His grace.

Some memories, Amalekite memories, need to go to the dump and stay there, but not every memory is of the Amalekite kind. Our sweetest memories are treasures of inestimable worth. Age can steal so much from us. The loss of our memories, not the loss of our memory, but the loss of specific memories is among the dearest of thefts. Clutch them, retell them, share them and rehearse them just as God ordered Moses to do.

Theology In Action Is a Powerful Thing to Behold

At our first little country church, not the least of the novelties for us was the gospel music culture. Having been raised in pretty traditional and somewhat liturgical suburban Methodist churches, neither my wife, Alison, nor I had ever heard songs such as “Build Me a Cabin

in the Corner of Glory Land” and “I Feel Like Traveling On.” The lyrics were new and unusual to us. Mostly they seemed to be about heaven, and the quaint references to rural culture (witness a cabin not a mansion) were interesting and endearing to us. Beyond that, our folks at that church loved gospel music, and we loved them. For us that settled it.

It was there we were introduced to “all night singings,” or “sangin’s” if you prefer. Some were in big halls in Atlanta, featuring “big name” quartets, and were well attended. Others, the more interesting variety, were in small local churches, and they did, indeed, go on nearly all night. But they were come-and-go affairs, and no one seemed offended if one were to drop in, listen for a couple of hours, and leave. They were fun, and the quality of the music was often surprisingly good.

At one such singing, somewhere around midnight, a magnificently obese, late middle-age woman several rows in front of us fell sound asleep and began snoring softly. Directly behind her sat a bone-thin young woman who grew increasingly moved by the music as the evening went on. At one point the group on the platform sang something—how I wish I could remember what it was—that evidently electrified the girl. She suddenly screamed a sustained high C over C and threw her arms in the air.

Thus rudely awakened, the huge woman in front of her erupted with lightning speed and incredible athleticism. She spun around with an impossibly

voluminous purse in hand and, without a moment’s hesitation, knocked the young girl completely off her pew.

“Scare a body to death!” she snarled at the girl on the floor and marched up the aisle and out the door.

I was bedazzled by the big woman’s slugging percentage, but even more remarkable was the concentration of the quartet. They never missed a note. They sang on bravely, as calm as if such muggings were to be expected, at least on certain songs.

Long-Term Perspective While In the Day-to-Day

I feel sorry, truly grieved, for young preachers starting their ministries anywhere but in country churches. So much of the smooth plasticity of modern life covers our real humanity in a slick exterior. The grittiness, the eccentricities, the unpretentiousness of rural life in the middle of the last century were the ragged end of a disappearing era. At that little church I sat on people’s porches and drank cool water they had drawn from front porch wells while they told me about their lives. Not just the good parts. Real life.

One man in his 80s told me a story, a hard story, and one I’ve never forgotten. It was a story about history and relationships and pain. The old man went only by the initials of his first and middle name, GC. It stood for Grover Cleveland, who was president the year he was born, 1886. GC had been born near Pittsburgh and

seemed destined to spend his life in the steel mills. The idea of that was horrible to him. He wanted out, he told me. Out of Pennsylvania and out of the blazing, loud, immensely dangerous mills.

He saw a newspaper advert for jobs on the Central of Georgia Railroad. It was 1904, and GC was 18. It seems the Central of Georgia had just absorbed the Chattahoochee and Gulf Railroad, and

shuddered at, but to GC it was gone. Long gone. Not to his father.

"I took the job. I just wanted out. I didn't hate my father. I don't hate nobody."

"Did you ever reconcile? Did you ever see him again?"

"No, Preacher. Never did. I don't reckon he ever spoke my name again."

"That is so sad."

The answer lies in Exodus 17:14. From where I stand now, I can see it better. I wish every wounded preacher who ever got beat up by some wicked church and every hurt layman disappointed and disillusioned by some idiot preacher could see what I see from here. Oh, that every family could let go of their Amalekite memories and hold to the true treasure! Folks

"Our **sweetest memories** are treasures of **inestimable worth**."

they needed hands. In 1904, Georgia, suffering from a lack of manpower, was still rebuilding from the Civil War, which had ended only 39 years earlier. To GC it looked like the opportunity of a lifetime. To GC's father it looked like disloyalty

"I reckon. But I chose, and he chose, and them two choices just didn't match. Anyway, I became a real good railroad man. Real good. And a Georgia man all the way. Wars end. That how it is, and that's what my father just couldn't get a

go through terrible things. Not all are as bad as the Andersonville POW camp but bad enough to leave them wounded and even maimed. If only they could see it. If only GC's father could have seen it.



"They both needed to share the **memory**."

of a particularly despicable and treacherous stripe.

GC's father, who was 59 years old in 1904, had been wounded and captured at Chicamauga in 1863. He was sent to the infamous Andersonville prison in South Georgia where he spent two years in a living hell. It was also at Andersonville that he lost a leg. He told GC that if he went to work in Georgia he would never speak to him or let him in the house or see his face ever again.

To young GC, 1865 seemed light years away. Andersonville was a dark and distant thing to be whispered about and

holt of. Wars end."

What I had a hard time "getting a holt of" was that I was talking to a man whose father had fought in, been wounded, captured and lost a leg in the Civil War. Some years later I took my own son to tour the Andersonville prison camp just east of I-75 and only 22 miles from Plains, where Jimmy Carter was born.

It was not just his leg GC's father lost at Andersonville. He lost that part of his soul where forgiveness can replace hate, wars finally end, memories can get healed and love can grow back even if severed legs cannot.

What we hope for is some dramatic moment of closure where healing comes and justice prevails. Such dramatic moments seldom if ever come.

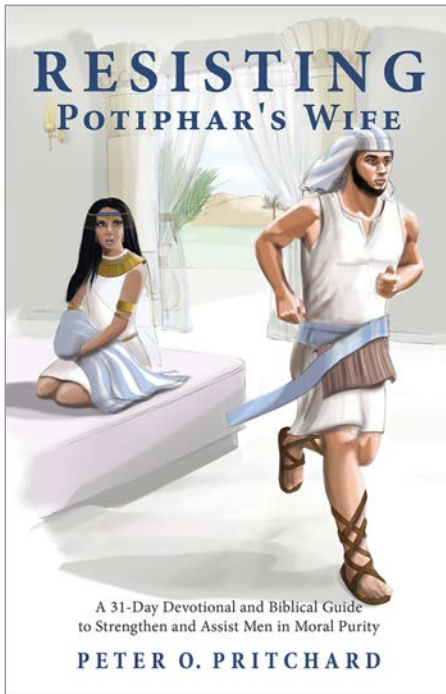
Wars end. Eventually.

If we will let them.

You just have to let it go. ◀

MARK RUTLAND is the executive director of *The National Institute of Christian Leadership* and the owner of *The Rutland Consultancy*. Previously, he served as the pastor of a megachurch and the president of two universities. His new book, *Keep On Keeping On*, is available now at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

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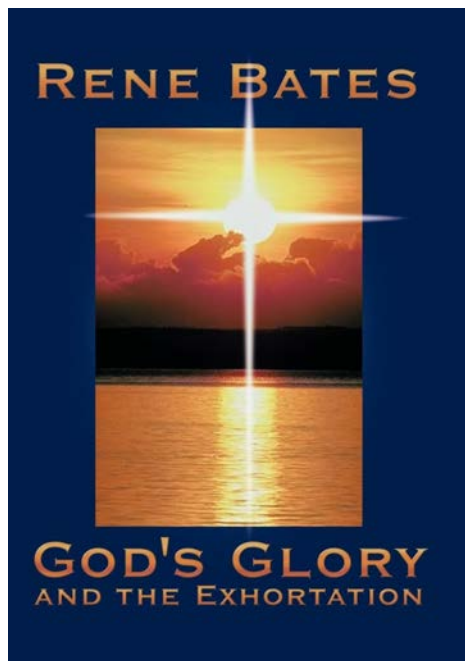
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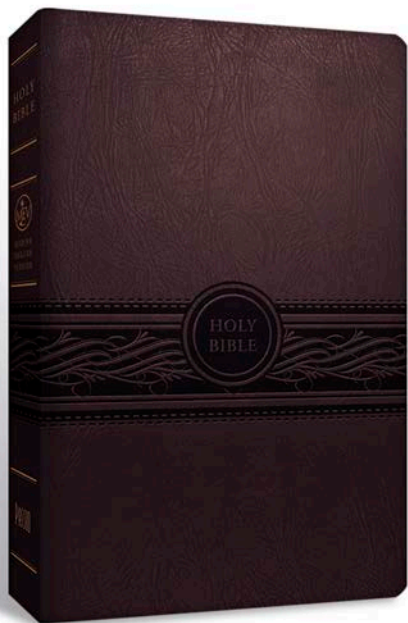
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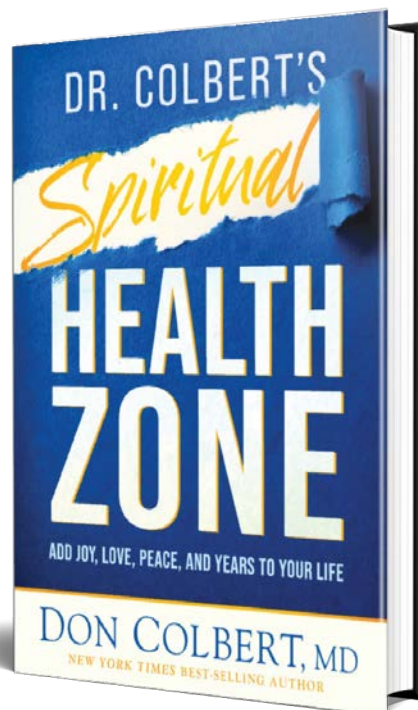
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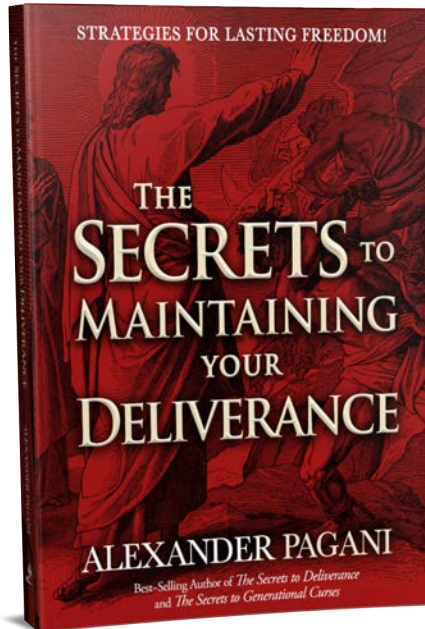
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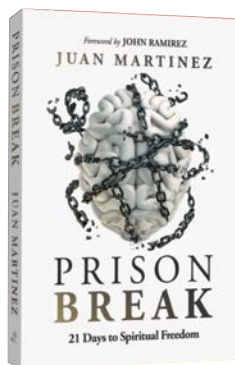
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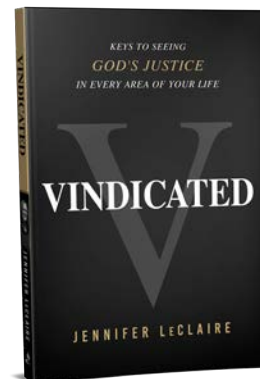
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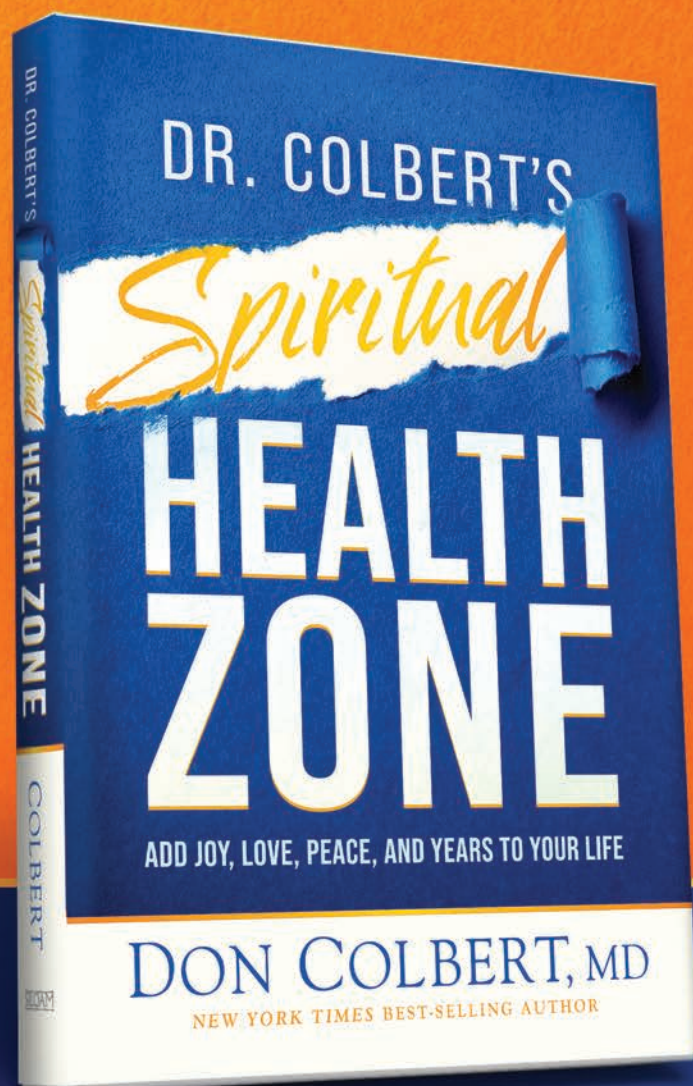
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—JOB 37:6, MEV



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“Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new.”

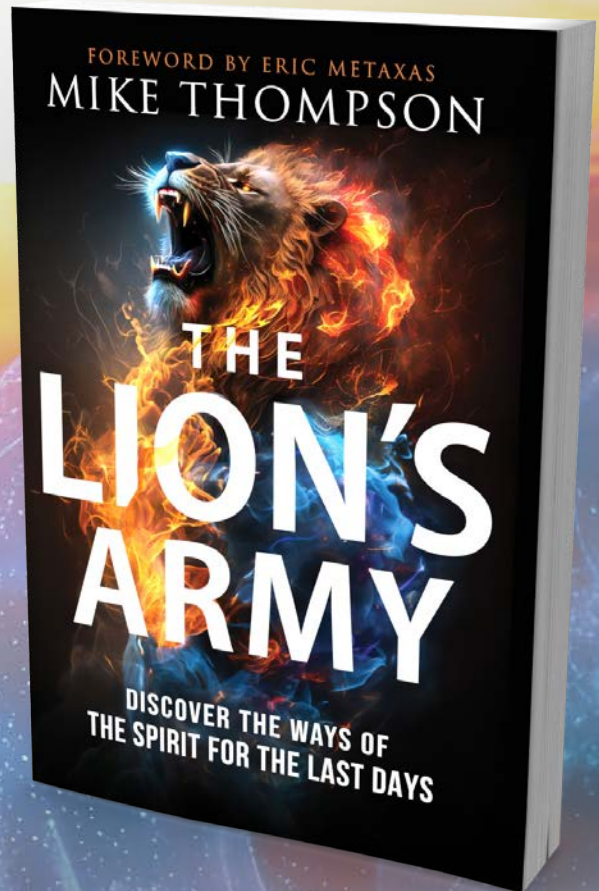
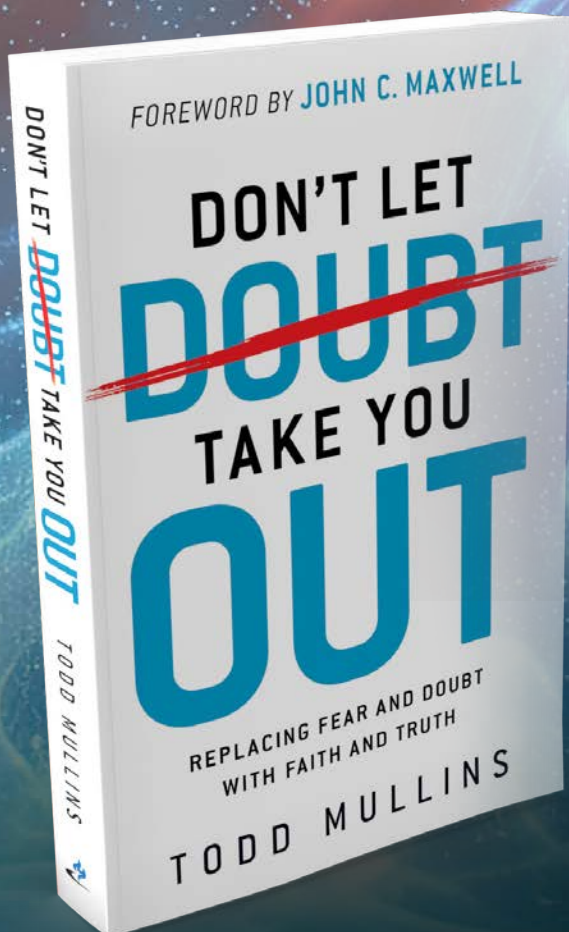
—2 Cor. 5:17, MEV

JANUARY

Jan. 1	Gen. 1-2; Luke 1
Jan. 2	Gen. 3-5; Luke 2
Jan. 3	Gen. 6-8; Luke 3
Jan. 4	Gen. 9-11; Luke 4
Jan. 5	Gen. 12-14; Luke 5
Jan. 6	Gen. 15-17; Luke 6
Jan. 7	Gen. 18-19; Ps. 3; Luke 7
Jan. 8	Gen. 20-22; Luke 8
Jan. 9	Gen. 23-24; Luke 9
Jan. 10	Gen. 25-26; Ps. 6; Luke 10
Jan. 11	Gen. 27-28; Ps. 4; Luke 11
Jan. 12	Gen. 29-30; Luke 12
Jan. 13	Gen. 31-33; Luke 13
Jan. 14	Gen. 34-36; Luke 14
Jan. 15	Gen. 37-38; Ps. 7; Luke 15
Jan. 16	Gen. 39-41; Luke 16
Jan. 17	Gen. 42-43; Ps. 5; Luke 17
Jan. 18	Gen. 44-46; Luke 18
Jan. 19	Gen. 47-48; Ps. 10; Luke 19
Jan. 20	Gen. 49-50; Ps. 8; Luke 20
Jan. 21	Ex. 1-2; Ps. 88; Luke 21
Jan. 22	Ex. 3-5; Luke 22
Jan. 23	Ex. 6-8; Luke 23
Jan. 24	Ex. 9-11; Luke 24
Jan. 25	Ex. 12-13; Ps. 21; Acts 1
Jan. 26	Ex. 14-16; Acts 2
Jan. 27	Ex. 17-20; Acts 3
Jan. 28	Ex. 21-22; Ps. 12; Acts 4
Jan. 29	Ex. 23-24; Ps. 14; Acts 5
Jan. 30	Ex. 25-27; Acts 6
Jan. 31	Ex. 28-29; Acts 7

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