

**Prophecy Update**  
**If There Was Ever A Time To Know Bible Prophecy, It's Now**  
**Pastor JD**

KAPONO: Would you join me as we pray? Lord, You have done the greatest thing of all. Lord, You have risen from the grave to wash away all of our sins, Lord, that if we would just believe, and call upon Your name, Lord, that You're so faithful to come and wash us clean, Lord, to live within us, Lord, and give us that hope, Lord, that salvation that we all need, Lord.

So would You speak to us in Your word, Lord? Guide us in this time and bless this time, Lord, to Your glory. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen. How about the Children's Ministry?

[ Applause ]

Oh, I hope you're as blessed as I was. Well, good morning and welcome. Please be seated. Those of you online, if you were on YouTube or — oh, no. You missed out. Sorry. FOMO for you. Anyway. Sorry. Hey, He is risen.

[ Applause ]

Okay. Let's...

[ Applause ]

Maybe Second Service will have more caffeine. Let's try that again. Okay. I say, "He is risen." And you say, "He is risen [*And I want you to emphasize*] indeed." Okay, Ready? Three, two, one. He is risen!

[ Congregation says, "He is risen, indeed!" ]

Okay. That's better.

[ Applause ]

Now I can continue. Thank you so much. Hey, before we jump in, I want to apprise you of a last-minute decision that I made from my time with the Lord early yesterday morning. I hadn't planned on this, but Lord made it so clear that a fool could not error thereof.

And I am going to simply humble myself before you and make a plea to you for spiritual warfare prayer. And this will be by way of a message and a plea out of *Ephesians, Chapter 6, verses 10 through 20*, a passage I know many of you are familiar with, which I believe is for

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such a time as this, because it comes at a time when the satanic attacks are the likes of which have never been seen before.

If you are here today or watching online and you're going through intense spiritual warfare, I want to encourage you. You are not alone. And actually, when you should be concerned is when the enemy leaves you alone or sends you a thank you card. You should be very concerned at that point.

I want to talk a little bit about that on Tuesday night. And then after I do, I'll turn the prayer meeting over to our assistant pastors, at which time, if you'll be so gracious as to allow me to leave so I can get home to my children. So Tuesday night, 7:00 p.m., it will be livestreamed. That's Hawaii Standard Time for those of you online. And I hope you're making plans to attend and/or watch.

Okay. I think you all know by this time that we have two Sunday morning services, the first of which is devoted to the Bible Prophecy Updates, the teaching on End Times, and then the Second Service, especially today being such a special day is the sermon.

But instead of going verse-by-verse through *Mark*, which we currently have been doing, we are going to have a Resurrection Sunday sermon, and it will be livestreamed, again, for those of you online, 11:15 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time, those of you locally. By the way, the keiki are going to do an encore performance service too, just spoiler alert. But if you want to, for those of you here locally, join us at 10:45, that's when the worship starts and the keiki will be here for a Second Service as well.

The sermon will start approximately 11:15 a.m. And I titled the Resurrection Sunday Sermon as follows. I know this is going to sound dramatic, but this Resurrection Sunday might be the most important one of my life. I'm going to back it up too. It's a topical teaching, and it's going to be out of *1 Corinthians 15*.

And in it, we're going to see no less than, actually more than three reasons as to why it is that this Resurrection Sunday this year may be the most important ever whether or not you're a born-again Christian or not. okay. That's 11:15, Second Service.

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Now, let's talk about today's Update. I sensed from the Lord, having been led by the Lord to do something just a little bit different — okay, a lot different — and this for several reasons. One of which is that the Lord impressed upon my heart a message of hope that I hope brings new hope.

So today's Prophecy Update can be viewed in its entirety. I know you guys online love it when this happens. Well, today it's going to happen. We're not going to end the livestream. You can watch it in its entirety on YouTube, Facebook, Roku, TV, all the apps, which we have links to in the description, but we're not going to interrupt it and direct you to our website today. Don't get used to it. It's just today unless the Lord directs otherwise.

All right. Let's get to it. I've been looking forward to this and you'll see why, I hope. I want to talk with you about the urgency of this last hour and how now, like no other time, is the time for all of us, myself included, to know and understand Bible prophecy. Here's the main reason. We are that final generation.

You want evidence? Here is evidence. It's evidenced by how now we're witnessing the fulfilling of the last days' prophecies right before our very eyes at breakneck speed. It's making my job a lot more difficult, I'll have you know. Things are moving so fast, a thousand miles an hour, a thousand times a day, that it's hard to keep up with.

So I decided that today, after inquiring of the Lord and really spending time in the word of the Lord, that I was to accomplish, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, why it is and how it is that knowing and understanding Bible prophecy is actually that which gives us hope. Did you know that?

I'll never forget; it was many years ago I was doing a TV interview. I don't do this anymore, by the way. And it was, of course, about Bible prophecy, because that would be the only reason I would agree to a TV interview. And by the way, I've never agreed to a TV interview after that one. Notice I'm not mentioning any names.

But the host asked me a question that was laced with accusation specific to Bible prophecy. He said, "You know, do you, when you do your Prophecy Updates, do you offer people hope?" Excuse me? Bible prophecy is what gives me my hope. I feel sorry for you. I didn't— I should have, you know, take the lapel mic off and walk off and...

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You know how you think about things you wish you would have said or done after the fact, but too late. I can't move ahead yet so just bear with me, please. Kind of have to unless you want to get up and leave. But then everybody will see you. So...

Knowing and understanding the times, like the men of Issachar, who knew and understood the times they were living in and knew what Israel was to do. Fast forward: *Romans, Chapter 13*, the Apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit, says virtually the same thing. Understand the times, know the times, discern the times. This is it, baby. That's a very loose paraphrase. Sorry.

This is the time. Understand what time you're living in. This is the end of time. That should be a game changer, a life changer that should influence every decision you make in your life, knowing this is the end. I'm sorry I'm yelling. It's not — I just started. I'm already yelling. Please connect this. Please. I implore you. Bible prophecy equals hope. And that's what I want to talk with you about today.

Over the last year, it's become quite clear that there's been an uptick in people who are searching for hope, having no hope in this world. And what happens is it prompts them to turn to their Christian friends who have hope. And we shouldn't be surprised, given the scripture speaks to how the world will start noticing, and the world will start asking, hey, isn't there something about what's happening in the Middle East, in the Bible? Oh, wow. I'm so glad you asked. Oh, yes, there is.

You know what they're really asking for? Hope. Hope. They're searching for hope, wanting to find hope. And that's why they're asking about Bible prophecy in order to find that hope. And one need look no further than God's word to know why. *Ecclesiastes 3:11*, we find the answer as to why it is, the original source, as it were, or impetus, if you prefer, for why it is that they're starting to ask, search for this hope that heretofore they'd never have had.

I'm going to read *Ecclesiastes 3:11*. This is Solomon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, who writes, *[And I love this.]* **“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”** Yeah. But notice the contrast between what he just said and what he's about to say. **“Also, He has put eternity....”**

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Time = contrasted = Eternity. What if I told you that God created time, as the God of time, and lives outside of time? God isn't subject to time. Time is subject to God. So you've got time and eternity, and oh, by the way, I can't wait. Which is a time word. Because in heaven and eternity, no more clocks, no more alarm clocks. No need. Because there's no need to know what time it is.

“What time is it,” someone might ask. “Eternity. That's what time it is.” Huh. Okay. So we've got this established that it's God who is the God of time, makes everything beautiful in its time, but we're also let in on something else here through Solomon in *Ecclesiastes 3:11*.

**“He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out [Better understood in the original as fathom, even began to comprehend] the work that God has done from beginning to end.”**

That's a time phrase again. In eternity, there is no end because it's forever. Sorry. I had a Sand Lot flashback. Forever and ever and ever, and I'll stop with that last “ever.” What Solomon writes here reveals to us the “why” behind the “what” of man's search to find that unfathomable and eternal hope that God had already put in their heart. Let me highlight it this way. This “why,” which is that of God having put preset, if you will, eternity in the heart of every single one of us. That explains it. I mean, it's the explanation of the “why” which connects to the “what” of searching for this eternal hope that God has put in the heart of man so as to find and fill the void and emptiness in man.

You've probably doubtless heard it said that there's a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man. Oh, they got it from *Ecclesiastes 3:11*. And it's true. And that's why any pursuit, anything that you try to find satisfaction in will leave you emptier than you were before you started this search or the quest for it. Because God did not create you for time. God created us for eternity with Him. And that's the “why” and the “what” packaged together neatly.

Now we have a question. What will this search for, hope, this quest to find hope, what will it look like? And the answer is that they'll ask those who have the eternal hope that they're desperately searching for.

Now, I know this might sound like a firm grasp of the obvious, but isn't it true that people will ask those who already have what they themselves are searching for? Put another way, if

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I have something someone wants, they're going to ask me where I found it so they too can have it. But they're not going to ask somebody who doesn't have something they're looking for. Why bother? What's the point? It's pointless. Am I right? Okay. So we're good. Okay. I can move on.

Enter *1 Peter 3:15*. This one verse, stand alone, singlehandedly prepares us who have that hope in Jesus for what's prepared for us when someone asks us about Jesus. *1 Peter 3:15* **“But in your heart [Where God already preset eternity] you set apart Christ as Lord. [In your hearts] [And then here it comes.] Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But [And this is important.] do this with gentleness and respect.”**

You might win the argument, but you won't win the soul. I've yet — and I shared this before — I've yet to have ever argued anybody into the kingdom of God. Nobody's ever in the midst of our, you know — here I'm trying to share the Gospel with somebody. And it turns into an argument. And then I'm like, you know — you know, I'm just — I'm refuting excellently, I might add, every single argument against.

And I'm coming right back, man. I got my sword like Peter and cutting off Malchus' ears all over the place. I've never had anybody, in the midst of something like that, in a scenario like that, say, “Oh, you're right; I'm wrong. What must I do to get saved?” No, I'm not — I'm not looking to win the soul. I'm looking to win the argument here. Well, you might win the argument, but you've lost that opportunity.

Okay. Let's — we have to talk about this because we're exhorted to always be prepared. Prepared for what? Prepared to give an answer, not ask a question. Answer a question. Who's asking? Everyone who asks you to give them the reason for the hope that you have. You see, as Paul writes, we're living epistles, meaning we're living letters. Our lives are read by nonbelievers, and they're watching us. They probably have security cameras on us surveilling us. I don't know.

And they're asking themselves two questions about you and what they're reading and seeing in the epistle of your life. Is it real? And does it work? And here's the thing. They want it to

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be real, and they want it to work. Why? Because if it's real for you and works for you, that means it is real for them. And it can work for them, and they can have hope too.

This presupposes something though, that's not so easily seen at first read of this verse. Be ready because you're going to get asked They're going to come up to you and go, "You know, you're not normal."

I get that a lot. It's because I'm not. No, but you're not — you're unusual. Unconventional. How do you mean? You don't seem to be as shaken as everybody else in the next cubicle next to you or living next door to you. You got something different about you. And I want to know what it is because I want me some of that. You don't react the way other people, normal people do, because if you were a normal human being, you'd be freaking out. But you're not a normal human being, and you're not freaking out. You're looking up.

You ever done that on an intersection? Crosswalk? Try this. It's fun. You know, a lot of people waiting for the walk sign. And all of a sudden, you're just looking up. I promise you everybody else is going to start looking.... what?

[ Laughter ]

What are you looking at? No, it's not what. It's who. Because Jesus said, "When you see these things begin to come to pass, *[Luke 21:28]* look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draws nigh." Man, I'm walking around like this. Most people are walking around. Okay, I got to — full disclosure.

[ Laughter ]

See, I'm not that — I'm kind of still normal. Okay? So most people are walking around like this.

[ Laughter ]

Am I right? Am I right? I don't do that. First of all, I would run into somebody and hurt myself. And especially at my age, I'd probably have to be hospitalized. So I don't look at my phone in a trance, under a spell, which is a real thing, by the way.

I walk around like this. (Looking up smiling) Could be today. Oh, I sure hope it is. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Things are getting — I don't know if You've noticed. Course, You're God;

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You know everything. So You've — of course, You've noticed. It's getting very scary down here. I know. But I'm coming. I promised you I would before I left.

**“I'm preparing a place for you in my Father's house in which there are many mansions [Dwelling places]. And if it were not so...”** If I'm wrong, don't rebuke me publicly. Yeah, 1 — not 1 John. *John 14:1-4*. **“Behold I go to prepare a place for you in my Father's house [A bridal chamber] where there are many mansions. And if it were not so, I would have told you.”**

But I go to prepare a place for you, so that I can come back for you. So that you can be in the place where I am. That's a bridegroom speaking to his engaged, betrothed bride. And they will celebrate for a period of seven, the number of completion. And that's what — I'm — what trumpet sound. Don't be bringing a shofar to church and blowing it because it will mess me up, throw me off.

When — assuming they do — ask you, A: I pray you're prepared to give an answer. Well, notice the specificity. Of the reason for why you're so hopeful, but B: be respectful, be considerate, be kind, and be gentle. Unlike me, in all respects. The Lord knows — it's a — I own an apology to the angels given charge concerning me. I think they protested when they were assigned to me, like, “No, no, not him. We're going to have to work double shifts, graveyard, three shifts, oh, 24 hours a day.” So I'll apologize when I get there.

Okay, Pastor, why is this so important? Why are you emphasizing highlighting this? Because it puts the onus on us to be at the ready, knowing how to give an answer for the reason we have hope from the word of God to those who ask. I got a lot of questions today, so just get used to it. Okay?

Here's another one. What if [*This is a “what if” question.*] What if — I mean, I'm a born-again Christian, but I can't remember the last time somebody asked me about the reason for my hope in Jesus. Why am I not asked, you ask. I'm going to answer that question with a question. Jesus did it. That's my model, and that's my story. And I'm sticking with I'll answer the question with this question.

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May I humbly ask you to ask yourself, why is it that they won't and don't ask you about your hope in Jesus? Could the reason as to why they don't ask you to give them the reason for the hope that you have be that you don't have that hope?

That didn't go over too well. You're giving me stink eye. I assume you know who you are. I won't look at you. Lord knows you're heart.

Well, again, I'll just go back to what I said earlier. Listen, if somebody doesn't have something that I'm looking for, I'm not going to bother asking them about it because they don't have it. But conversely, if somebody has something that I'm desperately wanting and searching and needing, hey, where do you get that? Because I want to get me one too. True?

Here's another question. I told you; full disclosure, I warned you, right? So... What is it exactly that we have hope both in and for? Answer: It's found in Scripture. And it's this soon appearing, not coming, appearing of Jesus at the pre-Tribulation rapture.

Replete throughout Scripture, we find the sound doctrine, not theory, doctrine of the pre-Tribulation, rapture, oftentimes referred to as "the appearing," as we saw it, I think it was last week, where the Apostle Paul in his second letter to the *Thessalonians, Chapter 2*, right out of the chute says, "**Concerning** [He doesn't want you to be ignorant, me to be ignorant about Bible prophecy, specifically the Second Coming and] **His appearing.**"

That's two different things. See, in the rapture His appearing, in the air; He doesn't come to the earth. In the appearing at the rapture, He comes for us. And at the end of the seven-year Tribulation, He comes back with us as ten thousands by His side.

Okay. So you're telling me that this appearing, pre-Tribulation rapture is our blessed hope? No. God's word is. And it's not — please, let's get this out of the way. This is a misnomer that — you know how you have pet peeves? I know you're don't; you're more spiritual than I am. But I have this one pet peeve when someone says, "blessed hope," like "I sure hope." "I hope so." Well, that's kind of ambiguous and tentative and the jury's still out, the verdict is not in, and we'll see. Don't know. Not sure. Hope so.

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No. It's the blessed assurance. You can take it to the bank. Actually, don't take it to the bank right now, if you know what I mean. The go-to passage; you know it — *Titus 2:13*. Except it's extracted out from the context within the text. So I want to read this glorious and wondrous passage in its proper context, starting in *verse 11*. Let me have it. *Verse 11*. The Apostle Paul, by the Spirit, writing to *Titus, Chapter 2*, says, **“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait [Ugh!] [I hate to wait.] [What am I waiting for?] for the blessed hope [What's the blessed hope?] the glorious appearing [Appearing] [Appearing] of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a bride that are His very own, eager to do what is good.”**

And then *verse 15* really nailed me as a pastor and teacher of God's word. He says, *verse 15*, **“These, then, are the things you should teach.”**

Boom. They're not teaching Bible prophecy in the churches today. They're not teaching about the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the churches today. They're not teaching about the blessed hope of the pre-Tribulation rapture in the churches today. Is it any wonder that there's no eagerness, no desire to do that which is right in the sight of the Lord?

Here's another thing Bible prophecy does. It doesn't just give us hope. It purifies. It purifies us, John said, by the Spirit, **“The one who has this hope, purifies himself.”** Readies himself. And it's echoed here in Titus. If you have this hope, *[Yes, you got to wait.]* I don't think we got too long to wait with the way things are looking today. But it has this effect, ensuing effect of changing how you view everything because this changes everything.

So here comes ungodliness knocking on the door. You need to practice this at home too. So we got this intersection, crosswalk, you know, try that. Try this one too. Look in the mirror because you're your own worst enemy. And when you look at your mug — I try not to, especially now. When I look at my face in the mirror, I'm looking at enemy number one. I'm on to you. This might be a little over the top, too much.

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You don't have — this is what I do. You don't have to. It's between you and the Lord. But here's what I do. I look at myself in the mirror. I'm on to you. I shouldn't point at the online. I'm sorry. We love you. Not you. Me. Let me do-over. I'm on to you, JD. No! When's the last time you told yourself no? Oh, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Here comes ungodliness and worldly passions knocking on the door. What do we do? We let him in. Prepare them a seven-course, gourmet meal.

Here's what we should do. I been expecting you. Ha! No! No! Please don't think — “Just say no.” Like that worked. I'm not talking about that. This is a sanctified “No” that comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within you and coming upon you that empowers you and enables you to say no to the things of this world, the lusts of this world, the pride of this life, in this present age. Why? Because (Looking up) Was that — was that too much?

My citizenship isn't here. I'm just passing through. I'm not digging my roots down so deep in this temporal soil of this fallen, evil world. Because my Savior is preparing a place at my final destination, no layover, and then I never move again because it's for all eternity. He actually goes on, and just thank you for indulging me, because he doesn't just stop at **“These, then, are the things you should teach. [He goes on to say] Encourage.”**

Oh, your doom and gloom doesn't encourage me. I like how one online member said, “It's not doom and gloom. It's boom and zoom.” I like that! Encourage. Isn't that what Paul said to the *Thessalonians* in his first epistle, *Chapter 4*? He says, **“The trumpet is going to sound, and the dead in Christ are going to rise first. We are alive and remain are going to be [Raptured up] caught up [Harpazo, which sounds slower in the Greek.] [We're going to be raptured up] to meet the Lord in the air and forever be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”**

This is to bring encouragement and hope, and I wish it ended there because that would let me off the hook. But I'm still on the hook because I have to teach the whole counsel of God, the whole word of God or else I'll have blood on my hands. He says, **“Encourage and rebuke.”**

Oh, we don't like that. You're — you're meddling now, preacher. I'm going to go down the street to the other church. I hear their sermons are like 20 minutes. That's your

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introduction. 20 minutes. They're not stepping on anybody's toes. No, I'm going to step on toes. I want my toes stepped on. I'd rather be rebuked into heaven than deceived into hell. I'd rather speak the truth and offend you into heaven, than flatter you into hell. And then he says, “...rebuke with all of authority.”

You know what that means? It's not only your God-given right, but your God-given authority to do so. It's God's ordained authority structure. And then when I said, this one, just really got me. here's why; here's how the verse ends. “Do not let [Let] anyone despise you.”

Have you seen some of the comments on our social media platforms, Lord? I don't read them anymore. We have other people do that now. The inference is that if you are true to God's word and preach and teach about the blessed hope which is the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ at the pre-Tribulation rapture, you're going to encourage some, but you're going to anger others, and they're going to despise you. That guy doesn't know what he's talking about.

Wow, I said that really too good, didn't I? I should probably move on. One more question. Close to one more. I didn't say “last,” right? And I want you to think this through with me as I ask you this question. Has anyone asked you recently why your behavior is so peculiar concerning the current war and/or the current state of the world today? I'll give you a moment.

Maybe better asked: When was the last time anybody asked you? Because you have to understand something. They're asking questions. They may not be asking you the questions. And if it's not you, like Mordechai to Esther, if it's not you, God will find deliverance from another. If you're not prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the reason of the hope that you have, I'll find somebody who is.

Boy, are you upset? No, I'm not. Do I sound upset? I told you; after my wife went home to be with Jesus, a — how do I say this? Fresh filling and a new baptism with fire in the Holy Spirit came upon my life. And there's a fire that burns in me like it has never burned in me before. I'm actually gonna talk a little bit about that Tuesday night.

Okay. So Pastor, wait a minute. So you're saying — what a dis, man. Thanks a lot. Boy, you really know how to win friends and influence people. You want people coming back to your

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church, right? You keep talking about stuff like this, teaching hard things like this for an hour and a half, they ain't gonna come.

I would beg to differ. I think there's a hunger and thirst for righteousness in a world that is dying of hunger and thirst. There's a famine of the word of God in the land.

So you're dissing me by telling me that they're asking everyone but me the questions they should be asking me?

Yeah, kind of. In Jesus' name, in love. How am I doing? Should I just quit while I'm not ahead? The reason they're genuinely asking questions is that they're sincerely seeking answers with the hope that they can find hope.

The fact of the matter is that it's a matter of fact that many today are hopeless. And that's the divine impetus propelling them to search for hope fullness. The hopelessness drives them, fuels their search engine because they're hopeless. They're in desperate need, searching to find hope fullness. And maybe you're that hopefulness they've been searching for.

Thankfully, it's by the grace of God vis-à-vis the word of God that whosoever would believe [*Whosoever*] would believe in Jesus has unfettered access to Jesus as our only hope for the gift of eternal life, paid for in full by Jesus. For God so loved all the people in the world, even the Iranians slash Persians, the Chinese. We especially love the Chinese here. The Arabs. I'm so glad Jesus loves Arabs.

God so loved all the people of the world, every tribe, nation, people, tongue that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever opened it up for to anyone and everyone to believe and receive and open the gift that He paid for that cost Him everything. Jesus is our only hope. And unless and until one comes through a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by receiving and opening His gift that He paid for, they'll remain hopeless and worse, dead in their sin, destined for eternity in either heaven or hell for all eternity. Yes, Hell is eternal.

May I suggest that there's such a puzzling peculiarity between believers seeing world events as exciting and nonbelievers seeing world events as terrifying. And that is, in a way, the litmus test, isn't it, to distinguish between those with hope and those without hope?

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Example. I'll use myself. I'll take one for the team again. People look at me and I'm giddy. Let's go. I don't watch the news anymore. I still have access to vetted news feeds because the network and mainstream news channels and cable channels and all the channels are all propaganda, literally reading from the same exact script, word for word. So I don't know if that's true what they're broadcasting. It probably isn't.

So how do I know what's true? I go to the word of truth, the words of Christ, the One who is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. And then I look at the world around me, and I go, all right! And I get excited. And people think I've lost my marbles, which presupposes that I had marbles to lose in the first place. So if you find some marbles, let me know. Maybe I'll take them back. I'll just lose them again.

Why is it you're weird? Cool; I'm weird for Jesus then. You're crazy. Oh, that's great. I'm crazy for Christ then. Yeah, but no. And seriously, dude, why are you so excited when everybody else is so terrified? I'm glad you asked. See, I have something, and you need it. And you can have it. It's there for the asking.

See, what I have that sets me apart from those who don't have it and are terrified because of it, this excitement that I have is because of the hope that I have Jesus, my hope. My only hope. Those of us with hope see. Remember, we talked about it's not seeing is believing. It's the opposite. Jesus said believe and you'll see. So those of us who believe, put our trust in Jesus, and have this hope, we're given eyes to see that now is the time, like no other time as the time for us to know and understand the times by way of Bible prophecy.

I tell you; I am so glad that I've been a student of Bible prophecy for as long as I have and a teacher of Bible prophecy for as long as I have. Because not just selfishly, speaking of myself, I've seen the change in me because of Bible prophecy. But you know what else? God has privileged me to see the change in so many others who, because of Bible prophecy, have loosened their ever-tightening grip on this world and the things of this world.

Why would you remodel the house if you're renting it? You're just renting. You're a renter. You have a lease. Okay. You go and rent a car. What are you going to do? Trick it out? We use those words anymore. That's antiquated, probably; I need an update on antiquated. So

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maybe somebody can help me out with that. There's other words; I won't say them from the pulpit. I heard one — never mind. We're in church, and I'm the pastor, so.

But you trick it out, you know; you beef it up. Should I stop it that? You put on the AMG package and the wheels, and oh, how about this one? The trucks, the truck guys: You lift that thing up.

[ Laughter ]

I don't have to — I'm not looking up at your truck. I'm looking up for Jesus. But your trucks in the way.

[ Laughter ]

That's a rental car. You're not going to have it that long. Why are you investing all of that time and money and energy in it? Are you guys connecting this? Because if you aren't, then I have to make sure that you are, and then if — but if you are, I can move on. So you'll say that you are so that I'll move on.

Okay. I'll move on. And actually, this is how I want to circle back to the end the way we began by simply and humbly, yet urgently, urgent, emphasizing how now is the time because of how now is the last hour.

Oh, nobody knows the day or the hour. Stop! Stop. Are you kidding me? Do you realize — I'm — I'm — I'll finish. Take heart. Do you realize, especially for those of you that were with us and survived the verse-by-verse study through the entire *Book of Revelation* that I think took us two years. We should get a T-shirt. I studied verse-by-verse under Pastor JD through the *Book of Revelation* and lived to tell about it.

But what if I, just by way of a friendly reminder, reminded you that the technology described in the *Book of Revelation* at the time of the end is the technology that we have today.

Where are you going with that? Well, if we're not the final generation, we got to leave a better world for the next generation.

[ Laughter ]

That was really mean the way I said that, wasn't it? Forgive me. I probably could have said that with words seasoned with more grace. Help me, Lord, with that one. Well, if that were

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true, then the *Book of Revelation* is inconsequential now because as fast as this technology is advancing, making technology from even six months ago already obsolete, with that trajectory of advancing, especially with quantum computing, marrying AI, whoa! That is not a marriage made in heaven. That is a marriage that will get us to heaven sooner, I think.

But if you go ten years out — oh, there he is date setting. Stop it. I am explaining biblically sound doctrinally that if you go to the next generation, you exceed the technology described in the *Book of Revelation*.

So when I make statements like this is the last hour that's based not on just wanting to be — what is it — what's the word? Melodramatic or, you know, I'm not looking for likes and clicks. I don't even care about subscribe — no, that didn't come out right either. Boy, I'm really not on a roll today. I love you. I know we have a lot of subscribers, and please don't take offense to this, but I only care about two followers. I have two followers.

No, Pastor JD, have you seen how many subscribers and followers you have on social media? Yeah, I know, but I have two followers, and they'll never unsubscribe. Want to know what their names are? *Psalm 23, the 23rd Psalm*.

Goodness and mercy. I'm good. (Surprised sound) Goodness and mercy. I'm set, man! Those are my followers. I have two. Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. Let's go. Follow me. 'Who's that following you? Oh, that's goodness. And that's mercy. Pleased to meet you. I'm getting kind of preach-ery a little bit, aren't I? Well, there's a lot more where that came from.

It reminds me of an account told of Charles Spurgeon, affectionately referred to as the prince of preachers, who suffered severe depression. Many people know that he also suffered from a physical debilitating condition of gout that took him out of the pulpit, sometimes for months at a time. People don't know that. But — but God offset, overcompensated his depression, his — what was happening internally — with humor. And people don't know that either about Charles Spurgeon. He was extremely humorous.

You see where I'm going with this? I'm building a case for myself in this. So a woman — true story — comes up to him after one of his sermons and says to him, "Preacher, you use too much humor." To which Spurgeon replied, "Ma'am, if you only knew how much I left out."

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That's my answer. Why humor? Because it's a gift that God gives us to heal from grief, pain, sadness, mourning, depression, sorrow. That was my excuse for the preach-ery part. And let's just use that for all future humor.

Now, I know what you're thinking because remember now, I can read your mind I'm doing a scan right now. Pastor, we were looking for more of a Prophecy Update today. You know, where it's kind of up-to-the-minute update, how what's happening in and with Iran in and with and against and to Israel. What happened to that?

Well, I'll try to be gracious on this one. Let me just lovingly say today is and was for those with ears to hear what the Spirit has to say to us, His church. We need to know Bible prophecy if we're to have any hope of having any hope, and with it, by extension, having anyone asking us for the reason for that hope we have.

Bottom line, and I know you tired of me saying this every week, but I'm still going to say this every week. If there was ever a time-driven urgency to get Jesus to people and people to Jesus, that time is right now. Right now. How? By way of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, which is the good news of salvation and eternal life, paid for in full by Jesus Christ.

And give me — don't time me — give me two minutes. I want to explain how simple, childlike simple the Gospel is.

Sadly, it's been complicated, like prayer, which is just conversing with God, talking with God. And that's why we've been using the ABCs of salvation, where the A is the obstacle, the B is central and essential, and the C is evidential. There's a progression to this.

And it all starts with A: admitting, acknowledging I've sinned. Because if you don't see yourself as a sinner, why would you be interested in the Savior? And the reason this is an obstacle is because — the obstacle — is because the average person — you probably had this conversation — will say something like, “Well, I'm a good person.”

Well, you may be a good person, but you'll never be good enough. And *Romans 3:10* tells us why. **“There is no one [Good or] righteous, not even one.”** And *Romans 3:23* takes a

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further explaining why no one, not even one, is good by telling us that is because **“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

Now, if this is true, and it absolutely is, then wouldn't it stand to reason that there would be a penalty for our sin? And there most certainly is. And the penalty is found in *Romans 6:23*, where we're told that we've been sentenced to death. It's a death penalty. **“For the wages of sin is death.”** Have a nice Resurrection Sunday afternoon. That's the bad news, though. And the badder the bad news is the gooder the good news going to be. See, the wages of sin is death. But good news. **“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Now, once some — and don't push them. Don't pressure them. This is not a hard sell. Don't argue with them. I tried that. Trust me. It doesn't work. Got the scars to prove it. It's the Holy Spirit that leads them. You just make the introduction. The Holy Spirit leads them to Christ.

Now, once they've realized, oh, I'm a dead man walking, and then they're told about this good news, this gift that — because a gift is a gift, meaning I didn't pay for it, someone else did. And the gift is just that. It's something that is gifted. So wait a minute. No such thing as a free lunch. So there can't be such a thing as a free gift. That's earthly minded. It's freely received by us, but it cost Him everything to purchase it for us.

And when somebody — when the lights go on, then you go to the B, which is central and essential, which is believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. I spent, again, a considerable amount of time — I know my wife would tell me, “You have the gift of complication and perfection.” And I keep reminding her — or tried to — I talked about her as in the present tense, I know, still; I'm getting there. But she still — I hear her every morning, by the way.

Because, you know, I used to always ask her about, you know, my aloha shirt matching my slacks for Sunday morning. She said, “No, that — is this a joke? You're not going to go to church wearing that, are you?” I'm like, “Oh, thanks, honey.” So she would literally say, “This is the shirt you wear. And this is the slacks that it goes with.”

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Well, one day we were talking before she went home to be with the Lord, and she said, "What are you going to do when I'm gone?" And I thought about it for a second. I said, "You know what, honey? I'll still hear your voice. 'You're not wearing that, are you?'"

And as God is my witness, it happened. Do you like what I'm wearing today?

[ Laughter ]

Okay. There's a reason why. Kellie picked up the Aloha shirt for me. That's why it matches. So if I show up, and I got mismatched slacks and shirts and socks, that's my excuse. Okay. So now I'm — I'm at the point where I need the Savior and I need to believe *Romans 10:9*.  
**"If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."**

Okay. Now, you probably had somebody say this, "Well, I believe in God." Or "I believe in Jesus."

Well, cool. Except *James 2:19* says, **"Even the demons believe, and tremble."**

Now, we went into great detail over the last couple of weeks into this concerning what it means to truly believe. So I'm going to spare you today and only expound on the component of it being so central and essential. To believe means that you change your mind and wrong way of thinking and change your wrong direction and do a 180, turning around to the right direction.

And here's how we get there. Changing one's wrong direction and wrong way of thinking and deciding to turn around to the right direction — you're on your way to town. Somebody calls you up, You don't have your phone, so you don't have Google Maps, GPS. Somebody calls you up and says, "Hey, I'm lost." "You need to be saved." And so they tell you, "Turn around and follow me, do a one-eighty, and I'll get you back on the right path."

You know, that's the Greek word *metanoia*, which is translated into English as repentance, not penance, repentance. It just means change of mind. The decision to believe and turn around. Repentance is not a prerequisite to believing. Rather, it's the central and essential result of the genuineness of believing. Again, put another way, if I'm truly a believer in Jesus, I'll turn around to Jesus and become a follower of Jesus.

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In *Mark 1:15*, Jesus says, **“The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.”**

What was the result? They turned around. They repented. Truly believing in Jesus as the right way, having changed their minds, thus changing their wrong direction and deciding to follow Jesus who is THE way in the right direction. Does that make sense? Don't put anything in front of salvation. There's nothing we had to do. He already did it. It is finished, period, not comma. It is finished, if you repent. It is finished, if you get baptized. It is finished, if — you fill in the blanks. No, stop it. Period. It is done. Finito. Khalas in Arabic. You know, you got to love Arabic.

Okay. To the question of *James 2:19* about the demons believing, what's up with that? No, they do believe in Jesus, but their decision in refusing to turn to Jesus sealed their fate of damnation instead of salvation from Jesus. You know, no demon is an atheist. Did you catch that? Lastly, and we're almost done. Thank you for your patience.

The C — this is — this is the evidential. The A obstacle is overcome. The B, which is central and essential. Now comes the evidential, the C. Calling upon, confessing with your mouth Jesus Christ is Lord. Now, notice the connection between believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth.

Jesus, in both *Matthew 12:34* and *Luke 6:45*, **“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”** Translated: You want to know what's in somebody's heart? Listen to what come out of their mouth. If their heart is full of bitterness, what's going to come out of their mouth? Bitterness. If their heart is full of Jesus, what's going to come out of their mouth? Jesus. That's the evidential. You'll know the root by the fruit. Jesus said, **“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit.”** And conversely, a bad tree cannot — did I do that right? Did I botch it? I should have probably ended it when it ended.

*Romans 10:9* also says, **“If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' [Now, notice the connection.] and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”** In other words, when you believe in your heart, you will confess with your mouth, profess with your mouth. **“Because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”**

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And lastly, *Romans 10:13*, and I love this one because it really does seal the deal. **“All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”** We're told in Scripture that He will never cast out anyone or reject anybody that calls on Him.

You know, I humorously quip that we're — you know, when we share our testimony, you know, “I gave my life to Christ.” Praise the Lord, Hallelujah! In my case, that wasn't the miracle. That wasn't the testimony. You know what the real testimony was? Not that I gave my life to Christ, but that He accepted it. Because you're giving your life? You don't even — get a life first, and then.... Well, what? Who's getting the better end of this deal? Me!

No, He accepted you. Why? Because He's purchased you. “You're not your own but purchased with a price.” You're a new creation. And it's **“...not His will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and believe.”**

You know, hell was never created for man. Heaven was created for man. Well, then why was hell created? For the Devil and his demons. Lastly — don't you love that word “lastly” an hour and a half later? And please hear me. Anyone here locally or online virtually, today is the day of salvation, and you need to make the most important decision of your life for eternal life today. And don't delay. Why? Because tomorrow's not guaranteed.

Did you know Deborah Delanca, Judy Suzuki both went home to be with the Lord, in the presence of the Lord, within the last couple of weeks? These are dear sisters in the Lord that were with us from virtually day one 21 years ago. I don't know; I hope they're not having a closed-door meeting with Kellie because that would not be good. More like a reunion, I guess.

Today's “But God” testimony is one that was sent in a while back. But I chose it for reasons that I think you'll understand as I share it. It comes from Lisa in Northern Colorado who writes, “Dear JD, I wanted to write you to thank you for your faithful service and being a cracked pot in the service of The King. This was — never mind. You had to be there. My firstborn son has always been a tough guy, D1 athlete, keeps his feelings to himself. He had a very difficult internship some time ago and struggled to figure out what was next in his life. But God. He started listening to your sermons, all three of them, each week. His interim job was food delivery for a local company, very good money.

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One day I went downstairs, and on his desk he had the ABCs of salvation printed with your website written on the back. He was putting them in the food delivery bags. Sure enough, within a very short time, someone called to complain, and he was fired. Yay, God! Fired for sharing the Gospel! He is so excited. He's so excited about the rapture and often talks about prophetic events. His brothers tease him about it, talking about us so much. He was engaged, then married seven months later. His brothers asked, "What are you more excited about, marrying Natalie or the rapture?" His response? "I'd rather be married to Jesus." *[Whew.] [That's a chicken skin answer.]*

Well, he moved out. I miss our morning talks about news events that line up with God's prophecies. *[And this is why I wanted to share this one today because it kind of is going to dovetail into what we're going to talk a little bit about on Tuesday night.] [She says this.]* Oh, JD, a mother's heart thanks you! Thank you for being used by Him to impact my son. Hugs from Northern Colorado! Lisa."

The intensity of the spiritual warfare is on a whole new level, and again, the likes of which I, for one, have never seen before in my life. And I've been walking with Jesus for over 44 years. And do you know where the attacks are coming? We know from whom they're coming. The enemy, not flesh and blood, not your boss your employer, whatever.

But you know what the enemy does? Because he strategically studies your life, and he's looking for the opportune time and area with which to launch the strike for the potential of massive casualties and damage. So he's looking for the Achilles heel, if I could borrow that metaphor. And he knows. For parents, it's your children, your firstborn son, your firstborn daughter, your prodigal son, your wayward daughter. We don't fight spiritual wars with carnal weapons. That's all you're getting out of me for Tuesday night. So you have to come Tuesday, and I'm done.

Kapono, come on up. Has Second Service started yet? No. Good. Why don't you stand up? We'll close and pray. And thank you for your — is half of your body numb from sitting so long? You have treasures in heaven. Does that help? We'll bring the circulation back. Let's pray.

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Father, my words: If they were from me, let them fall dead, return void from the ground to the ground. But Your words, Lord, we're promised, will never return unto you void but will accomplish their intended purpose.

So yeah, I stumbled and bumbled and fumbled and... But You can take what I just spoke and tweak it and fine tune it to where the people who have ears to hear, hear a different teaching than the one I just gave. Because it goes right to the heart. Because You're the only one who knows the heart. Would You do that, please, Lord, with this? I've done my best. I surrender to You the rest. It's Your word. These are Your people. And this is Your church. And I am only Your servant. In Jesus' name. Amen.