

Bible Prophecy Update – August 1st, 2021

Update Links

“NEW” MOBILE APPS/TV - <https://subsplash.com/calvarychapelkaneohe/app>

- Isaiah 36-37 Video:

<https://youtu.be/kUmuUp6qt1c>

- Calvary Chapel Kaneohe Email Address (for letter requests):

office@calvarychapelkaneohe.com

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God's Plan Will Prevail

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our Sunday morning service. We have two services on Sunday, the first of which is our weekly Bible Prophecy Update, and we look at what's happening in the world today as it relates to scripture. We also have Second Service, which is our verse-by-verse study through the Bible.

We're currently in the Book of Hebrews and that will be live streamed at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. We would encourage you to join us at that time. We're going to today look at how oftentimes, we as Christians settle for a copy instead of the original, a picture instead of the person, the real Jesus of the Bible, and that's what we're going to talk about today.

Also, for those of you that are watching by way of YouTube or Facebook, we would encourage you maybe to go directly to JDFarag.org. That's where you'll be able to view the uncensored entirety of today's update.

Real quick before we get started, I need to mention that it was brought to my attention by a brother locally that works for the post office that someone is opening up people's mail boxes and putting this ABC's of Salvation card in the mailboxes.

Don't do that. It is like a federal offense and you are going to get me in a lot of trouble. Just mail it. We will pay you for the postage or reimburse you if you want. But it's got my name on it and if you're going to get me in prison. You will come visit me, right? That's actually not very funny; it could if the Lord tarries come to that.

Anyway, please don't do that. I love your zeal and you're wanting to get the ABC's and the Gospel out, but just mail it. Also, you can go to the website JDFarag.org and no cost to you, you can mail postcards up to five people anywhere. You can do it anonymously so take advantage of that, and please don't put it in people's mail boxes.

Thankfully, most were intercepted. I don't know how many got through. If I'm not here Thursday night for the Bible study, you'll know what happened, all right. Well, listen, let's get to it.

Today's update is a message of hope and encouragement in this late hour as things are getting very serious, especially with the recent mandates which I know many of you have received notices concerning, and we saw this coming, right? We're not surprised.

Yes, this is the plan of man, and it's an evil plan, but God. God's plan will prevail in the end. And that's what I want to talk about and encourage you with today. Now for the benefit of those who weren't with us on Thursday night, we were in Isaiah; we're going through the Book of Isaiah, amazing study, and as the Lord would have it, this was only something the Lord would do and could do and did do by the way. He had us in a place in Scripture that was perfect for exactly what happened last week, in fact, on Thursday.

We were in Isaiah chapters 36 and 37 where King Hezekiah, a good king, receives a threatening letter from the Assyrian King, King Sennacherib. And it was really what he received was similar to the mandate that you've received earlier that day on Thursday.

And I mean, it was so apropos for where we are at today, and I mean, this letter that he received was as serious as it was blasphemous.

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And here's the thing: The take away from the study was not so much the threat, the letter, the e-mail, the notice, the memo, whatever you want to call it; it was Hezekiah's response to the threat. And more importantly what God did as a result of the threat.

So let me kind of give you the back story just real briefly, and I would encourage you, it's on YouTube; you can watch the study in its entirety, you can also watch it on the website, fascinating study. And again, just we couldn't have planned where we were at in God's Word any better. I mean certainly I'm not that clever, but God knew that - and the timing was such - that we were in this particular place in God's Word on Thursday night. Because there were a lot of people here that had just received a very similar letter.

Now prior to Hezekiah receiving this letter, the Assyrians have now arrived. They sent out their field commander, this Rabshakeh - what's his name - it is not his name, it's his title. Well anyway, that guy. And now, it's going to bug me and it's probably going to bug you too. But I'll think of it; probably like 2:00 this afternoon I'll think of it. So he sends his field commander with this threat basically saying to Jerusalem you might as well surrender like everyone else does because you know what happens when people don't surrender? We make an example out of them.

And that's what was happening because they had taken all of the cities in their wake, and when they heard that the Assyrians were coming, they immediately surrendered and gave in and just gave themselves over. They were resettled by the Assyrians, and the Assyrians would capture every city in their path, every people in their path. And now, they're at the doorstep outside the city walls there in Jerusalem.

So the Rabshakeh - that's it - I got it - hang onto it because I won't get it again. I just lost it actually. This is the field commander that is saying to their counterparts from King Hezekiah to go out to meet them, hey, you might as well surrender. What are you going to do, trust in Egypt to deliver you? What are you going to do, trust in the Lord your God to deliver you?

I mean wow - this is - what a threat, right? And so they're saying hey, you might as well just surrender, and they are crippled with fear. And then all of a sudden, this Sennacherib has to leave the battlefield because he hears this rumor, which is exactly what God said he was going to do.

But he leaves not before writing this letter to King Hezekiah basically saying to him don't think you're off the hook. Don't get your hopes up. I'm coming back. And that's what the enemy always does; he always come back, right?

So he writes him a letter, and we have this letter recorded for us in Chapter 37 beginning in verse 10. "Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying [listen to this] 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them and shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezep, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?"

Translated, you think your God's going to deliver you out of my hands? In fact, he just got done saying actually God sent me to take you and take you captive. And don't think for a second God is going to deliver you from my hands. He has never delivered anyone else from our hands.

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And so now King Hezekiah has this letter, this e-mail, this memo, this mandate, whatever you want to call it. What is he going to do? Well, in verse 14, beginning in verse 14, Chapter 37, we're told what he is going to do. "And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord, then Hezekiah prayed to the Lord."

Boom! Perfect. Did you hear that? No response.

The only response: he takes this letter; have you ever done that, you ever gotten a letter like that? Yeah, I got one Thursday; that's why I'm here today. So take that thing if it was sent by the way of an e-mail, print it out, and say, Lord here, present it before the Lord, pray to the Lord, and get before the Lord. Right away, don't wait!

Then this is what Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, verse 15. "O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

Truly, Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.

Now therefore, O Lord our God, [listen now very carefully to this prayer] save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord, You alone."

This is key and this is why I want to emphasize this. His prayer was not chiefly for deliverance. He did pray that, nothing wrong with that. Lord, deliver me from this. Lord, save me. Yes, pray that but save me so that You get the glory! You alone get the glory.

Now when you pray that way, God hears! And God rushes in. Jesus said it this way, I am sorry - I am getting - only 12 minutes in. Don't look at your watches. Bear with me.

Jesus said this. If you ask anything, you're going to get it. You ask anything in My name, God will give you anything you ask for if it brings glory to the Father.

Do you see what just happened there? See when you pray this way and say Lord, deliver me, help me, save me but do it in a way so that there's no way that even if I wanted to I could take any credit for it.

You're basically untying God's hands and saying to the Lord, Lord, You're going to get the glory for this. When this is all said and done, when Your plan in the end prevails, it will be You alone that gets all the glory.

And again, key, so that all the kingdoms of the earth - I think that is a good prayer for us today - all the nations may know that You oh, Lord are God, You alone receive all the glory. No flesh is going to glory in His presence. God will do what God is going to do in such a way that He alone is the one that receives all the glory.

Now at the end of the chapter, we have the account of how God's plan prevailed in the face of this insurmountable threat against them. In fact, I would argue for those of you that were with us last week and we were talking about another good king, King Jehoshaphat and he had this vast army that

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was coming against him, and he cries out to the Lord in praise and fasting and says Lord, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

I would argue that the threat that faced King Hezekiah was infinitely more serious than that of the threat that faced King Jehoshaphat because you have to understand that the Assyrians were merciless and evil through and through.

I don't want to be too graphic, but maybe it's necessary in order to better understand what God did here and the threat that he faced because it's a threat that many face today.

The Assyrians: if you did not give in would take and impale you, put hooks in your face through your nose and your mouth, and drag you with chains. They would also impale you on this stake and they would put it out in front of the city for all to see. This is what happens when you try to fight against us instead of surrendering and acquiescing to us.

Does that sound a little bit familiar? So that's the threat they were facing. And keep in mind too the Assyrians were undefeated.

Let me say the same thing in a different way. There was no city - in fact, they ran out of cities to take and they already had taken the cities in Judah on the way to Jerusalem, and now all that stood in their way was the City of Jerusalem. That was the last one on their list, and there they are.

And Sennacherib is like hey, Hezekiah, you've seen what we've done. Nobody's been able to stand against us. Everyone that we've captured, their gods did not deliver them. What makes you think your God is going to deliver you? You're deceived. You've believed that your God, putting your trust in your God is going to save you out of my hands.

Again, I would really encourage you to watch the study on Thursday night. I mean it is so incredible. I can't think of a better word for lack of a better word, incredible, just incredible because this King Sennacherib is actually blaspheming God and that is a big boo-boo.

This is not against King Hezekiah. This is King Sennacherib against God, reminiscent of the uncircumcised Philistine. It's not Goliath against David; it's Goliath who has blasphemed David's God. And it's kind of interesting; when he gets out onto the battlefield, it's like here is Goliath thinking, what is this, a joke? You send a little boy out?

And here's David like I think there has been a huge misunderstanding, you uncircumcised Philistine. You think this is between you and me? It's not. It's between you and God. You've blasphemed my God. And if you're mocking my God, you will sow what you reap.

And by the time this is over, God's plan is going to prevail in the end. I'm going to have your head, and that's exactly what he did.

And this is exactly what happens here. Because through the prophet Isaiah, not only did Hezekiah pray, he asked for prayer. Yes, some of us are too proud to ask for prayer or to admit that we need prayer or need help.

But he asked for prayer, and he went to Isaiah the prophet and the word of the Lord came through Isaiah the prophet, and basically it's a very simply put, God has Isaiah tell Hezekiah, I got this. You don't have to worry about anything. I'll take care of this.

Yeah, but Lord, did You see, did You see what I just got in the mail, in the e-mail?

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Yeah, I saw it.

Lord, what am I going to do?

Nothing. You're not going to do anything. I'm going to do it. Watch Me now.

Okay.

And he prophesies through Isaiah to Hezekiah exactly what He's going to do. And He does it. And then we read in verse 36 Isaiah 37, so now picture this: You've got the Assyrian Army right outside the city walls of Jerusalem.

"Then the angel of the Lord went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians 185,000 and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses, all dead. So Sennacherib, king of Assyria, departed and went away [exactly as God said he would] returned home and remained at Nineveh.

Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword [exactly as God said it would happen] and they escaped into the land of Ararat.

Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place [exactly as God said it would be in the end, God's plan prevailed].

A couple of things I want to point out just real quick. Very interesting; we talked about this and looked at this on Thursday night, but did you catch where it said that when they arose early in the morning, there were all of these dead Assyrians?

Now if I'm not mistaken, they arose in the morning means they slept through the night. Are we okay so far? In other words, they slept through the whole thing.

And it's kind of like God was saying, get a good night's sleep because in the morning you're going to have 185,000 Assyrians you are going to have to deal with. That's a lot of burials. They slept through the whole thing! They wake up early in the morning and isn't it interesting that we're not told the name of the angel.

This is not an archangel, just an angel. You'll forgive my silliness here, but it's kind of like God is like hey, do we have an intern or trainee we can send down there? That's all he had to do. And he struck them dead. That's it! That's what God did!

What did they do? Prayed. Prayed.

I'm going to say this as graciously as I possibly can. But I wonder what would happen if we spent as much time praying as we do protesting? I wonder what would happen?

Well, I share all of that to say this: We may not know how God will do it, when God will do it, or the way God will do it, but here's what we can know: That God will do it. I want to expound on this for the remainder of our time, but in order to do that we're going to end the live stream on both YouTube and Facebook and redirect you to JDFarag.org.

Okay, let me begin by saying that mandating this so-called vaccine is meant for evil, but God is meaning it for good, for the salvation of many people. This is Genesis 50:20, one of my favorite verses in all of the Bible.

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Joseph to his brothers who did unspeakable evil to him, he says to them, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God [those two words change everything] but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Did you connect those dots?

God takes the evil plan of man and He works it for good and His glory and the salvation of many people. I'll take it a step further and suggest that not only is God using all of this for people to get saved and by the way, people are getting saved, make no mistake about it, and God is using this to get people saved.

And He's also using this to miraculously provide for the saved in ways that you could have never imagined, let alone thought of or even asked. We continue to receive many powerful testimonies of how God as only He can has worked out a situation that was just absolutely impossible.

I love it when God does that. He makes the situation so impossible so He's the only one that can do it. Because wouldn't you agree when the situation is still possible for us, we'll try to do it ourselves? And when it's still possible for us, it is almost like it is impossible for God because we're still trying to do it ourselves.

And I just imagine God just waiting ever so patiently. He's so long-suffering with us. And He just waits. And then we try and we struggle, and we fight and we kick, and we bite and we scratch. And here's God just waiting.

And we come to the end of ourselves, and we throw up our hands, God, I can't do it!

Music to God's ears!

I tried to tell you that, JD, like three months ago, then two months ago, then last month, then last week, then yesterday, and then again today, and finally, here you are and you are saying you can't do it. Can I do it now?

Yes, God, here. I've made a complete and thorough mess out of this thing. In fact, I've made it worse. Now it's really impossible!

And then God's like, okay, watch Me now, and stay out of My way and let me have My way, and let Me do it My way because My ways are not your ways. My ways are higher than your ways, infinitely higher than your ways.

Yeah, but God, I don't know how You're going to do this.

It's called faith.

I don't know when You're going to do this.

It's called faith, and I will add patience.

Lord, I don't know the way You're going to do this.

Well, again, faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of which is yet unseen. Evidence is a strong word by the way. In other words, you have forensic evidence that it will happen. You just don't see it yet.

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And see, our problem; we talk about this often, but maybe not often enough. It's that we still think that seeing is believing when it's the opposite, believing is seeing. Jesus said to Martha, "If you will but believe, you'll see."

Believing is seeing.

Believing God will do this in His way, in His time. He doesn't need your help. And for His glory. And prepare to be just absolutely astonished at the way God's going to do it!

I want to share with you a testimony from an online member in Texas that we received last week by the name of Kristin Jones.

Pastor Farag, Aloha! Thank you for your ministry, your commitment to the Gospel, and for all your encouragement. I know you receive a lot of messages that are full of gloom and doom from your listeners, but I wanted to share how God has answered prayer in our lives. We have listened to your prophecy updates for years, and appreciate your recent call to steadfastness, honesty, and trust that God will work through what is happening in our world.

In January, my 38-year-old husband was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. The once strong college baseball player who had always been healthy, could barely walk and was suffering in severe pain. We've spent the past few months working through various treatments and wondering how and why this happened. But God had a plan.

My husband is a lawyer for a multi-state firm that is pushing Covid vaccinations for all staff. Even though we're in Texas, we weren't sure there would be any way to avoid the forced vaccinations. We're both attorneys and have also considered all legal options.

For the last few weeks, my husband has been receiving fairly threatening emails from [Sennacherib - sorry] – from firm administrators. And last week, they officially required everyone to report vaccine status.

After lots of prayer and discussion, we agreed that he should be up front about his non-vaccinated status. The form [this is interesting] did not allow for any explanation of why one was or was not vaxxed. It was a yes/no survey.

We later learned that other unvaxxed employees in the office just ignored the survey altogether. Today, my husband received a phone call from his boss who is also a Christian. The man recognized that my husband has been honest about his un-vaxxed status.

He then told my husband to ignore the emails regarding vaccination requirements. In light of his recent medical diagnosis and struggle to find the right treatment plan, my husband's boss has decided to exempt him from any firm mandates. His job is secure. And we never had to request an official medical exemption!

God is good.

What seemed - yeah, you can praise the Lord.

[Applause]

What seemed like a daunting, life-altering diagnosis has turned out to be a blessing.

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The past 8 months have been really hard as we've tried multiple medications and treatments for what will be a life-long condition. But for now, that condition is our way out.

God truly is our Helper and Keeper. When my husband called with the good news today, I immediately thought about your prophecy update exhorting us to trust God even when we think our situation is impossible. We just wanted you to know that your recent prophecy updates these past few weeks have been very meaningful and encouraging to us as we deal with this present darkness. We just wanted to share one of the great things God has done!

Kristin and Chris in Texas.

Now we've talked about this too and I just want to make this brief comment before we move on. Sometimes God will send you knowingly into a trial to protect you from a greater trial as He did with the disciples when He sent them into the boat, into the Sea of Galilee, into the storm. He was protecting them from a greater trial, the trial and temptation of pride had they stayed on the other side after having just fed the multitudes.

And there's an urgency on the part of the Savior. It's recorded in the Gospels where we're told that Jesus immediately got them in the boat; there was urgency. He wanted to get them out of there into the boat, into the lake, into the storm, and to the other side. Yes, he was sending them into a storm, but it was to protect them from a greater storm.

Never underestimate the ways that God is going to use to deliver you or save you. This is one of many, and we get many by the way. I wish I could just get up here on a Sunday morning and read them all to you. You would go away so blessed as I am so blessed.

But this is what God is doing. He is doing what only God can do and He's working in the lives of His people because see here's the thing: When we cry out to the Lord, He harkens unto the voice of our cry. And He will move His mighty hand on our behalf and do things that even if He were to tell you, you wouldn't believe.

Could you imagine if God would have come to you and said to you - and I know what's coming to your mind right now - those times in the past where God delivered you miraculously out of an impossible situation. He's the same God yesterday, today, and forever.

What, He's going to abandon you now?

What, that was the last time and now God is like hey, I got you this far; you're on your own. Wish you the best.

No.

He's the same God yesterday, today, and forever. He will deliver you.

Yeah, but... When?

He will. Just wait. You'll see.

Yeah, but... The deadline's coming up and I'm going to lose my job.

You don't think God knows about that deadline? Again, print it out. Just say, Lord - not that He needs to know. Can you imagine? You print it out. God, here's...

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God is like, oh, that is coming up! It's like next week! What are we going to do? No!

God knew they were going to send that to you before they knew they were going to send that to you.

Just watch Thursday night. Can I just... Is it okay if I just... Just watch Thursday night.

Man, we did not want that to end. Okay!

We need to talk about this because this is serious, right? I know there are many who are in this situation with your employment being predicated on you being vaccinated. We want to help you specifically concerning a religious exemption, which thankfully are currently being accepted by many institutions here in the US.

So for our online members, I would encourage you first though to request an exemption from your Pastor in your church, but if they're unwilling to provide you with one, we will.

So we have the e-mail address there on the screen and then also there should be a link below on the video on the website. It is office@calvarychapelkaneohe.com.

You'll need to provide us with your name and mailing address and we're also going to need to know if a PDF file of this exemption letter is adequate. If it's not adequate and they don't accept it and they want an original with a wet signature, then we need to know that.

We will send that out to you, but please, please, please and I can't emphasize this enough, we're already being inundated with many requests for a religious exemption. And I know we're going to get many that are going to ask us for this. Please be patient with us.

For those of you online, we are really actually a small church and we have a very small staff. They may be a small staff, but they are the most amazing staff in the world! Yeah, right?

[Applause]

That is not hyperbole when I say that. God really spoiled me with the staff that He's brought to this church.

So we're just a Gideon-sized army, so it is going to take us time. We will get this to you as quickly as we can. It is a letter on our letterhead bearing my signature, and this is how the letter reads.

To whom it may concern, I'm writing on behalf of, and we will put your name there, a member of our congregation or online congregation at Calvary Chapel Kaneohe, in Hawaii, regarding their religious conviction against forced vaccines.

We do not wish to be labeled as anti-vaccine or anti-science, however, the well-documented process of vaccines developed from animal and aborted human fetal tissue has compelled us to stand by our congregants who refuse to comply with mandatory vaccinations.

We strongly support his/her deeply held Biblical conviction and any of our congregants to resist the pressure for vaccinations, while at the same time seeking an alternative for their safety and the safety of others.

We are convinced that the nature of many other contaminants within vaccines should be a reason to grant exemptions to believers whose bodies are, as the Scripture states, the "temple of the Lord."

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1 Corinthians 3:17-20, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple."

2 Corinthians 7:1, "Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

We must follow the Word of God and we also exhort others to a conscientious objection to these vaccines. Yet, our deep love and care for others makes us more determined to exercise whatever alternatives possible to ensure other's safety in each individual case.

We thank you for granting this religious exemption and as such respecting religious freedom.

Sincerely, J.D. Farag, pastor Calvary Chapel Kaneohe.

That's the letter.

[Applause]

Now a couple more things just real quick. It's important to understand from what I understand that if granted this exemption, you will be required, again as I understand it and it depends on the institution, you will be required to test. I've heard once a week at your expense and I've also heard twice a week. And from what I understand, the cost of one test is like \$140, \$150, under \$200. Well, if you're required to do that twice a week, that's, you know, about \$1200 a month.

You see what they're doing obviously, right? They're making it so difficult, almost cost prohibitive so that you'll just cave in to this Assyrian threat, if I can say it like that. I don't know how else to say this except to just say it.

We, and I include myself in this as the pastor of this amazing church, which is my privilege to be, we're going to be tested in our faith like never before in our life, and even now are. Would you agree?

And I was just thinking this morning as I was getting ready to come, just bear with me for second here. I think that God is allowing this and His people are starting to realize this is real. This is getting real. And we're out of options, and truth be made known, I really don't have any other alternative, but to trust the Lord. That's a good thing. That's the best place to be, is it not?

Where God just - and He's so gentle. He's a Good Shepherd, a gentle Shepherd in the way He leads us. He just gently leads us to Him, for some, back to Him. You know how many people have come back to Christ because of this?

You know how many people have come to Christ because of this?

Maybe I might as well mention this reluctantly, for obvious reasons that I think you'll see here in a moment. Now, we have been asked by brothers and sisters in Christ if we would be willing to provide this for a coworker who's not a believer.

How would you answer that?

No! Us four and no more!

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No. Think about this. What if - I know this is far out - sorry for the '70s flashback, far out, man. This is pretty far out. What if this is God's way of bringing them to Him?

So here's what we've done. Actually, my son, two in one day; this letter that I just read, it worked for him. And I mean praise the Lord, you know? So all of a sudden he starts getting text messages from his friends going, you got an exemption? Yeah.

[Laughter]

Because of my daddy. You don't know who my daddy is. Not me, Him, the Heavenly Father! Yeah!

[Applause]

He says, so they are like hey, man, can you hook a brother up? Well, you're not a brother, but you can be. Are we okay?

So here's what we're doing. Saying okay, here's what he told his friends. My dad will do this for you, but you have to watch online the Prophecy Update all the way through to the end with the ABC's of Salvation first and then he'll go ahead and do it.

They're going to get saved! Yeah!

In fact, I'm waiting for the text; let me see. No, not yet; we'll keep praying.

I mean this is how God is going to bring them to the Lord, right? This is how they come to Christ, right?

Okay, I feel better now. Thank you very much for indulging me. Now, we have another issue we need to discuss here. It has to do with those who have been informed that there are no exemptions.

What do I do? I know this is going to sound simplistic, even cliché, but pray. What a novel idea, right? Pray. Since when did prayer become the last resort instead of the first response?

You know on Thursday night; again, I would really encourage you to listen to or watch that teaching because it's very conspicuously absent from the narrative, they did not respond one word to Sennacherib or the Rabshakeh. I got it again. All right.

They did not even respond. Sometimes the best response is no response at all. So you get the letter, you get the notice, you get the mandate, you get the threat. By this date, you get jabbed or you have no job.

Man, what am I going to do? And no exceptions and no exemptions. Oh, no!

Okay, wait a minute now.

What if again, what if God is bringing that employment chapter in your life to a close because He has a new chapter? One of the things I'm learning in my walk with the Lord is that He'll let me use this explanation.

So God has a problem, not that God has problems, but just for purposes of discussion. The problem that God has is He wants to get us from point A to point B, as we say, right?

But the problem is we're too secure, comfortable, set in point A. We're not even thinking about point B.

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So what's God going to do? He's going to disrupt point A because unless and until He disrupts point A, we're not even thinking about point B.

So how's He going to get us from point A to point B? All of a sudden point A is not tenable anymore.

You've heard it said God never shuts one door without opening up a better one. That's true, but I want to add to that. What if it's not a door? What if it's a window? He doesn't even need a window; He could just come to the wall, right? I mean God can do whatever God wants to do in the way that God wants to do it because God can do anything, right? Is there anything too hard for the Lord?

Let me take it a step further and I'll be more specific.

What if, and this is what happened to me by the way many, many years ago back on the mainland. He closed the chapter on my employment in my career because He wanted me to start my own business. And then He brought that to a close and I sold my business because He wanted me to plant a church.

So He brings you to that place to get you from point A to point B and I can assure you and testify to you that point B way more better than point A.

Maybe God has a better plan for you. And here we are hanging on to this job thinking man, what am I going to do?

Like the Lord is going... well, I actually had this fabulous business idea that you would be perfect for and the pay is a lot more better too and you won't have to get a vaccination, so-called.

Again, I know this is simplistic, but just trust the Lord, trust the Lord. No one who ever puts their trust in the Lord is ever forsaken by the Lord, never disappointed in the Lord.

Psalm 9:10 says, "And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."

You know, one more thing - it just came to me. I think it is the Holy Spirit; again, Thursday night, you can miss it at first read. I think it is in Chapter 37 when after Hezekiah prays, God through the prophet Isaiah says, tell Hezekiah these words.

Listen - "Because you prayed"

Whoa, wait a minute!

Because you prayed, I am going to take care of this. I'm going to get an intern angel, he's going to come down, wipe them out. You're going to wake up; you're going to sleep the night. You're going to need to sleep the night. I'm going to do this; you don't have to do this, I'm going to deliver you. I know this is impossible for you, but I'm going to do this for you because it brings glory to Me and because you asked.

Does that mean if - okay, what if Hezekiah didn't, would God have still done it?

Whoa, I don't like to think about that because of the implications of that.

Maybe that chapter could have read more like this: Because you didn't pray, the Assyrians are going to come in and you will not be delivered out of their hands.

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James said, "You have not because you ask not." I would rather ask and not have than not have because I didn't ask.

Because you prayed, Hezekiah, I'm going to do this because you prayed. And you prayed in such a way that I alone would receive all the glory. How can I not answer that prayer? In fact, I'm obligated to because that's consistent with who I am and how I am.

It's like with Jehoshaphat last week. Lord, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You.

Your eyes are on Me?

Yeah.

You don't know what to do?

No.

I do. Your eyes are on Me? Cool.

Hezekiah: Oh, Lord! You made the heavens and the earth! You alone are God. And he goes on through this beautiful prayer.

You know if you ever want to do a study of prayers in the Bible, prayers that really had a powerful impact, I think you would be greatly encouraged by those prayers in the Bible, not that we pray that way in a rote way, no. But there's certain components, key components in these prayers.

When you pray to God in such a way that He alone gets all the glory, God will rush in and do what you could have never imagined that He would do because you're putting your trust in Him. You're completely relying upon Him. And then you just get out of His way and you let Him have His way and when God has His way, oh! Oh! Oh! Yeah!

[Applause]

Look out! Ha ha! Yeah! Wow!

How did you get that?

You got to know who my daddy is.

Ha ha! Yeah! Okay, I feel better again. Thank you so much.

Psalm 25, first two verses, "In You, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in You; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me."

He won't. You're trusting in Him? He can't not. I know that's not proper English sentence structure, but He can't not if you're trusting in Him.

And lastly, Romans 10:11, "For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

Again, I can testify as a witness on the stand, if you will, that in the 39 years I've been walking with Jesus, I've never been disappointed or let down. He's never failed me. He's never failed me. He's always pulled through; oh, there's been some scary times. You're sitting in one of them by the way; when we got this building. I mean scary, where your curled up in the fetal position crying out to God, O God! (Crying)

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What am I going to do?

You're not; I'm going to do it.

And He did. And you're sitting in it and He gets all the glory.

So let me bring it in for landing. For anyone that's here or watching online that has never put their trust in the Lord, I implore you today because today is the day of salvation. And this is why we do these updates by the way.

It's why we end with the Gospel and the childlike explanation of the ABCs of salvation.

What's the Gospel?

The Gospel is in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15, the first four verses. It's that Jesus came, He was crucified, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day and He is coming back again one day, soon and very soon, by the way. That's the Gospel, the good news.

The word Gospel means good news. Your debt has been paid. You're free to go. That's what the word Gospel means. And that is where the ABCs come in.

What debt? What penalty?

Well, it's the sin penalty and this is the A. It's for admit or acknowledge that you've sinned, that you're a sinner, that you need the Savior.

Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one."

And Romans 3:23 tells us why. It's because, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 starts off with the penalty first, the bad news first, if you prefer, and then the good news.

What's the bad news?

Well, the bad news is that "The wages of sin is death; that's the bad news, we've all been sentenced to death because all have sinned, it's the death penalty.

Now here's the good news. Jesus came and paid the death penalty in our place and the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He purchased and paid in full for us instead of us when He died on that cross.

And then He purchased the gift that He gives to us that we don't purchase because if you purchase it, it's not a gift; it's a purchase. He purchased it, and He offers it to us as a gift, the gift of eternal life. That's the A; here's the B.

The B is for believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is Romans 10:9-10; it says, "If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

And the C lastly is for call upon the name of the Lord or as Romans 10:9-10 also says, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

So how do you do that?

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Oh, again, it is the word pray. Pray.

Romans 10:13 says, "All who call [pray] call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Salvation is a prayer away. It's that simple, maybe too simple.

Well, I want to share with you an ABC's story for today. It comes from Rick Engle, an online member who did the eulogy for their 47-year-old daughter's celebration of life in which some 200 people were in attendance. He writes that many that were there were unbelievers and they included the ABC's of Salvation on the printed program and they wanted to share a photo, which is pictured here.

I chose this one for a reason and I'll bring it to a close this way. You know in Ecclesiastes, whenever I do a memorial service, I always talk about Ecclesiastes 7 because Solomon says this. At first it sounds pretty morbid, but he says, "It's better to go to a house of mourning than it is to go to a house of feasting."

And he explains why.

He says because at a house of mourning, everyone takes to heart their appointment with death. When you're at a wedding, you're partying. The last thing on your mind is the brevity of this life and the reality of eternal life.

And when you go to a memorial service, you are confronted with that reality. And there is more of a propensity for that introspection. Now, I did my own daughter's memorial service, and I've got to tell you that when you're doing a memorial service, you've got an attentive audience because that loved one that you're celebrating, their life was somebody they knew and now they're gone, and they're brought face to face with the reality that that could be them someday, maybe sooner than they think.

Now, we every week, and I hope you don't tire of me saying this, but I really believe the rapture is imminent. It is closer than any of us could possibly ever imagine. But here's what could happen first. Do I need to say it?

Tomorrow's not guaranteed; I don't want to be morbid, but this is serious.

And I think it requires the necessary attention because it's that introspection of, if I take my last breath in this life, where will I take my next breath? Because we're either going to spend eternity in heaven or in hell. There's no in between.

And by the way, both are forever. Hell is forever. Heaven is forever. And we're all going to spend eternity either in heaven or hell.

And it's not God's will that any should perish. God did not create hell for us. He created hell for Satan and the demons. And God does not want anyone; it's not God's will that anyone should spend eternity in hell, but that all should come to repentance and the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

You know that expression that God's going to send you to hell? That's not actually factually correct because God doesn't send anyone to hell.

In fact, Jesus died on the cross as if to say it's over My dead and resurrected body that you go to hell. That's why I died for you so you wouldn't. So that you would believe. And whosoever would believe would not perish in hell for eternity but have everlasting life.

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That's how much He loves you. Why don't you stand and we'll have the worship team come up. I appreciate your patience.

On these religious exemptions, again, please be patient with us. We will do our absolute best to get them to you in a timely manner. If there is a certain deadline, we need to know that and then we will try to provide you with that. What's really going to be important is if you let us know if they will accept a PDF file instead of an actual hard copy with a wet signature. We can get that to you obviously much quicker, so please let us know and we'll do that for you.

And one last thing; I didn't do one last thing yet, did I? How many were here Tuesday night for our prayer meeting? Show of hands real quick. Oh, yeah, wow! Wow! Wow! Right?

We prayed! We prayed! I mean we prayed! And God heard!

I want to end this way. Pray, just pray, just pray, childlike prayer. God, help! (Laughing)

You know as parents that's - okay, this is the last, last thing. You know as parents - you know when your kids were small, if you're anything like me and I believe that you are, you couldn't stand it when your kids were crying, right? I mean you rushed to their aid.

What's wrong, what's wrong? I couldn't handle hearing my children cry. Oh, man! Stop the earth; my kid is crying. It is like a heavenly hush. Quiet! My child's crying. What's wrong?

[Crying]

Don't you worry about a thing. I got this. Thank you. Thank you baba, Abba.

Let's pray: Father thank You. We love You so much!

(Sighing)

Lord, I know this has been a tough week for many and certainly, terrifying, but You oh, Lord, You hear from on high and You hearken unto the voice of our cry.

Lord, we look to You, we trust in You, and we'll wait on You and thank You in advance for what You're going to do, in Jesus' name amen.