

## **Bible Prophecy Update – June 15, 2025**

### **Links**

- Associated Press, Israel hit by missiles as Iran retaliates for strikes on nuclear sites  
<https://apnews.com/live/israel-iran-attack>

- Associated Press, Iran hits Israel with a second wave of missiles  
<https://apnews.com/live/israel-iran-attack?version=1749854932433>

- Associated Press, UN chief calls for escalation to stop, saying 'peace and diplomacy must prevail'  
<https://apnews.com/live/israel-iran-attack?version=1749919130949>

- AXIOS, Exclusive: U.S. fears Iran's response to Israeli strike would be mass casualty event  
<https://www.axios.com/2025/06/12/israel-strike-iran-response-witkoff>

- Prophecy Update, Do you know how to interpret the signs of the times?  
<https://subsplash.com/+d6kc/lb/mi/+xkjqqp6?embed=true&recentRoute=app.web-app.library.list&recentRouteSlug=%2B99bcyjz>

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**It's Now Going Down. Soon We're Going Up**  
**Pastor JD**

KAPONO: Would you join me as we pray? Lord, we — Lord, we come before You to thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord, for all that You've done for us, Lord. Help us never to take for granted, Lord, for those of us who are here in person or either visiting, especially for those of us who live here, that get — we get to call this place our home church, Lord. You have greatly blessed us, Lord. So we praise Your name this morning. We thank You for our pastors and our leaders here at this church, Lord.

Would You please, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to keep them under Your protection of Your mighty hand, Lord, as they preach Your word and proclaim Your name, to serve out Your will on their lives, Lord. We praise You. We thank You so much, Lord. We love You. Would You bless this time together? In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. You can be seated. So glad you're here today. And those of you online, so glad that you're joining with us today. Before we get started, I wanted to mention a couple of things, the first of which, of course, is this Father's Day. So yeah!

[ Applause ]

We didn't — wait. How about let's do this? A shout out to all the fathers,

[ Applause ]

of which I am one, by the way, just so you remember.

[ Congregant says, "Happy Father's Day." ]

Thank you so much. You know, being a father, I've shared this before, but I'll share it again. Being a father is more of an honor than being a pastor, but so too is being a father infinitely harder than being a pastor. Did that mess you up? I should not have started that way.

But the role of the father in the family, which is a microcosm of the family of God, can never be underestimated in its importance. So I want to do something. Instead of wishing fathers a happy Father's Day, I want to wish all the fathers a blessed Father's Day. I'm not trying to be hyper-spiritual.

[ Applause ]

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I just — because it is a blessing and an honor and a joy as hard as it is. More importantly, I also think we should, on this Father's Day, celebrate and commemorate our Heavenly Father,

[ Congregation says, "Yeah."]

who in His infinite, unfailing love for us, would send to us His only begotten son to die for us instead of us, Jesus, God the Son, the son of God, to provide a way of salvation, which is our most valuable possession here on earth. So... I'm done.

Secondly, I want to let you know that I've invited Dr. J.B. Hixson to join me here on stage and also online, where it will be livestreamed in its entirety starting at 7:00 p.m. Hawaii time, for those of you online, this upcoming Thursday, which is June 19th. Now who's J.B.? Any relation to JD? Well, I don't see any resemblance. Do you?

J.B. is a pastor, professor, speaker, author, and the founder of Not By Works Ministry. I've had the privilege of meeting and getting to know both him and his wife, Wendy, over the last several months. So I'm really looking forward to what the Lord has for all of us as we discuss Bible prophecy this Thursday, which the two of us share a common passion for. The discussion will be topic specific to how now more than ever, Bible prophecy is perfectly lining up and heating up, and I'm going to add timing up, which I know is not a thing.

But I say that because God's perfect timing. This is what is so cool. We finished the entire — last Thursday we finished the entire Book of Haggai, all two chapters. Yeah! What a feat! What an accomplishment, right? And God's timing is — I couldn't have timed it like this because the next book is wow, Zachariah. Okay, well, just wait for the Update then.

And then the last — that's the second-to-the-last book in the Old Testament, the last book being Malachi, or if you're Italian, Malachi. So I just want to be considerate of the, you know, culture. And then we're done with the Old Testament. Well, what are you gonna do after that? Well, I'm hoping the rapture is before that, so I don't have to worry about that, but we'll see. Don't worry.

Well, so we finished Haggai, and now we've got this Thursday, June 19th, the break in between before we start the 14-chapter Book of Zachariah, powerful prophetic book, which we're going to actually, look at in part today. But the Lord, as only He can, directed our

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planning of this two weeks ago. We made a decision on the topics that we would cover and the title that we would have. And you know what the first one on that list two weeks ago was? Israel. You know what the second one was? *Ezekiel 38*.

And please don't think wow, wow, you know, yes, Lord, speak; your servant is — it wasn't like that. It was just the Lord. It was all the Lord and none of us. But he texted me Thursday. I'm trying to prepare for the completion of the two-chapter Book of Haggai on Thursday night, and I learned 20 minutes in about what had happened, which we're going to talk about, and it was just confirmation that this Thursday — which is why I'm so excited and really looking forward to what the Lord has for us. I hope that you're able to attend, or those of you online tune in.

So with that, let's just get to it. First Service: our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. However, today's Update is an urgent one. Last week I said, "important." This week I'm saying, "urgent." Why? Because of the fast-developing events of prophetic significance, profound prophetic significance. So much so — get this — first time in four-ish, five years we're going to livestream the entirety of today's Update on all of our social media platforms. We'd still encourage you to go to [JDFarag.org](http://JDFarag.org), but in its entirety, it will be available on all of those. I haven't done that in — it feels good. Don't get used to it because we got some stuff, man, and so... coming up. Okay. That's First Service.

Second Service: the sermon, a verse-by-verse study through the Bible. And we livestream it, for those of you online, at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. And we're continuing on in our study through *Revelation*. We got to the first three verses last week. We're going to pick it up in *verse 4* this week, *Chapter 20, verses 4 through 6*. And I titled the sermon: 'My Pain In This Life Ends With My Reign In Eternal Life.'

Now, lest you think that that's some clever title I came up with, I did not. I'm not that clever. But as I meditated on the Word and inquired of the Lord and waited on the Lord, it just became so abundantly clear that this fool could not err thereof. That there's a lot of people in pain, and we need to be reminded that that's not the final word. Pain will not — and suffering and trials and difficulty will never have the final word in our life. God will. And it's

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gonna end with my reign in eternal life, ruling and reigning as priest and judge with Jesus Christ. That's a game changer.

So what we're going to do is refocus, and this is important, on God's unbreakable promises to us so as to not focus on the pain and the suffering that can so often be overwhelming for us. So that'll be Second Service, again, 11:15.

Now, let's get to the Update. On Tuesday — I love it when God does this. I think He feels sorry for me. I'm like God, “What's the title?” Dun, dun, dun, dun. (Jeopardy tune)

And I'm waiting on the Lord. “Lord!” Because I get started on these sometimes Sunday afternoon, Monday, no later than Tuesday. I need to know the direction He would have me to go. So Tuesday I have the title of: 'It's Now Going Down. Soon We're Going Up.'

And then I had this masterpiece of an Update. I mean, I revised it, I refined it, I prayed about it, I combed through it, I did everything you can to it and with it all week. And then Thursday hit. And Israeli missiles hit in Iran. And here I am trying to, you know, get ready for the Bible study Thursday night and the meetings preceding.

And the bandwidth in my brain, which is limited, by the way, it's not really high speed, was just maxed out because, I mean, this — so I got up as early as I could on Friday morning and then again on Saturday morning because, well, I had to start all over. Do you feel sorry for me? I'm not seeking pity. Prayer? Yes. Pity? No need.

So I didn't delete it. I would never do that after all that work. I did save it. So I'm waiting on the Lord, still inquiring the Lord about it. But I started from scratch early Friday morning and, again, heard very clearly — it was abundantly clear — that the title, 'It's Now Going Down. Soon We're Going Up' is even more so apropos for this urgent Update. I mean, in a sense, it is going down literally now.

So I need to humbly ask that you bear with me for no less than two reasons, the first of which I didn't have the usual six or seven days to prepare in advance. Now, does that mean that I won't go as long? No guarantees. No guarantees.

The second reason I humbly ask that you bear with me is that these developments, specific to the unprecedented Israeli strikes on Iran, and the retaliatory Iranian strikes on Israel are

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still very fluid and fast-moving. It's so hard to keep up with. Add to this all the events here in the US, which is extremely serious. I'll leave it at that. Time doesn't permit me to cover that today. Maybe that's for another day.

So by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, I'm going to do my best, not that I don't always try to do my best, but I'm going to do my best to explain how and why all that's now going down means with a certainty that we're soon and very soon (Singing) going up in the pre-Tribulation rapture.

Now you're going to be a Berean, right? We have this on camera, so we can hold you to that. I'm just going to share with you the reality on the ground, as they say. And then we're going to connect the scriptures, specifically the prophecies in the Bible. But I beseech you not to just take my word for it. "Oh, Pastor JD said." No, no, no! Don't do that. We'll talk more about that.

Okay, let's start with what's now going down by way of this AP live update report as of Friday — I checked it early this morning like 2:00 a.m. — with the headline reading, "Israel hit by missiles as Iran retaliates for strikes on nuclear sites." Yesterday, AP's live update reported, "Iran hits Israel with a second wave of missiles."

Now, I want you to listen to this particular excerpt from that update. Quote: "As Iranian projectiles and Israeli interceptor rockets left trails of smoke and flame across the night sky, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed not to let Israel *[Listen]* "escape safely *[Hang on to those two words]* escape safely from this great crime."

Here's another AP live update. Notice the pattern, the common denominator, if you prefer. "UN chief calls for escalation to stop, saying 'Peace and diplomacy must prevail.'"

Then there's this very, very interesting AP update. "Putin talks with Israeli and Iranian leaders." *[Quote, watch this]* "Russian President Vladimir Putin urged de-escalation during his separate calls with the leaders of Israel and Iran..." saying, "To Iran, Putin condemned the Israeli attacks and offered condolences for the casualties, *[This is Iran now]* including civilians."

*[Now his conversation with Netanyahu?] [Whole different tune and tone]* In his conversation with Netanyahu, Putin said the Iranian nuclear issue should be solved 'exclusively through

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political and diplomatic means' and urged both sides to return to negotiations, even offering to help mediate." Aww. That's so nice of you, Putin.

In another related AP update they posted, quote, "Russia's Foreign Ministry expresses 'extreme concern' saying, it would "...undermine [*Watch this*] [*I have it underlined yellow on the screen if they want to put it back up for those online*] peace and damage regional and international security."

Peace and security. Common denominator. Common thread. Then in this AP update, which we covered in last week's Prophecy Update, they published this report. France and Saudi Arabia were scheduled to meet this Tuesday the 19th in New York at the UN headquarters to form the framework, basically forcing the framework for a Palestinian state and a two-state solution with Palestinians and Jews living side by side in peace and security. So they're going to have this meeting about Israel without Israel.

*[And]* "France says [*Quote*] conference is postponed (Chuckling) [*I love when God does that too*] ...is postponed on two-state solution for the Israeli- Palestinian conflict."

Here's one quick quote, and then I'll make a comment. France and Saudi Arabia were due to co-host the conference in New York next week..." Macron [*This is France*] said, "it was postponed for logistical and security reasons..."

Now, I was trying to stay apprised of this postponing of this and Macron, in particular, along with Saudi Arabia, which we're going to tie in altogether here in a moment. He's chomping at the bit, to use that metaphor, to reschedule this postponed meeting. Let's talk about Turkey.

Here's an AP update. Quote: "Turkey suspends flights to Iran, Iraq, Syria and Jordan," saying it was due to [*Here it is*] [*Wait for it*] security concerns..."

You see the common... and of particular note are the nations that are saying this and being quoted as saying this in the reports and updates about this. I found the wording of this Axios report on Thursday most interesting.

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Quote: "Exclusive: *[That would get your attention, right, when you're scrolling through your news feed?]* Exclusive! *[Whoa! That means nobody else has this one.]* "U.S. fears Iran's response to Israeli strike would be *[This is U.S.]* mass casualty event."

Quick quote. "Iran has also vowed to strike U.S. targets in the region in the event of an attack on its nuclear sites."

Excuse me, but your nuclear sites were just attacked. So now you're retaliating and striking Israel, and you vowed — because you have to understand that to — now, I'm not talking about the Iranian people. This is probably as good of a time as any to make this delineation. Please, I beg you, please distinguish between the government and the people, especially here in America. It's the people of America. The Americans, not the government. It's the people of Israel, not the government.

Am I getting through? Especially when it comes to Israel. Why? Because the people of Israel are the descendants of Jacob, Yacob, who God changed his name to Israel. And what ensued was he would have 12 sons that would become the 12 tribes, none of which are lost tribes, by the way, of Israel. The descendants of Israel. The people of Israel, not the government. The people of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iran.

You know, what if I told you that right now in Iran, which wasn't called Iran until the beginning of the last century, it was always called by its ancient name, which we'll see in a moment, Persia. They changed the name to Iran. And then in 1979, with the overthrow of the Shah of Iran prior, by the way — Jews used to vacation in Iran. That's a world that is foreign to us today, right? Jews don't vacation in Iran. Iran is calling for the destruction of Israel and America because America's the great Satan, and Israel the little Satan. Now it's the Islamic Republic of Iran. It's the Ayatollah, the regime, not the people.

What if I told you that the people in Iran are coming to Christ by the multitudes? And we get to meet them soon and very soon, I believe. So why do I quote from this report? Because we have this ideology, this notion, this mindset here in America, especially here on the island, in Hawaii: Oh, that's clear across the other side of the world. What does that have to do with me? Oh, if you only knew. If you only knew.

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Well, that was just a condensed explanation of what's now going down. However, sadly, it has led to no shortage of speculations and predictions. And I say, "sadly" because there are many people saying many things about the many developments.

But it's sad because they're not turning to God's word to know what God's saying. Let me say the same thing in a different way. You know, we always hear, "what's your take on it?" "Oh, here's what so-and-so had to say about that." "Oh, I can't wait to hear what Pastor JD has to say today."

Again, you know how I feel about that. I still love you. I just, I'm, in love, speaking the truth that you never rely on what I have to say, or they have to say. The only thing you rely on is what God has to say.

Example. There are some saying that this ends in World War III. Doubtless you've probably heard that tossed around in light of the developments. But God in His infallible and more sure word of prophecy has and will always have the final word. In other words, it doesn't matter what they or I or anyone says. The only thing that matter is what God says.

Well, how do we know what God says? The word, the word of God, the words of Christ. This is what God has to say about everything. Everything. Everything you need: Right here. You having problems in your marriage? Right here. You having problems in your finances? Right here. You having problems in your job, in your workplace? Right here. You know, the best business manual ever written is the Book of Proverbs.

I just — before I move forward here — I will. But before I do, I guess I'm just sort of from the heart pleading with you heart to heart that this explains — in fact, this is something J.B. and I are planning, Lord willing, on talking about. This is why the last days church today is in the condition it's in. I'm going to just leave it at that.

As I continue to study and teach God's word, I've come to what may be surprising to some that this may not lead to World War III. Rather, it may be that which leads to a false peace prior, namely vis-a-vis the false Christ referred to as the Antichrist who's not only against Christ but postures himself in place of Christ.

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How so? By strengthening his policy of peace and security as the final solution to the two-state solution which divides Jerusalem exactly as Bible prophecy foretells. Real quick. I don't see a World War III in eschatology, in Scripture. I do see wars and threats of wars. I see the battle of Gog and Magog, which we're going to cover. I see the battle of Armageddon at the end of the seven-year Tribulation. But I don't see this ending in that. Instead, I see this ending in peace and security and a peace agreement for seven years with the many.

I don't want to get too ahead of myself, but in last week's Update, we did a deep dive into this. And we always provide the links to these on our website with the transcript of the Update. But please be patient. We have an amazing team of transcribers. And can you imagine the pain and suffering I cause them trying to transcribe and translate into four languages my hour-and-a-half Bible Prophecy Updates because I make sounds and say words that aren't actually words, and so they got to come up with something. But it's a joy for them. And it is such a profound privilege that God has called them to co-labor with us. So just be patient. They get those transcripts; they'll get them and the translations.

But the title of last week's Update was in the form of a question which was, do you know how to interpret the signs of the times? The reason I mention this today is because everything we covered last Sunday, and I mean everything, is precisely what is now going down today, prophetically, perfectly according to God's perfectly planned timeline of the end. I hope you know, I think, you know, you need to know that everything is perfectly on schedule.

Never think for a second that God is in heaven going, "What? Israel did what? When was this?" No. He knows the end from the beginning. We read in Scripture that He leads rulers, kings as water downstream. He is sovereignly in control. And He foreknew exactly what they would do in this the last days, really the last hour.

If you'll kindly allow me to, I'd like to draw your attention to key Bible prophecies in this regard, with the hope that, again, by the Holy Spirit, it will all just connect and make sense. Because ultimately, the sole goal in doing so is to encourage the saved because, man, there's

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a lot of believers that are very discouraged, fast giving way to despair. Not just encourage the saved, but also reach the lost.

How? By getting Jesus to people and people to Jesus, as many as we can, and by the looks of things, as fast as we can. Because I don't think we've got much more time. So what follows, not exhaustive, but specific Bible prophecies that speak to how that all now going down means, and I'm going to say it again with a certainty, the more certain sure word of Bible prophecy. Quickly, parenthetically, you remember in its context when Peter, who was at the Mount of Transfiguration, writes, by the Holy Spirit, yeah, man — this is a very loose paraphrase — let me have it.

“Wow, man, I was there, dude, James and I, and there's Moses and Elijah with Jesus! I was there. I experienced it. I saw it with my own two eyes. But you know what? That's not what I hang my hat on. You know what I hang my hat on? The more sure word of prophecy.” Translated: Experience? Pfft! Yeah, but dude, you saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah! I just want to know — this is how I think — pray for me. How did they know it was Moses and Elijah? They never met them. They have name tags? Hi, my name is Elijah.

Is that weird? Okay, nevermind. Actually, it speaks to a truth when we're in heaven that John talks about. We'll know no man after the flesh. It doesn't mean we won't know who each one, everyone is. We just don't know. We will not know each other the way we did down here. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah for that, right?

So he is just driving home the paramount importance of the Word, specifically Bible prophecy, the more sure word of prophecy superseding the experience. That might be for somebody here or somebody online. So that's why I say dogmatically, with a certainty that as we see this going down — and even Jesus said, start looking up, baby. He didn't say “baby.”

“When these things begin [Keyword] to happen...” They're beginning to happen. Okay. What was that again? What was I supposed to do again? They're beginning to happen. Oh, look, a note. It's from my wife. Please don't go long. Okay. Too late.

[ Laughter ]

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Why did I even keep that in here? Nevermind. Okay, sorry. I'm back now. A little insertion of levity. Where was I before I was so rudely interrupted?

Oh, the certainty, being dogmatic, with an assurance, unquestionably. Not beyond a reasonable doubt. No. Beyond any doubt. Because what was I supposed to do when I begin to see these things that we're already now beginning to see? Oh, look up and lift up your heads. Do that on a street corner, at a crosswalk. What are you looking at? Oh, I'm looking. Jesus said, "Look up." Because when these things are — that's a good conversation starter right there to share Jesus with somebody who desperately needs Jesus.

No, look up. I think we're past the point of you need to get ready. I think we're at the point of you need to be ready. All right. You ready? That was not part of what I just said. Daniel 8. I'll be as brief as I can.

Beginning in *verse 23*, **"In the latter time [The last days] of their kingdom, [That final ruling empire that Daniel saw in the vision that was given to him to write] when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, [The Antichrist] and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power. [Oh, then whose power is it, pray tell?] [The power of the indwelling of Satan himself] [Satan's powerful, not all-powerful] And his power shall be mighty. [We just heard that verse; what am I doing?] And he shall [Watch this] destroy wonderfully..."**

Talk about an oxymoron. Wait, destroy wonderfully? I don't think that when something's destroyed, it's very wonderful. Let me, in the original language, explain what this word carries the idea of. Fearfully different. Fearfully different. **"...and shall prosper..."** In the original, carrying the idea of forced entry in, breaking and cutting through, rushing forward, crossing over. Well, that is different. And that is fearful. **"...and [That's not all] practice..."**

Okay, wait a minute. You know, physicians, we say, you know, they have a medical practice: What, you're still practicing? Or a law practice: You're still practicing? That's not what that word means. In the original, it means manufacture, make, thrive, accomplish.

**"...and shall destroy [Now we're getting specific] the mighty and the holy people. [Who's that? The Jew] And through [Verse 25] [And this is extremely important] [This is the New King James Version] through his policy [Shrewd political success in the original] also he shall**

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**cause craft** [*Carrying with it the idea of trickery, deceit, fraud, disillusionment, betrayal*] **to prosper in his hand. And he shall magnify himself in his heart and by** [*Watch this*] **by peace** [*Not war*] **peace shall destroy many."**

That's the clarion call today among all the nations on earth. Peace and stability. Peace and diplomacy. Peace and safety. Peace and security. And that's how I get there; by the way, that's how I get to — I don't see World War III. I see peace agreement and the pre-Tribulation rapture prior. Because you understand, the pre-Tribulation rapture does not start the Tribulation. It's the seven-year peace covenant with the many. I'm getting ahead of myself. That's next.

**"He shall also** [*I love this part*] [*I love it when God does this and includes this and inspires the writer to write this*] **He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."**

Let me have this one too. I needed that because I don't want it to — I don't want *verse 25* to end with, **"and by peace he shall destroy many."** Have a nice afternoon. No, here's how it ends. Spoiler alert. Ha! **"He shall stand up against the Prince** [*Capitalize! That's Jesus!*] **of princes.**

Lord of lords, King of kings. But he shall. You'll forgive me. Just be poof in an instant! I mean, what? You're going up against the Prince of princes, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Son of God, God the Son? You think you stand a chance? No!

We're told, *Revelation 1*, remember? Last year we started *Revelation*. I'm sorry. The fire of His mouth. Just with the word. He doesn't even say a word. He can just go poof, or as I like to say, pfft! That's in the JDV. Anyway, *Daniel 9:27* quickly; we've talked about this. I'm not going to belabor it, but this is, again, very important to connect everything. **"He will confirm."** This is, again, New King James, I think. I don't remember, I forgot to remember, so I didn't remember and forgot.

Anyway, **"confirm,"** that word in the original language of the Hebrew Old Testament is the same as my native tongue of Arabic. Ekbir. Ekbir. When I was a kid, probably no more than eight, nine years old, I would play a Jordanian card game with my grandfather. And he always beat me and took lots of money from me. And he cheated to get it, which anyway, I

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didn't know it at the time. I was just like, why do I always lose? Because he always cheats. But every time he would win, which was all the time, he would say in Arabic to me, “ana ekbir,” meaning that my score is superior, stronger, greater. That's what that means. He's not going to make a covenant with the many for seven. He's going to make it superior, stronger, greater.

**“He will make greater a covenant with the many for one 'seven.' [What's that?] [The seven-year Tribulation] In the middle of the 'seven,' [The three-and-a-half-year mark, 1260 days in] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple...”**

Stop. That means that this strengthening, making superior and greater of this covenant with the many for seven, more likely than not includes as a caveat for the Jews, the rebuilding of their temple. You're dividing Jerusalem. Yeah, but you get your temple. Okay. Where do we sign? I'm sorry for the way I'm illustrating it, but you get the point.

So it's this *Daniel 9:27* prophecy that kicks off the seven-year Tribulation. It starts the seven-year Tribulation time clock. And it's very time specific with these prophetic timestamps that in the middle of the seven, the three-and-a-half-year mark on a wing of the temple — that means the temple has to be rebuilt.

And they're ready and so are the red heifers. In fact, the red heifers have to be sacrificed according to *Leviticus 19*. And the ashes of that pure red heifer, of which they have five that qualify, it's up to a certain point. It has an expiration date because it cannot be above a certain age. And those red heifers they have at an undisclosed location. They qualify, but they're getting older. They have birthdays every year. So I mean, they're cutting it close.

But everything's ready: The priestly garments and the utensils and the vessels and the materials. And they've even identified, using DNA, the lineage of not just the Levites, but the descendants of Aaron, more specifically, as the priestly tribe and already training them.

There's your practice. I'm a priest. I have a priest practice.

So what's going to happen in the middle of the seven-year Tribulation in the new rebuilt temple, which was a part of this making great, greater covenant with many for one 'seven'? Oh, he's going to **“...set up an abomination that causes desolation, [Jesus, in Matthew 24, referred specifically to Daniel 9:27] until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”**

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There God goes again. I love it. In other words, aren't you glad it doesn't end with the abomination that causes desolation? Period. Have a nice afternoon. No, **"...until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."**

Paul, to the Thessalonian church, in his second letter, *Chapter 2, verse 4* echoes this, gives us, in fact, more details about this. **"He [Speaking of the Antichrist] will oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."**

That's an abomination, and it will cause desolation. And the Jews, *Matthew 24*, will flee to the place that is prepared for them in, of all places, Petra, in modern-day Jordan, where for the last three-and-a-half-years, God will protect His people from the Antichrist. Okay, let's go to Zechariah 12. It's all — don't worry. I know it's maybe a little bit kapakahi. Oh, sorry, for those of you — discombobulated. Disconnected. But it's going to click in, man because the Holy Spirit is the one who makes it click in, okay?

**"The burden [Zachariah 12, verse 1] [The prophecy, the oracle] of the word of the Lord against Israel. Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: "Behold, [Look] I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness [The intoxicating obsession of all the nations on earth] to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And [Verse 3] it shall happen in that day..."**

Stop. That day — we're going to see it again — is today. Today. That day? Today. **"...I will make Jerusalem a very heavy [Burdensome boundary] stone for all peoples; [All nations] and all who would heave it away [Give it away, cut it up, divide it up] will surely be cut in pieces, [And I want you to listen very carefully to the last part of verse 3] though all nations of the earth are gathered against it."**

Jerusalem: the city that God says in His word I chose to put, literally, My name of ownership on. And you want to try to mess with the egress and ingress and boundaries and borders and... No, uh-uh. Oh, you want to give it away? It's not yours to give away. Heave away? You want to divide it up? It's not yours to divide up. Oh, we're just doing a lot line

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adjustment. No, you're not. It's not yours to do that with. It's Mine. I gave it to My people, the Jewish people.

I am going to ask you a question. It might be on the side of being rhetorical. But are all the nations on earth and peoples today finding themselves with this intoxicating obsession concerning, surrounding Jerusalem with the two-state solution? You know God, in His love, tells us what's going to happen before it happens, so when it happens, we'll believe. So when people start pontificating about how this is going to go, or where this is going to end, I just say, well, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait.

No, you're wrong. Because that's not what the Bible says. Actually, check this out. I know the future. What? What are you talking about? How can you know the future? Because I know the One who holds the future. And He, again, in His love, has told me what's going to happen in the future, so I know how it ends. It's the ultimate spoiler alert right here. I don't think any of us are complaining.

Okay, we got to do this. I'll do my best. Please, I would just again ask for your patience, your Grace — you're already very gracious — but we need to roll up our sleeves and kind of navigate through *Ezekiel 38*. This is a well-known prophecy. Beginning in *verse 1*, **“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog...”** [*Russia*]

Now this is where it gets a little bit gnarly. I know that's an '80s word. But I don't hold to the conventional view that Rosh is a transliteration of Russia because it's, again, in this — it's the same word in Hebrew as it is in Arabic, except we don't say the Rosh. This “sh” is a “s-s.” So it means “head.” Literally, the meaning is head. So if I were to say to you in Arabic raasy wag'any, I just am telling you I have a headache, basically my head is aching. The head: rosh, raas. It's the head, the chief, the leader.

**“...Meshech and Tubal...”** Now this is where it gets, and I'm not dogmatic about this, and I'm willing to humble myself and admit if I'm wrong about this. But I am — I'm not dogmatic about it — but I think it's possibly including Syria and the “stans.” You know what I mean by “stans”? Uzbekistan, all the “stans.” If your name is Stan, we love you, Stan. You're not involved in this. Thank you, Stan.

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**"...and prophesy..."** Now, this is why I am pretty sure that Rosh is speaking to the head, a person who's at the head of this thing, this alliance of nations because we go on to read at the end of *verse 2*, **"...and prophesy against him."** Who? The head, the head chief, Raas, Rosh. What am I going to prophesy?

*[Verse 3]* **"...say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, [And here it is again] the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you [Verse 4] around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Persia..."**

*[Verse 5]*

Boom! Mic drop. I probably should be more sanctified and say, "Amen. So be it." That's Iran.

**"...Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet..."** Gomer. Who's that? Okay. Just hang in there with me. Possibly Germany. That's up for debate. **"...and all its troops; the house of Togarmah..."** *[Turkey]*

Turkey. Are you starting to connect some dots here? **"...from the far north..."** Just look at a map when you go home. Not now. I'm still preaching. From the far north. And actually Russia is south of Turkey. Turkey is far north of Russia.

**"Prepare yourself and be ready, [Notice: not get ready. No time. Be ready] you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. After many days you will be visited. In the latter days (years) [The last days] you will come into the land [1948] [When Israel returned to the land] was back from the sword and gathered from many people [And this is what you're going to do] on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; [Almost 2000 years] they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell [And this messes a lot of guys up] they dwell safely."**

Now, this is *betah* in the Hebrew, which means *[Ready for this?]* confidently in peace and security. Let me help with the connecting of all of this. The prophecy in *Ezekiel 38* specifies with this one detail alone that when you, with this alliance that you're at the head of *[Rosh of, Raas of]* invade, it will be at a time when Israel has peace and security and is dwelling

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confidently. Sounds to me an awful lot like *Daniel 9:27* being fulfilled first, in order for Israel to dwell confidently in peace and security.

*[Verse 9]* **"You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you." "Thus says the Lord God: "On that day [*Today is that day*] it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages."**

This is another one that messes people up. Wait a minute. The wall's still up. Wait. In the original, this carries with the idea of being open and adherent. Adherent.

**"I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely [*In the Hebrew, it, again, confident security*] [*In the Greek, we'll get to in a moment*] [*1 Thessalonians 5:3, asphaleia, safety, security, stability*] and having neither bars nor gates..."**

In other words, the doors are open, the gates are not shut. *Verse 12* tells us what they're going to do this for because God put it in their minds and the hook in their jaw to do it.

**"...to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, [*That is only the Jewish people*] who have acquired livestock and goods, [*And boy, have they*] who dwell in the midst of the land. [*As they currently do*]**

*[Now verse 13 gets really, really interesting]*

**Sheba, Dedan, [*Who dat? Saudi Arabia*] [*You don't say*] the merchants of Tarshish..." [*Who dat?*]**

I don't really know for sure. Again, just being, you know, open with you. I'm not — this has been a subject of much debate. Some speculate that it's Spain, the UK. I guess we'll find out. But it'll be from the view of the Father's house and our bridal chamber, if we're even interested, which I don't think we will be.

*[So Saudi Arabia]* **"...the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? [*In other words, they just question it*] [*They maybe at best protest*] Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, [*By the***

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*way, silver and gold: Israel. Whoa!]* [You have no idea] **to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?"**

When I announced that we were going to have J.B. here Thursday night, and the title was that everything is now lining up and heating up, all of these nations are lining up, and the geopolitical tensions are massively heating up.

And even that might be an understatement. You know, prior to 2020, when everything hit and everything changed, never to be the same again, I was just, I mean, talking about how then — this is in the late teens — not the age of your teenagers, like 2015-ish. Even before that, up until 2019, I was talking about how all of these nations have mutual defense treaties.

You know what that means? Let's talk about Russia and Iran's mutual defense treaty. If you're attacked, we come. And does Russia have nuclear weapons? Hello. And Russia, same thing goes for you. Works both ways. Mutual defense treaty. Russia's attacked? Iran allies with Russia.

Okay, now we still have this question on the table that remains of how now all that's going down means with a certainty that we will soon be going up. I need to preface the answer to this question from God's more sure word of prophecy by asking you to please consider this possibility, more likely probability. It's now beginning to come into clearer focus that what's going down and coming down upon them will be simultaneous with when we go up.

And here's how I get there. *1 Thessalonians 5:3*. You should know this by heart. You should have it memorized in seven different languages by now. For when they say, while they're saying, presently they're saying, are they saying, "peace and security," "peace and safety," "peace and stability," "peace and prosperity," well, we're told what will happen when they say those two words. **"Then sudden destruction comes upon them."**

And the thing about sudden destruction is it's sudden. I know, deeply profound, right? But more importantly, it comes not upon us but them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they, not we, they shall not escape. Okay, so that's what's going to happen to them. What's going to happen to me? This is the best for last, man.

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*1 Thessalonians 4, beginning in verse 15. "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we..."* That's you and me if you're born-again of the Spirit of God. You can't be un-born-again if you're born-again. Just like your child when they were born, they can't be unborn. You might have wished on those nights that you couldn't sleep ever again. *[But]* **"...we who are alive and remain until the Coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep."** *[Speaking of death]*

This is the bodily resurrection. We're gonna talk about this in *Revelation Chapter 20* Second service. The first resurrection: It's a bodily resurrection. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. They're in the presence of the Lord in spirit, their spirit, but they're going to get their glorified bodies first. I'm cool with that as long as I get mine, and I will.

And here's why, *verse 16, "For the Lord Himself [Listen carefully] will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with [Very important] the trumpet of God."*

Stop! There are two trumpets in Scripture: the trumpet of angels, the trumpet of God. The trumpet of angels is for Israel, the trumpet of God, for the church Don't get messed up in that. And there's the first trumpet and the last trumpet. The first trumpet was for Israel. The last trumpet, the church.

**"And the dead in Christ shall rise first. [Again, I'm cool with that] Then we [Not they] we who are alive [You and me] [Very possibly] we who are alive and remain shall be [Raptured up]."** Oh, no. My Bible says, **"caught up."**

I'm glad you pointed that out. In the Greek, it's harpazo. In the Latin, it's rapturous, transliterated rapture. So the next time that well-intentioned whoever they are approaches you and says, "Well, the word 'rapture' isn't even in the Bible," don't do what I would do. That's why I think God, just in His mercy, doesn't have people say that to me because, I mean, my sanctification flees from me.

Actually, the word 'Bible' isn't in the Bible. What are you gonna do with that one? And you're wrong. The word 'rapture' is in the Bible. Do you have a copy of the Latin Vulgate? I'll show you. Oh, you don't? There's an app for that. Let me show you.

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**"...we who are alive and remain shall be [Raptured up] caught up together with them in the clouds..."**

Can't wait. I'm going to see my daughter, Noelle, the children we lost in utero through miscarriages, my mommy, I hope my daddy, and all the loved ones that went home to be with the Lord since the church was started, sorely missed.

We're going to meet them in the clouds **"...to meet the Lord in the air."** Not down here because there's a whole lot of sudden destruction going on down there for them. But we are going to be up there. **"And thus we shall always be with the Lord."** This is where he could have ended, but he doesn't. And I'm so glad because he says this lastly, *verse 18*.

**"Therefore comfort one another with these words."**

Now I want to ask you this question. If the rapture were not pre-Tribulation, that would be a cruel thing to say. Could you imagine? I mean, people are going to die by the billions. The islands of Hawaii? No more. The mountains cast into the ocean. It is going to be unspeakable horror. **"Therefore comfort one another with these words."** Does that fit for you? Does that work for you? If it does, I'd really like to sincerely know how it does because that doesn't work at all.

No, he's encouraging this church that he started in Thessalonica to encourage the new believers and comfort them with these words. What words? The comforting, encouraging words that we're going to be caught up. We're going up. Look up! And we're going to meet our lost loved ones that died in Christ. And even way mo better, we're going to meet Jesus in the air, and we will forever be with Him.

Why am I contrasting *Chapter 5 of 1 Thessalonians* with *Chapter 4*? Because this is how I'm going to end. And I've got one last question. I've got a lot of questions today, don't I? One last question, and this is sincere. It's not rhetorical. I'm not trying to be snarky. This is eternal, life-and-death important question.

Are you a "they," or are you a "we"? If you're a "they," you need to believe in Jesus to be a "we." You know you can sum up this whole Update with the words "be a we." I'm a "we," baby! We be a "we." I'm not a "they." It doesn't end well for them. And one last thing.

**"They shall not escape."**

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You know that the Pre-Tribulation rapture has been affectionately referred to as “the great escape.” I would say, “the greatest escape.” And isn't it true that those who attack the pre-Trib, the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture, which is off the charts, by the way, today, which is just confirmation and verification and validation that it's sound. Because why would fact checkers try to debunk a lie? It'd be akin to a counterfeiter counterfeiting a \$70 bill. What was the point?

You can actually gauge the truth by how much it's attacked. And so when it gets attacked, or we as a “we” get attacked — you say, “Well, they just want to escape in the pre-Tribulation rapture.” I'm like, “Yeah! You don't?”

As my wife taught me when we were first trying to get adapted here — she's from here — born-and-raised Kailua girl — she made a comment one day. I said, man, that's good. I'm stealing it. I'm going to use it in the pulpit. She said, “See ya; wouldn't want to be ya.” So I basically plagiarized my wife. You don't want to escape? “See ya; wouldn't want to be ya.” Because I be a “we,” and I do escape. They don't. We do.

I mean, are you guys okay? I'm done. Almost. This is the most important part of the entire Update because of what stands in the balance, what weighs in the balance. The stakes are infinitely high because your entrance into eternity will be predicated upon your relationship with the person of Jesus Christ only. You are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. And that's the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I'm gonna just say this, and then we'll go through this, and then we'll end this. There's hope. If you have never come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, putting your trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins and having Him put His Holy Spirit in you to seal you for redemption, then I'm here to tell you you're on death row. You're on death row awaiting your death for your sin unnecessarily. Why? Because the good news is that Jesus died in your place with His blood shed in your stead. You were on death row. Jesus said, hey, you're free. Good news! You've been set free. **“And whom the Son sets free is free indeed.”** Get out of here. I'm running, man. I don't run very fast. But I'm running really fast right now.

And what does Jesus do? He takes His place on death row by taking my place on death row. Oh! That's chicken skin! That's good news. That's the Gospel. The Gospel is that Jesus

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came and died for you instead of you. He was buried. And then He rose again on the third day. And even gooder news. I know that's not a word. He's coming back soon and very soon one day, which could be any day, to take us to that place that He prepared for us in His father's house. Sorry for the pause. I just.... beyond comprehension, too wonderful for words.

The ABCs of salvation. Please don't make them into something they're not. It's just a tool to equip you. It's like a template maybe because this is how it goes down for those who come to Jesus and are saved. This is how it went down for the criminal on the cross. We refer to him as the thief on the cross. This is how it went down for me some 43-plus years ago. There has to come this acknowledging, admitting that you're a sinner. Because why would you need a Savior if you weren't? You still fancy yourself as being a good person. "I haven't murdered anybody."

Well, *Romans 3:10* is going to completely correct you. You're wrong. You are not good. **"There is [No one good] no one righteous, not even one."** You can't be the only one. It says, **"not even one."** So can't be you either. Save one: Jesus the Christ.

*Romans 3:23* explains why. **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"** an archery term meaning you fell short. You missed the bullseye. We've all sinned. And when we look into the perfect mirror of God's law, we see ourselves as God's sees us. Man... fall short? Are you kidding me? How do you even come close? I've broken every single one of these ten commandments and even invented more to break. **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"** God's perfect standard of holiness and righteousness. There is only one person, the person of Jesus Christ, that was perfect and righteous and holy, without blemish, without sin, sinless, the Lamb of God.

Now we got a problem because we're back in the courtroom; we're still on death row. Enter *Romans 6:23*. I've just been handed down the death penalty, **"For the wages of sin is death."** That's why I'm sitting here on death row. I'm going to die in my sins.

Oh, wait a minute. Good news. Someone died for your sin, so you don't have to die in your sin. How about that? Oh, what's his name? I'd like to meet him. His name is Jesus, the only name above all names given among men, whereby we must be saved. And He is going to

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pay in full, carry out in full your death sentence, and in so doing purchase for you the gift, and this is not just any gift. This is the gift of God.

What is it? Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Wait, wait, wait. I'm sitting here on death row, and now I've got eternal life? Yeah. How does that work? In a name, in a word, Jesus. Now, okay, you got my attention. You've got my admission. I am a sinner.

And that's what brings you to the B, which is for believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. Now, this is not, as I always say, just, "well, I believe in God." "Well, I believe in Jesus."

Isn't that just like the worst? When you're trying to share the Gospel with someone you know isn't saved, and they say, "Well, I'm a Christian."

You're like, what are you — where are you going to go from there? Man, you got to go... (Stumbling over words) I'd rather they just blatantly up in my grill say, "You know, yeah, I'm a sinner. And I'll admit it."

Cool. Now we can go somewhere. Now, we can talk. To believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead as *Romans 10:9* says, it's to put your trust in Him for the forgiveness of sin on that great and final day and not in your own righteousness, which Isaiah says is as filthy rags. Man, I got to get moving. The C, lastly, is for call.

Now watch this. And this is why it's not a formula. Call or confess the name of Jesus Christ, *Romans 10:9*. *Romans 10:13* says, "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Here's how it works, and I'm almost done. I acknowledge I'm a sinner, A; which like the thief on the cross, he admits: I deserve to be here. You don't. I've broken the law. You haven't. And he puts his belief in trust in the Savior of the world [*What a coincidence!*] [*No coincidence*] that's being crucified right next to him on the same day at the same time. And he puts his trust in Him when he says to Him and confesses to Him, "**Will You remember me when You enter Your kingdom?**" Because you see, Jesus said, "**Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.**" If I've got Jesus Christ as Lord in my heart, what's coming out of my mouth? Jesus Christ is Lord. Okay.

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Today's "But God Testimony," like last week, it's short — trying to give you as much hope as I can. It's going to be different in the sense that it's more of an encouragement that ties into the Update today.

It comes from Tim Richards, who writes, "Dear JD, By way of encouragement, I just wanted to let you know that your ABCs of salvation sign has been put up on a main road between the towns of Antrim and Moira [*I hope I'm pronouncing that right*] In Northern Ireland, [*Last week was South Africa*] a very rural area in a very small country. I wanted to take a picture [*He must've saw last week's Update*] I wanted to take a picture but there was no place to pull in without risk to life and property! With God's blessing, Tim Richards."

Please, we don't want anybody — first of all, we never ask anybody to put these up. If the Lord is leading you to and presents the opportunity to then by all means because we continue to receive into the office emails of testimonies about how someone came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by way of the ABCs of salvation, making it simple. So I'm encouraged. And by extension, I hope you're encouraged. Are you? Encourage one another with these words and with the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Okay. Whew! I think I broke another record, which was the record I broke before last week. Kapono, come on up. Stand up. You guys are the best. You have treasures in heaven. When you get there, you're going to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Wait, you went to Calvary Kaneohe? Ho! Enter in!" No, that's not going happen. But just — I just thank you. You're very gracious and long suffering. But God.

Let's pray. Father, thank You. It's all You. It's not us. It's all of You and none of us. And so, Lord, we yield ourselves to You. We present ourselves to You as living sacrifices on Your altar because we know that is Your pleasing and good and perfect will — in fact, it's proof of it — to do with us according to Your good pleasure, as You will. Have Your way with us, Lord because Your ways are infinitely higher and better than ours, as are Your thoughts.

Lord, I pray, especially on this Father's Day that You, as our Heavenly Father, would be blessed and pleased, that we would be pleasing in Your sight. And lastly, for those who may still be watching, or just now watching, or even still here that have never actually understood the simplicity of the Gospel and that's what's kept them up till this moment,

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well, this is the moment. This is the day. Today's the day of salvation. Please, Lord, please, Lord. Please, Jesus. For anyone who's pondering the most important decision of their life for eternal life, please, Jesus, I pray they choose to believe in and put their trust in You and be saved. In Jesus' name. Amen.